

Well, Mr. Healey, what did they see in the sky?

By LESLIE HINTON

THE unidentified flying objects spotted in such profusion over southern England may have been British secret weapons. Or they may not.

But Tory MP Mr. Peter Mills (Torrington) wants to be quite sure.

That is why he is to ask the Defence Minister, Mr. Denis Healey, if Britain is perfecting a bright, star-shaped weapon which travels 30 miles before disappearing. (Cynics may say we have plenty of these. . .)

ANOTHER PLANET?

Or dark, oval-shaped weapons 50ft. across. Or fleets of bright lights in V-formation.

Or, in fact, anything at all which may explain the many mysterious sightings in Devon, Cornwall, Hampshire, Sussex and Oxfordshire.

Says Mr. Mills: "I think the Minister should tell us whether we are looking at our own equipment, or machines from another country or, indeed from another planet."

Mr. Healey's reply will be eagerly awaited by the two policemen who chased a "bright star-shaped object" for 30 miles near Holsworthy, Devon.

And by another two policemen who watched the two "dark, oval-shaped objects" for three minutes before they vanished at high speed near Chipping Norton, Oxon.

And by retired Wing Commander Eric Oox, aged 56, who saw seven brilliant lights in formation near his home at Hyde Hants.

Sadly, though, Mr. Healey's reply will probably be along the lines of a statement issued yesterday by the Chief Constable of East Sussex, Mr. George Terry.

FADING

After studying the statements of no less than 11 members of his force who reported strange objects, Mr. Terry concludes that there was nothing suspicious about them, and that his men had probably seen one star—Venus, which is at its brightest now.

At the Royal Observatory at Hursmonceux, Sussex, an astronomer agreed that it could have been Venus.

The planet could have shown through the clouds and appeared to inexperienced observers to be "flying" below them, he said.

The planet might also have appeared to "disappear" when it faded away as dawn broke.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence are diligently "looking into" the reports and asking all possible departments if they can explain the sightings.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ALERTINGS OF VENUS

Theories on the "White Light"

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Yours faithfully,

Somerset, D. DE SALIS