

GIANT TELESCOPES

America's flying saucer scare produced new theories, several editorials, hundreds more reported sightings and two reward offers.

Finally the Air Force called a special Press conference to assure the nation that the authorities were still certain no one and nothing was preparing to blast the United States to smithereens.

The Air Force earlier revealed:

It was getting an average of 100 reports a month, of which 20 per cent could not be explained.

It had set up a special unit called "Operation Bluebook" at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, to investigate all reports.

Jet fighters were operating on a 24-hour alert to pursue all unidentified objects.

It was considering putting powerful telescopes around the country as an extra check on the sky.

The Air Force added that jet fighters would be equipped

fighters would be equipped shortly with a new camera which photographed "luminous phenomena."

Washington columnist Drew Pearson claimed the Government had established flying saucer observation posts on its New Mexico guided-missiles test site.

Dr. I. M. Levitt, director of Hel's Planetarium, Philadelphia pointed out that the so-called "Durham Lights" over England caused a furore at the turn of the century when England was the leading power.

He added: "Now we are the leading power. could it be that we are moving at a higher psychological pitch because of our world position and are reading fearful implications into a phenomenon which normally would not be noticed."

Meantime wealthy Ohioan Temus Bright offered a 5000-dollar (£2220) reward "for evidence corroborating the existence of flying saucers."

One newspaper offered 500-dollars (£222) for information leading to a photo of a genuine flying saucer.

