

INTERNATIONAL PAGE takes a step out of this world

When flying saucers are the problem, the answer is still up in the air

LONDON by PETER BOSTOCK

IT'S been quite a year for Britain's flying saucer watchers — Ufologists as they like to call themselves.

For in the last six months the Ministry of Defence has logged more than 160 sightings.

Police have chased "fiery crosses" along the East Sussex skyline.

A retired wing commander has sketched them. A hundred Nottingham people swear they caught one landing and a New Forest camper had one explode above his head.

Ministers have even been questioned in Parliament about UFOs—but with no positive result.

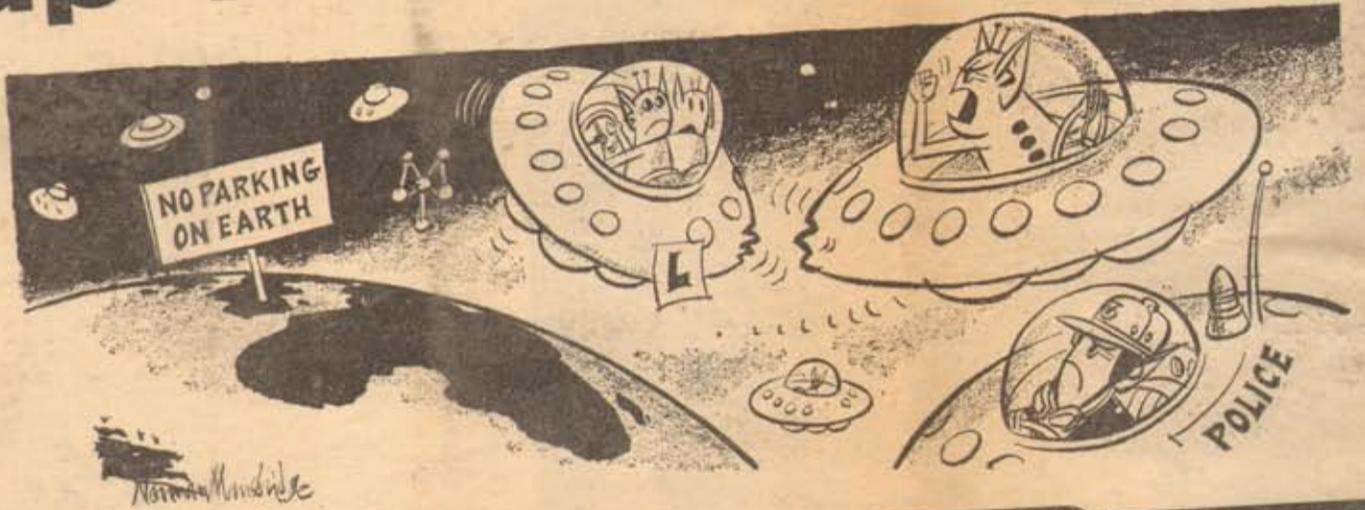
Most British scientists poke fun at them. Government departments try to ignore them and most of the public treat them as a delightful joke.

But they are anything but a laughing matter to people like Mr. Brinsley le Poer Trench, chairman of Contact, once called the International Sky Scouts. To him and his followers there is nothing mysterious about flying saucers—Britain is under observation by extra-terrestrial beings.

He has yet to convince the Ministry of Defence for flying saucers have not had a glimmer of official recognition.

They had their moment, in September, when six saucers were found lying dotted about the country.

Alas for Contact... they were found to be the work of hoaxers.



NEW YORK

TWENTY years ago Kenneth Arnold, a businessman piloting his private plane over the Rocky Mountains, claimed to have seen nine discs skimming along at 1,000 mph. He described them as moving like "saucers skipping over water."

On June 24, the Congress of Ufologists met in New York and cele-

WATCH THIS SPACE

from HENRY THODY

brated that famous first sighting by claiming that five million Americans think they have seen flying saucers.

Sighters range from airline pilots and highway patrolmen to a gentleman who has written a best-selling book about his trip to Venus.

Reports

Civilian UFO clubs, under the banner of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, have received more than 10,000 firsthand signed reports of sightings in the past decade.

A professor of meteorology and senior physicist at the University of Arizona has recently said there is

"no sensible alternative to the hypothesis that UFOs are extra-terrestrial probes... engaged in something we would loosely call observation."

Dr. J. Allen Hyneck, an astronomer and astrophysicist at Northwestern University, who served 20 years as civilian consultant to the Air Force, claims that saucers would be dismissed by radar and photographic surveillance teams as instrument faults, and has been campaigning for massive scientific investigation.

Threat

The Air Force is content that there is no threat to national security, although 6 per cent of the 11,107 reports investigated by Project Blue Book, its official continuous study under Major Hector Quintanilla, are still listed as unidentified.

Blue Book says all the photographs evaluated are "a misinterpretation of natural or conventional objects."

However, every Air Force base has an officer on regular UFO duty.

Varied views — few sights

MUNICH

from JOHN DUNCAN

REMARKABLY few flying saucers have been sighted over West Germany. But all the same, UFOs have been making headlines here this past week because the 7th World Congress of UFO Researchers was held in Mainz.

The 500 delegates from 20 countries listened in awe as the Rev. Frank Strangers told them how he met a being from Venus, called Vallant Thor, inside the Pentagon.

The Congress included many scientists, the most eminent being Professor Hermann Oberth, the father of space travel.

Planets

His view is that UFOs are space ships from other planets.

"The beings which steer them are evidently far ahead of us in culture and, if we behave intelligently, we could learn a lot from them," he said.

PARIS

from TONY CONYERS

THE French do not dismiss flying saucers as mere figments of the imagination. Reports of sightings are taken seriously and all are promptly investigated by the authorities.

This year there have been two incidents which have been quite inexplicable, and both the police and Ministry of Science experts are keeping an open mind on them.

In July a star-shaped "footprint" was found in a clover field at Marliens half a mile from the nearest road or track.

From a central crater four feet deep emanated six arms like those of a starfish about six feet in length. At the end of each were even deeper depressions as though mechanical feet had been set down.

Marks

Bluish marks were noticeable within a 30-yard radius.

Ministry scientists were only able to establish that "something very heavy" had caused the depressions.

In May over 1,000 people reported a squadron of five or six orange or yellow UFOs flying in perfect formation in a line from the Alps to Brittany.

Only Airport alone received 300 calls which were passed on to the Ministry of Science.

MOSCOW

from ROBERT EVANS

SOVIET scientists, who for years scoffed at Western reports of flying saucers, are now taking sightings more seriously.

Major-General Porfiry Stoloyarov, a retired officer of the Soviet Air Force technical service, has been appointed to head a commission to study reports of UFOs.

So far flying saucers do not appear to have paid too much attention to Russia. There have been only five well-authenticated sightings so far—one of which was a sickle-shaped

RUSSIA GETS OFF THE GROUND

object reported to have flashed across the Caucasian sky leaving a wave-like trail.

A commission member said the sightings this summer coincided with a similar wave of saucer reports in Western Europe.

DR. FYODOR ZIGEL, an astronomer and commission member, published an article earlier this year calling for a serious study of unidentified flying objects. He ad-

mitted that the idea of flying saucers was fantastic and perhaps beyond the realm of common sense. "But common sense is not a very reliable guide when we come across a completely new situation," he wrote.

He described the idea that flying saucers are spaceships from another planet as an extreme theory, but added: "Since the problem of unidentified flying objects is not yet solved, varied and even extreme views are tenable."

Philip meets Thing

PHILIP F... a "Thing" luminous... he stopped clean the... He said yesterday 4ft. 6in. his head was ob... was reaching car roof... My girl friend in the past it was just... "I said: 'Th... out there'... too scared... The creature acrid burn... I was so didn't stop more... Mr. Freeman carpenter... "Thing" his girl friend a country... He said: "I... a deserted Winterfold was getting car I saw staring at... At home... Sheerwater mother... Freeman... "He was then he...