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While the object was in level flight it appeared to oscillate with a slow period.

The total time elapsed was estimated to be about two and one half minutes.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

A field trip was made to Mitchell AFB to reinterview the pilot and other personnel having knowledge of facts pertaining to the sighting. The pilot's description of the incident was the same as was stated in his original report. His added details have been incorporated into Section I of this Appendix.

At 0950 MST on 21 January 1952, the weather section of Mitchell AFB launched a Ravinscope balloon from the position shown on the overlay. These balloons are about six feet in diameter at time of launch and expand on ascending. The expansion up to 6,000 ft. can be neglected, however, as it is small. The balloons are a light gray color and have white streaks of talcum powder which is used in packing the balloons. The balloon carried a tin-foil radar 18 inch square reflector six inches below the balloon. The path of the balloon is shown on the inclosed overlay.

These balloons are tracked by radar. It was hoped that the radar operators might have recalled seeing an aircraft return circling their balloon returns. They stated, however, that due to the heavy air traffic in the area, it was not possible to pick up aircraft returns and they did not pay any attention to them.

The tower operators on duty at the time of the sighting were interrogated. They had not seen the TBM or the balloon. The tower log showed that the first contact with the TBM was at 0955 MST at which time pilot reported sighting an object east of the field. At 1006 the pilot again called the tower to describe the incident in detail. The pilot's description was a condensed version of that given in Part I of this Appendix except he stated that the object "appeared to be a paracite canopy with a dark colored object underneath". The 0955 contact was made soon after the object was sighted, establishing the time.

III. DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE

An accurate time of the initial sighting is needed to establish the position of the balloon at this time. It is assumed that the tower clock is more accurate than the clock in the TBM, thus the time of the initial sighting was probably closer to 0954 allowing for time to contact the tower than the 0950 which was estimated by the pilot.

At 0954 the balloon would have been at about 4,000 ft. and in the position marked 4,000 ft. on the overlay. The pilot stated that the object appeared low, at an angle of 45° from vertical, and appeared to cover the

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