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Los Alamos, New Mexico

12 November 1952

I. Description of Incident

A security guard at Los Alamos reported observing four, blinking, red, green, and white or yellowish lights. The lights appeared to be stationary or moving very slowly to the north. They were observed continuously for 16 minutes and first seen at 0505 MST.

The weather was CAVU. A fighter aircraft was put in readiness to scramble, but was not scrambled since no radar contact was made.

II. Resonance of Incident

The time, 0532, is two hours and 35 minutes past the scheduled 0500E weather balloon launch at Albuquerque. This balloon drifted east and was very probably out of the area at the time of the sighting. It is possible that another weather balloon drifted into the area although in general lights on these balloons last only about one hour. In addition, weather balloons carry only one light. The low speed, absence of radar contacts, and the fact that the area is a prohibited flight area discount the possibility of an aircraft. It is also possible that a large research type balloon was in the area, although ATCC has no such flights recorded.

III. Conclusion

Possibly a balloon.

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