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PROJECT TWINKLE—UNDER ITS WRAPS THE REAL?

Speculatively, we see a connection between the earth-shot "meteors" and the fireballs from outer space. In essence, if missiles can be launched from earth onto the moon or Mars, then it should be equally reasonable to assume that the same operations are practicable in reverse. But crediting the moon or Mars as the fireball launching base is a far simpler matter than rationalizing its objectives, for the only pattern recognizable is the very lack of pattern! Like the "artificial meteors" to the moon, they may be relatively harmless missiles sent to test the earth's anatomy of air. Such testing would logically account for the fireballs' patternless or random behavior. Yet, other theorists over the fireballs are partial to certain geographical areas such as the U.S. Southwest, which does evince a pattern. While this pattern may have been true in the Southwest in 1948-49, fireballs since that period have been sporadically universal and without knowledgeable pattern. But, being so widespread today may, in turn, lend reason to the fireballs' mysterious localization over New Mexico in 1948-49. Perhaps then the focal point was Alamogordo, and their purpose was to test and/or cleanse the atmosphere of its radioactive poisons out today, with bigger atomic blasts and the widespread contaminations of the fall out. The "mission" of the fireball may have become expansively urgent! However, we have one contradictory note in this possible mission of mercy—it does not explain the fireball visitations over the Baltic Sea in 1946-47.

Still guessing, but coming closer to realistic evidence, we may also perceive in the fireball's persistent ubiquitousness, the stark possibility that it may be a type of ranging missile, a theory to which Major Keyhoe has long subscribed. Such a device would explain the recent random bombardments and the occasional pinpointing of a particular area such as the Baltic and New Mexico. Whatever the objective of this ranging device, whether it be experimental, retaliatory or something far more unintelligible to our thinking, we feel that in our guesswork we should also take cognizance of the statements, written with Air Force approval, which appeared in *Look* magazine, June 1952. Under the title, *Hunt For the Flying Saucer*, it said in part, "Especially puzzling have been the horizontal-flying 'green fireballs' . . . Another branch of the Air Force, the Air Research and Development Command, with headquarters in Baltimore and laboratories in Boston, has been studying them in a secret project called Project Twinkle. Although work on this project has been completed, the ARDC refuses to make public its findings . . . Some Air Force officials feel the inconclusive Project Twinkle report will never be made public, they won't explain why. Some suggest it will expose a foul-up."

Is it conceivable that this foul-up could be in relation to the inadvertant artificial meteor program, and that Project Twinkle had learned that fireballs were retaliatory ranging missiles? Was Dr. Lincoln La Paz, world-famed meteoricist, alluding to the interplanetary ranging missile when he said on September 13, 1955 that a "shrewd opponent" could wage an ice cube test war against this country. Said La Paz, "It is for this reason that since 1948, representatives of the Institute of Meteoritics have habitually asked observers of the yellow-green fireballs and other anomalous luminous phenomena whether or not pieces of ice or drops of water were detected falling from the sky at the time of the observed incident."[1]

But whether the missile is made of ice or of carbonous content, such action does not, on reflect, mean "interplanetary war" but it may be the reason for the USAF being actively concerned. If such are the far-

[illegible] time it is also understandable why the Air Force has repeatedly denied the existence of saucers, for to announce they exist and are interplanetary might well force their hand into revealing other more unpalatable information, such as that under wraps of Project Twinkle, or, like in cases 128 or 129 or the air disaster of July 22, 1953 on Wake Island.[2]

Proving that secrecy is still under the iron fist, the writer wrote Captain R. C. White, of the Defense Dept. January 7, 1955, requesting certain information regarding the green fireball. The reply came from Major William W. James, Air Force Press Desk, stating, "Captain White is on leave prior to transfer to Spain after having completed his tour here. I am enclosing a copy of our latest press release which answers your questions in this letter." In the enclosed ever-popular press release the following line was underscored in red, "*No evidence of the existence of the popularly-termed 'flying saucers' was found.*"

1 Corr. R. G. Swope, PRDA, Pa.
2 See pages 88-94 and 110, 111, 113 in The Flying Saucer Contrails

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