29 July 1952 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Description of Incident

At approximately 2230 MST on 29 July 1952, the source, an employee of the Los Alamos Laboratory (also a Reserve Lt Colonel, four-engine pilot with 1500 hours) observed an UFO from his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The bearing of the object from his position was 225° and the elevation was 20° to 25° above the horizon.

The object was described as a "fattened ellipse". The color was a dull yellow. Light rays the same color as the image and approximately half the length of the horizontal axis appeared to be emanating from the object in all directions. They were not pulsating, but steady. After about 45-60 seconds, it began to shrink in size rapidly. Within 15 seconds, it disappeared. It did not change in elevation or azimuth. The color changed from a pale yellow to a yellowish-white to clear white as it disappeared. There was no sound. The angular length of the horizontal axis was about 4°.

The ceilometer at Kirtland AFB was on and the object was near it. The source was definite that this was not what he saw as he located the ceilometer beam and the moon.

Comments

This occurred two hours and thirty minutes after a balloon launch, so it is doubtful that it was a balloon. As was noted before, the source definitely saw the moon and the ceilometer beam.

There is a possibility that some atmospheric condition caused the ceilometer beam to split. This is doubtful, however, because the elevation of the object was different. If the cloud base was at a constant level, the difference in elevation would indicate that the object or spot on the cloud bases would be farther away from the observer than the ceilometer.

It is possible that the source saw another ceilometer or a searchlight. This is doubtful, however, since the area, past Kirtland, in the direction the source was looking, is nearly uninhabited. In addition, a searchlight beam would either move or go out faster. When a searchlight is turned off, there is a period in which the image on a cloud would dim out due to cooling of the electrodes but this does not require 15 seconds.

All in all, the report is excellent, one of the few where the source was thoughtful enough to measure angles and make careful observations.