

17 Decamber 1953

KEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

FROM

: Chief, Physics and Electronics Division, SI

SUBJECT

1. Current Status of Unidentified Flying Colects

(UFCB) Project.

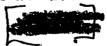
1. In accordance with the verbal request offir. Erent, Exec/SI. on 30 Hovember, the following resume of the current status of unidentified flying objects activities has been prepared.

2. P&Z Division assumed responsibility for the OSI project on unidentified flying objects as a result of your memorandum of 27 May 1053. The project has been confined to maintaining awareness of the activities of other agencies (notably the USAF) in the unidentified flying objects business and to maintenance of files

## 3. Status of Department of Defense Activities.

a. Air Force. The Air Force continues to maintain, but with exparently decreasing emphasis, its interest in UFOB's. The present interest of the Directorate of Intelligence, Hq., USAF, is confined to a cursory cognizence of ATIC's project (Bluebcok No. 10073). At ATIC the project is carried by one officer (Capt. Charles A. Eardin), one eirman (A/IC Max G. Futch), and a secretary operating as the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Electronica Branch, Technical Analysis Division. In spite of this limited staff, as well as several changes of project officer, the project records oppear to be up-to-date. ATIC personnel no longer conduct field investigations of WFOB sightings (these are requested from USAF intelligence officers [primarily Air Defense] Command and Alrways and Air Communications Service) nearer to the sightings), but confine their activities to receiving and checking reports as received, requesting additional field investigation where necessary, performing necessary checking against meteorological, estronomical, siroraft and balloon data, and recording their findings and conclusions in a cross-referenced system by date, location, source, type of observation and conclusion drawn. The Aerial Phanomena Section also deals directly with the Public Information Office of Eq., USAF, regarding information for public release. For about the gast year, approximately ten percent of the reported sightlugs have been tagged ns uncolved.

Of particular interest is the Tact that AFIC is in the process of transferring project Bluebook to Eq., Air Defense Command. According to Lt. Col. Harry Johnston, Chief, Electronics Branch, the reason for the transfer was that ADC had been doing most of the



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investigative work of the project and "if it turns out that these things (UFC3's) are space ships or long range aircraft from another country, ADC is the (Air Force) Command that would have to take action." Col. Johnston followed this consept with the somewhat controlletory statement that the project transfer did not reflect any change in Air Force policy. It is undoubtedly true that ADC is the Air Force Command primarily concerned with UFC3's at the present time in that their interceptors are occasionally dispatched "arainst" reported UFC3's and that their reporting stations and commications systems are involved in a considerable portion of the UFC3 activity. ATIC will maintain limiton with the project.

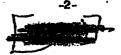
Approximately a year and one half ago [ATIC initiated a program to purchase camerus for selected AEC radax sites and AACS control towers in locations where consistent UFOR reports were received in the hopes of photographing UFOR's. One lens of the camera (a storeoscopic type) was to be covered with a simple grating to record the spectrographic nature of the UFOR photographed. One hundred "Videon" 35 cm. camerus with "storeon" anastignat f 3.5 lenses were purchased along with 100 gratings (15,000 line) from CENCO, Chicago. Seventy-four (74) camerus were distributed. Manety percent of the gratings have "gone bad"—the notual grating separating from the plastic mounting plates. How gratings are expected shortly and ATIC expects to recall all of the 74 distributed camerus and re-equip them with the new gratings.

Several months ago we were advised that ATTC planned to set up a concentrated instrumentation observational effort in the Albuquerque area. This has now been dropped.

Project STORK (SECRET) has beenpreparing at ATTC request, a comprehensive statistical report on UFOB sightings during the period 1947 through 1952. This study is now expected to be completed by 1: December 1953.

ATIC issues status reports on Project Bluebook on a tri-monthly basis the cost recent being Report No. 12 30 September 1953.

- b. Navy. The Navy in spite of press reports to the contrary, is presently devoting only part of one CNI analyst's time to maintaining cognizance of UFCB's.
- c. Army. The Army has evidenced little or no interest in UFOD's other than cooperating with the Air Force in reporting sightings and part ment data using the Air Force format.
  - 4. Investigations or Interests of Foreign Covernments.



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d. Other. Aside from a few scattered reports, mostly old, which indicate interest in UFCB's by private individuals or groups, there is no information of concern or inquiries of consequence in .other foreign countries.

5. Results of CSI Panel Recommendations. The commultants who considered this probles in January 1553 recommended that UFOB's be strigged of special status and sure of mystery and that policies on intelligence, training, and public education pertinent to true indications of hostile intent or action be prepared. The definite drop in the number of "sightings" reported during 1953 over 1952 could be attributed to actions following these recommendations. Two recent books ("Flying Saucers From Outer Space" by Keyhou and "Flying Saucers Have Landed" by Leslie and Adamieki) take full advantage of ... "official" 1903 reports released by the Air Force to develop a central theme that UTGS's are extraterrestrial in origin. Fortunately, the latter book is so noncensical and obviously fraudulent that it may actually help calm down public reaction. These books do, however, illustrate the risk taken by the present policy. There are no other as yet agreent results of these recommendations.

