

DON'T RIDICULE FLYING SAUCERS

... urges a noted atom scientist

**By a leading
Australian
nuclear scientist
of world standing**

FROM all corners of the world have come thousands of reports of strange objects seen in the sky.

They have been observed in ones and twos, in small groups, and even by the score, over cities, deserts, mountains, and oceans, from distances of less than 50 yards to many miles.

Radar plots have checked with visual sightings. Jet fighter aircraft have attempted to intercept them and have been out-maneuvred.

The governments of America, Canada, Britain, and Australia have been forced to take official action and have set up investigation centres.

After eliminating all possible alternatives there remain several

there remain several hundred reports that cannot be explained by hallucinations, mass illusion, hoaxes, spots before the eyes, reflection, refraction, stars, meteorites, balloons or similar phenomena.

Observations of a single object have been made by several independent groups of people at approximately the same time. Many of these witnesses have been experienced in making accurate and reliable observations, and yet their evidence usually is not generally accepted by the public.

AN attitude of ridicule, largely engendered by certain leading citizens and authorities, has caused many people to refrain from making a report. This is not a desirable attitude if we wish to understand these mysterious phenomena.

During the past few weeks there have been two interesting reports from the Melbourne area.

from the Melbourne area. At Malvern, a group of six people attracted by a noise like a motor-bike observed the sudden appearance out of a moonless sky of "a luminous dark-blue football, the size of a tram" sweeping downwards in an arc only about 80 yards distant.

Emitting a "ball of orange flame," the object continued on an upward curve and vanished. The glow from the emitted cloud of vapour or smoke was sufficient to briefly bathe both the ship and the observers in a yellowish-orange light.

A week later, an observer at East Dandenong was also attracted by a noise like a motor-bike towards a dark object silhouetted against an evening sky. As it

came nearer with but a single yellowish-orange "headlight" glowing, it suddenly burst into a luminescent silver-grey with additional yellowish-orange lights at the rear and on one side.

... and on one side.

The drumming noise ceased but a ticking noise continued. It began to revolve with a period of three to four seconds. When compared with the size of a house over which it passed, its diameter appeared to be about 35 to 40 feet.

About 35 yards from the observer, it stopped its forward movement but its revolution rate increased until the period was only about a second.

It was seen to have three "wheels" which formed the corners of an equilateral triangle and were suspended from a circular base. The base curved over to meet a "canopy" that had two sets of windows in it.

The surface was smooth without any visible seams, rivets, or bolts. Like the "flying football," this description agrees fairly well with a type of "saucer" described in overseas reports.

Owing to the proximity of the observers in both cases, these two events alone provide good evidence for the existence of unusual flying craft. On interviewing these witnesses, one feels assured of their integrity and conviction.

In the second case, the light available and duration of observation were sufficient to discern details of structure that could not possibly be confused with any phenomena other than a machine that is capable of hovering, rotating, and moving in virtual silence without any obvious method of propulsion.

ON the basis of the above data, together

with hundreds of other reports, it seems reasonable to make the following hypothesis:

FIRST HYPOTHESIS:
A certain remnant of reports of unidentified flying objects may only be explained by the assumption that machines

sumption that machines controlled by some intelligence are being observed.

Who produces these machines? Has Russia a new secret weapon? If so, would the Kremlin advertise the fact by sending fleets to the Western world! Similarly, would America, in order to perpetuate a gigantic hoax on its own people, risk losing experimental aircraft in foreign countries! This would apply to any manufacturing nation. Consequently, the first hypothesis compels the acceptance of a second.

SECOND HYPOTHESIS: These machines are not manufactured on earth, but their origin is extra-terrestrial.

Most scientists who have allowed their reasoning to reach this stage, find it too difficult to proceed. One difficulty arises from the fact that the apparent surface temperatures of the planets is such that only Mars and Venus

only Mars and Venus could be endured by earth-men.

Another principal difficulty is that the present evidence for the composition of planetary atmospheres indicates that an earth-being would not be able to live without artificial aid on any of the planets other than Earth.

Many astronomers like Dr. Menzel and Sir Harold Spencer-Jones on the basis of this knowledge make the further assumption that no animal life exists on any of these planets, and that the so-called "flying saucers" are either a product of the imagination or a misinterpreted natural phenomena.

Certainly a large number of reports fit into one or the other of these two categories

ASSUMING that our knowledge of planetary climates is reasonably accurate, then if we are to accept our two hypotheses, we must look to either Mars or Venus.

Venus.

Available evidence indicates that Venus today is in a similar state

to that of the Earth some 300 million years ago. Mars, on the other hand, is some hundreds of millions of years ahead of the Earth in the gradual process of decaying.

As Mars takes about twice as long as the Earth to whirl in its space orbit around the sun, it comes into close proximity with the Earth every two years and fifty days.

At these times of opposition, the separation distance between the planets varies between about 35 and 63 million miles. One would expect a Martian space-traveller to prefer journeying during these periods rather than the three or four hundred million miles flight path necessary about a year later.

If the number of reports of "saucer" sightings per month are graphed against time there are noticeable

there are noticeable peaks occurring in 1947-48, 1950, 1952 and now 1954. the principal peaks

coinciding fairly well with the times of close opposition with Mars. There appears, therefore, to be some justification in making a further hypothesis.

THIRD HYPOTHESIS:

These machines originate from the planet Mars.

If the problems of space travel for Martians are such that distances of the order of 50million miles are considered large, then there should be a considerable influx in the number of space visitors during the next few weeks as on July 2 Earth and Mars will be closer together than they have been for 15 years.

They will be even closer during August, 1956. However, it is unlikely that such distances present a great problem to these space-travellers.

HOW are these space-ships propelled?

U ships propelled? Their comparative sil- ence and long range

eliminate the use of a chemical fuel. Earth scientists are envisaging the possibility of using a nuclear reactor or a conventional power plant to generate electric potentials capable of accelerating gaseous ions to an exhaust velocity almost equal to the velocity of light.

Such an ion rocket would cut fuel consumption by a factor of many thousands, enabling considerably greater velocities and ranges to be attained.

This type of rocket would only operate in the vacuum of space. When in an atmosphere, either jet or conventional rocket propulsion would be required.

But reported observations of these space machines would indicate that a far more refined method of propulsion is being used. Could they possibly have found

possibly have found some way of gaining energy from gravita-

oured lights. Exhausts are often orange or yellow-orange, sometimes

tional or electro-magnetic fields?

A survey of some of the reports that have been made suggest that these space machines may hover for long periods, change or even reverse direction rapidly, accelerate at a breathtaking rate, and travel at many thousands of miles per hour.

THERE seem to be three principal shapes—disc, ellipsoidal (football and cigar), and a shape that could possibly be likened to an inverted saucer with a domed superstructure.

In addition, observations have allegedly been made of spherical, pear, doughnut and spoked-wheel shapes.

The material is usually translucent and may be made luminescent apparently at will. They are often associated with bright white and coloured lights. Exhausts

green or blue, and do not necessarily burn continuously. Usually they are surprisingly silent.

As observations are still being made, the general picture should become clearer and it may be possible to deduce answers to some of the mystifying questions.

If some of the reports are true, then these space machines possess properties that are truly fantastic.

More information is needed. So during the next month or two why not develop the habit of scanning the skies. If something strange is seen, gather as many witnesses as possible, observe carefully and report objectively. I appeal to scientists and engineers to take greater interest in these phenomena, and to cease this ridicule. Examine the reports closely, analyse them honestly, and draw an unbiased conclusion.