

FLYING SAUCERS

ANOTHER THEORY

WASHINGTON, Sunday: A temperature phenomenon—not visitors from space—was responsible for many "flying saucer" reports, the Civil Aeronautics Administration said today.

But it did not claim that this was the entire answer and urged additional study of the matter "through observations with more versatile equipment."

The agency said it had investigated scores of reports made by airplane traffic control towers in seven major cities and in checking back against weather bureau records it found "that a temperature inversion almost always existed when such targets appeared on the radar."

"Temperature inversion, it was stated, resulted when air that had been cooling with increased altitude, suddenly started becoming warmer, creating a layer of warm air on top of a mass of cool air.

The agency said this produced a reflecting surface causing reflections which travelled with the wind at, or near, the temperature inversion levels and ultimately with the wind at, or near, the temperature inversion levels

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The report said that the study showed no evidence of the objects hovering or putting on any sudden burst of speed on the part of "saucers" to the action of radar operators in switching from a fading reflection to one which was just appearing on the radar screen.

The report said that such reflections, travelling horizontally with the air inversion mass, would "produce a movement twice as great in the image being received on the radar scope."