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[REDACTED] AIR SECURITY INFORMATION

DETROIT

AT YUMA AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA

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1. On 28 August 1968, S/sgt JERRY S. WATLIN, AFSP160777, senior control tower operator and assistant control tower chief, 1903-1 AAGC Detachment, 1750th Air Base Group, Yuma County Municipal Airport, Yuma, Arizona, was interviewed by reporting Agent.

Upon interview WATLIN stated that he was on duty alone in the control tower at Yuma Air Force Base on 13 May 1968, and at 2300 hours the El Centro tower reported seeing six (6) bright objects moving to the southwest and asked WATLIN to try to identify them. WATLIN advised that he scanned the sky with 7 x 50 binoculars and at 0450 hours sighted two (2) bright orange objects at 100 degree true. WATLIN advised further that these objects could not be seen with the naked eye and that they appeared to be about one (1) foot in diameter and appeared to be round. WATLIN further advised that the objects appeared to be at an altitude of from 2500 to 5000 feet. WATLIN also stated that he watched the objects for about thirty (30) minutes and they were moving back and forth across the sky from 290 degrees to about 320 degrees, as indicated on the crank map, and appeared to be getting further away all the time until finally they disappeared. WATLIN advised that a beam of light similar to that of a search light came from one of the objects and that the beam of light kept going on and off in different directions from the object. WATLIN also advised that very short but continuous trails of what appeared to be flames came out of both objects. WATLIN further advised that it was dark when he first sighted the objects and the weather was very clear.

When asked concerning airline flights, WATLIN stated that at that date, Western Air Lines had two flights/scheduled daily, one at about 1900 hours and one about 2100 hours.

WATLIN further advised that when these objects were sighted by him, no military aircraft from Yuma County Airport or El Centro, California, were in the sky at the time.

WATLIN stated that the objects were not conventional type aircraft and that he had never sighted strange aerial objects before or since the above incident. WATLIN advised that to his knowledge no one else at the base sighted the above objects.

WATLIN further advised that he had been a flight engineer with the U. S. Coast Guard from 1963 to 1965, and had acquired approximately 3000 hours flying time during that period. WATLIN also advised that he had been a tower operator since 11 June 1968.

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