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24 July 1961

Key West, Florida

UNCLASSIFIED

## Description

Between the hours of 2000 and 2030 EDT, a pilot at the First Bomb Squadron, United States Navy Base, Key West, Florida, observed an unidentified flying object in the sky over the town of Key West. The object appeared to be approximately the size of a golf ball or a star, very bright white in color, proceeded rapidly from low on the western sky, low to a point directly forward and overhead, then bladed out momentarily before descending below the western skyline. No aerodynamic features, trail, exhaust, propulsion system or sound were noted. Speed was reported as unknown, since the observer did not know the object's true size or its distance from him. The observer stated that the object appeared to move in regular smooth circles.

## Discussion

Inquiry was made as to the observer's general reputation and character. His supervisor in Bomb Operations stated that he had no knowledge of the observer except during duty hours. The supervisor gave him a character rating of "very good", "above reproach", and described him as a quiet, conscientious, good student - not outstanding but above average. The interviewer stated that the observer appeared to be stable, well-adjusted, and very consistent with his answers after considerable questioning.

The weather at the time of the observation was reported as a broken overcast. Clouds were reported to be solid to the west where the object disappeared. A check with OMA office of U.S. Weather Bureau at Key West Key revealed a ceiling of 20,000 feet.

There were several aircraft in the area and one of them was equipped with a searchlight. There is a probability that the observer saw the searchlight scanning the area.

## Conclusion

Other - Probably searchlight on aircraft.

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