

WINNIE'S SECRET PROBE ON SAUCER SIGHTINGS

He led UFO search

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WINSTON Churchill ordered a top-secret inquiry into UFOs, it was revealed yesterday.

The cigar-puffing Prime Minister was concerned about reports of flying saucers over Britain.

In a typically blunt memo to his Air Minister, the great man demanded: "What does all this

EXCLUSIVE

By **FRANK CURRAN**

stuff about flying saucers amount to?

"What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience."

The note, dated July 28, 1952, was unearthed by UFO expert Phil Mantle from the Public Records Office under the 30-year end-of-secrecy rule.

Later, the Air Ministry replied that all reported UFO sightings

could be explained as

- Astronomical or meteorological happenings.
- Aircraft, balloons, birds etc.
- Optical illusions.
- Deliberate hoaxes.

But in a top-secret 1957 document, just released to Mr. Mantle, the Ministry of Defence was unable to explain the sighting of five fast-moving objects over Scotland.

At his home in Batley, West Yorkshire, Mr. Mantle, an official with the British UFO Research Association, said: "These documents clearly show that there was Government interest in UFOs from many years back."