

11 MAY 1986

No-cover up — UFO expert

UFO EXPERT Philip Mantle, who has examined copies of official Government documents, claims there has been no UFO cover-up by ministers.

And Mr Mantle, who runs a nationwide UFO hotline from his home in Woodall Drive, Healey, said the Government knows as little about UFOs as the rest of us but doesn't like admitting it.

Mr Mantle has been checking official documents, all of which must be 30 years old before the Government can release them, to assess how much the Government knows about UFOs.

"I don't believe the Government is hiding any truth as such. I think they are just as confused as we are," he said.

Mr Mantle has seen papers including questions from former prime minister Winston Churchill and none of the replies given in the House of Commons have provided satisfactory answers.

When he lived in Morley Mr Mantle asked MP Merlyn Rees to raise the UFO question in the Commons but defence secretary Michael Heseltine failed to come up with convincing answers.

Mr Mantle said politicians tend to "talk round in circles" and often do not know the right questions to ask.

Several years ago the Ministry of Defence promised to release some documents relating to UFO sightings but have so far failed to do so.

"The Ministry of Defence stated in black and white they were going to release documentation that they have. I am not saying it's secret but for some reason there has been an about-face," said Mr Mantle.

The UFO hotline has taken more than 300 calls in two years but only about three calls from Batley.

Two years ago several people in Healey spotted a shooting cigar-shaped object but Mr Mantle investigated and dismissed the sighting as an effect of extreme weather conditions.

Mr Mantle, who was interviewed on Derek Jameson's Radio Two show on Monday morning and had an article published in a national newspaper recently, can be contacted on Batley 444049.