

MYSTERY MEN IN 'FLYING SAUCER' PROBE

From ALEX FAULKNER

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MYSTERIOUS men dressed in Air Force uniforms or bearing impressive credentials from Government agencies have been trying to "silence" people who have seen unidentified flying objects (U.F.O.s or "flying saucers").

This was confirmed today by Col. George Freeman, the Pentagon spokesman for Project Bluebook, an Air Force scheme to investigate all U.F.O. reports.

A team of scientists will try to determine, once and for all, whether "flying saucers" are myth or reality.

The sudden appearance of unidentified people apparently trying to suppress information is an added mystery. "These men are not connected with the Air Force," said Col. Freeman.

PHOTOGRAPHS SEIZED

He cited one case in which police officers and other witnesses at sightings in New Jersey were said to have been told by a man in Air Force uniform that they "hadn't seen anything" and should not discuss the incident.

"We checked with the local Air Force base," Col. Freeman said, "and discovered that no one connected with the Air Force had visited the area on that date."

Another man, bearing credentials from the North American Air Defence, saw Mr. Rex Heflin, who had taken a series of pictures in California in 1965, and demanded the originals.

Later, the defence body denied having anything to do with the incident. The photographs have never been returned.

BOYS QUESTIONED

In February, 1960, Mr. Joe Perry, a restaurant owner in Grand Blanc, Michigan, took a similar set of pictures and was soon visited by two men posing as F.B.I. agents. They seized a photograph of a dome-shaped object with a green tail.

More recently, a man claiming to represent "a Government agency so secret that he couldn't give its name" questioned two boys at a school in Norwalk, Connecticut, about the disc-shaped object they said had pursued them last year.

"We haven't been able to find out anything about these men," Col. Freeman admitted. "We would sure like to catch one."

Many witnesses said they saw several Air Force helicopters manoeuvring over a New Jersey reservoir after a sighting last October. Col. Freeman said that no formation of helicopters had been in that area at the time.

USAF po

UFOs, those unidentified flying objects that plague Americans and pique curious notions about the arrival of men from Mars, are being taken more seriously by the United States Air Force.

By 1966 the USAF had collected information on 600 sightings in the US since 1947. However, the subsequent investigations—called "Project Bluebook"—disposed of all but 600 of them as either phenomena of one kind or another.

The remainder remains unexplained because the air force has insufficient information to draw any kind of conclusion, and the area of uncertainty led to spread suggestions in the public that the air force was concealing the truth—either on security or because of fears of a panic.

This unhappy situation