

YEARSOBJECTS OBSERVED

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1947 | 79                   |
| 1948 | 143                  |
| 1949 | 186                  |
| 1950 | 169                  |
| 1951 | 121                  |
| 1952 | 1921                 |
| 1953 | 439                  |
| 1954 | 439                  |
| 1955 | 454                  |
| 1956 | 793                  |
| 1957 | 1179                 |
| 1958 | 590 (increase of 17) |
| 1959 | 584                  |
| 1960 | 524 (increase of 32) |
| 1961 | 488                  |

TOTAL

7,187

To indicate improvement in the investigative and evaluation techniques and processes the following table illustrates the number of sightings involving unidentified has decreased considerably when compared with the earlier years of the project:

YEARSPERCENT UNIDENTIFIED

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| 1947 - 1952 | 19.74% |
| 1953 - 1954 | 9.23   |
| 1955 - 1961 | 1.5%   |

Several thousand balloons are released in the United States every day. There are several types of balloons: weather balloons (some-coded and not-coded), private man-carrying balloons used as sporting devices and the large research balloons which have diameters of 300 feet. The larger balloons when airborne at night carry running lights which contribute to an unusual appearance when observed. Reflection of the sun on balloons at dusk and sunset produce rather startling sights, particularly when the observer's position is no longer in direct sunlight (in the sun's shadow) when the balloon, because of its altitude, is exposed to the sun. Large balloons can move at speeds of over 300 mph when located within high altitude jet wind-streams. Sometimes these balloons appear to be flattened as they go because of the sun's rays reflecting through the plastic material of the balloon from panel to panel, appear to be saucer shaped and to have lights emanating from the bag itself. Experienced pilots, although they may have observed high altitude balloons before, are sometimes startled by their strange appearance under varying atmospheric conditions.

Ground and air observers are susceptible to autochiasm, a physiological phenomenon sometimes causing psychological reactions. For example, a pilot who stares at a fixed light in an otherwise dark environment will soon experience the illusion that the light has begun to move erratically. If