

Daily Mail, London

15 JUL 1989

# Taking an alien view of Close Encounters

DO aliens exist? The question appears to have created something of a rift between UFO observers in the States and Britain.

At the fifth Unidentified Flying Objects Congress in London yesterday the burning subject of the moment was abduction by aliens, with the American contingent firmly contesting that such events were fact.

The rather more reserved British, however, were of the opinion that it could all be in the mind.

'I contest that UFOs when they land on the Earth are nuts and bolts devices because you can go and touch them,' said Walt Andrus, summing up the prominent view in the States.

But Jenny Randles, of the British UFO Research Association, said: 'We are not a promotion agency for ET. We are here to try and explain scientifically what the public sees.'

Of the 400 sightings in Britain each year all but about 30 could be explained.

'The people who claim to have been abducted are deeply traumatised by it. But they do not prove that there is some sort of intergalactic cavalry out there.

'Reports of the different types of aliens in different parts of the world show that the whole thing is culture-dependent.'

The congress pledged itself to set up a working party to establish guidelines for investigations.