

# UFOs bring havoc -- to some

By David Vienneau Toronto Star

OTTAWA — Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are killing our livestock, sending thought waves into our brains and exploring Mars on behalf of the federal government, some Canadians believe.

Others claim to have touched — and even boarded — flying saucers to communicate with the little green men inside. Some believe the UFOs are not here to harm us, while others accuse the government of covering up their existence.

These are just a few of the bizarre incidents that have been reported to the defence department over the years by Canadians who believe they have seen spaceships from another planet or another galaxy.

Through the Access to Information Act, The Star was able to obtain copies of some of the letters and reports. For privacy reasons, the identities of the people making the sightings cannot be released. Nevertheless, their accounts — from all across Canada — make entertaining reading.

## Stories 'hushed up'

"I want to know why the public isn't being told or informed about these things, and why stories in the newspapers or reports on the radio are being hushed up," says an Ontario man, who claims to have seen many UFOs.

"This is obviously the greatest discovery of our time."

Not so, says Ian Halliday, an astronomer with the National Research Council, which receives all sighting reports from the defence department. More often than not, the sightings are meteors, weather balloons or jet aircraft, he said in an interview.

"We receive one or two reports a week," he says. "But in the 15 years I've been here, we've never had anything we can't explain."

## Some citizens' tales are out of this world files reveal

While the government does not believe in flying saucers, many in the public certainly do. People who have seen UFOs say they come in all shapes and sizes. They have been described as: "tear-shaped," "a frying pan with a bright halo," "bullet-shaped, silver in color," "cigar shaped" and "a big ball of light with a beam coming straight out of it."

Some of these reports include:

□ A letter from a British Columbia man who claimed "to be receiving thought waves from beings from another planet" who took him aboard their UFO;

□ A man from St. Paul, Alberta, wrote to an MP, who is not identified, to ask him about the UFO the federal government has "in storage." The MP apparently believed him, because he included his own statement on UFOs when he passed on the letter to the defence department.

"With machines testing for life on Mars at this very moment, I suppose it would be out of touch with these modern times to immediately rule out the possibility of the federal government owning a flying saucer of some sort," he says.

"I must confess, though, that I am at a loss as to just how to go about gathering information on the vehicle. Any assistance which you might be able to give me would be greatly appreciated;"

□ An Ontario school girl who claimed to have seen a flying saucer wrote to say, "I believe we are visited from

other planets. They are not here to harm us; they are friends;"

□ A Lindsay man wrote, "My 10-year-old daughter was found in shock when I arrived home from work at about 9.20 p.m. She was white in color and couldn't speak and it took me almost 1½ hours to get her to (tell) me what happened.

"Apparently she saw a cigar-shaped object hovering at tree-top level out in front of our place. The flashing blue lights drew her attention to look at what it was. She stated the lights were twirling;"

□ A Manitoba man told police that, while he was prospecting at Falcon Lake near the Ontario border, two UFOs appeared, and one landed nearby. A door on the spaceship opened, he said, and voices were heard coming from within.

The police report said, "He was unable to see inside due to a bright, yellow, bluish light, which blocked his vision. He endeavoured to communicate with the personnel inside the object, but without result."

The government appears not to take reports of UFOs seriously. A July, 1980, document released to The Star says no legitimate evidence exists to indicate that "visitors from outer space" have been in Canada or the United States.

## 'Demonstrable threat'

The document is a letter written by a Col. W. Niemy, director of air operations and training, and appears to be a response to someone who has asked the government to intensify its investigations into UFOs.

"Obviously, you will understand that unless a demonstrable threat to Canadian or allied national security exists from UFOs, the Canadian Forces cannot spend money on determining the nature of such UFOs," Niemy writes.