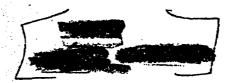


21 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director, Central Intelligence

SUBJECT

- Unidentified Flying Cojoct Reported on 20 September 1957
- 1. As reported by components of the US Air Defense Command, on unidentified flying object (UFO) was tracked by US radars on a relatively straight cause from the eastern tip of Long Island to the vicinity of Buffala. The object was reportedly moving westward at an altitude of 50,000 feet and speed of 2,000 kts. "Jamming" was reported by several radars in this vicinity and westward as far as Chicago. In a subsequent briefing for representatives of the IAC, the US Air Force reported that the original reports had been degraded somewhat by information that: (a) there was an 11 minute break in the tracky (b) weather conditions in the area were of the type which have in the past produced false radar pips and electronic interference; (c) 3-47's of SAC were in the area near Chicago on an ECM training flight. The ADC has not completed its investigations of this incident, but in any avent it now seems clear that the phenomena reported west of Buffalo were not related to the UFO.
- 2. We have no intelligence on Soviet activities (e.g., long-range air, submarine, or merchant shipping operations) which can be related specifically to this reported event. We believe it unlikely that a Soviet aircraft could conduct a mission at this speed and altitude and return to Blac tentitory. However, we credit the USSR with the coordility to have a submarine-lounched cruise-type missile of low believe performance and a range of about 500 n.m., but we have no specific evidence of the oxistence of such a missile.
- 3. We have examined possible Soviet motives for launching a one-way vehicle on an operation over the US, and consider that there would be little motivation at this time, except possibly a psychological or certainty motive, which we believe is marginal. One-way recompaissance operations are largely ruled out by the likelihood that the results would be of small value, and the risk of compromise would be very areas.



Approved for Release











- 4. We conclude, therefore, that it is highly improbable that a Soviet operation is responsible for the UFO reports of 20 September.
- 5. Considering the facts that the ADC investigation is incomplete, and that weather phonomena are increasingly likely explanations of the original reports, we recommend that no IAC meeting be called on this subject at this time.

HERDERT SCOVILLE, Jr.

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Copies to IAC Agencies as follows:

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