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Southern Japan

26 December 1958

I. Description of Incident

From 0950Z to 0412Z an object was observed from an AFB in Southern Japan. Object appeared very similar to an evening star, was first yellow in color, but then intermittently turned orange. It was located low on the horizon at a 200° azimuth from the point of observation and appeared to be sinking slowly to the south. However, when it finally disappeared below the horizon, it again assumed the 200° bearing.

Weather in the locality was excellent. Radar attempted to pick the object up, but with no success.

II. Discussion of Incident

Several factors in this sighting are significant. Primarily, the object was described by the observers themselves as "starlike". Secondly, the actual observation as well as the final observation placed the unknown at a 200° azimuth. This indicates that the object probably was a star settling in a straight downward line in the DM. The changing color is a well-known phenomenon, caused by seeing at great distances.

III. Conclusion

Probably astronomical.

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