

In the huge Pentagon building in Washington, headquarters of the Defence Department, there is an Air Force major whose duty it is to repeat to all inquirers the substance of the last Air Force statement on flying saucers, issued on December 27, 1949.

### " Mass hysteria "

On the basis of inquiries into 375 alleged occurrences over a period of two years, it was announced: "Reports of unidentified flying objects are the result of misinterpretation of various conventional objects or a mild form of mass hysteria or hoaxes."

It was said a continuance of the inquiry was "unwarranted."

But in fact it has appeared during the last month that credible witnesses who say they have seen flying saucers are still being examined by Intelligence officers.

It was noted, too, how quickly and how thoroughly one of the most comprehensive of the newest reports has been officially "lost."

### Ours?

Employees of the Civil Aeronautics Authority at work in a control tower at Dayton municipal airport in Ohio, in conjunction with U.S. Weather Bureau observers and four pilots of the Air National Guard who took off in fighters to look at the "unidentified object"—they all saw and submitted their testimony to the administrator of C.A.A.

The idea—sometimes seriously advanced and often half-believed—that the saucers could be exploratory craft from another planet has infinite possibilities.

But until it is proved it may be more profitable to wonder whether there has been developed somewhere a disc-like plane with a circle of swiftly revolving vanes that might enable it to hover or to fly at high speed.

If this or something like it turns out to be the answer, there may be good reason for hoping here that it is one of ours.