

R.A.A.F. TAKING FLYING 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 R.A.A.F.—a high-ranking officer said the R.A.A.F. 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

space ourselves within a 100 years

"Our investigations show that 16 per cent. 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."

Each report is investigated by an R.A.A.F. 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 R.A.A.F. 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 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.

A R.A.A.F. official said the following observations would make

Following observations would make any reasonable person think twice before discarding every report:

Seventy-five per cent. of the reports in Australia have come from the country, eliminating any theory that people have seen concentrations of aircraft landing or taking off, reflections in the clouds from city lights or aircraft landing lights, and weather balloons.

Many of the reports have been made by pilots or ex-R.A.A.F. men.

Too many of the reports were similar for people to be just seeing things.

"But we can't accept these reports until we have some definite information," he said.

"We want all people who firmly believe they have seen an unidentified object in the sky to report to us.

"Investigations take time and money, so we don't want reports from people who have only thought they have seen something."