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III. Appearance

(a) Form

Spherical, roughly globular, egg-shaped, or pear-shaped; may times with projecting streamers; or flame-like irregular masses of light. Appearance of outer boundary is generally hazy or ill-defined. Photographs of the phenomenon may show one or several elements. Subular propagation paths (trajectories traced by luminous dots), which may have associated with them broader luminous spaces of irregular configuration. (These latter luminous spaces are regions where the discontinuities of path become involved and surfaces of arc areas of major discharge where arcs originated or terminated). Some paths show a beaded structure (alternate luminous and dark spaces).

(b) Color

Luminous in appearance, described in individual cases by different colors but mostly reported as deep red and often as glowing white. One scientist described the color in a certain case as similar to that he has noted in the laboratory on observing active discharges, or possibly slightly darker. Another observed one of yellow and still another of lavender or rose color. Others have reported some of blue appearance. The luminous mass is occasionally stated to be surrounded by a border, usually but differently colored than the main body.

(c) Degree of Brilliance

Brilliance at least partly white and lustrous-red. Distinct brilliance equal to that of Seattle St. Elmo's Fire.

(d) Movement through Space1. Possible directions.

Generally downward, inclined or horizontal, is straight, curved, or tortuous paths. Mostly observed near the surface, but may originate in thunderclouds, and so take a trajectory from cloud to earth.

2. Maneuverability

May appear stationary, or moving. Range of speed is sure to values of the order of 30³ cm/sec. in the

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