

FLYING SAUCERS 'MAPPING EARTH'

BY RONALD BATCHELOR, REUTER CORRESPONDENT IN KENYA.

NAIROBI.—Visitors from outer space are probably observing and mapping the earth and have been directing their recent attentions to East Africa. That is the considered opinion of one of the leading astronomers in this area, the vice-president of the Kenya Astronomical Association, Mr. G. Duncan Fletcher.

MR. Fletcher put forward this startling and eerie suggestion after a deluge of reports from scores of observers throughout East Africa who claim to have seen "flying saucers."

These reports have flooded newspaper offices in the three East African territories of Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika.

Europeans, Asians and Africans have variously claimed to have seen objects in the sky. stationary, zooming over the horizon, changing colour from white to red, blue and green, elliptical in shape and elongated with upright projections at either end.

No doubt

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MR. Fletcher says that he has recently observed something in the sky over Nairobi from his well-equipped observatory.

"It was about 7.40 p.m. that I had four friends in my observatory," he says. "Very low and towards the East, there was a large light in the sky which had no relationship to anything astronomical, to Verey lights or to the aircraft which had just landed at the airport."

The altitude of Mr. Fletcher's "object" was about 2000ft., was stationary when first spotted by himself and his four companions and "emitted a bright orange light."

This light brightened to a yellowish colour and the object rose, dropped and then rose again, finally disappearing through the clouds, he states.

Mr. Fletcher says he thinks there is no question about the genuineness of reports about "flying saucers" which "have been given by very experienced observers" in all parts of the world.

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The most encouraging thing about reports of unidentified flying objects, Mr. Fletcher avers, is that "they seem to be friendly towards the people of this planet."

"From all the information which is available they are steadily mapping every part of our earth," he concludes.

Whether the beings now visiting the earth from outer space are short or tall, have blood in their veins, or whether they have veins at all, will have to await their contact with human beings here, he says, inferring that "outer space men" will one day decide to land their "machines" and at-

tempt to communicate with earth men.

It may be sheer coincidence, Mr. Fletcher says, but he points out that these other beings seem to have been interested in activities on earth since the time of the first atomic explosion about seven years ago.

Out of the first

Safety first

"THEIR approach to us is, I suggest, similar to what our own approach would be if the boot were on the other foot," says Mr. Fletcher.

"Suppose we were to visit Venus. I do not think that, until we had made every possible investigation, we would land. The obvious thing is that we should map, photograph if possible and carry out a thorough investigation before we wantonly risked life by hasty landings.

Mr. Fletcher does not pretend to know how the objects operate, what they contain or where they come from. But he gives this advice: "Vigilance and a friendly approach to their overtures would appear to be the best course to follow."