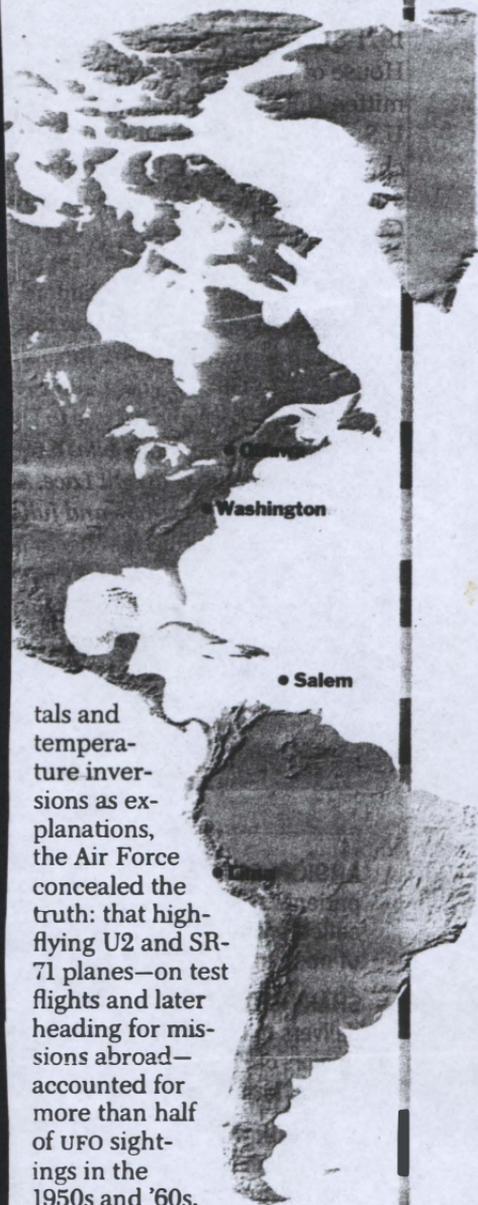


Washington

The U.S. Air Force repeatedly invented **stories to explain sightings of unidentified flying objects** to deflect attention from top-secret spying missions, a study released by the Central Intelligence Agency says. Offering atmospheric conditions such as ice crys-



tals and temperature inversions as explanations, the Air Force concealed the truth: that high-flying U2 and SR-71 planes—on test flights and later heading for missions abroad—accounted for more than half of UFO sightings in the 1950s and '60s.