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APPENDIX III

Kansas City, Missouri - 11 February 1952

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

On 11 February 1952, between 1205 and 1215 GMT the source, a civilian woman, was watching a B-36 fly from east to west over Kansas City. While watching the B-36, she noticed a round bright object just north of the vapor trail left by the aircraft. The object was observed for ten minutes through 6 x 30 binoculars and during this period it drifted over the observer and continued south of Kansas City.

II. STATUS OF LAUNCHES

Two balloons were launched in the general area prior to the time of sighting. A shell balloon was launched from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, at 0930 GMT and a beaknose balloon was launched from Fairfax Airport, Kansas City, at 1130 GMT. It is doubtful if the balloon launched at 0930 would be in the area at 1205 GMT as they usually burn within an hour after the launching.

The balloon launched at 1130 GMT could have been observed, however. In the 30 minutes between the time of the balloon launch and the observation, the balloon would have ascended to approximately 30,000 feet and would have traveled approximately 35 miles. (The wind was from 315° and averaged about 30 knots.) This would mean that the balloon passed near the source. If some allowance is made for an error in time, it is very possible that the balloon could have passed directly over the observer. (See attached overlay.)

The fact that it could be observed at 30,000 ft. is probably due to the fact that the sun caused the balloon to glow.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The object observed by the source was very possibly a beaknose balloon launched from Fairfax Airport.

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