

TIMES 3RD AUGUST 1985.

Zimbabwe Air Force goes UFO hunting

From Jan Raath
Harare

Zimbabwe military authorities are unable to explain an unidentified flying object that was seen by experienced airmen, tracked on radar and outflown two pursuing jet fighters.

Air Marshal Azim Daudpota, the Pakistani chief of Zimbabwe's Air Force, said yesterday there was no doubt that the object existed. "It was no illusion, no deception, no imagination".

He scrambled two Hawk jets from Thornhill airbase in the midlands town of Gweru at 5.45 pm on Monday last week after reports of sightings of the object from Bulawayo and five other urban centres in the western province of Matabeleland South, including Beitbridge.

It was seen clearly by staff in the control tower at Bulawayo airport and the meteorological radar there also locked on to it. *The Herald*, Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, said yesterday. It was described as appearing orange in the settling dusk, rounded, with a conical top, winged and silent.

The Hawks arrived above Bulawayo to find the UFO hovering at about 7,000ft, but it suddenly shot into the sky at "tremendous speed", leaving its pursuers behind. The jets levelled off at 31,000ft, with the UFO stopping at about 70,000ft.