

## MATERIAL FOR PRESS RELEASE

## EVALUATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Data Used in Evaluating UFO Sightings

The following is a brief explanation of the nature of the data used in the evaluation of reports of unidentified flying objects. The attempted identification of the phenomena observed is solely derived from human impressions and interpretations, and not from scientific devices or measurements. The data in the sighting reports are almost invariably subjective in nature. Nevertheless, no report is considered unsuitable for study and categorization, and no lack of valid evidence of physical matter in the case studies is assumed to be "prima facie" evidence that so-called "flying saucers" or interplanetary vehicles do not exist. The selected, qualified scientists, engineers, and other personnel involved in these analyses attempt to be completely objective and open-minded. They strive to consistently apply scientific methods of examination in all cases.

Evaluation of UFO Reports

The periods 1 January 1955 to 31 December 1956, and 1 January 1957 to 30 June 1957 accounted for a total of 1819 UFO reports received. The results of evaluation in terms of percentages are as follows:

1 Jan - 31 Dec 56 - Total number of reports received - 767

Category	Number of Reports Rec'd	Percent of Total
Balloons	200	26.1
Aircraft	170	22.0
Astronomical	202	26.3
Other	32	4.2
Insufficient Data	109	14.1
Unknown	16	2.3

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