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Rapid City, South Dakota

3 August 1963

## Description

Since this sighting was a combined air-visual, ground-visual, air-visual, and ground-visual report, it was decided that Project Blue Book would send an investigator to the scene. The controller on duty at the time of the incident was interviewed. His account of the incident was almost identical to that given in the initial T-90. He was on duty as 0005 HRT when a GOC post observer called in an unidentified flying object sighted southeast of her post at Blackhawk, South Dakota. [Date Correct 1000 HRT - Twilight is correct.] She reported through the Rapid City Filter Center. She reported that the object was stationary, then moved south toward Rapid City. When the controller got the report that the object or light was headed toward Rapid City, he sent 5 airmen from the radar site to look for it visually. They reported a light moving from generally north to south at a high rate of speed. At this time, the controller observed 2 blips going south on 236 scope. He could not get a distinct track because of ground clutter in the area. In a few minutes the GOC post in Blackhawk called in that the light was back in nearly its original position. An aircraft F-64 was vectored into the area and after a search made visual contact. The F-64 was vectored into the blip that was remaining stationary at about 15 miles northwest of Blackhawk. The controller said that he believed the F-64 pilot saw the target that was on the scope. Shortly after the visual sighting by the pilot, the target started to move on a heading of about 320 degrees magnetic. Four good blips were obtained. None of this track were taken but the course malfunctioned and the photos were so good. The last blip occurred at 70 miles and at that point the aircraft was returned to the base. The GOC observer reported seeing the aircraft and the object, and both were moving. The object seemed to be out-distancing the F-64. As soon as the F-64 landed, another F-64 took off for CAP. Just about that time, the Blackhawk GOC post called the 319th T-90 stating that the object was back again. Nothing was on the scope [there was possibly a target in the ground clutter], so the F-64 was vectored in on the visual report. The GOC pilot requested a visual and started an intercept. About that time, the controller picked up both an unknown target and the F-64. Both were on a heading of about 300 degrees magnetic. The blip seemed to stay about 3-10 miles ahead of the F-64. The chase continued until the aircraft was about 80 miles out, then the intercept was broken off. The target continued out the scope. At this time the Bismarck Filter Center was alerted to look for unidentified flying objects. When the pilot got back over the base, he saw another light. This was not picked up on the scope, but the controller did get a return on the light finder equipment. In the general direction of the light, it was 0005 HRT. Bismarck began to call in reports.

The pilot who was on the first CAP was interviewed next. He stated that he had been making passes at a 2-30 north of Rapid City when GFI called and said they had a target west of Rapid City. He accounted for

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