

BRAZIL

Pilots told to report on UFO scrambling

SAO PAULO, Saturday (Reuter). — Further sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported in Brazil yesterday as an investigation continued into the scrambling of fighters on Monday to intercept objects that appeared on radar screens.

Brazilian television showed film of a glowing, round object in the sky which was said to have been taken on Thursday night by a freelance cameraman near Maringa, in the southern State of Parana.

On Wednesday afternoon an air-force base in Fortaleza, capital of the north-eastern State of Ceara, received numerous calls from residents about a dark, cigar-shaped object seen in the skies, the *Jornal do Brasil* said.

The Air Force Ministry has summoned pilots of three F-5s and two Mirage jets ordered into the air on Monday from bases in southern Brazil to report on the sightings, which lasted for several hours and disrupted civil air traffic.

civil air traffic.

The head of the State oil company Petrobras, Colonel Ozires Silva, said in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday that he had been piloting a light aircraft on Monday night when he was advised by Brasilia flight controllers of UFOs.

Colonel Ozires, who was preparing to land at Sao Jose dos Campos, just outside Sao Paulo, turned his aircraft in the direction indicated by the controllers and saw several bright lights.

He said that in normal conditions they were the sort of lights that could often be seen by pilots, but these lights, which were orange and red and moved at a great speed, had also appeared on radar.

Colonel Ozires said he had felt reluctant to mention the incident.

"People who speak about flying saucers are normally not taken very seriously," he said.

"If it were not for the appearance on the radar, which is a concrete fact, I would not have had the courage to mention the subject."