

"SAUCERS" NOT THREAT SAYS AIR FORCE

Australian Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Wed. — The United States was confident that there was no danger from "flying saucers" or other mystery aerial objects, the American Air Force announced today.

Major-Gen. John Samford, director of air force intelligence, told correspondents, "Six years' analysis of mysterious object sightings has revealed no pattern that shows anything

remotely consistent with any menace to the United States."

Gen. Samford headed an Air Force group who held a news conference at the Pentagon specifically to answer questions from the world's Press arising from recent alarms over unexplained radar and other sightings.

He said between 1,000 and 2,000 reports had been studied by the Air Force investigators, and less than 20 p.c. of the reported aerial objects remained unidentified.

This percentage, he said, was caused mainly from lack of information by the "Saucer Spotters."

ters."

The general said his personal opinion was that the unexplained "blips" of light appearing on radarscopes at the Washington national airport were the result of temperature inversions.

He and another spokesman explained that radar disturbances could be caused by sudden changes in temperature.

He said the Air Force would give "adequate" but not "frantic" attention to reports.

Radar showed the air over Washington was full of flying objects early today, but an airliner directed to one of the sightings could not find a thing.

Civil Aeronautics Administra-

tion radar operators at Washington national airport reported scores of sightings from 1.30 to 5 a.m.

There were as many as 12 unidentified objects on the radar screen at one time, they said.

Air force officials raised the possibility that devices dropped from planes to jam radar may have floated this far from the Canadian border where air exercises are in progress.

exercises are in progress.

Dr. I. M. Levitt, director of Fels Planetarium, at Philadelphia, said jet pilots saw "mysterious objects" over the capital because of the extremely hot weather.

He concurred with Dr. D. H. Menzel, of Harvard, who said weather conditions that cause optical mirages cause radar and television mirages as well.

The radar "blips" could have resulted from ionized air or gaseous clouds.

In Jersey City, a Volunteer Air Defence observer, Mr. August Roberts, handed to the police what he claimed to be a photograph of a flying saucer over New York.

The photograph, which was printed in some New York papers today, showed a bright, nearly cylindrical object moving across the night sky.