

# Cameras To Check On "Flying Saucers"

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 2. A.A.P. —** The United States Air Force announced yesterday that it had installed "flying saucer cameras" to help find an explanation of mysterious objects in the sky.

The cameras, set up at Air Force bases in 33 States, are designed to analyse moving lights to determine whether they are merely insubstantial glows or come from identifiable material objects.

The announcement reflected the Air Force's official concern over a number of unexplained reports of flying saucers which it has not been able to write off, either as manmade objects or known phenomena. These sightings have been made both visually and by radar.

About 75 cameras have been installed. They are called "diffraction grating" devices which separate light into its component parts and register them on film.

Astronomers use similar equipment to determine the composition of stars.

"Flying saucers" have been reported sporadically since 1947, but the Air Force has received the reports with scepticism.

It reiterated yesterday that a majority of all reported sightings had been found to

sightings had been found to be either aircraft, balloons, or other such objects, or to be meteors and planets.

In a new "fact sheet" the Air Force emphasised that the "unexplained aerial phenomena are not a secret weapon, missile, or aircraft developed by the United States."

It also stated that "no authentic physical evidence has been received establishing the existence of space ships from other planets."

An Air Force spokesman said about 75 cameras had been set up where "saucers" frequently had been reported in the past.

The cameras were installed last May, but because of a difficulty with lenses no satisfactory pictures were obtained, the spokesman said. Now the cameras were being fitted with new lenses.

The Air Force said that in each of the unexplained sightings "the object appeared at

night time and had the appearance of simple lights." They also appeared on radar scopes.

Temperature inversion, an atmospheric phenomena in which warm and cool air

atmospheric phenomena in which warm and cool air layers become transposed, has been found to create false targets on the radar scope. But these would not be confirmed visually.

During 1952, the bumper year for saucer sightings, 1700 reports were received by the Air Force. Of these, 70 per cent. came from civilians.

The Air Force said 20 per cent. of the sightings were "unexplainable on the basis of information received."

In the first half of this year, the Air Force said, only 250 reports were received, nearly 50 per cent. of them from military sources. The number of "unexplainable sightings" dropped 10 per cent.

The Air Force said "the drop in unexplained sightings was largely due to the increased accuracy and the completeness of reports being received."