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"To date, no unidentified aerial phenomena has given any indication of threat to national security." U.S. Air Force, Office of Aerial Phenomena.

April 24, 1964--Socorro, New Mexico, U.S.A.--What appears to be substantial evidence of an unidentified flying object landing and taking off in Socorro has been observed. City policeman Lonnie Zamora, a highly reliable source, saw a four-legged, egg-shaped object, and two persons in a gully a mile south of the courthouse shortly before 6 p.m. Friday. He saw the object rise straight up and take-off, and disappear beyond Six Mile Canyon to the west. Some of the evidence of the landing and the take-off remained in the gully. There were four shallow holes where the object apparently landed on its legs; there were burned greasewood and seared clumps of green grass; there were two round, very slight depressions. No footprints were found. Zamora said he saw lettering on the side of the UFO, and he sketched the lettering on a paper sack after the object had taken off. He did not believe the lettering was in English and he observed no numerals as there are on known aircraft. Zamora said he was not at liberty to further describe the lettering.

At least one person--an unidentified tourist traveling north on U.S. 85--saw the UFO just before it landed in the gully. Opal Grinder, manager of Whiting Brother's Service Station on 85 north, said the man stopped at the station and remarked that aircraft flew low around here. Grinder replied there were many helicopters in this vicinity. The tourist said it was a "funny-looking helicopter, if that's what it was." The man said further the object had flown over his car. It actually was headed straight for the gully where it landed moments later. The tourist also commented that he had seen a police car heading up the hill. This was Zamora. Grinder did not know of the object at the time, and did not attach importance to the travelers remarks. A Tucson, Arizona couple was here Sunday to interview Zamora for a scientific article on the object. The woman said a minister and 26 other persons in New Guinea had seen a similar object hovering for two hours at an estimated altitude of 400 feet. It was reported the observers had seen a man on the "deck" of the object.

Maj. William Conner of Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, was also here Sunday afternoon to interview Zamora. The major said he was not at liberty to comment. He and an Air Force Sergeant visited the UFO scene. Use of a Geiger counter at the scene was reported to have brought negative results. Capt. Richard T. Holder of Socorro, U.S. Army up-range commander with headquarters at Stallion Range Center on White Sands Missile Range, said Saturday: "I was contacted on the evening of April 24 by local authorities and asked to provide assistance in identifying a reported UFO. After being appraised of the situation, I attempted to determine whether White Sands Missile Range or Holloman Air Force Base had anything that might produce the conditions described. Neither White Sands Missile Range nor Holloman had an object that would compare to the object described. There was no known firing mission that would produce the conditions

reported." Zamora doesn't know what the object was, but for those who desire to speculate, there are three possibilities: First, it may have been a top secret U.S. aircraft in an advanced stage of development. Second, it may have been an advanced type of aircraft or space ship of another power. Third, it may have been a space scout ship from another planet. Whatever the object was, it probably was the first reported concrete instance of a UFO in New Mexico.

Policeman Zamora shifted from a routine task to a frightening out-of-this-world experience in a few minutes Friday night. He was patrolling Park St. where he had begun pursuit of a fast-traveling car several blocks ahead of him. Zamora was almost on the old road when he heard what he described as a blast or roar. His first thought was that an aluminum building used to store explosives had blown up. He forgot about the speeding car and headed up a very rocky, dirt road towards the building. On the third try, driving very slowly, he managed to get up the road which leads to the top of the mesa where the UFO had landed. The policeman said he first saw the object at an estimated distance of 150 yards, and he thought it was an overturned car. He was looking out of his car window as he drove towards the top of the mesa. Zamora said one of two persons at the UFO, whose back was to him, turned his head and looked straight at him. The two persons standing by the object appeared to be dressed in white coveralls, and at the distance Zamora saw them they appeared to be "child-like," that is, small. He did not notice what sort of headgear, if any, the two persons, presumably men, wore.

Zamora continued driving up the hill to get a closer look at the object and the persons. When he stopped his car on top of the mesa and directly opposite the place in the gully where the UFO had landed, he saw it again, but the persons were not outside the object on which the sun gleamed brightly. He got out of his car and started towards the UFO. Then he again heard the roar or blast that had brought him to the scene and saw flames. Dust was flying around the object. The policeman believed the object was about to explode. He was about 50 feet from the UFO, and for protection he dropped to the ground and covered his face with an arm. No explosion occurred, and Zamora also realized the object was not heading in his direction. He raised his head slightly. He saw the UFO, which seemed to be heading south on landing, rise straight up for an estimated 20 feet, which brought it about on a level with the police car on the mesa top. The object appeared to maintain this altitude beyond the explosives building and due west in a straight line for about two miles to the prelite mill. On the other side of the mill the UFO gained altitude very rapidly, passed over Six Mile Canyon, became a speck in the sky, and disappeared.

Zamora said there was a sharp whining sound at the end of the roar preceding the object's take-off. As the object got into the air, the noise quieted. The object did not leave a jet trail. Reports of other supposed UFO's have mentioned that they fly with little or no noise. Zamora radioed the sheriff's office immediately after the object had taken off. State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez, State Policeman Ted Jordan, and Undersheriff James Luckie said the burned clumps of green grass and the greasewood were still hot when they arrived. The military later took samples of the burned earth for analysis. An inspection of the scene Saturday morning showed the object had landed astride a narrow, rock-strewn dry wash in the gully. Officers earlier had circled with stones the four places where the legs of the object had touched the earth. The holes were shallow, about a foot long by six inches wide. They did not appear to have been made by an object striking the earth with great force, but an object of considerable weight settling to earth at slow speed and not moving after touching the ground.

The two legs of the object that Zamora saw probably were about 2½ feet long. It was about 12 feet from one landing hole to the other on the west side and 15 feet between the two on the east side. The width probably was nine or more feet. The clumps of green grass and two greasewood bushes seemed to have been seared all at once by an extremely hot flame. There were also broken branches on one greasewood. The two round depressions were four and five inches in diameter, respectively. The cause of the landing of the object, like its identity and its source, remain unanswered. Was the landing in the secluded, little-frequented gully for a test or caused by momentary mechanical difficulty? After Capt. Holder was appraised of the UFO occurrence, he made a report of it to the proper agencies. Source: El Defensor Chieftain--Socorro, New Mexico--4/28/64. Credit: Ruth Jansen, James Wardle, George Wilson, Carol Honey, C. Shell, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Davidson, Ira Adams & W. Rhodes.

AIR FORCE CONSULTANT CHECKS UFO SITE--Socorro held the spotlight this week in the investigation of the report of City Policeman Lonnie Zamora that he saw an unidentified flying object last Friday in a gully a mile southwest of the courthouse. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, special consultant to the Air Force on unidentified flying objects, was here Wednesday at the request of the Air Force. He visited the site with Zamora, talked to him at length there, and interviewed others. He found the site so trampled by the curious that little of scientific value could be obtained. The scientist said he had not seen a similar sight previously in his investigations. No radar picked up an object so far is known, and it should have been picked up if it came in from outer space or was cruising around this area, Hynek said. "This is the outstanding discrepancy in what otherwise is a very solid tale, (Zamora's account). I found nothing that tends to discredit Zamora. This discrepancy concerns me. Maj. William Conner of Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, said here Wednesday there were no identified radar targets in this area between April 24 and 28. He came here with Hynek.

"It's a real pity, but no one's fault, that other witnesses did not see the object land or take off," Dr. Hynek continued. "A movie of this would have been priceless. I feel in my own mind that hoax is ruled out but I should like very much to find a natural explanation, and I ask readers to let me know if any geophysical prospecting or experimentation had been going on in this area." Hynek, chairman of the Department of Astronomy of Northwestern University, said that "as an astronomer, I am only too well aware of the huge distances in space that to me would make it most unlikely that this was a visitation from elsewhere." He also said that to the best of his knowledge, the reported object does not represent any secret Air Force device. He declared the impressions made by the object are "the only tangible thing," and that is the chief interest in analysis of materials at the site. Dr. Hynek took samples at the site. The military had taken samples earlier. The main thing is to determine if there are foreign particles in the samples.

The red markings on the UFO, as described by Zamora, was an inverted "v" with a bar across it, Hynek reported. He declared no Air Force official had suggested the markings be kept secret and there was nothing classified about it. The State Police here, sheriff's department, and city police made no attempt to keep any reports on the UFO secret. After visiting the site, Hynek remarked that he was impressed with what a tourist attraction it had become. He added it was unfortunate the area was not roped off. Since the reported landing and take-off of the UFO here, many other unidentified flying objects have been reported.

Zamora described the object as egg-shaped, and on his first view of it he thought it was an overturned car. He happened on the incident because he believed at first an explosives storage building near the gully had blown up. The noise, however, apparently came from the UFO on landing and later on take-off. The policeman was an estimated 450 feet away when he first saw the object. Standing beside the UFO, with their backs to him were what appeared to be two small persons in white coveralls. He did not see them when he was 50 feet from the object as it took off and disappeared over Six Mile Canyon to the west. Robert White of Socorro, cattle inspector, who arrived at the site less than half an hour after other police officers got there, was interviewed Wednesday by Hynek. White told a reporter that the tracks were fresh and they had to be made by the object. He said further the two shallow round impressions, left in addition to the four larger ones, were made by a different object than those on which the UFO landed. These two reminded White of a shoe heel. There were no prints within the circles, however. White added these were not any known animal tracks. White was coming into Socorro from the north when he heard State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez asking State Policeman Ted Jordan by radio to come to the scene. The inspector asked Chavez what the incident was, and the latter then asked White to come there. Green snakeweed and green greasewood, and clumps of dry grass had been seared by a flame of some kind at the site. Green greasewood does not burn easily. Source: El Defensor Chieftain--Socorro, New Mexico--4/30/64. Credit: George Wilson, Ira Adams & J. Wardle.

UFO SIGHTING RE-ENACTED: NO HELP TO SCIENTIST--An Air Force consultant on unidentified flying objects had Policeman Lonnie Zamora re-enact in detail Wednesday the sighting of a UFO in Socorro last Friday. The consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, said after the re-enactment that he could draw no conclusions on what Zamora saw and was "more puzzled than I was when I arrived here." After the re-enactment, however, Dr. Hynek said he was puzzled that there was no evidence at the Socorro site of ignition of a thrust unit powerful enough to lift a vehicle the size Zamora reported. "Usually one finds many contradictions or omissions in these reports," Dr. Hynek said. "But Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly told without any intent to perpetrate a hoax. The story of course was told by a man who obviously was frightened badly by what he did see. He certainly must have seen something." Zamora's reliability as a witness was supported by Dr. Lincoln LaPaz of the University of New Mexico who has an international reputation in running down reports of fireballs and meteorites. "I would first point out that we are not personally involved in the investigation of these unidentified flying objects," Dr. LaPaz said. "But I do want to say that I have had contacts with Mr. Zamora in my work and he is a thoroughly dependable observer." Dr. Hynek would not offer an opinion on just what Officer Zamora saw. He said he had investigated many such sightings but "this is one of the clearest--no that's not the right word; just say it is one of the soundest, best substantiated reports as far as it goes." Source: The Journal--Albuquerque, New Mexico--4/30/64; The Christian Science Monitor--Boston, Mass.--5/2/64. Credit: Ruth Jansen & J. Davis.

April 25, 1964--Socorro, New Mexico, U.S.A.--Sunday and Monday's newspaper and radio accounts of the spotting of unidentified flying objects in New Mexico prompted a call to the New Mexican by a Santa Fe woman. She said her niece, Dorothy Tinkham, may have seen one of the "things" late Saturday. Miss Tinkham, it developed, is an 18-year-old graduate of Espanola High School, a recent resident for a few months of Albuquerque, and

recently moved back to Santa Fe. She seems neither the kind of girl who would be subject to hallucinations or mass hysteria, nor the kind who would fabricate an elaborate hoax for her own amusement. She was, in fact, reluctant to describe details of her brief sighting "...for fear somebody would think I made it up." It happened like this: About 10 o'clock Saturday night (just a few hours; it should be noted, before the sighting at La Madera), Miss Tinkham was sitting in her living room looking out the window as she waited for visitors. Suddenly, she says, she saw a fiery object pass over and in front of her house. It moved quickly, from west to east, roughly along the line of the Arroyo Mascaras, which fronts her home. She looked out occasionally for the next two hours or more, but never saw anything else.

"At first," she says, "I thought it was a plane or something. But when I heard about it the next day I realized it must have been something odd." The vehicle, she reports, "seemed oblong rather than egg-shaped. It looked hot, and had a trail of light behind it...like burning, not glowing. My friends didn't believe me when I told them about it the next day. What I can't understand is if I saw it why didn't anybody else?" She repeatedly insisted that she hadn't wanted to publicize what she had seen; that her aunt had called the paper without her knowledge. And she emphasized that it passed by not extremely fast, but so fast she couldn't retain an exact picture of what it looked like. It made no sound, she said. Miss Tinkham is the daughter of Mrs. Ruth Richards of Espanola. "I'm glad to hear somebody else has been seeing this thing," she commented with an unsure shake of her head. Source: The New Mexican--Santa Fe, New Mexico--4/28/64.

April 25, 1964--Near Tularosa, New Mexico, U.S.A.--A report to State Police here Saturday at 10 a.m. by a motorist on Highway 70 said a "bright object" had been seen to go down in the vicinity of Round Mountain east of Tularosa but no particular search of the area was made. It was not known if the occurrence here was linked to the Socorro sighting. The report of the Round Mountain occurrence came from J.D. Hatch, Roswell. Source: The News--Alamogordo, New Mexico--4/26/64.

April 25, 1964--Near Espanola, New Mexico, U.S.A.--State Police Officer Marvin Romero said two men, whose names he did not get, told him of seeing a strange flying object about 10:30 p.m. Saturday, which would have been about two hours before Gallegos' sighting at La Madera. The men told the officer they were driving from Abiquiu to Espanola when the flying object came straight toward the car. It veered away. All they could see, they said, was a jet stream of blue flame. They said it definitely was not an airplane. Source: The Tribune--Albuquerque, New Mexico--4/27/64. Credit: Ruth Jansen.

April 26, 1964--Near Socorro, New Mexico, U.S.A.--Whether it was the same UFO or another one is unknown, but Undersheriff James Luckie said a tourist told him in a cafe here Sunday night that a low-flying object had nearly crowded him off U.S. 85 two miles south of Socorro between 7:30 and 8 p.m. The unidentified tourist was traveling north on 85, and the object going south. Source: The El Defensor Chieftain--Socorro, New Mexico--4/28/64.

April 26, 1964--Near Caballo, New Mexico, U.S.A.--"If you told me you saw it, I wouldn't believe it, but I saw it." George Mitropolis of Albuquerque was emphatic about both seeing and hearing an unidentified flying object. "It was up ahead of me and to the right when I saw it come up over the crest and then drop back behind the mountains," Mitropolis said. He said he was driving north on U.S. 85 one mile south of the New Mexico 180 junction about 10:30 p.m. Sunday when he sighted the craft. "I wasn't just seeing things, because I stopped the car and after it went behind the mountain I could hear the noise--like muffled jets. This thing was glowing like it was luminous. There were no lights," Mitropolis said. He said there was a glow underneath the craft like exhaust flames. He described the object as appearing as an upside down bathtub. The Albuquerque man said he caught up with another car that had been ahead of him. "I caught up with them and stopped them because I wanted to know if they had seen it too. There were two young men but they denied seeing anything ...but they were acting strangely." He said he first reported his sighting to Truth or Consequences police but "they just got a laugh out of it." He said he went on to Socorro "where I first learned someone else had seen something like it and I felt a lot better." Source: The Register--Santa Ana, California--4/28/64. Credit: Mr. Carol Honey & Ruth Jansen

April 26, 1964--La Madera, New Mexico, U.S.A.--A team of investigators from Kirtland Air Force Base, a group from Washington, D.C. and the FBI are expected to join State Police this afternoon to investigate the two reported sightings of an unidentified flying object here. "There was definitely something there," Capt. Martin Vigil, State Police district commander said this morning..."The ground was still smoldering 20 hours after the sighting." And, as in Socorro, there were footprints which resembled the paw tracks of a mountain lion around the charred area. The latest report came Sunday afternoon from Orland Gallegos, 35, Santa Fe. He told it this way: Gallegos and his family arrived about 12:30 a.m. Sunday at the home of his father, Frank, just north of LaMadera on the Petaca Road. The younger Gallegos said he went outside to chase away some horses. It was then that he saw the thing sitting on the ground in a gravel area. He said he was about 200 feet away and was afraid to approach closer. When he first sighted it, there was a ring of blue flame erupting from numerous jets around the bottom of the craft; he said. There was no noise and as he watched, the flames were turned off. He said he didn't see anyone or anything moving around the craft.

Gallegos returned to the house and told his family but no one ventured outside. His wife described him as being "badly shaken." He returned twice more to look at the object, he said. He described it as being a bright metal without windows, as long as a telephone pole and about 14 feet in circumference. He said it was egg-shaped and resembled a large butane tank. Sunday morning the object was gone, but the ground was still smoldering. Gallegos said he stayed away from the place and Sunday afternoon as he was returning to Santa Fe he stopped Espanola Police Officer Nick Naranjo and told him about what he saw. "I just had to tell somebody," Gallegos said. Espanola Police notified State Police Officer Marvin Romero, who with Officer David Kingsbury, questioned Gallegos at length. Then they notified Capt. Vigil. He radioed State Police Officer Albert Vega at Ojo Caliente and Vega went to the scene and verified the "evidence." Capt. Vigil, accompanied by Officer Kingsbury, went to the scene last night. "The ground was still smoldering and was charred over a large area," he said. Vigil said what looked like paw prints were found at the scene and depressions, similar to those found at Socorro, also were found.

It was guessed the depressions were made by landing gear...Vigil offered no explanation of the object reportedly seen except to say at this point there is no reason to doubt Gallegos' story: "Something was there." Source: The New Mexican--Santa Fe, New Mexico--4/27/64. Credit: Ruth Jansen, George Wilson & Mr. Carol Honey.

LANDING REGION CHECKED--Major William Conner, UFO investigator from Kirkland Air Force Base, was expected to give State Police a preliminary report today on his findings at the scene where a flying object was reportedly seen Sunday morning. State Police Capt. Martin Vigil who is heading the local investigation said Major Conner went over the charred area Monday afternoon, taking dirt and ash samples. Focal point of interest is an odd-shaped burned area on the Vallecitos creek bank on the Petaca Road, just out of La Madera. Capt. Vigil and Officer David Kingsbury probed the area Sunday night after the sighting of an unidentified object was reported. Photographs were taken. At that time, Sunday night, the ground was still smoldering after the sighting. And in the ashes and sand were found paw prints described by Capt. Vigil as resembling those of large mountain lion. Officer Albert Vega who is stationed in Ojo Caliente and was the first State Policeman at the scene, said the prints he saw looked like the pad of a bear--with only two toes. Also found were depressions in the ground which could have been made by fixed landing gear...Monday the elder Gallegos told what happened. "I had taken off my shoes," he said, "to get ready for bed. A car passed and I saw some horses in the (Petaca) Road. I was afraid they would get into the cattle guard and hurt themselves, so I asked my son to chase them away. He was gone quite a while and when he came back inside the house he was very excited. He said he had seen something on the river spraying blue fire from underneath. We laughed and didn't believe him, but he went back twice more and looked."

Sunday after midnight was illuminated by moonlight and there was a gusty wind blowing through the somewhat remote Spanish community. At the time of the sighting, Frank Gallegos said, none of the family had heard of the Friday sighting of an object near Socorro...Monday morning City Officer Naranjo accompanied this reporter to La Madera to question friends and neighbors of Gallegos and to look over the scene of the sighting. It was evident that many persons had already been there...At the scene itself the charred area was a peculiar shape, like two overlapping circles. It was about 20 feet across. Large rocks within the area showed evidence of extreme heat, while others within a few feet weren't damaged at all. A soft drink bottle had melted while another five feet away was intact. An attempt to set fire to chamisa brush nearby failed. A young cowboy, herding cattle down the road was questioned. He knew nothing of the reported sighting. Speaking in clear Spanish he identified himself as Juan Jiron, a student at Ojo Caliente High School. Jiron said he saw a fire smoking in the area late Friday afternoon. He was asked to point out the exact place and he did. It was the same as the burned over area where the object was reportedly seen. Capt. Vigil said evidence indicates an extreme heat of short duration rather than a smoldering fire over a period of days. He said it is his belief that "something was there." Glass, rock and metal found at the La Madera UFO site were melted and fused. No fuel that is presently known would melt these objects and burn only one inch deep. Source: The New Mexican--Santa Fe, New Mexico--4/28/64; The Courier Weekly--Albuquerque, New Mexico--4/30/64. Credit: Ruth Jansen.

April 28, 1964--Near Edgewood, New Mexico, U.S.A.--A 20-year-old Edgewood youth says he fired six shots at one of New Mexico's unidentified flying objects. State Policeman Tommy Richardson of Moriarty reported he received a telephone call from Don Adams of Edgewood about 1:30 a.m. today. The report said Adams told of seeing the object about 100 feet off the ground. He said it appeared to be a fluorescent or glowing green-colored object about 25 feet long. He told the officer he drove his car under the object and his car stalled. The youth reported he then got out and fired six shots at the object, reloaded and fired again, without effect...With certainty, he told of hitting the UFO six times and hearing the bullets bounce from it. As he paused to reload, the man said the object moved silently northward. He was unable to tell whether shots 7 to 12 struck the thing...He said it hovered about 100 feet directly over his head. Investigating State Policemen said the man was completely "sober." Source: The New Mexican--Santa Fe, New Mexico--4/28/64; The News-Journal--Clovis, New Mexico--4/28/64. Credit: Mrs. E. Davidson & Ruth Jansen.

April 28, 1964--Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A.--Concern over unidentified flying objects continued at a high pitch here today. The latest incident involves a report from a 10-year-old girl that she was burned while watching a strange egg-shaped thing in the sky yesterday afternoon...Suffering eye, nose and face burns yesterday afternoon was Sharon Stull, one of five children of Mr. & Mrs. Max L. Stull. She said she gazed at a UFO for five or ten minutes shortly before 12:30 p.m. on the Lowell School ground after returning there from lunch at home. After 1 p.m., while in class, she noticed burning sensations about the eyes and face. She and her mother believe her burns were inflicted by the thing in the sky. Sharon said she was not facing the sun while watching the thing, slightly smaller than an airplane and having no windows, speed across the sky and disappear in the distance. Her mother said the child has never had a sunburn and couldn't have gotten one in the few minutes she was outside. Her sister, Robin, 8, says she, too, saw the thing, but paid little attention to it and didn't continue to watch it. Sharon said two other children also glanced at it briefly. Sharon was treated by a doctor at Bataan Hospital last night and was kept in bed at home today with her blinds drawn to protect her inflamed eyes and eyelids. Part of her face and nose appeared to be puffy and red. She continued to complain of burn pains. Police interviewed her at length about the incident and had her draw the silvery object. Sharon's doctor said his diagnosis is conjunctivitis (membrane inflammation) of both eyes and first degree sunburn under the eyes and on the nose, adding: "The sun exposure she had yesterday would usually be considered insufficient to cause the burns and inflammation. It appears to be the type of burns and inflammation caused by longer exposure to the sun." He said he believes there is no permanent eye damage. Mrs. Stull was extremely concerned and frightened over the incident today. She also kept Robin home from school. Source: The Tribune--Albuquerque, New Mexico--4/29/64. Credit: R. Jansen.

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