

Sept 14, 1972

Officials puzzled by UFO at Taree

The Government Astronomer, Dr Harley Wood, said yesterday he had been unable to account for the presence of an unidentified object in the sky over Taree.

He said he had taken reports of the object "semi-seriously" because my past experiences with these things tells me that is the right word.

Dr Woods said that if the object kept appearing and no explanation for it was forthcoming, he would investigate it fully.

Eye-witnesses describe the object as red on the bottom and white on the top and say it has appeared 45 degrees above the northern horizon of Taree for the past two weeks at 7.10 am.

The RAAF has ruled out the possibilities that it is a weather balloon, an earth-controlled satellite or the planet Venus, but does not have any suggestions as to its identity.

A spokesman for the Department of Air in Canberra said yesterday that RAAF staff at Taree and Williamtown were keeping a watch on it and would report to Canberra if they thought further investigation was needed.

No military aircraft have been sent to Taree to observe the phenomenon.

Sightings of unidentified flying objects are not rare, and the Department of Air has kept records of all that were reported through official channels.