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SF. Anorwick

Jerry Mabe

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UFO Spotted By Japanese Jet And U.S. Radar

Anchorage, Alaska

The crew of a Japan Air Lines cargo jet claimed that a UFO with flashing white and yellow strobe lights followed them across the Arctic Circle en route from Reykjavik, Iceland, to Tokyo.

The three-man crew radioed air traffic controllers in Anchorage, reporting the huge UFO flying "in formation" with them, and the U.S. Air Force confirmed an object briefly flew near the plane, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Paul Steucke said yesterday.

Air Force radar briefly picked up a second object, Steucke said, but FAA controllers in Anchorage and Fairbanks did not.

The sight reported by the pilot, co-pilot and flight engineer of JAL Flight 1628 remains a mystery.

The incident occurred Nov. 17 but was not earlier made public until yesterday.

Flight 1628 had left Reykjavik, flying over the North Pole to Tokyo with a stop in Anchorage. Following the UFO sighting, it landed at Anchorage International Airport, and FAA security manager Jim Derry interviewed all three crewmen.