

# UFO? 'IT'S VENUS'

SOUTH WALES'S close encounters of the UFO-kind were sightings either of a Russian space station or the planet Venus, say experts.

They say the brilliant, pulsating phenomenon scene — and video filmed by several people — above Cwmbran on three nights is easily explained.

Retired fitter Mr Lionel Cox, of Brynhyfryd, in Croesyceiliog however is unmoved by the rebuttles and said: "I'm just keeping an open mind."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority insisted: "It was the Russians' Mir space station. It's so far away it looks as though it's stationary though it would be moving very slowly and would have appeared as a bright light.

"We've had no reports of anything else, no sightings of a UFO from pilots. These things are very deceiving to the eye," said the spokesman.

And a former member of the group Quest which is gathering evidence about unidentified flying objects concurred with astronomers in Cardiff that the sighting is likely to be that of the planet Venus which was quite bright on the night in question.

The investigator who asked not to be named said: "I've not seen the tape yet but from the description I'm fairly certain it was the planet Venus which was very bright in the western sky.

"Atmospheric effects could account for any perceived changes in shape and colour," he said.

Mr Cox and neighbour Mr Gareth Shadbolt were so fascinated by their eerie visitor on Tuesday night at 6.30 that they got their video cameras out and took startling film

Lionel's  
night sky  
visitor  
zapped  
by boffins



CLOSE ENCOUNTER:

## BY WAYNE NOWACZYK

The phenomenon had first been filmed by Mr Shadbolt on Monday night. Another neighbour had seen the same object

And RAF St Athan confirmed that they had received a report of an object above Cwmbran — last December 3 — though the station has

had no reports of the recent sightings.

Mr Cox, aged 60, insisted: "I'm no nutter — it's on film for all to see.

"I've never seen a UFO before, and always kept an open mind about the reports until now. It was obviously not a satellite, because it stayed stationary mostly, and came back on three nights.