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STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK

1. GENERAL STATUS

A total of 91 reports of unidentified flying objects were received by Project Blue Book during the period covered by this status report (June, July, August 1953). This is an increase of 9 reports over those received during the period covered by Status Report No. 11 (March, April, May 1953). An average of 6.9 reports per week has been received by the Air Technical Intelligence Center for the past six months.

Because of the decrease in newspaper publicity, fewer reports have been received from civilians with the result that military sightings now account for approximately 50 per cent of unidentified flying object (UFO) reports. In spite of the dropping of the subject by the national press, it is significant to note that a steady inflow of 6.9 reports per week are furnished by Project Blue Book from persons who sincerely believe they observed unusual aircraft objects. This is one of the reasons why this project is being continued.

Every effort to improve the quality of reports has been made by Project Blue Book. Briefings to the Air Defense Command were conducted stressing the need for more complete and scientific data in order to properly evaluate the observations. A manual has been prepared recently for the purpose of instructing reporting officers on what information is desired on an unidentified flying object observation. Reporting officers have been requested to hold preliminary investigations before forwarding the report to this Center. Air Force Regulation 800-2 sets up new reporting procedures on unidentified flying objects so that reports will be more complete. The quality of the reports has increased considerably and the result has been that approximately 90 per cent of the observations are being explained. This leaves 10 per cent unexplained as compared with 20 per cent unexplained in 1952.

A complete statistical study of all reports from 1947 to 1952 is expected not later than 15 October 1953. This study will include statistical probabilities on indexes of comparisons on unidentified flying objects and a general commentary of the conclusions reached by the study. This is the first effort ever made to treat sightings systematically.

The Air Technical Intelligence Center has set up a policy to keep the American public informed on the operations of this project. All releases of public information are handled by the Office of Public Information, Department of Defense, Washington 25, D. C.

Project Blue Book continued to screen and evaluate all reports as soon as possible after being received. The following represents a breakdown of the number of reports by month and percentage breakdown of evaluations.

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