

27 OCT 1967

Dorset vicar suggests . . .

OBJECTS — PLANES IN REFUEL OPERATION

A DORSET vicar today suggested that the unidentified flying objects seen across southern England last night was a "mid-air flight refuelling operation."

The Rev. Lawrence Inge, who operates an "international visual satellite tracking station" from his vicarage at Stourton Caundle, near Sherborne, said that at about 7 o'clock last night he saw a formation of lights.

Last night a Southern Rescue Co-ordinator spokesman at Plymouth said a mid-air refuelling exercise was taking place over the West Country, and this would necessitate a lot of light.

SUDDENLY . . .

Mr. Inge said, "There was one very bright white light surrounded by seven or eight red lights, some of which were flashing. There was no sound at that time. The group got nearer and nearer quite suddenly.

The vicar said: "The lights were travelling in the form of a cross and at the same speed. "It immediately came to me that these were planes flying in close formation. I was puzzled by the one very bright light in the middle. Then, suddenly, it dawned on me. It was the tanker plane flying with other aircraft."

He added: "The group was flying from west to east, and

ties in with the reports which have been coming in from so many parts of Southern England."

Reports of people having seen flying objects were received today at Saltdean (east of Brighton), Stalybridge (Cheshire), Colchester and Liverpool.

● At about 2.15 a.m. today, from the vicinity of Vetch Field, Swansea, another unidentified flying object was spotted. It was described to the Evening Post as "a round, headlight effect, with two rays shining high in the sky in the direction of Port Talbot."