

UNCLASSIFIED  
SECRET

Wash, D.C.

10 December 1950

I. Description of Incidents

Two pilots in an F-56 made visual and radar contact with a large, round white object larger than any known type of aircraft. A dim reddish-white light came from the object as it moved, covered direction almost instantaneously and then disappeared. The object appeared to be level with the intercepting F-56 at 20,000 to 25,000 feet. Altitude radar and visual contact were simultaneous and lasted for 15 minutes. F-56 attempted to contact local 504 but without success. Weather was clear above 5,000 feet. Time of sighting was 1315 GMT.

II. Description of Incidents

Two additional F-56 were in the general area but at lower altitudes and thus are estimated as possible noise for the sighting. The description of "large, round and white and extremely large" is significant. Upper air research balloons are hour-shaped and made of translucent polyethylene and at cruising altitudes expand to as much as 90 feet in length. The equipment hanging below the balloon is capable of making a return to altimeter radar. Although ADIS has received no record of upper air research balloon tracks for this date the description of the object allows a preliminary evaluation of "possible balloons".

III. Conclusion

Possible balloons.

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