

DEC 13 1952

ATEMERATION FOR:

The Director of Central Intelligence

TIRCUM!

Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT:

Unidentified Flying Chleets

REFERENCE:

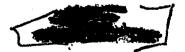
(a) Request of the Director of 10 December 1952

(b) New from Al/SI to Director duted 1G December 1952

1. Pursuant to the request of the Director, the following emplification of Reference (b) and review of the current situation is subsitted. A preliminary review of the UNAF investigation of this subject has been completed. With respect to the recent incidents summerated in Reference (b), additional information has been obtained which is appended as fob A.

- 2. A trip to Air Technical Intelligence Center was cade on Friday, 12 December by AD/DI, Dr. H. P. Robertson (consultant), and My. F. C. Durent (Operations Staff/SI).) During this visit the O/SI group was briefed on the current atatus of the investigation, and copies of selected case studies and progress reports were obtained. This material has been subsequently studied in detail.
- 3. There still exists no reasonable evidence that the objects sighted are of foreign origin. While there is no indication that these objects represent a direct threat to the national defence, there are certain potential dangers which are related to these sightings. As a result of the trip and these conclusions, 0/SI is proceeding with plans to convene a group (proceably not more than three), of top level consultants in the fields of payates (reder and upper atmosphere), astrophysica and astronomy, to review the evidence and recommend with respect to:
 - a. Methodology of investigation of unidentified flying objects.
 - b. Instrumentation to obtain data in future significan.
- e. Kethods of rapid identification of unidensitied flying objects.
 - d. Desirability for convening of a larger panel.

We are deferring for the present the convening of a large peach of diverse scientific interests for a detailed review of the substantive aspects of the problem because of insufficient and incomplate data.



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Approved for Release

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(Signed R. L. CLANN)
H. MAREMALL CHARMELL
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

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Distribution:

Director - oriz & 1

DD/I - 1

PAE/SI - 1

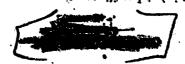
VAE/SI - 1

C_S/SI - 1

AD/SI - 2

OSI:RIC:FCD/=ts

(18 Dec 52)



TAB A

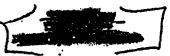
1. Potton Pictures, Transator, Utah

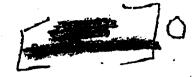
This case involves the sighting and photographing (Ecdachrone film) of ten bright lights moving caress the sky on 2 July 1952 in rough formation. Source is a Chief Photographer's Ente, USI, with 17 years photographic experience. The local time was 1110; weather conditions bright, clear, no clouds. Chjests appeared to be "cilling about" while traveling in a westerly direction across the sky. Source was driving along the rock when the sighting occurred. He stoyped the car and photographed the event with his personal camera. Toward the end of the sighting, one object apparated from the rest and reversed course across the sky.

Status: ATIC Photographic Laboratory exemination of the film resulted in Colleving conclusions:

- a. 10 objects, all clike in movement and size. .
- b. Decidedly improbable that they are birds or ballooms.
- c. Exact nature counct be determined, because they are visible only as small spots of light. It can be deduced, however, that they are either non-apherical in stane and similar to bright metal in reflectance or else variably self-luminous. Collects which follow similar courses show similar brightness functuations which could be caused by their taking mining flight athitudes.
- d. Apparently a coordination of movement to some extent emerg these objects. They seem to nove in formations which are probably 3-dimensional in errangement.
- e. The novementa suggest flight paths consisting of akey curves in space.
- f. The single object which reversed course remained conversity uniform in brightness. It followed a nearly straight line path with reasonable uniformity of notion at an angular volucity of about 2.1 /sec. (This is equivalent to the following specie: 37 mmh 8500 yeards; 75 mmh 8 1000 yeards; 373 mmh 85000 yeards; 750 mmh 610,000 yeards; etc.).
- g. It would probably be extremely difficult to initate this photography for fraudulent purposes.

This film is currently under examination by the U. S. Kery Photo Interpretation Laboratory, Anacostic. Escinated completion date: 15 January 1953.





2. Bricht Milit Bighted from Presque Isla and Linustone Mr Force Dasco, Julius

Whis eighting recurred the night of 10-11 October 1952 from 2300 to 0300 local than, by observers at the weather stations at these Air Force Ences. The description of the light was "circular orange object with four green lights nearby." Theodolita sightings of clavation and daimnth tere obtained. Veather was clear-

Status: A comparison of observed azimutho and elevations of the supported object with the calculated position and relative motion of the planet Jupiter leave little doubt that the observed object was actually Jupiter.

3. Percetof Sightings of a Strenge Coject in Planida

This sighting was reported by a Ear Scoutmaster to have occurred at 2150 local time on 19 August 1852 near West Folm Beach, Florida. According to the stary given, the source was driving along description and in his car, together with four Boy Scouts. Bighting a stronge light, source stopped the car, contional the toys to unit, and entered the pelantic undergrowth alone. When he did not return in a few minutes, and witnessing some stronge lights in the vicinity of the scoutmaster, the boys went for help, returning with a deputy sheriff. The scoutmaster appeared, beilty frightmed, slightly bursed on the foreness. His story was that he had seen a large circular object about eight feet over his head which had released a "fire hell" which descembed on him. He stated that he had thrown himself upon the ground and "blacked out." There were various other calaridaties to the story. His cap was burned alightly and samples of grass taken from the immadiate vicinity of the "sighting" differed attrangely in appearance from samples 75 yards every.

Status: The treignound of the source indicates an unanymy personal requiration and crimical record, resulting in the belief that the report may have been an elaborate lace. However, the unusual condition of the grees complete is currently unexplained. This fact, together with other appears of the case, lacer final determination in doubt at this time.



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12 December 1952 ·

TELEPHONE DLIVER 4200

Dr. E. F. Robertson
Cosmos Club
2121 Hassachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear H. P.:

Here is that article you mentioned from the New Yorker, which I found nost interesting and informative. I have listed below a few items which seemed to me to need further discussion:

Patrol Camerus

Fred Maipple at Harvard has had considerable experience in developing and using small equatorially mounted cameras. These are exposed for several hours through a rotating sector, and show a meteor trail as a series of chart of a background of stars, thus providing the neteor's angular velocity. In many cases two such cameras are used, separated by several miles, so that the space track of the meteor can be derived.

As I recall, meteor patrol cameras have been used in the vicinity of Boston and southern New Merrico only. All the photographs are preserved, and I am sure there have been no unidentified objects of any type to date. A possible modification of this technique which would provide more complete coverage is to use the Greenstein-Henyey wide-angle camera, which photographs 160° of the sky at once. Such a camera is in use at the Yorkes Cozervatory and is reported most recently in a paper by Shampless and Osterbrook in the Astrophysical Journal, 1951. The major difficulty of operation would be changing the film, which might be made automatic.

Another use of cameras could be on selected ground radar scopes. Possibly such a camera should be kept in stand-by status and triggered by the operator when unidentified objects are on the screen.

The issue of light, hand-held cameras to aircraft pilots is another fair possibility noted in the New Yorker article.

Study of Communications Systems

One of our CRC projects is undertaking such a study, and has collected a large amount of literature. The British Army Operational Research Group has made several studies of air raid reporting systems as used in exercises, which show the distortion and "noise" introduced in any reporting system. There is a possibility of obtaining comparable

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Dr. Robertsen

12 December 1952

data on false alarms to fire departments and "fleps" in several military situations (such as North Africa in 19h2). I have been intrigued with the electronic analogue of a communications system with feedback. The circumstances leading to instability of such a system might be measured if a limite theory can be postulated; e.g., if something analogous to impedance of the circuit determines instability.

Mass Psychology

It is clear that a simple statement has not and will not convince the public. A psychologist may have some theoretical framework in which past "flaps" of this kind can be analyzed and the results extended to the present difficulty.

General Requirement

It seems to me that the major difficulty as present is the lack of a well-defined attitude among responsible officials: either there is or there is not convincing evidence of significant phenomena. To resolve this question it must be decided in advance what level of completeness is necessary in explaining reports, and what indications of hostile intent are necessary to make reported objects of importance. It might help to point out the difference between open-mindedness and indecision, and to suggest some level of credility below which reports will not even be considered.

Dr. Iden B. Meinel who is an assistant professor of astrophysics at the Terkes Observatory, who has been concerned with the photography of mirors and who has designed complex wide-engle cameras for the Air Force under a subcontract with Boston University, might be helpful in discussion of cameras noted above and of auroral phenomena. However, the Air Force authorities here have no record of his clearance. If you are interested in him, we could ask him by telephone what his clearance is and with what organization.

Yours sincerely,

Thornton Page

IDCC



DEC 10 1252

MENCRALIDUM FOR:

The Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH:

Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT:

Unidentified Flying Objects

RIGHT :

Request of the Director of 10 December 1952

1. The following is a summary of the current situation with respect to the investigation of unidentified flying objects. Recent incidents include:

- a. Movies of ten (10) unidentified flying objects (unexplained on the besis of natural phenomena or known types of aircraft), near Transaton, Utah, on 2 July 1952.
- b. A very brilliant unidentified light over the coast of Paine for about four hours on the night of 10-11 October at a height computed to be two or three times that which can be sustained by any known device.
- c. Alleged contact with a device on the ground in Florida late this summer which left some presently unexplained after-effects.
- d. Emergus other sightings of lights or objects which either in configuration or partonnance do not resemble any known aerial vehicle or explainable natural phenomena.
- 2. In furtherance of the IAC action on a December, D/SI has been working with Er. E. P. Robertson, consultant (former Director of Research, WSEC), toward establishing a penel of top scientists and engineers in the fields of astrophysics, nuclear energy, electronics, etc., to rovice this situation. Wholehearted cooperation has been assured by DI/WEAT and ATIC, and a visit by AD/SI, Er. Robertson, and Er. Durant of SI/to ATIC in planned for Friday. It is hoped to organize the puncl and undertake substantive scientific review of this subject within the next two to three wasks.

Distribution:

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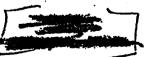
Pro1/SI - 1

AD/SI - 2

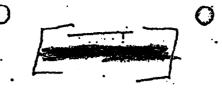
OSI:RLC/ntw (10Dec52)

Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

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9 December 1952

METORALIDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

- 1. At 1015 hours today I talked by telephone with Captain Edward J. Ruppelt (Chief, Aerial Phenomena Eranch, Analysis Division, ATIC). The purpose of the call was to determine if Captain Ruppelt would be in Washington during the next few days so that he might meet with Dr. Robertson. Also, if there had been any developments in the Limestone-Presque Isle case.
- 2. Captain Ruppelt stated that he had put in a request to come to Washington last week but that he had been "running into a sneg" in getting away and he intirated that his intention to specifically visit CIA may have been the difficulty. By oblique references it was determined that Colonel Donald L. Bower (Chief, Analysis Division) was blocking his trip. Note: If this is true, it is difficult to understand since Colonel Bower, in discussions with E. Tauss and myself on 25 November, indicated complete willingness for cooperation. Ruppelt stated that he would try again and hered to be in Washington next week. I gave no indication of the agreements reached on this subject in the IAC meeting on 4 December.
- 3. Regarding the Limestone-Fresque Isle case, Captein Ruppelt reported that the observation is suspected of being the planet Saturn. A sighting of Saturn with the same theodolite will be made within the next few days. An examination of this data with possible theodolite reading errors should indicate whether the sighting could conceivably have been of this planet. I find it difficult to believe that the moons of Saturn could be seen visibly.
- 4. Captain Ruppelt stated that he had a package of analyses and reports which he desired to have O/SI study and was planning to hard-carry to Washington. I mentioned that someone from O/SI night be making a trip to ATIC within the next week or so. Ruppelt stated that he would be pleased to

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hear from me at any time. His office telephone number is Dayton, Chio, Kenmore 7111, Extension 65365 and his home telephone number is Walnut 7113.

Orig - Subject file Tiping January
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