

# RAAF is taking

## "saucers" seriously

The Royal Australian Air Force is taking "flying saucer" reports in Australia seriously.

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

He added that it had received hundreds of reports. Each was treated confidentially.

"We are anxious to get to the bottom of the reports. We have an open mind, but who are we to say the public is just seeing things," he said.

"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.

"Our investigations show that 10 per cent. of the people reporting to us, have definitely seen something — and many of the

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."

Each report is investigated by a RAAF intelligence officer, and 24 questions put to the person making the report are

tabulated in a two-page "Report of Aerial Object Observed" form.

The RAAF then investigates the report itself. A check is made with the Department of Civil Aviation and meteorological and astronomical experts.

Details of any plane or object definitely established

Details of any plane or object definitely established to be in the area at the same time are then added to the form.

The form is then placed in a confidential file.

The reports are not published to prevent people from making faked sightings, and so that a true and accurate check can be made on similar observations.

## **New report**

The manager of a shoe shop in Glenferrie Road, Malvern, reported seeing a flying saucer at 1.5 p.m. today.

The man, Mr. W. Allen, said he saw a shining circular object passing over Malvern much faster than any aircraft.

Giving out a red vapor, the object headed towards the bay at about 2000 ft. It seemed to be between 20 and 30 ft. in diameter, he said.

"Until today I laughed at 'flying saucer' reports. It's different when you see one."

A Department of Civil Aviation official said that only one aircraft was in the area at the time. It was a DC3 which would have passed over St. Kilda on its way to Tasmania.

Radar at Essendon picked up nothing at that time.