

NZ TO MOUNT UFO PATROL

AUCKLAND, Tues, AAP —
The Royal New Zealand Air Force will
mount a UFO patrol over the Kaiko-
ura coast tonight.

The air force will send up an Orion reconnaissance plane to look for the mysterious objects sighted in the area recently.

A Defence Department spokesman, Squadron Leader Geoff Clarke, said today: "We want to get to the bottom of these sightings".

To this end, the department has decided to fly an all-night patrol in the area south-east of Cook Strait.

This action replaces former plans to wait

former plans to wait for more sightings and scramble a Skyhawk single-seater to investigate.

The anti-submarine Orions, which also are used for fisheries surveillance in New Zealand's 200-mile zone, are equipped with electronic tracking aids.

The patrol aircraft tonight will be in constant touch with air traffic controllers in Wellington, who have recorded many strange blips on their radar screens recently.

Extra

movies

The plane, an American-built Orion maritime patrol aircraft, is equipped with sophisticated electronic equipment for tracking air and sea movements.

Extra movies and

still cameras were being installed today to photograph any unusual objects.

An Australian television crew, aboard an Argosy freighter on a newspaper delivery run, filmed an unidentified flying object in the area on Sunday.

The film has been shown in Britain, America and Australia.

Meanwhile, unidentified flying objects photographed over New Zealand were probably meteorites which failed to burn up on entering the earth's atmosphere, British astronomer, Sir Bernard Lovell, said today.

Sir Bernard quoted

Sir Bernard, quoted in British newspapers today, said it was "depressing and deplorable" that bright ob-

jects in the heavens could be imagined as visitors from outer space, whenever they were seen by people who could not recognise them.

"The suggestion they come from another world belongs to science fiction" he said.

Unscheduled

aircraft

He said the solar system contained thousands of millions of tons of rocky debris, relics of the formation of the planets thousands of millions of years ago.

"Every year the earth is bombarded by a great deal of space

rubbish, but a lot goes unobserved because of

unobserved because of bad visibility," he said.

Another theory for the bright objects is they are debris from satellite laboratories burning up on re-entry.

The British Defence Ministry said it had many reports of UFOS over Britain after the televised film of the New Zealand sightings.

the



world report.