

SAUCER STORY A BIT "BALLOONEY"

LONDON, November 24 (A.A.P.): It was very nearly correct to describe the recent London flying saucer story as "all ballooney," Mr. Nigel Birch, Under-secretary for Defence, told the House of Commons today.

He had been asked what reports his department had received of the flying object seen by two airmen over London or other parts of Britain and reported to him.

Mr. Birch replied that on November 3 two experimental meteorological balloons were observed at different times, one by two officers in a R.A.F. aircraft and the other by a member of an anti-aircraft command.

"There was nothing peculiar about either of

these occurrences," he said, amid laughter.

Mr. Birch, replying to further questions, said meteorological balloons were fitted with a special device to produce a large echo on a radar screen

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A member had suggested that the R.A.F. and anti-aircraft command should be warned when these balloons were up so that they knew

up so that they knew what was happening and did not create unnecessary alarm in other quarters.

Mr. Birch: "That is where trouble arose. The two balloons in

question were allowed to escape or were let off at unusual times, but I hope we shall have no more trouble about it."

On November 18 the War Office stated that an anti-aircraft unit in south-east London had picked up a signal on its radar screen and followed the track of an object which appeared to be circular or spherical and white in colour. The report said the object was also seen through a telescope by men of the same unit on the same day, November 3.
