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Placed opposite is a draft closing address for the Lords debate on UFOs, and a Background Note; due at your office by 12 January 1979.

2. There is a temptation to equivocate about UFOs because of the thought that we might one day make contact with people from distant stars. However, there is nothing to indicate that ufology is anything but claptrap and no evidence at all of 'alien space craft'. The UFO industry has prospered from equivocation and, with 1979 being heralded as 'the year of the UFOs', it seems very proper for HMG to inject some massive common sense into the business and come out with an equivocal attack on ufology. With the impact of the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", and the increasing efforts of the UFO industry and increasing publicity given to its exponents, quite sensible people may begin to wonder whether there might not be something in ufology, on the "where there's smoke there's fire" principle. Less sensible people may be increasingly confused and perhaps even worried, to the increasing profit and encouragement of the UFO industry. The subject will not go away, the Department and probably Ministers are likely to find themselves increasingly involved and under pressure for formal statements; and the popular and UFO press are likely to make all the mileage they can out of the Lords Debate, particularly if there are signs of equivocation or phrases that can easily be misrepresented.
4. Accordingly it is strongly recommended that the Government take an unequivocal and uncompromising line.

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