

P R Thomas

Have we been visited by strangers from space?

IS THE United States Government in possession of a space craft from another planet, together with its alien crew? If the answer is yes all those reports of Unidentified Flying Objects will take on a new meaning.

We will know at last that we are not alone. But what is more important is that we will become uncomfortably aware of another civilisation far in advance of our own — a civilisation that is keeping a constant watch over us for purposes we can only remotely guess at.

For some 30 years rumours have persisted that United States Government agencies have a craft which allegedly crashed in New Mexico during a fierce electrical storm.

The disc-shaped machine was found almost intact, together with a crew of six human-like beings who were all killed on impact. The remains of both the machine and the crew are said to have been viewed by at least one United States president — Ike Eisenhower — and to be still the subject of highly secret scientific study.

Indeed, it is claimed that over the years since the night of that fierce storm, the United States Air Force and the CIA have even more alien craft and that the number of dead crew members from other worlds now totals more than 30.

Tight security

The craft and bodies are said to be scattered around a number of United States installations, including the Edwards Air Force Base, California, CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia, and the McDill Air Force Base, Florida, where they are kept under tight security.

It is even claimed that attempts to fly some of the craft have been secretly made by United States Air Force pilots.

he rumours all stem from the night of that storm in the first week of July 1947, when a rancher at Roswell, New Mexico, heard a strange explosion in the sky which did not sound like thunder. The following day he found some odd-looking wreckage scattered over a track three-quarters-of-a-mile long and several hundred feet wide.

he same day across some nearby mountains at Socorro, a civil engineer working for the United States Government on soil conservation came across a large metallic object which he at first thought was a crashed plane. When he got closer he saw it was disc-shaped and about 25ft to 30ft in diameter.

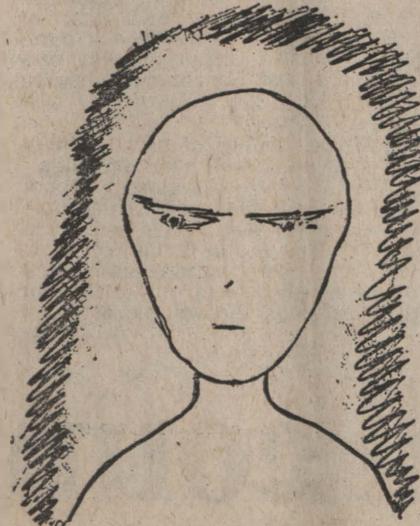
While he was looking at it, he was joined by a group of other people from an archaeological dig. There were bodies around the craft and others inside. The machine seemed to be made of a metal which looked like dirty stainless steel. It had been split open, either by an explosion or on impact.

While the civil engineer and archaeologists were examining the craft and its occupants a group of United States Army Air Force personnel drove up, told them to leave the area and not to speak about what they had seen.

he story of that day in early July, and its subsequent happenings, is told by Charles Berlitz, author of the *Bermuda Triangle*, and William Moore in *The Roswell Incident*,* published next week.

By talking to witnesses still alive

Is the United States holding a space craft, and the bodies of its humanoid crew, that crashed in New Mexico in 1947? PETER JONES reports.



● Right, an alien humanoid head drawn by a witness of a landing. Below, front page of the *Roswell Daily Recorder* for Tuesday, July 8, 1947.



and friends and families of witnesses now dead, and by combing newspaper reports of the period, they have pieced together an intriguing tale.

There was, for example, the local radio reporter whose tele-typed account of the wreckage at the ranch at Roswell was cut-off in mid-sentence. The machine restarted with an instruction to stop transmission of his story.

A public relations officer at the Roswell Army Air Force Base — in 1947 the United States Air Force had not yet been formed — put out a Press statement to the effect that the USAAF had come into possession of a

flying saucer. It was superseded by another statement a few hours later that all that had been found were the remains of a weather balloon.

But, despite the second statement, Army Air Force teams went over the ranch and the site at Socorro with the thoroughness of a vacuum cleaner, retrieving every scrap of debris and evidence, and trains, trucks and planes left the area with mysterious, heavily-guarded cargoes on board.

One witness interviewed by William Moore was Lieut-col Jesse A Marcel, now retired but who at the time of the incident was an intelligence officer at the Roswell base. He went

out to the ranch to inspect the wreckage. He is certain that what he saw was not the remains of a weather balloon.

Sometime after the alleged space craft crash an industrial photographer in the Los Angeles area was given a top-secret photographic assignment at what was presumably the Edwards Air Base. Each roll of film was taken from his camera by military representatives as soon as it was completed.

What he saw, according to the authors, was a machine about 30 ft in diameter with an interior cabin about 20 ft in diameter. Between the cabin and the outside wall of the craft was a space for cables made of unfamiliar alloys.

There were four seats in the cabin, in each of which was strapped a dead body. The bodies were extremely thin and varied in height from two to three feet. The faces of all four were very white and each humanoid wore a shiny black uniform without pockets, and closely gathered at feet and neck.

Subsequent reports from doctors, who urgently requested to remain anonymous, described the heads of the crews as being, by human standards, oversize to limbs and torso.

Eyes, according to the same reports, were large, deep-set, far apart and slightly slanted. Ears consisted of apertures on each side of the head, noses were formless and mouths small and slit-like.

The authors make no firm claims that alien space ships and their dead, but preserved, crews are in the hands of the United States Government. All they do is to present such evidence as exists.

But there could soon be interesting developments as a result of an action being brought by a pressure group known as CAUS — Citizens Against UFO Secrecy — to force United States Government agencies, under the United States Freedom of Information Act, to release information about crashed UFOs, including the one that allegedly came down at Socorro after being damaged by lightning over Roswell, and blowing wreckage over the surrounding ranchland.

* *The Roswell Incident* by Charles Berlitz and William Moore, Granada; £5.95.

WE MAY BE ALIENS, TOO

THE IDEA of earth being surveyed by spacecraft manned by intelligent beings from alien civilisations in the far-flung reaches of the universe is pretty fanciful. But if the latest theory on the origin of life is correct, then such an idea might not, after all, appear so wild.

This theory suggests that earth was seeded with life by comets and meteorites expelled from huge clouds of dust suspended deep in space between the stars of our galaxy.

It is at variance with a longer-established theory that life began spontaneously here on earth, emerging through a series of incredible flukes from a primordial soup way back at the dawn of time.

This latter process was so unique and of such low probability of success that it could only have occurred once in the universe. It is a theory which Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, head of the department of astronomy at University College of Wales, Cardiff, and Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, a close working colleague, find difficult to accept.

They, in fact, are the authors of the new rival theory that life on earth originated far out in space and was introduced rather than sparked spontaneously. If their theory is indeed correct there is no reason why life should

not have taken root throughout the galaxy — the universe even.

They have now published two monographs* in which they expand their original theory even further. This involves recent studies of the properties of the interstellar dust clouds. It had previously been suggested that the dust grains were composed of particles of graphite.

But, according to Professors Wickramasinghe and Hoyle, the graphite particles are not composed of graphite, but are made up of bacterial cells. They arrived at this conclusion following laboratory experiments which showed terrestrial bacteria to be uncannily similar to cosmic dust, with regard to all their known properties.

Indeed, they have calculated that the total mass of bacterial cells throughout the galaxy measures some 10 million times the mass of the sun.

Sir Fred speculates that if the dust grains are bacteria, then life is not confined to a particular galaxy, such as ours, or to a few galaxies. He believes it can spread itself through the universe.

* *The Origin of Life*, by Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe, and *The Relation of Biology to Astronomy*, by Fred Hoyle (both published by University College Press, Cardiff).