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Statement by Air Force

Truman, Other Officials Deny Knowledge of Flying Saucers

By John G. Norris
 Post Reporter

Top officials and agencies of the Government—from President Truman on down—joined yesterday in an effort to convince the American public that “flying saucers” do not exist.

A formal statement issued by the Air Force last night was most explicit. It declared flatly that:

1. None of the armed forces is conducting secret experiments with “disc-shaped flying objects which could be a basis for the reported phenomena.”
2. There is no evidence that the latter stem from “the activities of any foreign nation.”
3. Evaluation of reports of recent “sightings” bears out early conclusions that all can be explained away as “misinterpretation of various conventional objects, a

mild form of mass hysteria, or hoaxes.”

Earlier, President Truman announced through his press secretary at Key West, Fla., that he knew absolutely nothing of such flying objects being developed by the United States or any other nation.

“We are not denying this because of any development of secret weapons,” said Secretary Charles G. Ross, “but purely because we know of nothing to support these rumors.”

Defense Secretary Louis Johnson said about the same thing at a news conference. He told reporters he was “satisfied there is nothing in the reports.”

Johnson said he had facetiously

See SAUCER, Page 3, Col. 2

Saucers ‘News’ To Officials

raised the question at yesterday’s meeting of the Armed Forces Policy Council, which includes the departmental secretaries and Joint Chiefs of Staff. Navy Secretary Francis Matthews and Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, chief of naval operations, as well as other officials, assured him the denials were sincere and truthful.

The latest flareup of public interest in the saucers resulted from statements by Radio Commentator Henry J. Taylor and the weekly news magazine United States News and World Report that the saucers do exist and are revolutionary American aircraft probably developed by the Navy. A Navy spokesman flatly denied this Monday.

Johnson said he is convinced the saucers could not be experiments conducted by any other Government agency outside his department because the Pentagon’s Research and Development Board coordinates all such activity.

Despite the denials, new reports of “saucers” continued. At Tipp City, Ohio, nine persons said they saw saucers over the Air Force base at Wright Field, early Sunday. Jerry Robinson, a 22-year-old Marine veteran, speaking for the group, said they saw “two bright lights in the sky” which later were discerned as brilliant discs trailing a small streak of orange flame.

After hovering for a time, they shot straight up in the air and disappeared, he said.

Police Chief J. C. Lee of Elizabeth City, Ill., reported that “a weird red and blue disc-like object” whizzed over the town early Sunday, “traveling at a high rate of speed.”

345

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WASHINGTON POST
 Page _____
 Date 4-5-50