

# SEARCH ON FOR U.F.O. 'BASE' IN THE ANDES

*From FRANCISCO QUINTANA,  
Santiago, Chile*

**A** GROUP of explorers will take a close look in February at a mysterious platform in the Andes, hoping to clear rumours that it is a "cosmodrome" for flying saucers.

The platform, consisting of 10-ton blocks of volcanic rocks, was first discovered in September.

High winds and driving snow forced explorers to retreat before they could study the platform thoroughly or enter what appeared to be a door into a small fortress beneath.

Humberto Sarnataro Bounaud, a 32-year-old

businessman and painter, will head the expedition. He said helicopters will be used, and more equipment taken on the second investigation of the platform.

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Many peasants and villagers in the area claim they have seen flying saucers apparently taking off and landing in the mountain near the platform.

There have been reports of cars breaking down and restarting without mechanical attention, an unexplained smell of burning without fire, and fruit trees blossoming out of season.

Police and local scientists have scanned the area with geiger counters, but found only that a strange heat had made trees blossom out of season.

Mr Bounaud told AAP-  
Reuter: "I cannot say whether or not the platform is a cosmodrome used by beings from another world.

"But there is no doubt that it has been built. It is made of volcanic rock cut perfectly and with

cut perfectly and with marks of burns", he said.

"We want to go into the cave underneath, to see if it is the entrance to a subterranean fortress built by

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a prehistoric mountain race. In this case, it will belong to a lost civilisation".

The platform is in the mountains between San Clemente, Chile, and San Rafael, Argentina — about 140 miles south-east of Santiago.

It is situated opposite the active volcano "El Descabezado Grande" — the "big headless one" — and one theory is that the platform was built to enable tribesmen to worship the volcano.

Chilean geologists insist the slabs are a natural stone formation, which has been known to herdsmen in the Andes for many years. —

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- AAP.

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