

I tried to make contact with the bogies below 1,000 feet, but they [the radar controllers] vectored us around. I saw several bright lights. I was at my maximum speed, but even then I had no closing speed. I ceased chasing them because I saw no chance of overtaking them. I was vectored into new objects. Later I chased a single bright light which I estimated about 10 miles away. I lost visual contact with it about 2 miles.

When Major Fournet finished telling me about the night's activity, my first question was, "How about the radar targets—could they have been caused by weather?"

I knew that Lieutenant Holcomb was a sharp electronics man and that Major Fournet, although no electronics specialist, was a crackerjack engineer, so their opinion meant a lot.

Dewey said that everybody in the radar room was convinced that the targets were very probably caused by solid metallic objects. There had been weather targets on the scope too, he said, but these were common to the Washington area and the controllers were paying no attention to them.

And this something solid could poke along at 100 miles an hour or outdistance a jet, I thought to myself.

I didn't ask Dewey any more because he'd been up all night and wanted to get to bed.

Monday morning Major Ed Gregory, another intelligence officer at ATIC, and I left for Washington, but our flight was delayed in Dayton so we didn't arrive until late afternoon. On the way through the terminal building to get a cab downtown, I picked up the evening papers. Every headline was about the UFO's:

FIERY OBJECTS OUTFRAN JETS OVER CAPITAL—INVESTIGATION VEILED IN SECRECY FOLLOWING VAIN CHASE

JETS ALERTED FOR SAUCERS—INTERCEPTORS CHASE LIGHTS IN D.C. SKIES

EXPERT HERE TO PUSH STUDY AS OBJECTS IN SKIES REPORTED AGAIN

I jokingly commented about wondering who the expert was. In a half hour I found out—I was. When Major Gregory and I walked into the lobby of the Roger Smith Hotel to check in, reporters and photographers rose from the easy chairs and divans like a covey of quail. They wanted

Suggest

my secrets, but I wasn't going to tell nor would I pose for pictures while I wasn't telling anything. Newspaper reporters are a determined lot, but Greg ran interference and we reached the elevator without even a "no comment."

The next day was one of confusion. After the first Washington sighting the prevailing air in the section of the Pentagon's fourth floor, which is occupied by Air Force Intelligence, could be described as excitement, but this day it was confusion. There was a maximum of talk and a minimum of action. Everyone agreed that both sightings should be thoroughly investigated, but nobody did anything. Major Fournet and I spent the entire morning "just leaving" for somewhere to investigate "something." Every time we would start to leave, something more pressing would come up.

About 10:00 A.M. the President's air aide, Brigadier General Landry, called intelligence at President Truman's request to find out what was going on. Somehow I got the call. I told General Landry that the radar target could have been caused by weather but that we had no proof.

To add to the already confused situation, new UFO reports were coming in hourly. We kept them quiet mainly because we weren't able to investigate them right away, or even confirm the facts. And we wanted to confirm the facts because some of the reports, even though they were from military sources, were difficult to believe.

Prior to the Washington sightings in only a very few of the many instances in which radar had picked up UFO targets had the targets themselves supposedly been seen visually. Radar experts had continually pointed out this fact to us as an indication that maybe all of the radar targets were caused by freak weather conditions. "If people had just seen a light, or an object, near where the radar showed the UFO target to be, you would have a lot more to worry about," radar technicians had told me many times.

Now people were seeing the same targets that the radars were picking up, and not just at Washington.

On the same night as the second Washington sighting we had a really good report from California. An ADC radar had picked up an unidentified target and an F-94C had been scrambled. The radar vectored the jet interceptor into the target, the radar operator in the '94 locked-on to it, and as the airplane closed in the pilot and RO saw that they were headed directly toward a large, yellowish-orange light. For several minutes they played tag with the UFO. Both the radar on the ground and the radar in the F-94 showed that as soon as the airplane would get almost within gunnery range of the UFO it would suddenly pull away

But unlike bears, who sack out around midnight and get up late in the morning, the Sasquatch appear to be nocturnal animals, as they are most often seen between midnight and dawn. "Since bears and Sasquatch are almost direct competitors for all resources," says Krantz, "it's not surprising to see that the bears and the Sasquatch have divided up the day between them to keep out of each other's way."

Krantz has a long history of sticking his neck out for his work. "So far," he boasts, "my track record is no failures, a lot of uncertainties and a few successes." He is convinced that he will be proven right on the Sasquatch as well, but for the moment he is nearly alone in the scientific community to state such a belief openly. "Others are scared for their reputations and their jobs," says Krantz, standing up and putting on his worn blue cap with its Peking Man pin. "But I prefer honesty to tact. That's one of my character flaws."

ULTIMATE SECRET

In the early morning of December 27, 1980, two security patrolmen stationed at the American Air Force Base at Bentwaters, England saw unusual lights in the nearby Rendlesham Forest. Thinking that an aircraft might have crashed, they asked for and received permission to investigate. A third patrolman joined them and they proceeded on foot.

What happened then is described in an official document of the 81st Combat Support Group, dated January 13, 1981, entitled "Unexplained Lights," and signed by the Deputy Base Commander, Lt. Col. Halt. The document reads:

"The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsating red light on top with a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. . . ."

The next day, the reports continues, "three depressions one and one-half inches deep and seven inches in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground." When the area was checked for radiation the following night, they found peak readings "in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions." More strange lights were seen in the area that night.

What happened at Bentwaters in 1980? No other government documents are available on the incident, but some of those who claim to have been there that night and on subsequent nights give accounts of high Air Force personnel involved with a metallic craft and mysterious entities in a clearing in the Rendlesham Forest. Whatever really happened at Bentwaters, we know for certain that the Air Force was involved and their own paperwork proves it.

Despite official pronouncements for decades that UFOs were nothing more than misidentified aerial objects and as such were no cause for alarm, declassified Government records now indicate that, ever since UFOs made their appearance in our skies in the 1940s, the phenomenon has aroused much serious behind-the-scenes concern in official circles. Details of the intelligence community's protracted obsession with the subject of UFOs have now emerged with the release of long-withheld Government documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Though these papers fail to resolve the UFO enigma, they do dispel many popular notions about the UFO controversy, as well as give substance to a number of others.

Official records now available appear to put to rest doubts that the Government knew more about UFOs than it has claimed over the past four decades. From the start, it has been convinced that most UFO sightings could be explained in terms of misidentified balloons, cloud formations, airplanes, ball lightning, meteors and other natural phenomenon. But the documents also show that the Government remains perplexed about UFOs. Do they pose a threat to national security? Are they just a funny-looking cover for an airborne Soviet presence? Even the possibility that these unknowns could be evidence of extraterrestrial visitations has been given serious attention in Government circles.

While official interest in UFOs has long been thought to be strictly the concern of the Air Force, the bulk of whose records have been open to public view for more than a decade, the documents on UFOs that have been released under the FOIA indicate otherwise. The Departments of the Army, Navy, State and Defense, and the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the FBI, the CIA, and

even the Atomic Energy Commission produced UFO records over the years. Many of these agencies still do, and many of their documents remain classified. The CIA is still withholding more than fifty documents, the National Security Agency more than one hundred.

The monumental task of unearthing these records from a bureaucracy that has denied their existence for years can be traced to the efforts of a handful of inquisitive individuals who, armed with the FOIA, set off in the mid-1970s on a paper chase of U.S. Government documents on UFOs. They include Bruce Maccabee, a physicist working for the Navy, who obtained the release of more than a thousand pages of FBI documents on UFOs; Todd Zechel; Brad Sparks; Larry Bryant; Robert Todd; and Peter Gersten, a New York attorney, whose 1977 civil action against the CIA, produced almost a thousand pages of UFO-related memos, reports and correspondence that attest to the agency's long involvement in the matter. This documentary evidence adds a new dimension to what has been known of the Government's involvement with UFOs up until this point (see *The UFO Controversy in America* by David Michael Jacobs and *Clear Intent* by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry Greenwood).

Here then is a brief history of the modern UFO controversy:

The first sighting to be labeled a "flying saucer" by the press occurred on June 24, 1947, when an Idaho businessman flying his plane near Mt. Rainier observed nine disc-shaped objects making undulating motions "like a saucer skipping over water." But as early as World War II, Allied bomber pilots had told of "balls of light" that followed their flights over Japan and Germany. Rumor had it that the objects were enemy secret weapons, but as the objects showed no hostility, many servicemen believed them to be psychological warfare devices sent aloft to unnerve American pilots. A U.S. Eighth Army investigation concluded that they were the product of "mass hallucination."

When Scandinavians reported cigar-shaped objects in 1946, U.S. Army intelligence suspected that the Russians had developed a secret weapon with the help of German scientists from Peenemunde. The CIA, then known as the Central Intelligence Group, secretly began keeping tabs on the subject.

When the unknown objects returned to the skies, this time

over the United States in the summer of 1947, the Army Air Force set out to determine what the objects were. Within weeks, Brig. Gen. George Schulgen of Army Air Corps Intelligence requested the FBI's assistance "in locating and questioning the individuals who first sighted the so-called flying discs . . ." Undoubtedly swayed by flaring cold war tensions, Schulgen feared that "the first reported sightings might have been by individuals of Communist sympathies with the view to causing hysteria and fear of a secret Russian weapon." J. Edgar Hoover agreed to cooperate but insisted that the bureau have "full access to discs recovered."

The Air Force's behind-the-scenes interest contrasted sharply with its public stance that the objects were products of misidentifications and an imaginative populace. A security lid was imposed on the subject in July 1947, hiding a potentially "embarrassing situation" the following month, when both the Air Force and the FBI began suspecting they might actually be investigating our own secret weapons. High-level reassurances were obtained that this was not so.

By the end of the summer, the FBI had "failed to reveal any indication of subversive individuals being involved in any of the reported sightings." A RESTRICTED Army letter that found its way to Hoover's desk said that the bureau's services actually had been enlisted to relieve the Air Force "of the task of tracking down all the many instances which turned out to be ashcan covers, toilet seats and whatnot." FBI personnel had begun to suspect that the bureau was "merely playing bird-dog for the Army." Incensed, Hoover moved quickly to discontinue the bureau's UFO investigations.

In September of that year, the Commanding General of the Army Air Force received a letter from the Army Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Nathan Twining, saying that "the phenomenon reported is of something real and not visionary or fictitious," that the objects appeared to be disc-shaped, "as large as man-made aircraft," and "controlled either manually, automatically or remotely." At Twining's request, a permanent project, code named Sign and classified RESTRICTED, was established in December of 1947.

Sign failed to find any evidence that the objects were Soviet secret weapons and before long submitted an unofficial "Esti-

mate of the Situation," classified TOP SECRET, which indicated that UFOs were of interplanetary origin. The estimate eventually reached Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, who rejected it for lack of proof. Sign's inconclusive final report remained classified for the next twelve years.

The CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) took note of the Sign report. Flying discs would probably turn out to be another "sea serpent," an OSI officer believed, but should be investigated on the "remote possibility that they may be interplanetary or foreign aircraft." Meanwhile, the FBI advised its agents that the flying discs might be Russian man-made missiles, and Hoover instructed his agents to follow the new Air Force UFO reporting procedures should anyone volunteer UFO information. For the most part, this passive stance—referring UFO reports to the Air Force without action by the Bureau—sums up the extent of the FBI's investigations to this day.

Perhaps the most intriguing document in FBI files, however, is dated March 22, 1950. This memo to Hoover from a bureau agent notes that the Air Force had recovered three flying saucers in New Mexico. "They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately fifty feet in diameter," the agent wrote. "Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only three feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture." More than thirty years later, this document would inspire Larry Bryant of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) to file a petition for a "Writ of Habeas Corpus Extraterrestrial," claiming that the Air Force maintained custody over one or more occupants, dead or alive, of crashed flying saucers. A U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C. dismissed the case, however, on the grounds that the court had no jurisdiction over the case and that the plaintiff had no authority to represent the alleged creatures.

After Sign, the Air Force continued to collect UFO data under the code name Grudge. This six-month project found no evidence of foreign scientific development and therefore no direct threat to national security. It did, however, stress that the reported sightings could be dangerous. "There are indications that the planned release of related psychological propaganda would cause a form of mass hysteria," the report stated. A press release following the termination of Grudge allowed the public

to believe that the Air Force was no longer interested in UFOs. But the Air Force continued to collect reports through normal intelligence channels until the dramatic sighting of a UFO at the Army Signal Corps radar center in Fort Monmouth, N.J. in 1951 led to the reactivation of Grudge. The Air Force project was renamed Blue Book in 1952, a year that saw a record number of UFO reports.

The situation got out of hand that summer. On the morning of July 28th, the *Washington Post* revealed that UFOs had been tracked on radar at Washington National Airport, the second such incident in a week. Reporters stormed Air Force headquarters in the Pentagon, where switchboards were jammed for days with UFO inquiries. Military installations across the country handled such a volume of reports that "regular intelligence work had been affected," reported the *New York Times*.

These events prompted action at CIA headquarters, apparently at a request "from the Hill." From the start, the agency's involvement was to be kept secret. An August 1st CIA memo recommended that "no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press or public, in view of their probable alarmist tendencies to accept such interest as 'confirmatory' of the soundness of 'unpublished facts' in the hands of the U.S. Government."

The CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence (OSI) found that the Air Force's investigation of the UFO phenomenon was not sufficiently rigorous to determine the exact nature of the objects in the sky. Nor did the Air Force deal adequately with the potential danger of UFO-induced mass hysteria, or the fact that our air vulnerability was being seriously affected by the UFO problem. OSI chief H. Marshall Chadwell thought that our nation's defenses were running the increasing risk of false alert and, worse yet, "of falsely identifying the real as phantom." He suggested that a national policy be established "as to what should be told the public" and, furthermore, that immediate steps be taken to improve our current visual and electronic identification techniques so that "instant positive identification of enemy planes or missiles can be made."

Ever vigilant, the CIA was keeping an eye on the possibility that UFOs could be of Soviet origin. Checking with the Agency's Foreign Broadcast Information Division, they un-

covered no mention of flying saucers in the Soviet Union. The only Soviet reference to UFOs had appeared in the *New York Times*, where Soviet foreign minister Gromyko joked about the discs coming from Soviet discus throwers practicing for the Olympics. Despite the apparent Soviet official policy of silence, a review by OSI did "not lead to the conclusion that the saucers are USSR created or controlled." Nevertheless, the CIA's interest in foreign sightings and opinions regarding UFOs, particularly those in the Soviet Union, continues to this day. "The agency's interest," says Katherine Pherson, a public-affairs officer for the CIA, "lies in its responsibility to forewarn principally of the possibility that a foreign power might develop a new weapons system that might exhibit phenomena that some might categorize as a UFO."

By the winter of 1952, Chadwell had drafted a National Security Council proposal calling for a program to solve the problem of instant positive identification of UFOs. In a memo that accompanied the proposal, Chadwell urged that the reports be given "immediate attention." He thought that "sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles." He said that OSI was proceeding with the establishment of a consulting group "of sufficient competence and stature to . . . convince the responsible authorities in the community that immediate research and development on this subject must be undertaken."

But CIA Director Gen. Walter B. Smith's interest apparently lay elsewhere. In a letter to the Director of the Psychological Strategy Board, he expressed a desire to discuss "the possible offensive and defensive utilization of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes." Only later, after an order from the Intelligence Advisory Committee, did Director Smith authorize recruiting an advisory committee of outside consultants.

The scientific panel met for four days beginning January 14, 1953. Chaired by Dr. H. P. Robertson, an expert in physics and weapons systems, the panel essentially bestowed the scientific seal of approval on previously established official policy regarding UFOs. The distinguished panelists felt that all the sight-

ings could be identified once all the data were available for a proper evaluation—in other words, the phenomena, according to the panel's report, were not "beyond the domain of present knowledge of physical sciences." Neither did the panelists find UFOs to be a direct threat to national security, though they believed that the volume of UFO reports could clog military intelligence channels, precipitate panic and lead defense personnel to ignore real indications of hostile action. The panel worried about Soviet manipulation of the phenomenon; that the reports could make the public vulnerable to "possible enemy psychological warfare." The real danger, they concluded, was the reports themselves.

Fearing that the myth of UFOs might lead to inappropriate actions by the American public, the panelists decided that a "broad educational program integrating efforts of all concerned agencies" must be undertaken. They sought to strip UFOs of their "aura of mystery" through this program of "training and 'debunking.'" The program would result in the "proper recognition of unusually illuminated objects" and in a "reduction in public interest in 'flying saucers.'" The panelists recommended that their mass-media program have as its advisers psychologists familiar with mass psychology and advertising experts, while Walt Disney Inc. animated cartoons and such personalities as Arthur Godfrey would help in the educational drive. To insure complete control over the situation, the panel members suggested that flying saucer groups be "watched because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur. The apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind."

The panel's recommendations called for nothing less than the domestic manipulation of public attitudes. Whether these proposals were acted upon, the CIA will not say. But the report was circulated among the top brass at the Air Technical Intelligence Center, the CIA's Board of National Estimates, the CIA's bureau chiefs, the Secretary of Defense, the chairman of the National Security Resources Board, and the director of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, who eventually sent a representative to meet with CIA officials in order to "implement the appropriate aspects of the Panel's Report as applicable to Civil Defense."

Certainly the conduct of the Air Force in the UFO controversy changed in 1953. Until its termination in 1969, Blue Book seemed to concentrate more on the public relations problem generated by UFO reports than on the nature of the phenomenon itself. Blue Book managed to reduce the volume of reports that remained unidentified after investigation from 17 percent for the period preceding 1953, to 6 percent afterward, though twice as many reports were recorded between 1953 and 1969. That process of minimizing the pesky residue of unknowns began on the Air Force's own doorstep. In August of 1953, the Air Force issued Regulation 200-2, which streamlined UFO reporting procedures and also prohibited the public release of any information about a sighting unless the sighting was positively identified.

But the Government's efforts in the 1950s and 1960s to squelch public apprehension over UFOs went beyond debunking and even touched the fiber of constitutionally protected free speech. According to historian David Michael Jacobs, in 1953 the Air Force pressured *Look* magazine into publishing disclaimers throughout an article by retired Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe entitled "Flying Saucers From Outer Space." Then again, in 1965, the Army—in a prepublication review—denied clearance for a UFO-related article by one of its employees, Larry Bryant, a technical writer, until he took the issue to court.

Meanwhile, the CIA and the FBI proceeded routinely in the surveillance of UFO organizations and UFO enthusiasts. People with UFO interests were checked out by the FBI at the request of the CIA, the Air Force, or private citizens inquiring about possible subversive activities. But none caused as much consternation as the case of Major Keyhoe and the organization he directed, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

The CIA appears to have had a protracted interest in NICAP, which was founded in 1956 and utilized by Keyhoe as an organizational tool for challenging the alleged Air Force cover-up on UFOs. Both the CIA and the Air Force were upset by NICAP's wide-ranging influence. Its prestigious board of directors included, among others, Vice Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, the first CIA director (1947–1950). "The Air Force representatives believe that much of the trouble . . . with Major Keyhoe . . .

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could be alleviated," states a CIA memo dated May 16, 1958, "if the Major did not have such important personages as Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, U. S. N. (Ret.) . . . on the board . . ." The Air Force suggested that if the Admiral were shown the SECRET panel report he might understand and take "appropriate actions." Whether or not the Air Force got through to the Admiral, Hillenkoetter resigned from NICAP in 1961. The CIA's interest in NICAP continued through the 1970s when the UFO organization became so ineffective that it was dissolved.

Mounting discontent from members of the media, Congress and the scientific community compelled the Air Force in 1966 to commission an eighteen-month scientific study of UFOs under the direction of Edward Condon, professor of physics at the University of Colorado. The politically expedient study, in which one-third of the ninety-one cases examined remained unidentified, reiterated official policy with one novel twist: UFOs "educationally harmed" schoolchildren who were allowed to use science study time to read books and magazine articles about UFOs. Condon wanted teachers to withhold credit from any student UFO project. The Air Force took the cue and disbanded Project Blue Book in 1969.

Blue Book's true nature as well as the Air Force's continuing interest in UFOs was revealed many years later when an Air Force memo from Brig. Gen. C. H. Bolender, dated Oct. 20, 1969, was released. Replying to concern over the upcoming termination of Blue Book, Bolender commented that Project Blue Book had never received those reports that affected national security anyway. "Reports of unidentified flying objects which could affect national security are made in accordance with JANAP 146 or Air Force Manual 55-11, and are not part of the Blue Book system. . . as already stated, reports of UFOs which could affect national security would continue to be handled through the standard Air Force procedures designed for this purpose."

One of the more fascinating of all the Government UFO documents is a National Security Agency (NSA) draft report, dated 1968, which may have been prepared at the Condon Committee's request. It is entitled "UFO Hypothesis and Human Survival Questions." In the report, a NSA analyst considered some of the implications suggested by the primary UFO hypothesis. If

UFOs are hoaxes, the analyst wrote, "then a human mental aberration of alarming proportions would appear to be developing. Such an aberration would seem to have serious implications for nations equipped with nuclear toys—and should require immediate and careful study by scientists."

Though "the evidence seems to argue strongly against all UFOs being hallucinations," the analyst continued, if indeed they are hallucinations, then "the psychological implications for man would certainly bring into strong question his ability to distinguish reality from fantasy." If UFOs are natural phenomenon, the analyst said, then "the capability of air warning systems to correctly diagnose an attack situation is open to serious question." He also stated that "all UFOs should be carefully scrutinized to ferret-out . . . enemy (or 'friendly') projects," just in case they are secret Earth projects.

The NSA analyst concluded by considering the possibility that UFOs might be related to extraterrestrial intelligence. He said that if certain eminent scientists are to be believed, then this possibility cannot be dismissed. And if they are extraterrestrial, he believed that they would be our technological superiors. History has shown, said the analyst, that when this happens the inferior people are normally subjected to physical conquest, causing a loss of cultural and national identity. For these reasons, he suggested that, "a little more of . . . [a] survival attitude is called for in dealing with the UFO problem."

What happened in the decade that followed seems to bear him out. Government documents on UFOs indicate that an advanced technology seems to be involved, that UFOs sometimes pose a threat to national security, and that military and intelligence agencies still express concern over the phenomenon, despite official pronouncements to the contrary.

On September 8, 1973, according to a Department of the Army document, two military policemen at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia "noticed an 'object' traveling at what appeared to them to be a high rate of speed traveling east to west at approximately two thousand feet altitude and crossing the post perimeter. Approximately ten minutes later they resighted the 'object' when it appeared at 'treetop' level and made an apparent dive at their vehicle seemingly just missing their vehicle." The object, which made "no noise" while hovering for about fif-

teen minutes in front of them, was "round or oval in shape" and "between thirty-five and seventy-five feet across."

Two years later, in March of 1975, a Department of State message reported that "responsible people" had observed "strange machines" maneuvering in Algerian airspace. The light, which was so bright as to obscure its shape, was tracked first on radar and then seen to "land and take off."

Then just six months later, a UFO flap engulfed U.S. military bases. A Defense Department message on "Suspicious Unknown Air Activity" and dated Nov. 11, 1975, reads: "Since 28 Oct 75 numerous reports of suspicious objects have been received at the NORAD COC (North American Air Defense Combat Operations Center). Reliable military personnel at Loring AFB (Air Force Base), Maine, Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan, Malmstrom AFB, (Montana), Minot AFB, (North Dakota), and Canadian Forces Station, Falconbridge, Ontario, Canada, have visually sighted suspicious objects."

"Objects at Loring and Wurtsmith were characterized to be helicopters. Missile site personnel, security alert teams and Air Defense personnel at Malmstrom Montana report objects which sounded like a jet aircraft. FAA advised 'There were no jet aircraft in the vicinity.' Malmstrom search and height finder radars carried the object between 9,000 ft and 15,000 ft at a speed of seven knots. . . . F-106s scrambled from Malmstrom could not make contact due to darkness and low altitude. Site personnel reported the objects as low as 200 ft and said that as the interceptors approached the lights went out. After the interceptors had passed the lights came on again. One hour after the F-106s returned to base, missile site personnel reported the objects increased to a high speed, raised in altitude and could not be discerned from the stars. . . ."

"I have expressed my concern to SAFOI [Air Force Information Office] that we come up soonest with a proposed answer to queries from the press to prevent overreaction by the public to reports by the media that may be blown out of proportion. To date efforts by Air Guard helicopters, SAC [Strategic Air Command] helicopters and NORAD F-106s have failed to produce positive ID."

Numerous daily updates kept the Joint Chiefs of Staff informed of these incursions by UFOs. Representatives of the De-

fense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency as well as a handful of other Government desks received copies of the National Military Command Center's reports on the incidents. One report said that an unidentified object "demonstrated a clear intent in the weapons storage area." Though Air Force records show that the CIA was notified several times of these penetrations over nuclear missile and bomber bases, the agency has acknowledged only one such notification. Subsequent investigations by the Air Force into the sightings at Loring Air Force Base, Maine, where the remarkable series of events began, did not reveal a cause for the sightings.

Whatever the objects were, the incidents created quite a stir. The Air Force implemented "Security Option 3" at the northern tier bases, according to an Air Force Security Police message, because of unidentified objects "flying/hovering over priority A restricted areas." NORAD also instituted a new set of reporting procedures as a result of these sightings. All those inquiring from the media and public, says a NORAD document entitled "Replies to UFO Reports," should be told that the Air Force "no longer investigates UFO reports" and "has no official interest in UFOs." The document then goes on to say that "all UFO/unknown object information no matter what the source might be—civilian or military" were to be submitted to the National Combat Operations Center.

The following year, 1976, saw another flap of military-related UFO incidents. On January 21st, according to a National Military Command Center (NMCC) memo signed by Rear Admiral J.B. Morin, security police observed two UFOs near the flight line at Canon Air Force Base in New Mexico. The objects were "25 yards in diameter, gold or silver in color with a blue light on top, hole in the middle and red light on bottom."

Six months later, on July 30th, UFOs were seen in the vicinity of Fort Ritchie, Maryland by both civilian and military personnel, according to another NMCC memo. One of the three oblong objects was seen "over the ammo storage area at 100-200 yards altitude." A month later in Tunisia "phenomena completely unexplainable" were seen and tracked on radar over the space of several nights. The objects, according to the document, could both travel at "high speeds" or slowly enough to "hover."

One of the most fascinating of all the government UFO docu-

ments tells of an extraordinary episode that took place on September 19, 1976 over Iran. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) message reports that American-made Iranian jets encountered several UFOs which caused one jet to lose "all instrumentation and communications." The primary object, which appeared to be the size of a 707 tanker on radar, had "flashing strobe lights arranged in a rectangular pattern and alternating blue, green, red and orange in color." As the pursuit by the F-4 jets continued "another brightly lighted object, estimated to be one half to one third the apparent size of the moon, came out of the original object. This second object headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed. The pilot attempted to fire an AIM-9 missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications."

The DIA, in its evaluation of the incident, called it "an outstanding UFO report." The object, the report stated, "was seen by multiple witnesses from different locations. . . and viewpoints (both airborne and from the ground). The credibility of many of the witnesses was high. . . . Visual sightings were confirmed by radar. Similar electromagnetic effects (EME) were reported by three separate aircraft. There were physiological effects on some members. . . . [and] an inordinate amount of maneuverability was displayed by the UFOs."

Two years later, according to a Naval Air Station Message Report, on May 14, 1978, civilians at the Pinycastle range in Jacksonville, Florida reported seeing "an object about 50-60 feet in diameter" passing over them "at tree-top level." The object was observed on radar for about an hour before moving across the scope at a high rate of speed—"400 to 500 knots." It then "reversed direction" and "practically stopped moving." Eight Navy personnel watched the object's red, green and white lights from the control tower for over an hour.

The following year, UFOs appeared over Kuwait, according to a State Department message dated January 29, 1979. One UFO, which appeared over the northern oil fields, "seemingly did strange things" to the automatic pumping equipment. The UFO's appearance apparently caused the automatic pumping equipment to shut down, and though the system could normally only be restarted manually, it started up again automatically when the UFO "vanished."

A Department of Defense Joint Chief of Staff message, dated June 3, 1980 reported that UFOs were seen on two different occasions near a Peruvian Air Force (PAF) Base in the southern part of the country. "The PAF tried to intercept and destroy the UFO but without success," says the report. Six months later, in December, UFOs were reported on the Czechoslovakian border, according to a U.S. Army cable obtained from the CIA.

Though the Air Force admits to nothing more than a "transitory interest" in the phenomenon these days, military directives still exist for reporting UFOs. Likewise, the CIA's interest appears passive. "There is no program to actively collect information on UFOs," says CIA spokesman Pherson. But the agency's interest cannot be denied, as two 1976 memos reveal.

The first, dated April 26th, states: "It does not seem that the Government has any formal program in progress for the identification/solution of the UFO phenomenon. Dr. [name deleted] feels that the efforts of independent researchers, [phrase deleted], are vital for further progress in this area. At the present time, there are offices and personnel within the agency who are monitoring the UFO phenomenon, but again, this is not currently on an official basis."

Another memo, dated July 14th, and routed to the deputy chief in the Office of Development and Engineering, reads: "As you may recall, I mentioned my own interest in the subject as well as the fact that DCD [Domestic Collection Division] has been receiving material from many of our S&T [Science and Technology] sources who are presently conducting related research. These scientists include some who have been associated with the Agency for years and whose credentials remove them from the 'nut' variety."

The final chapter of the UFO story has yet to be written. Some believe it will tell of the story of a popular fantasy. Others are convinced it will tell the story of contact with extraterrestrial intelligence and the great cover-up that followed. That is why they call it the ultimate secret.

After this, Ramey dropped below the **UFO** radar screen for the next 5 years. In 1950 he became Air Force Director of Operations at the Pentagon. He popped up again debunking UFOs at a large press conference at the Pentagon called on July 29, **1952** in response to widespread saucer sightings the previous few months, climaxing in the nationally publicized sightings, radar contacts, and jet scrambles over Washington D.C. during the previous two weekends.

The day before the press conference, press stories came out that jet interceptors had been placed on a 24-hour nationwide "alert against the flying saucers" with orders to "**shoot** them **down**" if they didn't land. One INS story then stated that the Air Force refused to confirm this, but Lt. Col. Moncel Monte, information officer, stated: "The jet pilots are, and have been under orders to investigate unidentified objects and to **shoot** them **down** if they can't talk them **down**." (Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*, July 29, **1952**)

According to historian **Gerald K. Haines in a 1997 report** commissioned by the CIA titled "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90", the massive build-up of sightings over the U.S., particularly in July, **1952**, had greatly alarmed the **Truman** administration, leading to the order to "**Shoot** them **down**!" That order was put into effect by the Air Force on July 26.

Haines then wrote: "Several prominent scientists, including Albert **Einstein**, protested the order to the White House and urged that the command be rescinded, not only in the interest of future intergalactic peace, but also in the interest of self-preservation: Extraterrestrials would certainly look upon an attack by the primitive jet firepower as a breach of the universal laws of hospitality. The '**shoot** them **down**' order was consequently withdrawn on White House orders by five o'clock that afternoon."

This is **G o o g l e**'s cache of <http://www.project1947.com/fig/1952d.htm>.

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These search terms have been highlighted: **1952 shoot down washington**

PROJECT 1947

July 1952 - **Washington, D.C.**, Area Radar-Visual Sightings and Related Events.

Codes:

AFOSI - Air Force Office of Special Investigations report, from Project Blue Book files, National Archives microfilm collection.

AF Int - Air Force Intelligence Report, most obtained by Citizens Against UFO Secrecy via the Freedom of Information Act, declassified Jan. 1985.

UFOE - The UFO Evidence, National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, **Washington, D.C.**, May 1964. (NICAP)

CAA - Civil Aeronautics Administration (later FAA, Federal Aviation Admin.)

ARTC - Air Route Traffic Control radar center approach-control radar, CAA.

(Note: Though Eastern Daylight Savings Time (EDT) was in effect during these sightings, **AFOSI** reports used Eastern Standard time. They have been converted to EDT here.)

July 13: 0400 EDT.

National Airlines plane en route to National Airport, about 60 mi. SW of the city observed a blue- white ball of light hovering to the west. Object then "came up to 11,000 ft. [and] then maintained a parallel course, on the same level, at the same speed, until the aircraft pilot turned on all lights. Object then departed from the vicinity at an estimated 1000 m.p.h. Weather was excellent for observation." The crew said the object "took off up and away." No other air traffic was reported in the area at the time. (**AF Int.**)

July 14: 2012 EDT.

Newport News, Va. Southbound Pan American Airways plane at 8,000 ft. nearing the Norfolk, Va, area observed six glowing red, circular objects approaching below the airliner; objects flipped up on edge in unison and then sped from behind and under the airliner and joined the in-line formation, which "climbed in a graceful arc above the altitude of the airliner." "Then the lights blinked out one by one, though not in sequence." Next day the crew was thoroughly interrogated by AFOSI, and advised that they already had seven other reports of red discs moving at high speed and making sharp turns. (UFOE, p. 38-39.)

July 16: 2200 EDT.

Hampton Roads, Va. A Government aeronautical research engineer observed two amber-colored lights approaching from the south at about 500 m.p.h. These slowed and made a U-turn, revolved around each other at a high rate of speed, then joined by two other objects from different directions, the four sped off to the south at about 500 m.p.h. "They moved jerkily when moving slowly. Their ability to make tight circling turns was amazing." (UFOE, p. 57; **Ruppelt**, p. 210-211, gives time as 2100 hrs.)

July 18: 0200 EDT

Washington, D. C. Radio station chief engineer observed 6-7 bright orange discs moving in single file. Each in turn veered sharply upward and disappeared. (UFOE, p. 160; Associated Press story, July 19.)

July 19: 2340 EDT.

ARTC at National Airport began picking up unidentified targets on radar. (UFOE, p. 160; **AFOSI**; **Ruppelt**, p. 211)

July 20: 0100 EDT.

Herndon, Va. Capital Airlines flight from National Airport called by control tower to check on unidentified radar targets saw three objects, and three more between there and Martinsburg, W. Va. "like falling stars without tails [which] moved rapidly up, **down**, and horizontally. Also hovered." Chief CAA air traffic controller Harry Barnes later said in a newspaper interview: "His [the pilot's] subsequent description of the movement of the objects coincided with the position of our pips [radar targets] at all times while in our range." (UFOE, p. 159; **AFOSI**; CAA evaluation report on radar-UFO sightings.)

July 20: 0105 EDT.

Andrews AFB, Md. (Nr. **Washington**, D.C.). Five witnesses visually observed three reddish-orange objects moving erratically. (**AFOSI**.)

July 20: 0300 EDT.

Capital Airlines flight incoming to National Airport reported that an unidentified light

followed his airliner from the vicinity of Herndon, Va., to within about 4 miles west of the airport, confirmed on ARTC radar. (AFOSI; UFOE, p.159.)

July 20: 0430-0630 EDT.

Additional unidentified targets on ARTC radar at National Airport. (AFOSI.)

July 20: mid-evening.

Air Force radar operators at Andrews AFB weather tower tracked 10 UFOs for 15-20 minutes. Objects approached runway, scattered, made sharp turns and reversals of direction. (UFOE, p.160, based on detailed report to NICAP from AF weather observer.)

July 25:

July 26: 2115 EDT (to 0020 EDT July 27).

Sharp UFO targets on ARTC radar at National Airport. Civilian pilots saw glowing white objects on four occasions, including a United Airlines pilot near Herndon, Va., and two CAA pilots over Maryland. National Airlines pilot near Andrews AFB at 1700 ft. saw a UFO "flying directly over the airliner." (AFOSI; AF Int; UFOE, p. 159-162; Ruppelt, p. 218-221.)

July 26: 2130 EDT.

ARTC radar at National airport tracked a UFO on radar ("big target"), confirmed by Andrews AFB radar. (AF Int.)

July 26: 2150 EDT.

ARTC radar at National Airport tracked "solid returns" of "four targets in rough line abreast," and eight others scattered over the radar scope. (AF Int.)

July 26: 2154 EDT.

Andrews AFB, Md., surveillance radar tracked 10-12 UFOs in **Washington**, D.C. area. (AFOSI.)

July 26: 2157 EDT.

Wash. Natl [] 10-12 objs on radar (AFOSI)

July 26: 2215 EDT.

[*] From this time into following morning, "good sharp targets" of 4-8 UFOs on ARTC radar at National Airport. (AFOSI.)

July 26: 2238 EDT.

Air Force Command Post notified of unidentified radar targets. Two F-94 jet interceptors scrambled from New Castle AFB, Delaware, to investigate. (**AF Int**, **AFOSI**.)

July 26: 2304 EDT. 2323 EDT.

July 27: 0015 EDT.

Maj. Fournet (**Project Blue Book** Officer in Pentagon) and Lt. Holcomb (Navy electronics expert) arrived at National Airport ARTC Center. Observed "7 good, solid targets." Holcomb checked on temperature inversions, but they were minor and could not explain what was going on. He so advised AF Command Post, requesting interception mission. By the time the F-94 jets arrived from Delaware, no strong unidentified targets remained and no visual contacts were made. (**AF Int**.)

July 27: 0020 EDT.

[*] F-94 jet interceptors scrambled from New Castle AFB, Del., to investigate **Washington**, D.C., radar- UFOs. One F-94 pilot made visual contact and appeared to be gaining on target; both F-94 and UFO were observed on radar and "appeared to be travelling at the same approximate speed." When the F-94 pilot tried to overtake the UFO, it disappeared visually and on radar. The pilot remarked about the "incredible speed of the object." (**AFOSI**.)

July 27: 1930 EDT.

Air Force Lieutenant at Andrews AFB saw a dark disc moving slowly northeast with "oscillating rolling motion." Clouds were moving southeast. UFO entered base of clouds. (**UFOE**, p. 161, from CAA report.)

July 27: 2100 EDT.

Air Force personnel and others at National Airport saw a large round object reflecting sunlight, apparently hovering over the Capital Building. After about a minute, the object "wavered then shot straight up disappearing from sight." (**AF Int**.)

July 28:

Daily papers headlined a United Press story from **Washington**, D.C., that the Air Defence Command had ordered its jet pilots to pursue, and if necessary "**shoot down**," UFOs sighted anywhere in the country.

July 29: 0130-0500 EDT.

Many unidentified targets tracked by CAA radar, 8-12 on the radarscope at a time, moving southeast in a belt 15 miles wide near **Washington**, D.C. (**CAA** report.)

July 29: 0300 EDT.

Eastern Airlines pilot asked to check on ARTC radar targets, reported seeing nothing.

CAA official said the targets disappeared from the radar screen when the plane was in their area, "then came back in behind him." (UFOE, p.162)

July 29: 1500 EDT.

Air Force pilot sighted three round white UFOs 10 miles southeast of Andrews AFB. Other UFOs tracked by ARTC radar during the afternoon. (CAA report.)

July 29: 1600 EDT.

Air Force press conference at which the sightings were attributed to temperature inversions causing "radar mirages," typically ground lights reflected in the sky under freak atmospheric conditions. Also announced new scientific program to evaluate sightings. (UFOE, p. 162; Ruppelt, p. 223.)

[*] These **AFOSI** documents date the events as occurring on the night of July 25/26, rather than July 26/27 as indicated by all other sources. It is assumed here that the latter dates are correct.

1952 REPORTS

Back to UFO REPORTS



Return to MAIN PAGE

Alexandria Gazette July 29, 52

P. 1. William Daffron

S2 Washington

July 19, **1952**. **Washington**, D.C.: Long range "overfly" RADAR picked up a formation of seven blips that were 15 miles south and not far from Andrews AFB. Radar operator, Ed Nugent, thought that they were military traffic until two of the targets suddenly accelerated at fantastic speeds and disappeared off the radar scope. These strange UFOs were monitored by Harry Barnes, Senior Controller, and controllers Howard Cocklin and Joe Zacko. Also, Andrews AFB had also been tracking the UFOs as they intruded over the White House which was **WASHINGTON** Air Space restricted air space. The UFOs were traveling at speeds of up to 7000 mph before stopping abruptly and then cruising about in unconventional patterns. (see 7/26/52)

July 20, **1952**. CLASSIFIED SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT (dated 7/23/52): 3 **UFO** spotted by 5 base personnel at Andrews AFB at 0030 hours EST. UFOs reddish orange in color, moving erratically at an undetermined altitude. Approach Control picked up another **UFO** at 0415 EST which was on the radar scope for 30 seconds before fading. Lt. Hyatt, Operations Officer during this period, said that he had been receiving "flying saucer" reports that evening and the objects had been picked up by radar.

July 23, **1952**. In a letter to a Mr. Louis A. Gardner, **Albert Einstein** said with regards to UFOs, "those people have seen something. What they saw I do not know and I am not curious to know."

July 26, **1952**. **Washington**, D.C.: Long range "overfly" RADAR picks more blips, just one week after the previous invasion of restricted air space over **Washington**, D.C. Capt. Ruppelt told Maj. Dewey Fournet to get over to the airport in **Washington**. Fournet was a radar specialist with Project HOLCOMBE and arrived at the airport with Al Chop, AF Press Officer, just in time to see the **UFO** blips on the radar sets and to hear ground-to-air conversations of the pilots of two F-94s vectored towards the UFOs.

July 28, **1952**..Personal Minute from Prime Minister W.S. Churchill to Secretary of xxxxxx Air Ministry stating: What does all this stuff about Flying Saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience. (see 8/9/52)

July 29, 52. Brig General
Lindsay calls AF Intelligence
at Truman's request to find
out "what was going on."

P 394

Who exist Paris Flammond
Ballentine Books, New York.

AIR FORCE STATEMENT, from p. 25
ing away" policy. Ridicule was the theme
of most official statements.

1951

January and February Air Force HQ statements after the publicized sighting of a cigar-shaped UFO by Capt. L. W. Vinther and co-pilot, Mid Continent Airlines, and CAA tower operators at Sioux City, Iowa: "We have no evidence that such objects exist; in general, such reports are hallucinations, mistakes, hoaxes or natural phenomena."

Situation in 1951: Publicly the Air Force continued to ridicule anyone reporting a UFO, but behind the scenes a new and serious investigation was ordered by Maj. Gen. (now Lieut. Gen.) C. P. Cabell, then Director of Air Force Intelligence.

This reversal of policy in mid-September of 1951 was ordered by Gen. Cabell when he found he had been falsely informed that every authentic UFO report was carefully checked. As a result, experts in various fields were again put under contract to help investigate UFOs.

1952

June 4. Statement by the then Air Force Secretary, Thomas K. Finletter, after an Intelligence briefing: "There remain a number of sightings that Air Force investigators have been unable to explain. As long as this is true, the Air Force will continue to study 'flying saucer' reports."

In making this public statement, the Air Force asked for detailed reports and photographs of any strange objects sighted.

June 24. Air Force statement given to LOOK Magazine by an ATIC colonel: "These reports come from sincere people; they are not crackpots. They are seeing something; we have to find out what."

Statement for LOOK by Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, then head of Project Blue Book: "The only conclusion we have come to so far is that 'flying saucers' are not an immediate and direct threat to the United States. They have been around for five years and haven't struck yet. But that doesn't mean they are not a potential threat. If the saucers turn out to be natural phenomena, we'll drop out and turn it over to the scientists. But if they turn out to be hostile vehicles, we will keep after them."

July 29. Air Force HQ statement after a huge increase in UFO sightings by pilots, CAA tower operators, missile trackers, and hundreds of other trained observers and reputable citizens: "Only a small percentage of reports from reliable sources remain unexplained. The rest are mistakes

in identifying ordinary objects, hysteria, phenomena and hoaxes."

July 29. Statement by Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, then Director of Air Force Intelligence, at a press conference to explain the mass of recent UFO sightings in a quotation that deals specifically with radar and visual sightings at Washington National Airport: "I am satisfied that the returns seen Saturday night were caused by temperature inversions."

September statement by Maj. Lewis Norman, USAF, an expert on temperature inversions, designated to give the official Air Force viewpoint on the Washington Airport cases—an interview also attended by Albert M. Chop as official AF Press Desk witness—in which Major Norman commented on the low temperature inversions involved (1.5 to 2 degrees) and said: "They could not possibly explain the Washington sightings."

Situation in 1952: Starting out again with a serious, scientific investigation, the Air Force in July found itself struggling with the problem of what to tell the public after the tremendous surge in sightings by highly trained observers. Faced with press demands for the facts, the Air Force had two choices: It could either reveal its evidence that the UFOs were real and probably interplanetary, or it could once more brush off the reports as worthless. The latter policy was chosen, but a number of Air Force Intelligence officers continued to urge that all evidence be made public.

Continued next issue

Capt. K. C. McINTOSH (SC) USN, Ret.
New Orleans, Louisiana

My special interests are history, statistics and economics. Schools: Depauw Univ., Amherst College, Babson Institute and La Salle Institute.

My opinion of UFO: Certainly they are interplanetary, possibly intergalactic. Since no solar planet seems to fill the requirements of mass, temperature and atmosphere, my first tentative guess is that they may come from a planet of Alpha Centauri.

Purpose: Exploration, trade when we stop bickering long enough to be trustworthy.

CHATTANOOGA UFO CLUB
Belgrave F. Gostin, Chairman
306 Central Drive, Chattanooga 11, Tenn.

This informal group of 12 engineers and aides of the Electrical Laboratory and Test Branch of TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) meets irregularly to review late news information and to hear tape recordings. The wives meet with the club members. Some in the group are members of the Barnard Astronomical Society and a few joint meetings will be devoted to the UFO subject.



NICAP Adviser W. B. Smith, head of former Canadian UFO Project

AIR FORCE RESERVE COLONEL
DENOUNCES UFO SECRECY

Adding to the number of Air Force officers who have criticized the official policy of censorship on UFOs, Lt. Col. Jim McAshan, USAFR, Knoxville, Tenn., recently asserted that the Air Force is keeping flying saucer information secret.

"There is a very definite effort on the part of the Air Force to play down the seriousness of incidents involving UFOs," Colonel McAshan stated. "They release publicity only on the cases they can prove to be hoaxes."

Colonel McAshan, who served on active duty during WW2 and the Korean War, declared that revealing the facts about UFOs would be beneficial to the nation. Reports of UFOs go far back into history, he said. In more recent times, he added, very accurate reports have been made by hundreds of highly trained observers, many of them in the armed forces. During WW2, said the colonel, bomber crews in Europe sighted small glowing objects flying alongside their aircraft. These have never been identified as earthmade objects.

McAshan also stated that an Air Force regulation has effectively prevented most AF personnel from disclosing reports on UFOs. In regard to the recent increase in sightings he said reputable reports from engineers and military personnel were quickly brushed off. He predicted that no official reports would be released on any of these authentic cases. In contrast, he said, hoaxes usually are given wide publicity as far as AF policy was concerned.

OFFICIAL AIR FORCE STATEMENTS ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1947

June 27. Pentagon answer to press queries on Kenneth Arnold June 24 flying saucer report: "We have no idea what the objects are, if they actually exist."

July 5. Air Corps spokesman at Pentagon: "No investigation is needed. The saucers are only hallucinations."

July 5. Air Corps spokesman at Wright Field, Dayton: "The Air Corps is making a careful investigation."

July 7. Air Corps public relations officer at Pentagon: "We can't ignore this. Too many reliable pilots are telling the same story—flat, round objects able to outmaneuver ordinary planes and faster than anything we have. Too many stories tally. . . We have a jet at Muroc and fighters at Portland standing by."

July 7. Another Air Corps spokesman at Pentagon, statement to Associated Press: "The flying saucers may be one of three things:

1. Solar reflection on low hanging clouds.
2. Small meteors which break up, their crystals catching the rays of the sun.
3. Icing conditions could have formed large hailstones and they might have flattened out and glided a bit, giving the impression of horizontal movement even though falling vertically."

July 7. Pentagon statement to all press services: "Army Air Force Intelligence officers since July 2 have been investigating reports of unidentified objects flying at very high speeds in various sections of the country. No such phenomena can be explained by any experiments being conducted by the Army Air Force, and the statements of witnesses are being correlated in an effort to identify the reported objects."

July 8. Air Corps statement at Pentagon: "We are investigating a flying disc report by Navy rocket engineer C. T. Zohm and three other rocket scientists."

Sept. 23. Official analysis report from Air Technical Intelligence Center to Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Commanding General Army Air Corps: "The reported phenomena are real."

Situation in 1947: The Air Corps was skeptical, then puzzled, and finally convinced that the reported objects were real. It issued orders for all pilots, including National Guard flyers, to bring down a flying saucer by any means for examination.

1948

Jan. 8. Air Corps statement to press after death of Capt. Thomas Mantell, Jr., WW2 ace: "Captain Mantell was killed while in pursuit of a flying saucer."

Jan. 22. The Air Corps officially established Project Sign, a secret Intelligence investigative agency. This project had a 2-A priority and included top scientists, astronomers, rocket designers, pilots and other experts under secret contract, in addition to Air Corps Intelligence officers.

July 24. Statement by Gen. George C. Kenney, then chief of the Strategic Air Command, after the so-called "space ship" sighting by the pilots and a passenger of an Eastern Airlines plane: "We're completely mystified. We have nothing remotely like the machine described. I wish we did."

August — date withheld. Top Secret Estimate of the Situation by ATIC later declassified but never released, stating that the flying saucers were interplanetary spaceships.

Situation in 1948: Full-scale, secret, scientific investigation by Air Corps; chases of UFOs by interceptors; official radar confirmation of UFO reality; official sighting reports withheld from the public.

1949

April 27. Air Force 22-page Digest of flying saucer studies at Wright Field: "In the Mantell and Eastern Airline cases the objects are still unidentified. . . The Air Force project is a serious, scientific business. Hoaxes and crank letters play a small part. . . The project is a young one."

Dec. 27. Air Force press release: "The Air Force has discontinued its special project investigating and evaluating reported 'flying saucers'. . . The reports are the result of misinterpretation of various conventional objects, a mild form of mass hysteria, or hoaxes, and continuance of the project is unwarranted."

Dec. 29. Declassified AF Secret Summaries of Intelligence Investigations of UFOs: "It will never be possible to say with certainty that any individual did not see a space ship, an enemy missile or some other object." Discussing the motives of possible visitors from space, the Intelligence report stated: "Such a civili-

zation might observe that on Earth we now have atomic bombs and are fast developing rockets. In view of the past history of mankind they should be alarmed. We should therefore expect at this time above all to behold such visitations."

Situation in 1949: A tug of war between Air Force skeptics and believers in the spaceship had developed, with some believers urging that the public be given all the evidence. An article in TRUE Magazine by the present Director of NICAP stated that evidence showed the flying saucers to be interplanetary vehicles. This article, quoted in Dec. 26 press stories and broadcasts, caused a flood of demands for the truth. An Air Force group, which believed silence the best policy until more answers were known, decided to deny the saucers' existence—even though their own ATIC experts had declared them to be interplanetary—and to explain away the sightings, even those by expert witnesses.

1950

Feb. 22. Air Force HQ statement after a Navy visual and radar tracking report of two UFOs at Key West Naval Air Station: "There is absolutely no evidence that flying saucers exist."

Mar. 18. Air Force HQ statement after a sharp increase in reports by armed forces pilots, airline captains, radar operators and other trained observers: "The saucers are misinterpretations of ordinary objects, aberrations, meteorological phenomena or hoaxes."

Mar. 22. Air Force statement after the published flying saucer report by Cdr. (now Captain) R. B. McLaughlin, USN, then officer in charge of Navy guided missile tests at White Sands Proving Grounds. This report, cleared by Security and Review at the Pentagon, described several UFO sightings at White Sands, including the report of an elliptical object over 100 feet long tracked at 18,000 mph at an altitude of 56 miles. Air Force comment when queried about this Navy report: "We have no evidence that the flying saucers are other than hallucinations, hoaxes, and errors in identification."

November 1950. Published statement by Col. Harold E. Watson, Chief of ATIC: "Behind nearly every report tracked down stands a crackpot, a religious crank, a publicity hound or a malicious practical joker."

Situation in 1950: Air Force believers in the spaceship answer were under pressure to keep quiet. The Air Force investigation continued, but under a general "explain-

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 29, 1952, p. 1

Air Force Orders Jet Pilots To Shoot Down Flying Saucers If They Refuse To Land

WASHINGTON July 28 (I.N.S.) The Air Force revealed today that jet pilots have been placed on a 24-hour nationwide alert against "flying saucers" with orders to "shoot them down" if they refuse to land.

It was learned that pilots have gone aloft on several occasions in an effort to shoot the mysterious objects to the ground but never came close enough to use their guns.

The Air Force refused to confirm this but Lt. Col. Moncel Monte, information officer, stated:

"The jet pilots are, and have been, under orders to investi-

gate unidentified objects and to shoot them down if they can't talk them down."

In Air Force parlance, this means that if a "flying saucer" refuses to obey an order to land, jet pilots are authorized to shoot them to earth, if they can get close enough to do so.

The Air Force expressed the belief the unidentified flying objects are not a threat to the United States and stated also that they are not a secret U. S. military development.

The Air Force summoned experts from Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio, for a con-

ference Tuesday on objects

Capt E. J. Rupp, "flying saucers" specialist of the Air Force Technical Center in Dayton, Ohio, arrived Monday for Washington with a team of fellow officers.

Disclosure of the case came as new reports poured into the Air Force from all over the country.

The latest report came from Indiana, where hundreds of witnesses claimed to see "flying saucers" on

July 28 night.

SATURDAY

July 19, 1952

10:35 am (The President returned to the White House from Walter Reed Hospital.)

IN THE PRESIDENT'S STUDY

2:56 pm (Honorable James P. McGranery, the Attorney General) OFF THE RECORD

4:00 pm (Messrs. Murphy, Short, Lloyd) OFF THE RECORD

SUNDAY
JULY 20, 1952

The President remained at the White House all day, receiving no visitors.

MONDAY
JULY 21, 1952

10:00 am (Staff)

11:00 am (Admiral William D. Leahy) OFF THE RECORD

11:15 am Honorable Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State

1:00 pm (LUNCH)

SATURDAY
JULY 26, 1952

TRIP TO CHICAGO FOR DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION
AND TO INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

- 1:00 a.m. (C.S.T.) (The President, with Governor Stevenson, walked to Mr. McKinney's office in the Amphitheatre and remained there until 1:30 a.m., when Speaker Rayburn introduced the President to the Convention.)
- (At the conclusion of the President's address, Governor Stevenson made his acceptance speech of the nomination for President.)
- (Mrs. Truman joined the President and Governor Stevenson on the platform after the speeches.)
- (Following the ovation, Mrs. Truman returned to the Blackstone Hotel, while the President remained behind for a conference with Mr. McKinney, Governor Stevenson, and Speaker Rayburn.)
- 3:30 a.m. (The President returned to the Blackstone Hotel.)
- 7:45 a.m. (The President and his party departed for Midway Airport, and the trip to Kansas City, Missouri.)
- 8:06 a.m. (The President's plane was airborne for Kansas City.)
- 9:48 a.m. (Arrived at Kansas City.)
- (The President and Mrs. Truman motored directly to Independence, Missouri, where they remained the entire day and night.)

SUNDAY
JULY 27, 1952

KANSAS CITY AND INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI TRIP

9:45 a.m. The President went to Grandview, Missouri to visit his brother, Vivian, and to look over the farm. Also, the President visited Miss Mary Jane Truman at her home.

The rest of the day was spent in resting after the strenuous convention activities.

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19, 1952

- 8:35 am (The President left for the National War College, where he addressed the faculty and students on the course of United States Foreign Policy; he was accompanied by General Vaughan, Admiral Dennison and Mr. Tubby)
- 10:00 am (Staff)
- 10:45 am (General W. Bedell Smith, Director, C.I.A.)
(Honorable James Lay, Jr., Executive Secretary, National Security Council)
(Admiral Sidney Souers, Adviser to the President)
OFF THE RECORD
- 11:00 am Honorable Jess Larson, Administrator, General Services Admn.
(Called Mr. Connelly yesterday and asked for this)
- 11:15 am Senator Harley Kilgore, of West Virginia
(Called Mr. Connelly yesterday and asked for this.)
- 11:40 am (The President left for the National Airport and met the Secretary of State, who arrived from Paris on the INDEPENDENCE around noon.)
- 12:30 pm Honorable Warren Lee Pierson, U. S. Representative on the Tri-partite Debt Commission
(With rank of Ambassador; asked for this through State Department)
- 12:45 pm Mr. Langdon P. Marvin, Jr.
(Both Mrs. Roosevelt and Congressman Kennedy of Massachusetts asked the President to see him. Is godson of President Roosevelt and wished to speak to the President on a matter of aviation studies at Georgetown University.)
- 1:00 pm (LUNCH)
- 3:00 pm (Catherine Young, photographer)
(Mr. Tubby) OFF THE RECORD
- 3:30 pm Honorable Stephen Mitchell, Chairman, Democratic National Committee
(Usual weekly appointment of half hour. Mr. Mitchell could not be here on Tuesday)
- 4:00 pm Honorable Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State
- 4:45 pm Justice Sherman Minton, U. S. Supreme Court

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 1952

10:00 am (Staff)

11:00 am Honorable Frederick Lawton, Director, Bureau of the Budget
(one half hour)

11:30 am Honorable Raymond M. Foley, Administrator, Housing and Home
Finance Agency
(Called Mr. Connelly last week and asked for this.)

12:00 The President presented the Harmon International Trophies
to the following:

Captain Charles F. Blakr, Jr.

Mme. Jacqueline Auriol

Lt. Carl J. Seiberlich

(The Harmon awards are made for the most outstanding
international achievements in the art and/or science of
aeronautics for the previous year, with the art of flying
receiving first consideration.)

Government Officials present:

FECHTELER, Admiral W. M.

FLOBERG, Hon. John F.

KIMBALL, Hon. Dan A.

LANDRY, Major General Robert B.

WILLIAMS, Colonel Francis W.

Other Guests:

ADAMS, Mr. and Mrs. Russell

ARLEN, Margaret

BELL, Larry

BLAIR, Mrs. Charles F. Jr.

BLAIR, Janice

BLAIR, Charles F. Sr.

BLAIR, Mrs. Charles F. Sr.

BONNET, H.E. Henri, the French Ambassador and Mrs. Bonnet

BROSNAHAN, Mary V.

BODE, Frederick W.

BRUNO, Mr. and Mrs. Harry A.

COCHRAN, Jacqueline

COMBIER, P. Hodges

CONVERSE, Dr. and Mrs. J.

CHAPMAN, Mrs. W. F., Jr.

CONE, Mr. and Mrs. J. Carroll

CHARBONNEAUX, Colonel Pol E.

de SEVERSKY, Major and Mrs. Alexander P.

DOOLITTLE, Lt. Gen. and Mrs. James H.

DOERN, Mr. and Mrs. Peter C., Jr.

ENYART, Mr. and Mrs. William

ELLINGTON, Mr. and Mrs. Ken

GARDNER, Major Lester D.

GRIFFITHS, Hon. Charles H.

GERMI, Mr. and Mrs. August

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 1952 - Continued

12:00 Continued:

HARRIS, Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Harold R.
IANNONE, Mr. and Mrs. Michael W.
KING, Mrs. William H.
McEVOY, William
MURKIN, General Jacques L.
MEYER, Mrs. Francine
MEYER, Mrs. Andre
ODLUM, Floyd B.
PRYER, Samuel F.
PENROSE, Paul
PRIESTER, Mr. and Mrs. Andre
PLAYER, Mr. and Mrs. Willis
ROSENDAHL, Vice Admiral and Mrs. Charles E.
SCHRAMK, Mr. and Mrs. William E.
SCHILLING, Col. and Mrs. David C.
SEIBERLICH, Mrs. Carl J.
SEIBERLICH, Mrs. Helen D.
STUART, Harold C.
STAM, Mr. and Mrs. E.
SHANNON, Mr. and Mrs. John
SCRIBNER, Mr. and Mrs. Kimball J.
TALBERT, Colonel and Mrs. Ansel E.
WATSON, Captain and Mrs. George F.

12:15 pm The President received a group from the Poultry and Egg National Board, to receive annual gift of a Thanksgiving turkey. This is done each year by this organization, a non-profit organization for consumer information, and is only presentation of turkey made officially to the President. The following attended:

BUDD, Mr. Theodore, Pemberton, New Jersey
DOUGLASS, Mrs. Helen, Washington, D. C.
GEURTS, Mr. W. T., Salt Lake City, Utah
GRAUER, Mrs. Laura, New York City
HOMES, Miss Barbara, Washington, D. C.
JOHNSON, Mr. Loren, Corvallis, Oregon
KNOX, Mr. Robert, New York City
SMALL, Mr. M. C., Mount Morris, Illinois
SMITH, Mr. C. Fred, New York City, Secretary of group
MILLER, Mr. Herman
URNER, Mr. Steve, New York City
WILHELM, Dr. L. A., Lafayette, Indiana

12:30 pm Honorable Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State
Honorable John W. Snyder, the Secretary of the Treasury
Honorable Robert A. Lovett, the Secretary of Defense
Honorable W. Averell Harriman, Director for Mutual Security
(Briefing conference before Eisenhower visit)

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 1952 - Continued

- 1:00 pm (LUNCH)
- 2:00 pm Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President-Elect of the
United States
- 2:15 pm Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, President-Elect
Senator Henry Cabot Lodge
Honorable James M. Dodge
Honorable Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State
Honorable John W. Snyder, the Secretary of the Treasury
Honorable Robert A. Lovett, the Secretary of Defense
Honorable W. Averell Harriman, Director for Mutual Security
- 3:20 pm (Mr. Harry Schwimmer, of Kansas City, Missouri) OFF THE RECORD

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 1952

- 10:00 am (Staff)
- 11:00 am (Mr. Robert Moore, Democratic National Committee)
(Miss Mary Clynes, Democratic National Committee)
(Mr. Moore asked for this and asked if it might be OFF RECORD)
- 11:15 am Honorable Harry McDonald, Chairman, R.F.C.
Honorable Clarence Buetel, Assistant Chairman
(Chairman McDonald asked of Mr. Connelly if he might
bring his assistant in to meet the President.)
- 11:30 am Honorable Sidney S. McMath, Governor of Arkansas
(Called Mr. Connelly from Arkansas on November 5th and
asked for this.)
- 11:45 am (Honorable Frank Pace, the Secretary of the Army) OFF THE RECORD
(Half hour. OFF RECORD)
- 12:15 pm Senator Ernest McFarland, Arizona
(Called Mr. Connelly last Saturday and asked for this)
- 12:30 pm Honorable Frederick Lawton, Director, Bureau of the Budget
(one-half hour)
- 1:00 pm (LUNCH)
- 3:00 pm Mr. Frank Anger, Chairman, Program Committee, the Executives
Club of Chicago
Colonel Tom Etchson
Mr. James Day, President, Midwest Stock Exchange
(Invited the President to address the Executives Club
of Chicago, composed of young executives in and around
Chicago, both Democrats and Republicans)
- 3:15 pm Honorable James P. McGranery, the Attorney General
- 3:30 pm (National Security Council) OFF THE RECORD
- 4:00 pm (Mr. Tom Evans, of Kansas City) OFF THE RECORD
- 6:35 pm (The President and Mrs. Truman, accompanied by General
Graham and Mr. Tubbs, left for the Statler Hotel to attend
a dinner of the Association of Military Surgeons.) OFF THE RECORD