

UNCLASSIFIED

Extract of letter from AFMIL, dated 25 September 1950. Subject: Status of Project Twinkle

To: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Attn: ADJUTANT Major J. W. Hollis
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

"If no fire balls are observed in the next six month period, it is recommended that the project be discontinued. It is recommended as appearing in the fire balls appear to be, in the fall, that at least one year is required in order to establish whether their occurrence is or is not a seasonal phenomenon.

"There is considerable doubt in the minds of some of the project personnel that there be a natural phenomenon. As long as a considerable doubt exists, it is not wise to discontinue completely the observations. Dr. Whipple's suggestion that there may be some reflections on small clouds cannot be discounted. That fire balls have been observed in the past cannot be discounted due to the persistence of several witnesses. It may be considered significant that fire balls have ceased abruptly as soon as a stratospheric balloon was up. At present it does not appear likely that the next six months of observations will yield any more information than the first six months. It is felt that even negative information may be significant.

"It is requested that a six month extension of the last Air contract be authorized. It is also requested that the spectrographic equipment abandoned by Midland Air Force Base due to lack of personnel be turned over to last Air Force operations in the next six month period. At the conclusion of the six month extension, an evaluation of the observations will be accomplished by this Directorate and recommendations as to the future conduct of this project will be forwarded to your command.

UNCLASSIFIED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
EOD 200 000010

UNCLASSIFIED