

10 SEP 1989

DEREK TRACKS WORLD'S UFOs

SOMEBODY is most definitely out there, says UFO expert Derek Mansell.

He's convinced there is life beyond earth - and points to the thousands of reports of UFO sightings in his files as proof.

For Derek is records officer of Contact International, a group which specialises in investigating mysterious unidentified flying objects.

They co-ordinate sightings from all over the world - and a large percentage of them remain unexplained.

Derek, who lives at Seaton in north east Cornwall, first became interested in the subject when he himself was the host of an unexpected and unknown visitor.

Vibrate

It was back in the 1950s, when Derek was in the RAF and a crewman on the regular flights between New Zealand's two islands.

'We were between the two islands flying behind another freight aircraft when the plane began to vibrate badly, the engine misfired and all the electrics went out.

'We thought we were in an electrical storm. It got

by Stuart Fraser

so bad that the pilot had to make an emergency landing on the nearest airfield.

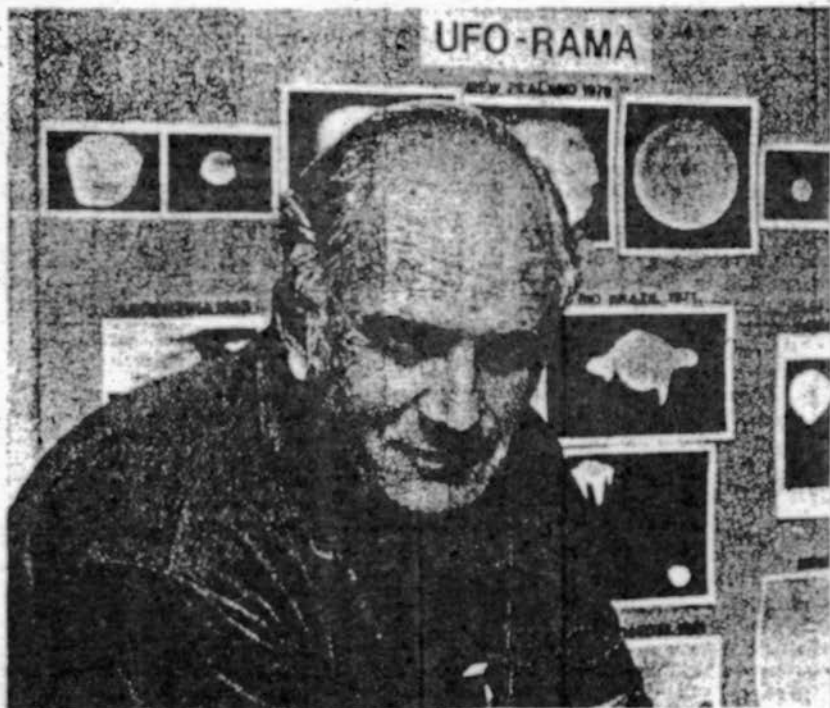
Unusual

'It wasn't until we spoke to the crew of the other plane that we suspected something unusual had happened.

'They told us that there had been a huge disc-shaped object above us. It was 250ft in diameter, with a big blue light on top and a big red light underneath.

'The pilot of the other aircraft took photos of it, but they were confiscated and we were all made to sign the Official Secrets Act. That has never been explained.'

The experience started years of investigation for Derek. All contacts' sightings are reported to him, and he sparks off investigations by detectives all over the world.



RECORDS OFFICER: Derek Mansell, who believes there is life in outer space.

Each mystery is referred to the relevant Government department - the Ministry of Defence in the UK - and all air, sea and weather details are meticulously checked.

Of 2,000 sightings last

year, about 35 per cent remain unexplained.

'I personally believe that unidentified flying objects come from outer space. We have 86,000 sightings on file dating back to 2,500BC, and to

me that weight of evidence is too much to be dismissed lightly.

'People now are beginning to take us more seriously rather than dismiss us all as complete cranks.'