

There may be something in these 'saucers'

by
a leading Australian nuclear physicist of world standing

FROM ALL CORNERS of the world — and nearer home in Perth quite recently — 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. All this leads to the assumption that . . .

THE GOVERNMENTS of the United States, Canada, Britain and Australia have been forced to take official action on "flying saucer" reports and have set up investigation centres. After eliminating all possible alternatives, 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.

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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, for instance, there have been two interesting reports from the Melbourne area. At Malvern, a group of six people attracted by a noise like a motor cycle, 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.

A WEEK later, the attention of an observer at East Dandenong was also attracted

by a noise like a motor cycle 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.

Because of 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.

On the basis of the above data, plus a few hundreds of other reports, it seems reasonable to make hypotheses.

FIRST HYPOTHESIS: *A certain remnant of reports of unidentified flying objects may be explained only by the assumption that machines controlled by some intelligence are being ob-*

chines 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 the U.S., 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—that is, 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 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 so-called "flying saucers" are either a product of the imagination or a misinterpretation of 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, if we are to accept our two hypotheses, we must look to either Mars or Venus.

IS it not possible that in the long distant past a Martian intelligence had evolved what was capable of combating the problem of a diminishing oxygen supply, for example, by living in air-conditioned sealed cities? Alternatively, an intelligent form of life capable of breathing carbon dioxide may have evolved.

On the assumption that Venus has yet to evolve an

Venus has yet to evolve an intelligence, and that Mars may have reached this stage of evolution many millions of years ago, it would appear that Mars is the most

likely to possess intelligent beings.

The possibility of space travellers from another planetary system is unlikely as even travelling at half the velocity of light — about 335,000,000 m.p.h.—it would take nearly nine years to come from the nearest star which quite possibly doesn't possess a planetary system in any case.

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 50 days. At these times of opposition, the separation distance between the planets varies between about 35,000,000 and 63,000,000 miles. One would expect a Martian space-traveller to prefer journeying during these periods rather than the 300,000,000 or 400,000,000 miles flight-path necessary about a year later.

[F the number of reports of "saucer" sightings per month are graphed against time, 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.

How are these space-ships controlled? Their comparative silence and long range eliminates the use of chemical fuel. Earth scientists are envisaging the possibility of using 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

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

I APPEAL to scientists and engineers to take a greater interest in these phenomena, and to cease this ridicule, unless such ridicule can be justified.

Do not summarily dismiss the reports of reliable witnesses simply because of a preconceived disbelief. Examine the reports closely, analyse them honestly and draw an unbiased conclusion. In such cases that may be concluded to represent descriptions of space machines, you may come across clues that enable a greater understanding of the mechanism of propulsion or power production.

Finally, may I appeal to the air forces and security services of the Western world to release their suppressed information. If a number of U.S. citizens once panicked when they were convinced that a Mar-

were convinced that a Martian invasion was actually in progress it is hardly sufficient reason to suppose that a similar panic would occur when the public is told that they are merely under observation — and have been for many years — by intelligences who have shown not the slightest degree of hostility.

If it is wished to have the co-operation of the public, then first co-operate with the public. The more everyone knows the truth, the more truth will everyone know.



