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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25. D. C. 1

1950

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

PENDLIDUM TO: Director, Psychological Strategy Board

SUSJECTS

Flying Saucers

- 1. I am today transmitting to the National Security Council a proposal (TAP A) in which it is concluded that the problems connected with unidentified flying objects appear to have implications for psychological warfare as well as for intelligence and operations.
- 2. The background for this view is presented in some detail in TAE 3.
- 3. I suggest that we discuss at an early board meeting the possible offensive or defensive utilization of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes.

Enclosure

Walter B. Smith Director

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Approved for Release

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Anchire medical PRODUEIR It is the purpose of this study to determine what concern to CIA, if are present any, is recident in the problem of "midentified flying objects," and to recommend, solve the interior if such interest is found, steps that should be taken to improve Clara intelligence position on expects soluted to inticont mounting.



PACTS REMRIES ON THE PROPERT &

1. Since 1947, there have been about 1830 official reports of sightings

plus an enormous volume of letters, phone calls and press reports. During this
July alone, official reports totaled 250. Of the 1830, Air Force courses 20%

as unemplained and of those received since the first of this year, 28% unomplained.

2. The administrative unit now handling the Air Force inquiry on these phenomena is a small section headed by an Air Force Reserve Captain, E. J. Emppelt, assisted by two limits mants and two secretaries at Air Sechnical Intelligence
Center, Wright Field. It is from this small group that the controling collections directive to the entire Air Force originated and it is to this small group that the flood of reports on flying sameers comes for collection and analysis.

\$ 5. Research and emplycis at this time is limited almost emplysively to the



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rear of the a feet marker of smallable between 160th. This reallers of asserte-

কে। এই প্রস্তুর হয় সংগ্রাপন ই বিভারষ্ঠা হৈ আরু ই নাম প্রার্থ সাম্প্রিক নবস্থান । প্রস্তুর করি

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Capital Front Versiy

coming into a field already charged with partosanchip, one in which objectivity had been overridden by numerous summational unitars, and one in which there are presumes for embracement explanations as well as for oversimplification. They compulted with a representative of hir Force Special Emperic groups discussed the problem with those in charge of the Air Force Project at Wright field; revious a considerable volume of intelligence reports; checked the Soviet press and broadcast indices; and conferred with three of our consultants at HIR, all leaders in their scientials fields.

The present small seeds inquiry at ACIC, which thus far has been able only to use the once history approach, ammining each incident carofully to determine the use it can be explained or whether it must be put into the "unexplained"

Whe semblored a perfectly valid procedure but, one that offered but the seminary of these phenomena, and it spening up explanations regarding the nature of these phenomena, and the field us, it would probably be found on the congine or just the fields of atmospherics, the car present knowledge in the fields of atmospherics, and a constant of the fields of atmospherics. A systematic contains a factor of fronts and involving a variety of

Control Section Meanly

problem of concern to operations as well as to intelligence.

- 2. Operational problems are of primary importance and should be attacked at once. They includes
- a. Taking immediate steps to improve identification of "phantums" so that in the event of an attack, instant and positive identification of enemy reckets or plans could be made.
- b. Determination of what if any utilization should be made of these phenomena by US psychological warfare planners and mat, if any, defenses should be planned in anticipation of Soviet attempts to utilize them.
 - 3. Intelligence problems incl.
- a. Encaledge of the exact inture of these phenomena especially as regards:
 - (1) Thether any ere susceptible to control, and can be thus utilized for either military or psychological offense or defense.
 - (2) Thether any are predictable and can thus be taken advantage of in military or psychological operations.
 - b. The present level of Russian knowledge regarding these phenomena.
- to the detriment of US security interests.
 - 2. The reasons for silence in the Soviet Press regarding "flying suncero".



The problem transcould a classifical departmental responsibilities,

and is of such importance as to marit cognisance and action by the lational Security Council.

s. Additional work, differing in character and combasis from that presently under any will be required to meet the specific meets in this field of both operations and intelligence.

FECOT DIBATIONS:

One of the two femalele courses of action set females below is proposed; one requires MSC action, and the other requires action by Secretary of Defenses

1. MSC cotions under this course, it is recommended:

a. That the DCI present to the DCC a draft MSC directive (7A3 A) which prescribes that a centrally administered research program under DD3 be established, in accordance with Sec. 214 (a), Estional Security Act of 1947, this program having for its research objectives requirements to be specified by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and Director and Stratogy Boards.

function is providing coordinated intelligence requirements and

in the state of former rations under this source, it is recommissis

The Los Los suggest to Secretary of Defense along lines of the continued research program would be unulable to Cit, and the study is unisolated by Cit before, that coordinated intelligence for liver a be provided by Cit before the study is started.



TSC

SUBJECT: Unidentified flying objects.

I. The Entional Security Council has recognized as a national scounity problem our present limited capabilities in making prompt positive visual or machanical identification of flying objects. The problem is recognized also as one which bears directly upon both offensive and defensive capabilities of the armed forces; as one of concern to operations as well as to intelligence; and as one having possible implications for psychological warfare.

2. As the nature of the problem is such that a centrally administered inquiry rather than a divided effort offers the best promise of progress, the Director, Research and Development Jouri is charged with the responsibility of administering in this field a progrem of remember which meets the specifications of Secretary of Defence and as regards operational requirements; of the Director of Central Intelligence, as regards the intelligence requirements and of Director,

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Final DCI

TO : Focutary of Defense

SUBJECT: Intolligence interest in a study of unidertified flying objects.

- le Pecontly CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence made an inquiry into the possible intelligence implications of this subject. We concluded that while the operational problem of improvement in identification of "phantoms" was of first priority because of the need to make instant and positive identification of enemy recents or planes, the solution of intelligence problems are of sufficient importance to justify vigorous support by this Agency of an organized attack on the problem.
- 2. In our inquiry three of our men consulted with a representative of lirforce Symmal Projects groups discussed the problem with those in charge of the
 lir Force Project at Wright field; reviewed a considerable volume of intelligence
 reports; checked the Soviet press and broadcast indices; and conferred with three
 of our consultante at MTL all leaders in their scientific fields.

 - and the premise is opening up explanations regarding the nature of those
 - * the frontoers of our present impriedge in the fields

the possibility that nuclear waste products might also be a factor to consider.

A systematic attack on the as-yet unexplained cases would contemplate a contrally coordinator program involving projects on a number of fronts and involving a variety of techniques not now used.

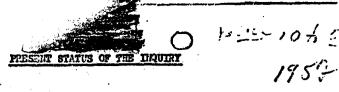
4. As the strictly US military operations problem of improved identification at home and abroad is closely tied to a number of intelligence questions, it would be advantageous to CIA, as noll as to the interests of the intelligence components of Department of Defense, if intelligence research requirements could be included in any organized impury into the subject.

5. At this time we know so little of the exact nature of these phenomena that additional respectively would be necessary before it could be said whether anylare susceptibel to southol and can thus be whilised for either military or psychological cfforce or defense, or whether any are predictable, and can thus be taken advantage of in military or psychological operations.

6. It may be found that an appropriate center for such research would be in a group such as Project Lincoln which is now working for Department of Defense on Problems of air defense.

to the time we are unable to find any basis in our information for investigation for investigation for the social functions or capabilities to utilize these phenomenable ese detriment. The Soviet Pross has been silent on the subject — which is itself prospective — and we are not yet able to appraise the present level in the coloring of forlet scientists regarding these phenomena.

to It would be appreciated if this agoncy could participate in any plans for faction inquiry into this subject.



It. Strong has discussed with you some of the general features of this I done from January to problem, and now I should like to describe briefly how the Air Force has organized its study of reports on unidentified flying objects and outline its methods.

The administrative unit now handling the Air Force inquiry on these phenomera is the unidentified Flying Objects

[ATIC]

Section of the Aircraft Propulsion Branch of the

[TAD]

Technical Analysis Division of Air Technical

[AAPBE]

Intelligence Center, Wright Field.

This small spottion is headed by an Air Force Reserve Captain, E. J. Ruppelt, Air Technical Intelligence Center, the assisted by two lieutements and two secretaries. It is from this small group that the controlling collection directive to the entire Air Force originated flying and it is to this small group that the flood of reports on unidentified flying objects comes for collection and analysis.

The strength and position of this central administrative group clearly indicates a low level of support, and, presumably, serious reservations in the Air Force regarding the value of extensive inquiry into the subject. Paradoxicall







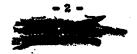
this central effort at ATIC is raintained on a minimal basis while there is concurrently ordered a world-wide reporting system and an interception program which may expend hundreds of man hours and thousands of dollars.

The methods used by Air Force are now in the process of change but the conclusions and explanations given to the public are based on the process I am going to describe.

Research and analysis at this time is limited almost exclusively to the case history method. Reports, which are limited in their coverage to ten broad elements of information, are received from the field, mainly through the Air-intelligence reporting system, though also to a limited extent from the other sorvices and from the Department of State.

These reports come to the Unidentified Consets Section where each one and is examined separately to determine whether it is explainable as "misinterprets tions of a known object", or whether it must be classed as "unexplained." and subject to further investigation.

In this sorting process, the reports are first examined in the light of established and readily available fact such as known balloon tracks or nircraft flights. The report may then be referred to an Air Force Base or to the Office





of Special Investigation for direct interrogation of the reporter. Also, in some cases the reports are referred to technical or scientific specialists for interpretation. It should be borne in mind that this is all on an individual case basis.

There has been no systematic or extensive use of other standard methods of processing data. It is true that there have been a few attempts to examine some of the broader questions that have been raised by those reports. ATIC has, for example, laboriously gone through the assumilation of "unexplained" US reports the plot them on a map. These plots show a high incidence of reported cases near atomic installations and Strategic Air Command beses but this might be expected because of the greater number of alert observers in such places. Actually, a number of accepted research techniques that should be used in any effort to gain a sound understanding of those phenomena, have not been employed.

There is, of course, one doubt regarding the extent and hind of effort required for the future. The Air Force has not yet found any great cause for concern. Captain Buppelt remarked that, as the problem sooms to be of more concern to operations than to intelligence, it might appropriately be noved out of intelligence to some operational command. (Within the last two weeks, he



has tried, unsuccessfully, to haid the buby to Air Defense Commide)

the inquiry worth a full bloom offert, we could list the followings

It would clarke: in Jack the.

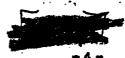
Receased objectives chould be defined in detail in relation to the

quanticamire. The quantions saked in the present collection directive are admitted to be inniequate even for the limited case-history approach. Further, the answers are not processed in such a try as to easily permit the determination of the limes of receased and analysis that abould be followed.

(Le there has been no preliminary determination of cross of most profitable (less than the following of the following the first of the following the first of the following the first of the following the following the first the

elements in each of the problem ereast. No studies have been made, for example, to establish occuparies of the objects reported by shape, size, color, etc. or to show such things as shortest, longest and average duration of sightings of objects of various kinds.

Descriptions into conspired are instructions of the constitutions. There have been so studies, for example, that would compare certain weather conditions with the appearance of certain colors of lights.





There are a number of standard analytical processes that might be used if

this problem should be

in the force considered the invente worth a full blown effort. It might define in

detail the research objectives to be used in relation to the questionnaire.

After the areas of most profitable research had been determined, a logical nex step would be to isolate the important elements in each problem area.

A third step would be to set up means by which to make many useful cross
finally
comparisons. Fourth, trend studies as well as area studies could be made.

Finally, there might be an objective study on the attributes of available data.

In surrary, the limited central administrative support given to the project by Air Force, coupled with the extremely limited scope of the analytical work done thus far, has placed a strict ceiling on the kind of interpretations that can be made from material now available.

Carlo Service

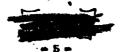


Prend studies as well as erec studies could be made. There is now no picture of how the various phonomera may have formed patterns, without as regards appropriate or dispersal over specific periods of time.

Firstly, there wish to an objective study on the attributes of available date. Thus far, reports themselves (not factors present within these reports) are only classed "explainable" or "not explained". It is not known to what extent, or where, elements of consistency may extend through both the collection of "empleinable" and "not empleined" reports.

"unreliable" reports, nor is there a means by which to sort out invalid elements from otherwise accounts reports. In illustration of a consequence of this limitation muld be the probable unhappy fate of a valid report on what was accountly amongs of cloud, when observed on a well established balloon track. It would, in all probability be classed "explainable" as a balloom. The relegation of this report out of the reach of later enalysis.

In manary, the limited control administrative support given to the project by Air Ferry, complet with the entropyly limited scape of the analytical work





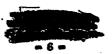
On sociality in broth

done thus far, leads us to believe that any bread conclusions presently drawn

can be accepted only with caution,

and the survey of the As to the future, a limited amount of improvement may be accomplished. Institute A revised questionnaire, now being designed by Air Force and Buttele experts will give more detail to each case-history. We have heard informally, though, that many objects are not reported in Korea because of the burden of required paper-work. A longer questionmaire would rake pilots even more reluctant to report their nightings. Also, many cross comparisons will be possible if present plans to use punch cards are carried out. In addition, improvements my be expected if hir Force follows through on its present plan to establish an advisory board of top level scientists. Further, the current plan to place complasis on using instrumentation such as refraction grid comeras and new type Schmidt tolemoopes, will yield more usable facts. The absence thus far, however, of a well planned and properly guided research program makes it agrees that it may be come time in the future before we can expect complete explanations of ing nagadi kaningan ika kabapatan <u>ing Panga</u>ran ing ma<u>nada</u>an ing kabapatan ing Pangaban ing Pangaban ing Pangaban many of these phenomes.

For the next part of our presentation, ir, Durant will discuss some of the factors that have been found, or may be involved, in these reports.



Part I - Weather Dolloons

1. In the analysis of Flyobrets prior to 1 Jul 52 approximately 15% were classified as "possibly" or "probably" balloon. The basis for decision was generally little more than a form of quesswork; if the Flyobret did not do anything, and much leavey was allowed for observer's fallibility, that a balloon could not do in maneuvers, speed, etc., and if the description corresponded even roughly to that of a balloon, it was so classified. If there was no particular reason to believe a balloon was in the area, the report became a "possible". If the sighting occurred near a balloon launshing site or on or about the launch time, it became a "probable". It was obvious that an effort to obtain factual data to support such conclusions was in order.

- 2. ATTAN-5 approached the problem of weather ballooms first. Weather ballooms are of the following types:
- a. Radiosonde Rubberized tan latex, 6° in dismeter at launch, up to 20° ab altitude. Carries a transmitter and telegatering device for temperature pressure, despoint sequences, which transmitter under certain conditions would give rudar returns. Also carries a white running light during night launches battery operated, which should last for duration of flight. Normal ascent is to $70,000^\circ = 100,000^\circ$, at $\pm 1,000$ ft/min, at which altitude the balloon bursts and equipment recovery is effected by a red parachute.
- b. Rawin Same balloon as above, but it carries only a radar: "triangle", and is a winds aloft observation.
 - c. Revinsonde Same, a combination of rawin and radioscode.
- d. Ratal Same type of balloom, tracked by theodolite for winds aloft observation.
- 'c. Pibal A rubberized tan latex balloon, 30^n in diameter at release and $\frac{1}{2}$ or 5^1 at altitude. Burst and climb.comparable to radiosonds. A winds elect enservation, tracked by theodolite. Carries running light for night lauraiss.

All types of bellooms are launched at 07002, 09002, 15002 and 21002 daily. However, some stations launch one, two, three, or four times daily; others launch irrequisely, some launch only one type, and others several or all. In similation, time of launch may vary approximately thirty minutes from the schoduled time, either way. All agencies which launch balloons are quick to admit that balloons can raifunction and that many are lost. In addition, wind currecuts at altitude can cause the balloons to assume odd shapes and strange manuvers. The balloons under coronin attemption conditions can appear to be alrest can color, and may be visible even at extreme altitudes, particularly at summise and sunset, to an observer on the ground.

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3. ATTAM-5, faced with this situation, empiled in July a file of balloon lounch date cards for Air Moather Service, Maval Air Moather Service, and Moather Service, launch Service, launch Moather Service, and Moather Service tured graphically on the weather balloon lounch Mocation chart. Combining this information with the winds aloft data which ATTC receives from the facticle charts has often provided a solution to Flyobrets. Significantly, balloons, possible and probable, increased from 15% in Juno to 30% in August, with 21% in July. The percentage of reports analyzed as "unknown" decreased proportionately. This gain is a real one, and results from the accumulation of the background data and the elimination of guesswork.

the reduction of the balloon. All agencies forward these records to the Lational Weather Records Conter, Orave Arcado Building, Ashaville, North Carolina. ATTAL-5 has recuested the CO, ATS, which maintains a detachment at Ashaville, to permit "Mine Book" to deal directly with Ashaville. The intention is to request photostate of the securding (WAM Mas, b, e) and the balloon track (WIMM SO and SOs) at contain specific times and places. If this is approved, ATTC will be in a position to obtain these records for every balloon flight lamphod in the U.S., from everses American bases, and from all the U.S. ships and weather stations at sea. In addition, ATTAL-5 will continue to use the balloon laurch information available in this office and will from time to time TMX various Laurch sites for specific information. These methods of approach will solve the problem c" weather balloons.

Part II - Upper Air Research Balloons

- 1. Specially designed types of balloons are used by the USAF and the U.S. Havy in cooperation with various contractors to obtain upper air data for accountific purposes. There is no doubt time these balloons cause Fly-obrpts; tracking data of eleven such flights in July resulted in positive identification in three cases, probable identification in three more. The U.S. Havy, through its flaid representative of CHR at the University of Himmesota, dails with three contractors. The balloons released are large white polyschylene types expable of expanding to 100° in diameter and carrying up to 500 pounds of metallic equipment. Valve and inflation arrangements control illusting abstances. Naturally, they are visible even at extreme altitudes under many conditions and are capable of assuming almost any shape. The contractors often release from time to time free or attached clusters of the RA and P type ruckerized balloons, as well.
- 2. These flights are often of long duration; one Einmontolis released balloon was tracked to Cape Cod and lost, than it was recovered in Pordonux, Prance. They are wracked by ten HDF stations throughout the United States.
- 3. ATTL: 5 has taken stops to set up a reporting system for all balloom flights of the Kavy contractors. This program will be implemented 15 Oct 57 and will permanently solve the problem of U.S. Kavy upper air research ballooms.

. . .

in the USAF operates two projects, "Copher" and "Moby Dick", which involve the release of the large polychylene type believes. In all particulars, flight durations, tracking methods, etc., those flights are corparable to the U.S. Navy projects. At present, ATIAL-5 has no communication or limited with those projects, but ATIAL-5 intends to use the same approach and reporting systems with the USAF projects as with the Naval contractors.

Conclusions

By 1 Ear 52 ATIAA-5 should be resolving complete data on all weather, Navy upper air, and USAF upper air balloon releases.

Notes

This paper is a short introduction to the "balloon phase" of Project Blue Book. For anyone desiring the complete information, such as agencies and personalities involved, channels and methods of communication, etc., it will be necessary to read the following supporting papers which are on file in ATTAG-5.

a. Balloon Data Folder

- b. Miscollaneous Correspondence File Letter 5 Sep 52, tor USAF Combridge Research Center, Cambridge, Massachusette, subje Air Force Upper Air Research Balloom Releases, and first indomenant thoroto.
- o. Air Weather Service Correspondence File Letter 22 Sep 52, to: 66, ATS, subj: Climatelegy Data for Project Dise Book.
- d. U.S. Havy Correspondence File Latter, 9 Sep 52, to: Air Branch, CLR, subj: O.M Upper Air balloon Projects, and OAR answer thereto.
 - e. Travel Report It A. G. Flues, 25 Aug 52 to Washington, D.C.
 - f. Travol Report Lt A. G. Flues, 15 Sep 52, to Asheville, N.C.
- g. Travel Report Lt A. G. Flues, 30 Sep 52, to Himmespelis, Himmespela.

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क्रांत्रमा हुँके । जा प्रवृत्ति का राज्यामा में मुक्तामध्या मन्त्रवा विश्वेष । तथा मृत्यु बुद्देश वर्ष १००० वर्