



*N.Y. Herald Trib.*  
**IN VENEZUELA,  
 STRANGETHING  
 FROM THE SKY**

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Military officials yesterday were awaiting the arrival in Washington of a "strange object"—a 175-pound charred mangled piece of electronics gear—that fell from the sky near the remote Venezuelan village of La Fria last month.

Reports from Caracas quote an American embassy spokesman as identifying the object as an American satellite that fell out of orbit. The spokesman said two U. S. Army officers went to the village and recovered the object. The identification was made from markings on the gear.

In Washington, a spokesman at the Civilian National Aeronautics and Space Administration said he had been told the Army was returning the object to Washington for examination.

The NASA spokesman said the object did not belong to that agency. He noted that NASA tracks every object it has in orbit and that it would have spotted anything that fell out by its absence from radar scopes and radio broadcast patterns.

The only other American agency that orbits spacecraft is the Air Force and at the Pentagon, a spokesman said he knew nothing about the vehicle. "We're checking," he said and added that the check would not be completed last night.

The Air Force, over the past several years, has orbited an undisclosed number of classified satellites. Some of them reportedly have been used to take reconnaissance photographs of the Soviet Union and otherwise conduct intelligence missions.

Yesterday's reports from Caracas said the object contained a film pack that had been exposed, when opened by local residents. It also contained two American quarters and a nickel—coins that might have been inserted by workers building the vehicle or preparing it for space flight.

Unless the vehicle was intended for re-entry, it is highly unlikely that the object is a satellite at all. Satellites normally burn up from friction as they re-enter the atmosphere, and disintegrate or vaporize.

*Atch. B*