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EXCLUSIVE

By **MARTIN BRUNT**
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CHARLES IN UFO RIDDLE

PRINCE Charles is at the centre of a bizarre UFO mystery.

The Prince had a close encounter during a flight home from the United States last week.

The pilot of his RAF VC-10 radioed air traffic control to say he had been startled by a "glowing red object" in the sky.

Incredibly, **FOUR** other aircraft reported sighting the "UFO" over the same stretch of the Irish Sea.

Visit

An immediate investigation was launched—but no trace of the unidentified aircraft has been found.

Other explanations—such as meteors or debris from a satellite—have also been ruled out by experts.

Charles was nearing the end of a 12-hour trans-Atlantic flight after a five-

Pilot shocked by close encounter

day visit to the U.S. when the incident happened.

A source at West Drayton air traffic control near London's Heathrow airport said: "The object was reported by five different aircraft, including the Prince's.

"The pilot described seeing a red glowing object. The light from it lit up his cockpit.

"We just don't know what it was. It's a complete mystery."

And an air traffic official

at Ireland's Shannon airport said: "The pilot saw a bright flash in the sky.

"An immediate check was made on all aircraft, but none was missing.

"Whatever the pilot saw, it certainly was not another aeroplane."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed: "Prince Charles's pilot did report seeing a bright flash, but we are satisfied there was no danger to the Prince's aircraft."

Philip's a 'saucer' watcher

■ **PRINCE PHILIP** has been a keen UFO follower for the past 30 years.

Creature

UFO expert Tim Good, an author and lecturer, said last week: "It may not be pure coincidence.

"It is likely that any creature from outer space that is more advanced than us would be aware of the significance of a Royal flight."

And former diplomat Gordon Creighton, the editor of Flying Saucer Review magazine, said:

"I've no idea what this object could have been, but it would be wrong to dismiss it. There are beings in space watching us very closely."



Philip—follower

■ He is a keen reader of the magazine, *Flying Saucer Review*.

■ And he once invited a man who claimed to have seen a UFO landing to come to Buckingham Palace to tell his story to a Royal aide so the official could report to Philip, who was on tour in Australia.