

~~SECRET~~
Security Information
IAC-D-67
18 February 1953

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Transmitted herewith is a copy of the report (Tab A) of the scientific panel convened as a result of the action taken by the Intelligence Advisory Committee on 4 December (IAC-M-90, paragraph 3A) on this subject. Attached to the report are a summary of evidence presented (Tab B) and a list of the personnel participating (Tab C).

2. It is proposed to transmit copies of this report to the Secretary of Defense; the Director, Federal Civil Defense Administration; and the Chairman, National Security Resources Board for their information and such action as they may feel necessary.

3. The results of the panel's studies have moved CIA to conclude that no National Security Council Intelligence Directive on this subject is warranted.

4. Please inform the undersigned by 25 February 1953 if you do not concur in the action and conclusions contained in paragraphs 2 and 3, above.

JAMES Q. REBER
Secretary

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 007789
DATE: 6 October 1978

N-2
~~SECRET~~
IAC-D-67
18 February 1953

TAB A

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL
ON
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Pursuant to the request of the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, the undersigned Panel of Scientific Consultants has met to evaluate any possible threat to national security posed by Unidentified Flying Objects ("Flying Saucers"), and to make recommendations thereon. The Panel has received the evidence as presented by cognizant intelligence agencies, primarily the Air Technical Intelligence Center, and has reviewed a selection of the best documented incidents.

2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:

- a. That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.

3. The Panel further concludes:

- a. That the continued emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these perilous times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning of the protective organs of the body politic.

We cite as examples the clogging of channels of communication by irrelevant reports, the danger of being led by continued false alarms to ignore real

indications of hostile action, and the cultivation of a morbid national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of duly constituted authority.

4. In order most effectively to strengthen the national facilities for the timely recognition and the appropriate handling of true indications of hostile action, and to minimize the concomitant dangers alluded to above, the Panel recommends:

a. That the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired;

b. That the national security agencies institute policies on intelligence, training, and public education designed to prepare the national defenses and the morale of the country to recognize most promptly and to react most effectively to true indications of hostile intent or action.

We suggest that these aims may be achieved by an integrated program designed to reassure the public of the total lack of evidence of inimical forces behind the phenomena, to train personnel to recognize and reject false indications quickly and effectively, and to strengthen regular channels for the evaluation of and prompt reaction to true indications of hostile measures.

/s/ H. P. Robertson, Chairman
California Institute of Technology

/s/ Luis W. Alvarez
University of California

/s/ Lloyd V. Berkner
Associated Universities, Inc.

/s/ S. A. Gendarm
Brookhaven National Laboratories

/s/ Thornton Page
Johns Hopkins University

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

14 - 17 January 1953

EVIDENCE PRESENTED

1. Seventy-five case histories of sightings 1951 - 1952 (selected by ATIC as those best documented).
2. ATIC Status and Progress Reports of Project GRUDGE and Project BLUE BOOK (code names for ATIC study of subject).
3. Progress Reports of Project STORK (code name for Battelle Memorial Institute contract work supporting ATIC).
4. Summary Report of Sightings at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.
5. Report of USAF Research Center, Cambridge, Mass., Investigation of "Green Fireball" Phenomena (Project TWINKLE).
6. Outline of Investigation of U.F.O.'s Proposed by Kirtland Air Force Base (Project FOUNGE).
7. Motion Picture Films of sightings at Tremonton, Utah, 2 July 1952 and Great Falls, Montana, August 1950.
8. Summary Report of 69 selected cases of sightings of various categories (Formations, Eliciting Lights, Hovering, etc.).
9. Draft of manual: "How to Make a FLYOVER", prepared at ATIC.
10. Chart Showing Plot of Geographic Location of Unexplained Sightings in the United States during 1952.
11. Chart Showing Balloon Launching Sites in the United States.
12. Charts Showing Selected Actual Balloon Flight Paths and Relation to Reported Sightings.
13. Charts Showing Frequency of Reports of Sightings, 1948 - 1952.
14. Charts Showing Categories of Explanations of Sightings.
15. Kodachrome Transparencies of Polyethylene Film Balloons in Bright Sunlight Showing High Reflectivity.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

TAB B

16. Motion picture of seagulls in bright sunlight showing high reflectivity.
17. Intelligence Reports Relating to U.S.S.R. Interest in U. S. Sightings.
18. Samples of Official USAF Reporting Forms and Copies of Pertinent Air Force, Army and Navy Orders Relating to Subject.
19. Sample Polyethylene "Pillow" Balloon (54 inches square).
20. "Variations in Radar Coverage", JANP 101 (Manual illustrating unusual operating characteristics of Service radar).
21. Miscellaneous official letters and foreign intelligence reports dealing with subject.
22. Copies of popular published works dealing with subject (articles in periodicals, newspaper clippings and books).

TAB C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON~~
~~UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS~~

14 - 17 January 1953

| <u>MEMBERS</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> | <u>FIELD OF COMPETENCY</u> |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Dr. H. P. Robertson (Chairman) | California Institute of Technology | Physics, weapons systems |
| Dr. Luis W. Alvarez | University of California | Physics, radar |
| Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner | Associated Universities, Inc. | Geophysics |
| Dr. Samuel Goudsmit | Brookhaven National Laboratories | Atomic structure, statistical problems |
| Dr. Thornton Page | Office of Research Operations, Johns Hopkins University | Astronomy, Astrophysics |
| <u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u> | | |
| Dr. J. Allen Hynek | Ohio State University | Astronomy |
| Mr. Frederick C. Durant | Arthur D. Little, Inc. | Rockets, guided missiles |
| <u>INTERVIEWEES</u> | | |
| Brig. Gen. William M. Garland | Commanding General, ATIC | Scientific and technical intelligence |
| Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell | Assistant Director, O/SI, CIA | Scientific and technical intelligence |
| Mr. Ralph L. Clark | Deputy Assistant Director, O/SI, CIA | Scientific and technical intelligence |

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON~~
~~UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS~~

TAB C

INTERVIEWEES (con't)ORGANIZATIONFIELD OF COMPETENCY

Mr. Philip G. Strong

Chief, Operations
Staff, O/SI, CIAScientific and
technical intelli-
gence

Mr. Stephen T. Penzance

Acting Chief, Special
Study Group, D/I
USAFScientific and
technical intelli-
gence

Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, USAF

Chief, Aerial Phenomena
Branch, AFIC, USAFScientific and
technical intelli-
gence

Mr. J. Dewey Fournet, Jr.

The Ethyl Corporation

Aero Eng.

Lt. R. S. Mcnabam, USN

USN Photo Interpre-
tion Laboratory,
Anacostia

Photo interpretation

Mr. Harry Wae

USN Photo Interpre-
tion Laboratory,
Anacostia

Photo interpretation