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If you're out there, E.T., let us know!

By JOHN ILLMAN

IF there really is a creature like E.T. in outer space, then one of Britain's most distinguished scientists would like mankind to get in touch with it. Such contact may just be possible, Sir David Bates told the British Association for the Advancement of Science yesterday.



Sir David, emeritus professor of theoretical physics at Queen's University, Belfast, said the discovery of another civilisation within the galaxy would perhaps be the most exciting ever.

A space probe like Project Cyclops, designed but not yet made, would be required, he said in Belfast.

A large number of 100-metre dishes would create a 10-mile wide radio telescope receiver with the energy of a nuclear power station.

Sir David admitted however that the odds were against something like E.T. sending out signals which Cyclops could pick up.