

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

NRC to Study UFO Sightings

By VICTOR J. MACKIE
Special Journal Correspondence

The National Research Council is moving to set up a special committee to study the latest reports of Unidentified Flying Objects and ascertain whether there is anything that would warrant further investigations, it was learned today.

The committee will probably operate under the chairmanship of Dr. R. S. Rettye, head of the space research and facilities branch of NRC in Ottawa.

Defence Minister Hellyer said in an interview, that since the special government committee investigating UFO sightings ceased to function 10 years ago, any such reports referred to his department have been recorded by the defence department staff. Where warranted, investigations have been carried out, he said.

HIT-OR-MISS

The investigations in recent years have been cursory and on a hit-or-miss basis, it is understood.

The proposed NRC study committee will check into the current crop of UFO sightings and

presumably seek to determine whether there is justification for launching a new scientific investigation of the UFO phenomena.

Wilbur Smith, who died a few years ago, was a member of the earlier committee. He was to become an expert in Canada on UFO research and investigation. He set up at Shirleys Bay near Ottawa a specially designed apparatus that could detect and record any metal object passing overhead.

It detected all aircraft passing above it. But in all its recordings it apparently never once reported the flight of an object that could not be explained by the flight of an aircraft.

At the moment, the public is split into different groups of opinion as to the validity of UFO sightings. In a recent Manitoba occurrence a farmer reported suffering severe burns from a strange "blue light" that he said emanated from an aperture in what he described as a "flying saucer" that had landed in his field. It is such reports that are causing renewed interest in the UFO sightings.

Journal 21-7-67