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5 August 1952

Nasada AFB, Japan

Description of Incident

The object was first detected by two airmen walking across the ramp at Nasada AFB on the night of 5 Aug 52 at 2001 (local time). The airmen were on their way to the tower to relieve fire operators. On reporting to the tower, the object was called to the attention of the tower operators who were going off duty.

The four operators agreed that the object, which they observed for from 30 minutes to an hour through 7x50 binoculars, was circular in shape and with constant brilliancy. The light appeared to be a portion of a large, round, dark shape which was about four times the diameter of the light. When the object was close enough for details to be seen, a smaller, less brilliant light could be seen along the lower edge of the dark shape. The object faded to the east twice but reappeared. It could have faded or actually gone away and come back. The size of the light, when closest to the tower, was approximately the same as the ceiling ball on the floor near the tower. A comparison was made to "have the diameter half that of 0001". This would make the object 50' in diameter or 10 miles. During the observation, a lighted balloon was released but this light was extremely dim and yellow compared to the object.

An airborne G-4 was reported to make the object, which the pilot did, but he reported seeing only a light.

An A-26 unit was notified soon after the initial visual sighting and shortly after 021503 picked up an unidentified return. The object was tracked at varying speeds from hovering to two miles. At 021510 the return "broke into three pieces" and they maintained intervals of 10 miles. No visual observation was made from the A-26 unit although it was attempted and, at one time, the object was within 10 miles of the station. The radar was directed onto the target by visual observations from the tower. It can safely be assumed that both visual and radar contacts involved the same object.

At 000511 an F-4 was airborne on a scramble and was requested to search to the SE of Nasada AFB over Tokyo Bay. They could make no visual observations, but could see the North Star and determine the F-4 was vectored to the object by GCI (both the F-4 and object were in the suppressed field for 30 seconds. Shortly after this, both the object and the F-4 disappeared into the ground clutter on the GCI. At no time did the F-4 have radar contact. The radar contact indicated the target was at 1000, within 30° below and 15° to the right of a 500° bearing from the station.

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