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Obitua

7 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

At 2121 local time radar tracked an unidentified object for 15 minutes and alerted a local interceptor squadron. An F-76 scrambled at 2123 hours, climbed to 15,000 ft., picked up nothing on airborne radar but at 2125 did make visual contact with a bright orange colored object which seemed to change to red and green at a special interval. Object was seen by the pilot and the R.O. for approximately 15 minutes after which it disappeared behind a cloud at an azimuth of 230°, low on the horizon.

II. Discussion of Incident

The weather consisted of scattered stratus clouds. No information is available on atmospheric phenomena such as temperature inversions or meteorological clouds which could have given a spurious radar return. It was determined at the base writing the report what the F-76 had sighted the pilot found which is extremely bright at this time of year and which also is sometimes a 270° azimuth from 10,000 ft. above the horizon. It is probable that merely by chance ground water received a spurious glint on its scope and accordingly returned the F-76 in a position where Venus was very apparent. No strict correlation between the electronics sighting and visual contact can be made.

III. Conclusion

Probably Venus.

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