

Form C
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Wing Intelligence Section
4th Air Force Wing, AFM 978

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1. At an estimated 0820H June 1958, jet pilot Captain Thomas F. Garcia was firing close formation on the right wing of 14 Strikins in an element of F-4B aircraft. While at 4,000 feet altitude on a heading of 260 degrees, 270 deg, 08 1958, Captain Garcia observed a falling object which appeared to identically resemble a green flame. The size and distance from the observer were undetermined, however, it appeared very bright and its position, as a flare, would have been unlikely. The witness was the only pilot to note the observation and he witnessed approximately a 80 degree arc of downward arc from 20 through 30 degrees relative to the horizon, and disappearing behind the tail of the lead aircraft. The pilot reported a haze or thin cloud layer which restricted his vision beneath his flight level. After the object disappeared from view behind the F-4B it did not reappear to the observer. The observed object was in line of vision from 10 to 2 seconds and seemed a green ball, trailing an orange cone of fire and a thin, very thin, smoke trail. The length of the thin black trail, was twenty to thirty times the diameter of the ball, which completed in size to that of the lead plane head. The thin trail persisted for, perhaps, three seconds. The green ball gave the impression it was disintegrating and disintegrating as it fell.

2. In conjunction with the airborne pilot's report, there were pilots who made ground-based observations at which he judged to have been the same object. Captain Clarence Williams reported his observation was made at approximately 0820H from a position near the south end of the runway at K-14 and on a bearing of about 260 degrees. He stated the "green stream" resembled a green flame and he judged the location to have been over the coastline north of DaNang. When sighted, the object was stated to have been about 2000 feet. It seemed to burn out, did not strike the ground, and left no visible trail.

3. Captain Philip H. Bunting also observed the object at near 0820H from K-14 and placed the bearing at 260 degrees from his position. He stated the angle above the horizon, upon initial sighting, was 45 degrees. He described it as a bright, green, gaseous ball, object which turned red at about 20 degrees above the horizon and continued red, down to about 10 degrees above the horizon, where it went "out". The arc described is said to have been 80 degrees, or nearly vertical. The rate of speed was very high.

COMMENT:

None of the observers claim the object to have reached the ground. It was stated the object burned out. An apparent control or change of direction was indicated and the direction was ever downward at an increasing rate of speed. The green color was a vivid characteristic and does not describe the color of known phenomena. In addition, the black smoke could tend to rule out piloted equipment as would the visible shape, the disintegration characteristic, and the lack of sound accompanying the observation. The object appears to have been a "falling object" and may have been a meteorite.

GEORGE J. HALEY
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

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