

# AIR FORCE IS CHECKING ON "SAUCERS"

**MELBOURNE:** The Royal Australian Air Force is taking the report of a "flying saucer" in Australia seriously.

Captain D. Barker, the pilot who saw the "flying mushroom" over

Templestowe last week, was interviewed by an officer from R.A.A.F. Intelligence and by the superintendent of Civil Aviation Navigation (Mr. W. Boud).

The interview lasted two hours.

In a statement today—the first ever made officially by the R.A.A.F.—a high-ranking officer said that the R.A.A.F. had been investigating "flying saucer" reports since 1947.

He added that it had received hundreds of reports, each treated confidentially.

He said: "We are anxious to get to the bottom of the reports. We have an open mind.

**We have an open mind, but who are we to say the public is just seeing things?**

"We don't know if we are the only planet with life on it, or if there are better brains in the universe than ours.

"We should be flying into space ourselves within a 100 years.

## **Checks made**

"Our investigations show that 10 percent of the people reporting to us have definitely seen something—and many of the reports correspond.

**"And many of the people making the reports should know what they are talking about—especially pilots," he said.**

Each report was investigated by an R.A.A.F. Intelligence officer, and 24 questions put to the person making the report were tabulated in a two-page "report of aerial object observed" form, he added.

At the interview Cap-

At the interview, Captain Barker described the huge, speeding "mushroom" and filled in Air Force questions about the phenomenon.

"He just confirmed what he had already told newspapers about the strange object," Mr. Boud said today. "He could add nothing to his description."

Mr. Boud said there had been no instructions issued to either Civil Aviation or R.A.A.F. pilots to watch for "saucers" or 'mushrooms."

"But naturally they'll keep their eyes open," he said.