

UNCLASSIFIED

## Appendix IV

WASH AIR FIVE, 1951 - 21 September 1951

## 1. SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

The first report of this incident, which appeared in Status Report No. 1, proved to be incomplete and misleading. Further investigation has corrected the discrepancies and the following account of the incident is considered to be accurate.

At approximately 0700 EAST, two F-80 aircraft were scrambled from George Air Force Base, California, on a routine mission. The flight was vectored to 115° 00' - 35° 50'N by GMI. (See enclosed overlay.) The flight arrived at this position and lost on a heading toward Los Bunch Radio. At approximately 0705 EAST the flight reported to GMI that they observed an unidentified object high at 12 o'clock. The flight was 30 seconds out of Los Bunch Radio at this time. The object appeared to be in a left orbit at about 50,000 ft. The object could not be picked up by the ground radar, however, visual contact was maintained. The object continued a left orbit and passed over the two aircraft. Maneuvers were made by the F-80's to identify the object but they were unsuccessful due to the altitude of the object and a fuel shortage. At approximately 0800 EAST the flight was released by the ground controller and they returned to George Air Force Base. The object appeared to be an aircraft with 45° swept wings and upright stabilizer in color. When last seen the object was in a left orbit, on a heading to the left. The pilot's opinion was that it was a swept wing type aircraft.

At approximately 0800 EAST four additional F-80 aircraft were scrambled from George AB to relieve the two above mentioned F-80's. The four aircraft split into two, two-ship elements, denoted as Flight 3-A and 3-B on the enclosed overlay. Flight 3-A was vectored to a position at 115° 30' - 35° 30'N. They arrived at this position at approximately 0810 and climbed the object high at 1 o'clock at what appeared to be over Marco AB. A steady climb was made to 50,000 ft. and the object was found to be near Marco AB. The object appeared to be in a controlled orbit to the right and left at 50,000 to 55,000 ft. The two aircraft stayed in the area for 15-20 minutes before breaking off the intercept due to a fuel shortage and landed at 0845 EAST. The object appeared to be a swept wing aircraft.

The second element of the group, noted as Flight 3-B on the overlay, observed the object soon after take-off. The object appeared to be police mail. The flight made a series of climbing turns under the object as they climbed to 45,000 ft. The object was in a wide right turn. At approximately 0905 EAST the aircraft broke off the attempted intercept and returned to their base. This flight reported that the object appeared to be round and silver.

No more intercepts were attempted. At no time was the object observed on the radar screen nor was it recorded to be observed visually from the ground. The F-80's, however, were continually tracked by radar.

UNCLASSIFIED