

'Object' Hovers Over Canberra Airport

CANBERRA, Australia—A mysterious glowing object—hovering near Canberra airport while the U.S. Mariner space probe was taking pictures of Mars—has baffled experts in Canberra. Air traffic control officers and other expert aircraft observers said that they spotted the object Thursday.

Six members of the traffic control tower crew said that it

hung suspended at about 5,000 feet for 40 minutes. When the sun glinted off it, it became clearly visible, they said. It disappeared when an air force plane was sent out to identify it.

STATION TROUBLE

Experts are now wondering if it was coincidence that the object was sighted shortly before nearby Tidbinbilla tracking station was scheduled to

pick up Mariner signals. The station had unusual difficulty in locking on to Mariner at the time.

The sighting also came as Goldstone tracking station received irregularities in messages while Mariner was photographing Mars.

This was the fifth reported sighting of a mysterious object recently.