



Geoff Johnson

Up and away for UFO research

Arthur Bray, the Ottawa Ufologist who has been mentioned before in this column, passed on a progress report Friday from the new Centre for UFO Studies in Northfield, Illinois.

The centre was set up by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the department of astronomy at Chicago's Northwestern University and director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Centre.

"For 20 years he was consultant on Unidentified Flying Objects to the United States Air Force.

The USAF lost interest in UFOs after the controversial Condon Report concluded that there was nothing significant to North American sightings.

Canada, which at one time even

prepared a landing site for UFOs, also gave up studying the phenomenon after deciding that there was no threat to national security.

Pressing on

Dr. Hynek decided to press on alone without government financial help. A national newspaper in the U.S. is making quarterly donations to pay for office staff. A woman in Paris sent a large donation. A group of scientists volunteered its services. Two atomic research laboratories have offered to analyze any evidence of UFO landings.

And the sightings are rolling in from all over the world.

By coincidence, the progress report on the centre reached me the same

day the British High Commission in Ottawa released a report of a particularly dramatic sighting.

Top international scientists who flew in the Concorde supersonic jetliner last summer to view the eclipse of the sun captured a large unidentified flying object on film.

The British Aircraft Corporation, builder of the Concorde in conjunction with the French Aerospatiale group, said the film shows a round object calculated to be over 650 feet in diameter.

'We don't know'

Although it looks like a cloud, the report adds, clouds are not found at that altitude—55,000 feet. The object was about eight miles from Concorde

and was travelling at high speed, the scientists believe.

The French National Centre for Scientific Research said: "There is an object shown in the film and we do not know what it is."

Meanwhile, back at the Centre for UFO Studies, work is under way on a documentary film explaining the aims of the centre. A quarterly journal is to be published to make all findings available to the public, and there will be a statistical evaluation of the 1,500 sightings and encounters recorded in North America in 1973.

Discussions are going on about holding an international symposium of scientists on an annual basis.

The Centre for UFO Studies is at P.O. Box 11, Northfield, Illinois, 60093.