

# NEW CALL FOR A FLYING SAUCER PROBE

ALAN MASSAM

A new call was made today for an official scientific investigation into the UFO—Unidentified Flying Object—phenomenon. It came from two Stoke-on-Trent astronomers, Anthony Pace and Roger Stanway, and coincided with the publication of their 60,000-word report of the alleged sighting last year of more than 70 UFOs over Staffordshire.

There have been scores of reports by UFO enthusiasts, none of which has been taken very seriously by the scientific community.

But this one has the distinction of being recorded in reasoned, unemotional language and giving detailed facts and figures.

It lists, for example, the full names and addresses of scores of observers and contains verbatim accounts of how the sightings were described.

Astronomers Pace and Stanway appear to have set out to find rational explanations for the varied, colourful and often bizarre accounts which reached their office.

## Strange occurrences

But they conclude: "Among the many strange occurrences described in our report there appear descriptions of manifestations that at present cannot be explained or identified in terms of man-made or natural phenomena."

From their report it would appear that the typical UFO or flying saucer manifestation is red or orange in colour, glows quite brightly and makes no sound.

Sightings usually refer to groups of three objects, but evidence is always entirely circumstantial. There is never a proved physical sign of the presence of UFOs although astronomers Pace and Stanway went to a lot of trouble to find some.

A spokesman for the local evening newspaper in Stoke which reported many of the UFO sightings last year, said today that he remained sceptical.

## Honest belief

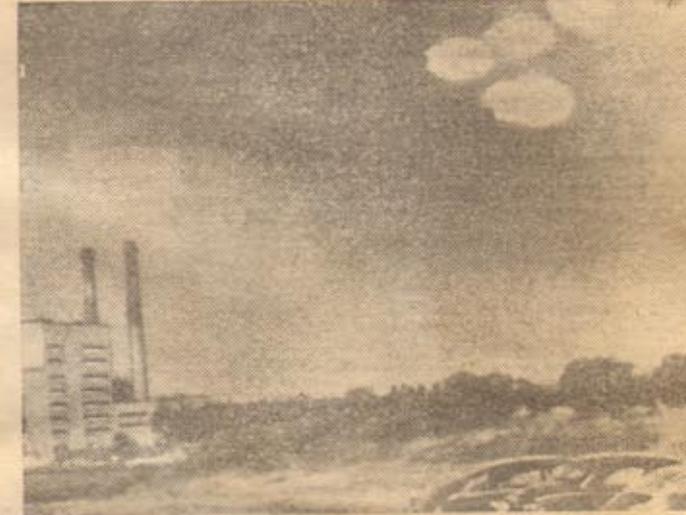
It was true that many reliable people had reported seeing strange flying objects and he thought they honestly believed they had.

But no member of the paper's staff had seen an UFO, neither had they been able to find one member of the local police force who was prepared to admit having done so.

Sir Bernard Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, also declines to take UFOs seriously. The Stoke astronomers report that his secretary explained that he believed witnesses genuinely misidentified various things which, in fact, had natural explanations.



An Ohio version. This UFO was sighted in Zanesville, Ohio, in November, last year.



A Massachusetts version. These four round objects were sighted passing over a U.S. air station at Salem, Massachusetts, in August 1952.



A Mexican version. This object, seen passing over mountains at Almacordo, New Mexico, was sighted October, 1957.

SUN Saturday September 7 1968

## JET HUNTS

## THING

## WITH

## KNOBS ON

EVERYBODY saw it, hovering there in the sky above Madrid. A pyramid-shaped object. With knobs on.

The Thing caused traffic jams as thousands of Spaniards stopped their cars to stare at its three bright knobs of light.

To find out exactly what it was, the Spanish Air Force ordered the pilot of an F-104 jet: "Follow that Thing."

He chased the object up to 50,000ft. Then, with the Thing still high above him, he had to give up. His fuel was running out.

Perhaps (said usually well-