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these, reportedly under development by the USSR with the aid of German Scientists, having explosive edges and launched by a compressed air catapult, perhaps in the manner of clay pigeons propelled by a trap mechanism, could possibly be ordnance articles. Also, such devices could be used by aircraft in attacking enemy airplane formations. In such cases, only a modest speed, short range, and limited flight duration would be required. Hence the aerodynamic efficiency of the design would not be of very much importance.

Insufficient Information for Even Feasible or Hypothetical Type Determination.

Discredited Reports

Synopsis (See Discussion, Psychological Errors)

False

Technical Analysis of Various Configurations

The extreme lack of data for each of the incidents that have been reported makes it presently impossible to accurately identify any of the reported craft with respect to design and performance. Technical analysis must be made by considering possibilities and probabilities, which are expected to be proved or disproved only when complete data or physical specimens of aircraft (crash) are available. Unidentified aerial objects appear to be grouped as follows:

- (1) Flying disks (saucers)
- (2) Torpedo or Cigar Shaped Bodies (no wings or "ice visible in flight")
- (3) Spherical or Balloon-Shaped Objects (capable of hovering, descending, ascending or travelling at high speed).
- (4) Balls of Light (no apparent physical form attached; Capable of maneuvering, climbing, and travelling at high speed).

The first three groups of objects are capable of flight through the atmosphere by means of aerodynamic and propulsion designs (to produce the required lift and thrust) that are readily conceivable by aeronautical designers. The stabilizing and control features that would be required, while more obscure, could conceivably be provided. The question arises, however, as to whether these configurations would develop much speed and allow a sufficient duration of flight and adequate range to be of practical use as aircraft.

Flying Disks

The disk or circular planform has not been used in representative aircraft, either military or civilian, for the reason that the induced drag, as determined by the Prandtl theory of lift, would

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