

FLYING SAUCER CREWS WANT KINDNESS; PROFESSOR'S VIEWS

(By IAN FRASER)

BONN (Reuters). — Men should approach the pilots of flying saucers charitably if they ever land in earth. That is the advice given by Philip Dessauer, a German Theologian, in the Catholic Magazine "Wort Und Wahrheit."

Whatever happens, he said, flying saucer pilots must not be shot.

Professor Dessauer, who is 56 and a member of the "Oratorianer" confraternity, writes "As a Christian Philosopher." Deploring the doubting attitude of the United States Air Force, which has studied reported appearances of flying saucers, he comments that it is a weak policy to refuse to face phenomena which cannot be explained and to refuse to tackle the unknown because the unknown might cause panic if it proved to be true.

The appearance, he says, will certainly increase one day and the saucers will probably land on earth and

probably land on earth and "it should be a duty of the Government to prepare their peoples for such a meeting."

Speculating on why saucer men have not yet landed on earth or got in touch with us, he suggests that they may have tried and we have not understood them, or perhaps they wanted to observe earth before trying to land. In that case their observations of the Korean war would not have led them to look forward with much confidence to meeting us.

There may well be technical reasons, too. The saucer men — Professor Dessauer calls them "Planetids" can only come from Mars or perhaps Venus. On Mars, the pull of gravity is only 38 per cent. of earth's pull and the air is much thinner, perhaps the planetids are still trying out new apparatus to adapt their bodies to the strange conditions on earth.

Who are the planetids? are they mortals and have they souls? are other questions

souls? are other questions discussed by Professor Dessauer. They seem to be thinking beings, he says, because they have mastered a high degree of technique. They seem to be mortal because, judging by the way they evade terrestrial aircraft, they know what danger is. They do not seem to be spirits or demons because they are subject to physical limitations and require mechanical aids.

The problem of where they fit into the Christian order of things is difficult. The Bible teaches that God made the universe. Therefore, he created planetids too, but they could not have benefited from the redemption. Professor Dessauer excludes the possibility that a second Christian incarnation and redemption took place on Mars or anywhere else, for the benefit of men of other worlds.

God chose earth out of all his vast creation to be the scene of the redemption of

SCENE OF THE REDEMPTION OF
terrestrial man by His Son,
just as He chose the insigni-
ficant Judea out of all the
countries of the earth to be
his birthplace.

The redemption made earth
the focal point of creation.
Therefore the Professor ar-
gues, it is "unthinkable" that
Jesus Christ took on another
human nature or a "plan-
etid nature" elsewhere.

Professor Dessauer sug-
gests a compromise solution.
He does not think that the
planetids suffer from the or-
iginal sin or Adam and Eve,
nor on the other hand, does
he believe that they are liv-
ing in a state of paradise. He
allows them physical and
mental kinship with man-
kind but concludes that they
have not received the gift of
divine grace. They belong, he
believes, to what theology
calls "the natural order"
(status nature). They fulfil
their role in the divine plan
by pursuing a high degree of
civilisation according to their
own lights. Professor Dess-

auer does not think that we should try to preach the gospel to them. There is nothing in scripture which calls on us to take revelation to men from other worlds.

The planetids, for instance, have solved the problem of space-travel while we are still experimenting with pilotless rockets.

On the other hand, it may be that they are themselves in search of revelation. Perhaps an angel has informed them that salvation has come to the earth planet. This theory would explain their evident reluctance to land here. They would think at first that the angel had misled them "because no one could expect a race of beings who had been graced with salvation would behave so absurdly."

But perhaps, again, the angel's revelation was their

supreme trial just as Christ's incarnation was our test.

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In any case, the moment of encounter between man and planetid, Professor Dessauer thinks, will also be a supreme test for terrestrial man.

"Man's duty is clearly to meet the planetids in a Christian manner," he concludes. "We can leave the question of their relationship with God and creation until they have made themselves understood to us.

"The question of whether such an understanding will ever come remains to be seen.