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Dunes AFB, Labrador

25 December 1958

I. Description of Incident

Visual contact was made by the aircraft, a F-96 and an F-96, of an unidentified aerial object after being vectored to the target by GCA. The object had no definite shape, was bright red and white and was seen from 2300 to 2340. No known visual contact was established as soon as the F-96 entered the intercept area. The engine or jet exhaust was visible. The F-96 chased the object at an indicated airspeed of 315 knots but could not overtake it.

Weather was clear with visibility of 30 miles, winds at 14,000 ft. (altitude of the observing aircraft) was from 270° at 25 knots. The F-96 was on a heading of 270° while on its intercept run.

II. Discussion of Incident

Two C-62's from Dunes AFB were in the area at the approximate time of sighting. One of these aircraft was observed by the F-96, the other was not. However, the unidentified object could not be the unknowned C-62 due to the speed factor. The F-96, at 315 knots, could have overtaken a C-62. There may have been a balloon launch at 2300 from Dunes Air Weather Service but none again there is a conflict because the object was sighted at 2310, two hours after launch. An astronomical explanation does not ring true since it is improbable that stars and comets can be recorded by ground radar or airborne radar. Therefore, a plausible explanation for this sighting seems to be impossible.

III. Conclusion

Unknown.

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