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SECRETREPORT OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK2. ORIGINAL DATA

A total of 59 reports of unidentified aerial objects were received by Project Blue Book during the period covered by plaintext Report No. 13 (March, April, and May 1953). A total of 193 reports were submitted for December, January, and February; the general office has therefore dropped collectively with the exception of the month of March 1953.

In March, 59 FLIGHTS were received, 53 percent from military observers, the remaining from civilians in various parts of the U.S. Even astronomical phenomena accounted for 25 of the sightings of approximately 33 percent, with the highest being the established source of 56 flying object reports. None appears in on the horizon at this time of year and is usually bright. It is possible for it to appear to change color and perform erratic maneuvers when seen through thin clouds of ground haze. In this connection it is interesting to note that experienced military pilots reported this phenomenon in four instances as an unidentified aerial object. However, the majority of proven U.S. sightings were turned in by members of the Ground Observer Corps. One was reported by an airplane pilot.

During the last three months of operation, Project Blue Book has received an average of 10 reports per week which is considerably under the 400 FLIGHTS per day submitted during the fall of 1950. The volume of reports during the spring of 1953 has been the lowest in the last ten years and it is believed the generally fairer weather throughout the United States has had much to do with this.

It is also the opinion of Project Blue Book, however, that one highly publicized sighting could easily trigger off another "season" scare with resulting pressure on the Air Force and STIC. The direct relation between newspaper publicity and the number of reports submitted has been plainly established by Project Blue Book. In this connection and because of latent public interest and possible hysteria which are believed to exist, STIC is currently preparing a statement on unidentified objects which will be issued by P.O., Washington, D.C., at the first indication of publicity. It will give a full account of STIC's findings, including percentages of unexplainable reports, percentage of known objects or phenomena such as aircraft, balloons, radar interference, etc. Thus the Air Force cannot be accused of withholding information. It is STIC's policy to keep the public fully informed.

A complete statistical study of all reports from 1947 to 1952 is now in the final stages of I.R.M. preparation. A final report is expected on 25 August 1953. It will include statistical probabilities and indexes of comparisons on unidentified objects and a general commentary of the conclusions reached by the study, the first effort ever made to treat sightings statistically. A total of over 3,000 reports will be processed in this study.

Another line of importance occurring during the period of this Status Report was the completion of a briefing tour of Air Defense Command units by Project Blue Book. This will be outlined in further detail on following pages.

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