

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

Wilted Air Force Base, New York

1 December 1958

7. Description of Incident

Between 0630 and 0600 EST a number of observers from varying locations around the New York City area noticed a single, round object with colors ranging between white, white-orange and amber. All observations placed the object in the NW approximately 15° above the horizon on a 200° azimuth heading with a slow drift to the south (finally sinking out of sight). All observations were assisted visual sightings or with binoculars. Although radar was tried, there was no electronic return from the object.

Observers were experienced GA rated Aircrew Operations Specialists and General Tower Operators. Observations of the reported object were as follows:

Location	Azimuth	Elevation	Time
a. Touchdown Tower	275° E	0°	0647
b. Watchtower Tower	280°	15°	0646
c. Beach Tower	315°	0°	0646
d. In Guardia Tower	290°	0°	0650
e. 3450th Tower	310°	1°	0650
f. Eltchel AFB Tower	305°	15°	0645
	305°	0°	0650
	305°	0°	0651
	305°	0°	0659

An Eastern Airlines Flight inbound to In Guardia was reported to be a strange light appearing in the east. The pilot sighted the object after several minutes of scanning and reported "a cluster of lights" above in the eastern horizon.

The weather at the time of observation was 03V and extremely clear for the New York City vicinity with the winds NW at 10 knots average.

11. Discussion of Incident

Intelligence personnel at Wilted AFB determined that the planet Jupiter, on 1 December, has an approximate azimuth of 300°, a -6 magnitude (extremely bright), and disappears below the horizon at approximately the same time the object was last observed. Undoubtedly, the unknown object is thus explained. The white to amber color range can be explained by the presence of light reflecting through atmospheric dust. This report is one of the most complete in AFIC files and the thoroughness and common sense of the Eltchel Intelligence officers is to be commended. Complete personnel statements and azimuth and elevation bearings were obtained from 4 points of independent observation. If the object had not turned out to be Jupiter, triangulation from these data would have been possible.

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~