

(203)

JAN 27 1953

Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Professor  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge 37, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Stratton:

Remembering your request to be kept informed of any progress in the problem of "unidentified flying objects," this letter will bring you up to date.

Last November, the section of the Air Technical Intelligence Center charged with investigation of reports of sightings presented a status briefing at the Agency. Based upon the evidence presented, the subject was discussed at a December meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Committee (CIA, Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, State, AEC, and FBI). At that time it was recommended that CIA should assemble a panel of highly qualified personnel to examine the problem and its ramifications. Particular competency in the fields of physics, radar and astronomy was believed desirable.

We were fortunate to obtain the services of especially qualified men, I believe you will agree. Enclosed for your information are copies of the report submitted by the Panel and related material. We concur in the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel, and are forwarding the report to appropriate authorities. Since the problems related to this subject appear to be operational rather than intelligence in nature, we will be concerned only indirectly in the future. However, if there are any developments in which we believe you might be interested, we shall inform you. Incidentally, knowledge of any interest of CIA in the subject of "flying saucers" has been carefully restricted, in view of probable misunderstanding if it were publicly known.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Spence H. Marshall Chadwell  
H. Marshall Chadwell  
Assistant Director

Enclosures:

1. Panel Report
2. List of Personnel
3. Evidence presented

Distribution:

Roston Office [redacted] with Enclosures - 2  
OO/C, [redacted] no enclosures - 1

OSI [redacted] Div- (37Jan53)

Approved for Release

2/20/10

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Joint Chiefs of Staff, F-2 Division, FI  
 21 January 1953  
 [The following is a copy of the original document]

27 January 1953

### Minutes of OGI Advisory Group on Unidentified Flying Objects, 14-17 January 1953

1. At your request I represented F-2 Division at the subject meetings. I was present at nearly all meetings of the group with the exception of the afternoon of Friday, the 15th and the session on Saturday, the 17th. During the latter two sessions the Advisory Group went into executive session for the preparation of their report to AIC/CI.

### 2. The following OGI Consultants formed the Advisory Group:

Dr. H. P. Robertson, Chairman  
 Dr. Ben Goodrich  
 Dr. Louis Alvarez  
 Dr. Thornton Page (missed morning session on 15th)  
 Dr. Lloyd Berkner (present only on afternoon of 15th and 17th)  
 Dr. J. A. Hyatt (an AIC consultant - he sat in all the sessions after the first day, but did not sign the report to AIC/CI as an official group member)

### 3. The following OGI staff members attended:

Dr. H. H. Clark (most of the first day only)  
 Mr. P. G. Strong (first day only)  
 Mr. F. C. Barrett (although not an OGI consultant, he functioned as a staff member for the conference and attended all sessions including the executive sessions)  
 Mr. B. B. Cleveland, Weapons Division  
 Mr. Col. F. C. A. Gier, F-2 Division

### 4. The following persons were invited to present certain background information to the Advisory Group:

Captain Edward R. Holt, AFIS who presented information on the work of Project Blackbook (and its predecessors "Stratex", "Starcure", and "Starg") and discussed in detail many of their specific investigations.

Major Thomas, AFIS (by now on inactive status and with the AFIS Corp.) who presented findings in regard to AFIS, representatives of the Navy who reported to the group their analysis of films of a "lightning".

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CHARGE TO O/SI ADVISORY GROUP ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. To review available evidence on unidentified flying objects and to consider possible dangers to national security related thereto.
  2. To advise concerning the amount and kind of data necessary for a scientific evaluation of these phenomena.
  3. In particular to comment on:
    - a. Validity of current CIA evaluation of related dangers.
    - b. Methodology and scope of current and planned AFIC investigation.
    - c. Advisability of further meetings of this group or further review of the subject by a larger panel.
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### POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

A. Hysteria, hallucinations, hoaxes, etc. (Psychological)

B. Misidentifications of conventional objects:

1. Aircraft, missiles, searchlight reflections, etc. (man-made, controlled)
2. Balloons, kites, etc. (man-made, uncontrolled)
3. Birds, bugs, etc. (animal)
4. Dust, seeds (e.g. dandelion), paper, etc. (foreign matter)

C. Natural Phenomena:

1. Light aberrations, reflections, refractions, etc.
2. Anomalous radar propagation.
3. Ionization, static electricity, ball lightning, etc.
4. Planets, meteors and other astronomical bodies.
5. Others.

D. Unconventional man-made devices:

1. US
2. USSR and other foreign



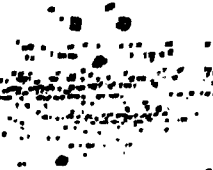
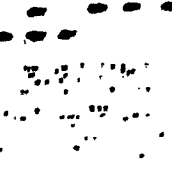
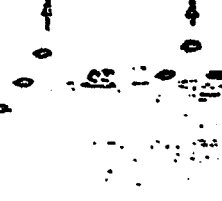
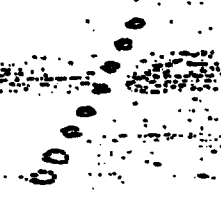
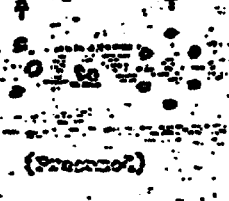
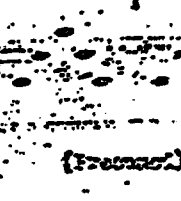
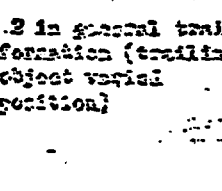
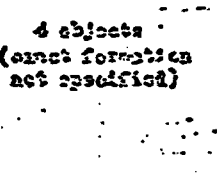
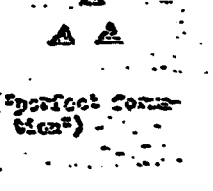
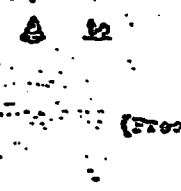
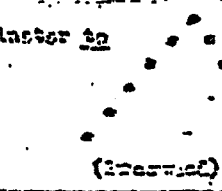
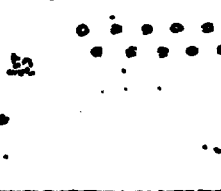


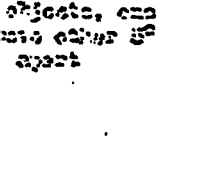
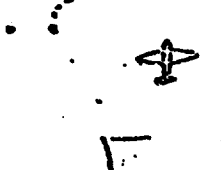

E. Extraterrestrial origin

1. Animal
2. Machine

*Basis of Maj. Jennings' presentation  
to OSI Admin. 14-17 Jan  
(given on 16 Jan!)*

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## TOWARDS

<p>(1) ↑</p>  <p>(3 in rear started around in circular or zig-zag manner)</p>	<p>(2) ↑</p>  <p>(All objects had a swerving action from side to side)</p>	<p>(3) ↑</p> 	<p>(4) ↑</p> 
<p>(5) ↑</p> 	<p>(6) ↑</p> 	<p>(7) ↑</p>  <p>(Peculiar)</p>	<p>(8) ↑</p>  <p>(Peculiar)</p>
<p>(9)</p>  <p>2 in general trail formation (trailing object varied position)</p>	<p>(10)</p>  <p>4 objects (exact formation not specified)</p>	<p>(11) ↑</p>  <p>(Perfect forma- tion)</p>	<p>(12) ↑</p>  <p>(Peculiar)</p>
<p>(13)</p>  <p>Cluster in (Peculiar)</p>	<p>(14)</p> 	<p>(15)</p> 	<p>(16)</p> 
<p>(17)</p>  <p>3 objects, one above other 2 apart</p>	<p>(18)</p> 	<p>(19)</p> 	<p>(20)</p> 