

MINISTER CONFIRMS FLYING SAUCER REPORT

CANBERRA, Friday — The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Francis) confirmed last night that a pilot from Nowra Air Station (N.S.W.) had recently observed two lights on his radar "with vague shapes underneath."

Mr. Francis was commenting on reports that a pilot from Nowra some months ago had reported seeing two lighted objects flying close to his plane and at a faster speed than his aircraft.

The objects have been described as "flying saucers" because their identity is unknown.

The pilot (Lt. O'Farrell) saw the objects when flying at night over Goulburn on a return trip to Nowra.

Mr. Francis, in his statement, said: "It is a fact that on a night cross-country flight from the R.A.N. Station, Nowra, on August 3, a pilot in his aircraft at 13,000 feet observed two lights on his radar with vague shapes underneath.

"The lights passed ahead of him at a very fast speed.

"He was at the time flying at 220 knots.

"The pilot contacted Nowra and advised them.

"It was later ascertained that the only other aircraft in the vicinity was a T.A.A. Convair."

Mr. Francis added that the pilot was in the vicinity of Goul-

pilot was in the vicinity of Goulburn when he made his observation.

No further report of the pilot's discovery had been received yet from R.A.A.F. quarters.

Dr. S. C. B. Gascoigne, of the Commonwealth Observatory, Mt. Stromlo, commenting on Mr. Francis' statement, said it was highly unlikely and almost impossible that the objects could have been meteorites.

This was because the objects as reported were too low in the sky and had apparently persisted for too long.

Unless the objects were much higher than reported, or were due to a "meteorological refraction," which also was unlikely, their identification had him baffled.

The report of the pilot "just about ruled out meteorites or hallucinations."

It is believed that pilots and radar operators at the Nowra Naval Air Station were alerted to watch for unidentified objects (otherwise known as flying saucers) in the sky since the pilot's report.

On the night O'Farrell saw the "saucers," Nowra radar crew fixed his position and reported that the screen showed an echo of another object moving along with his Sea Fury.

This is the first known case in which unidentified objects have been confirmed by radar.