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REF ID: A66011

Columbus, Ohio - 23 December 1951

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

On 22 December 1951 at 1030 EST, the pilot of an F-84 aircraft observed an unidentified object five miles east of Columbus, Ohio. The F-84 was flying at 15,000 Ft. altitude on a heading of 270°. The object was first sighted at two o'clock high. It appeared to be rolling on its longitudinal axis and the shape resembled an aircraft with no tail surfaces. It was on a heading of about 90°.

The pilot observed the object for one and one half minutes during which he made a right turn in an attempt to intercept and identify the object. It was lost when the pilot turned into the sun to follow the object.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

The pilot of the F-84 was interrogated by project personnel. No new facts were brought out. It was established, however, that the pilot could have observed a balloon launched from Fort Columbus Airport at about 1000 EST. The wind was 30 knots from 270° which would place the balloon in the general area of the sighting. The pilot could not pinpoint his location other than about five miles east of Columbus.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The F-84 possibly sighted a weather balloon launched from Fort Columbus Airport. The reported actions and steps of the object cannot be attributed to a balloon, however, previous reports have indicated that a balloon can be very deceptive when viewed from a high speed aircraft.

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