



LORD HILL-NORTON  
 "Perhaps they think I'm a nutcase, I don't care."

"YOU must talk to the admiral," I was urged, more than once, during my inquiries among members of the House of Lords UFO Study Group.

"Peter," enthused one of the peers, "really knows what it's about and he won't put you wrong. A sailor for 50 years and a more earthy man you couldn't find anywhere. A more square, down-to-earth individual does not exist on this planet.

"No one could call him an idiot or a lunatic. And yet he believes in UFOs." Admiral John Hill-Norton retired a baron in 1970.

He was Chief of Defence Staff between 1971-73 and First Sea Lord. His last job, before retiring in 1977, was chairman of the military committee of NATO. He is undoubtedly the group's biggest catch.

My interview with him was interwoven with him as he proceeded briskly and brief. It was Sunday noon, and he had just emerged from his local church at South Nutfield, Surrey, and was striding, with heavy appetite, towards his lunch.

He talked rather than the usual manner about which I sometimes blundered. He was the master of a pace at which the conversation was conducted.

"Listen," said Lord Hill-Norton, "I am not an expert in these matters, but I have involved been interested in the things in a non-professional way, about many years. By that I mean 25 years.

"I've read a fair amount of books about them and when I was

# Is there anybody out there?

## UFOs are keeping a watchful eye on us,

### says the admiral

BY ANDREW GRIMES

these sightings have been satisfactorily explained, so I always say that so far as I am concerned the UFO stand for 'unknown' not 'unidentified'.

"Now, we in this small group at the House of Lords hear many decent speakers from time to time. They are not nutcases and I have found them all extremely interesting and of great approach and attitude."

"But there is one slight difficulty about them all — they haven't explained exactly what these flying objects are. That is because, like me and you, they can't.

"Some are convinced that they are extraterrestrial, and I am bound to agree that most of the things come from somewhere other than this earth.

"A lot of people are worried about the implications of evidence that life exists on another planet, or that UFOs are visiting us."

He writes to UFOs, Postbag, Manchester Evening News, 164 Deansgate, Manchester, M60 2AP.



LET'S ZOOM DOWN AND SCARE THE PANTS OFF THAT LITTLE BLUE PLANET DOWN THERE

time ago. If they were hostile and malign they would have done something other than burning holes in the grass when they touched down.

"One hears talk of kidnappings and so on. But not one human being so far as I can see has been damaged by them. If they were malign they would have let us know about it without any doubt whatever. One can only assume they are keeping a watchful eye on us. Probably they don't like what they see."

The talk turned, rapidly, at the admiral's invitation, to Whitehall's apparent refusal to part with information on the sightings. Was there really, I asked, a big government cover up?

"Yes there is," replied Lord Hill-Norton. "But this is responsible for what I'd like to know? It is certainly not at the Department of Defence. I was supposed to be in

charge of the department and no one kept anything from me. There was no secret to which I was not privy, none.

"And I never, during all my years there, came across any documents. And why? report not one written or verbal comment about the UFOs. It is inconceivable that such reports could have been kept from me.

"Who then, is keeping all the information sitting on it? I suppose it could be the Home Office, but no. That can't believe of keeping secret even if it were from time to time we put down a question. We are always answered by a junior minister. We never got a bit of sense out of any of them. Never, Sunday lunchtime.

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