

UNCLASSIFIED

EXHIBIT "A"

13 December 1940

AI-1009

Colonel General Pitt
 United States Air Force
 Director of Research and Development
 Office, Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Pitt:

Enclosed is your letter of 10 November 1940 relative to the "flying object" problem and to Mr. Colibohn's reply dated 24 November 1940. In paragraph (b) of the reply, Mr. Colibohn pointed (among other things) to several characteristics of the "spiral design and performance characteristics that are believed to distinguish space ships."

The present letter gives, in very general terms, a description of the likelihood of a visit from other worlds of an engineering problem and some points regarding the use of space vehicles as compared with descriptions of the flying objects. Mr. Colibohn will deliver copies to Colonel McCoy at Wright-Patterson Air Base under the RAND briefing sheet within the next few days.

A good beginning is to discuss some possible places of origin of "flying space ships." Astronomers now largely in agreement that only one member of the Solar system (besides Earth) can support higher forms of life. It is the planet Mars. Even Mars appears quite desolate and inhospitable so that a race would be more occupied with survival than we are on Earth. Reference is given to some descriptions of conditions on the various planets and satellites. A quotation from Ref. 1 (p. 229) may well be included here.

"Whether intelligent beings exist or appreciate these splendors of the Martian landscape is pure speculation. If we have correctly reconstructed the history of Mars, there is little reason to believe that the life processes may not have followed a course similar to terrestrial evolution. With this assumption, three general possibilities emerge. Intelligent beings may have protected themselves against the excessive slow loss of atmosphere, oxygen and water, by constructing homes and offices with the physical conditions scientifically con-

¹ This is the case on Mars which is similar. However, water would be frozen and the atmosphere would be very thin and the temperature extremes would be reduced.