

Open minds on flying saucers

IN New York, Knut Hammar-skjold, the new director-general of the International Air Transport Association, has confessed that he believes in flying saucers.

How about our air men?

I expected a flat "Nonsense" from them all. But not at all.

There was former Aviation

Minister Julian Amery with an open mind on the subject. He hasn't, of course, seen one himself "but if a sufficient number of people claim to have seen these things, you begin to ask yourself if there is something in it."

And test pilot Bill Bedford said he wouldn't be too dogmatic about it, either. "I haven't ever seen anything that looks as though it might have come from outer space," he says, "but I wouldn't be surprised if we got things from there. Nothing surprises me any more."

Sir Miles Thomas, former BOAC chairman, has yet to be convinced that there are any "transport vehicles from outer space that we have got within visible range."

As for Mr. Hammar-skjold's suggestion that "serious consideration in the future" should be given to the possibility of our space neighbours' form of transport, well, he's frankly more worried about getting people from city centres to airports.

Minister of Defence Denis Healey goes as far as having someone to investigate every flying saucer reported.

"There is," says Charles Bowen, "sufficient evidence

to warrant an investigation. And it's a good thing when anyone in an important position comes out with a sensible statement like Mr. Hammar-skjold's."

And who is Mr. Bowen? Editor of the "Flying Saucer Review." Oh, well!