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Fort Hill, Maine

7 March 1953

I. DESCRIPTION

At 0200-0207, 7 March 1953, ten observers and three instructors located at Fort Hill, Maine, observed an unidentified object on a bearing of 090° from them. It appeared as a large ball of fire, red in color, round in shape, large, no sound, no maneuvers, and had no aerodynamic features. The object was observed for 12 minutes and had the appearance of traveling away from the observers. It disappeared below the horizon.

II. DISCUSSION

This report is similar to several other reports received by Project Blue Book during the month of March. This is one of the few reports received that has a definite conclusion by the preparing officer. The report states that the two JTF, Maine, Intelligence officers had approximately eight different unidentified objects reported to them prior to this one. Upon investigating the cause of the sighting, it was found by the intelligence officer that the planet Venus is located in the western sky at that time of the year. Venus seems to become very large and appears to change color from red to white to orange. Due to the cloud formations, haze, etc., the planet may seem to perform various maneuvers as it nears the horizon. It will sometimes seem to drop from sight over the horizon, or go out like a light. Since the description of the object fits that of Venus and the intelligence officer's evaluation is the same, Project Blue Book is carrying the incident as "Was Venus".

III. CONCLUSION

Was astronomical (Venus).

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