

# UFO POTPOURRI

John F. Schuessler, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369

e-mail: [Schuessler@mho.net](mailto:Schuessler@mho.net)

web site: <http://home.mho.net/schuessler/>

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## Radar-Visual UFO Incident in Tunisia

From: "What The Government Would Know About UFOs if They Read Their Own Documents, Peter A. Gersten, J.D., MUFON UFO Symposium. "Tunisian Incident." Originating Agency Unknown, still classified, August 1976. The message is reproduced below:

C O N F I D E N T I A L (Declassified) 0294 AUG 76.

SUBJ: TUNISIAN UFO'S (C)

1.(C) A VERY CONCERNED CHIEF OF MILITARY SECURITY, GENERAL BALMA, CALL DATT AND ALUSNA TO HIS OFFICE AT 1100 HOURS, 9 AUG 76. BALMA PROVIDED DATT WITH COPY OF MEMO HE HAD PREPARED FOR THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE LISTING UFO SIGHTINGS THAT HAVE BEEN OCCURRING OVER TUNISIA SINCE FIRST REPORTED THE NIGHT OF 3 AUG 76. ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF MEMO PROVIDED FOR INFO QUOTE "SUBJECT: FLYING MACHINES. THE APPEARANCE OF UNEXPLAINED FLYING OBJECTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AS FOLLOWS: DURING THE NIGHT OF 3-4 AUG 76 - AT 2325 HRS THE PILOT OF TUNIS AIR FLT TU8953, ENROUTE FROM MONASTIR TO TUNIS REPORTED SIGHTING FLYING OBJECT AT 1000 TO 1200 METERS, GOING NORTH TO SOUTH. AT 2327 HOURS FIVE FLYING OBJECTS SHOWING RED AND GREEN POSITION LIGHTS WERE VISUALLY SIGHTED OVER MONASTIR AND CONFIRMED BY RADAR - AT 0024 HRS TILL 0400 HRS, FIVE SEPARATE RADAR RETURNS WERE TRACKED AND VISUALLY CONFIRMED. DURING THE NIGHT OF 4-5 AUG 76, AN AIR FRANCE PILOT ENROUTE TO MONASTIR REPORTED BEING FOLLOWED BY AN AIRCRAFT AS HE APPROACHED HIS DESCENT POINT TO MONASTIR FROM 2243 HRS TO 2252 HRS (LOCAL). DURING THE NIGHT OF 5-6 AUG 76, POLICE AT SOUKRA REPORTED SEEING WHAT SEEMED TO BE FOUR LIGHTED HELOS AT 0020 HRS. AT 0040, TWO REMAINED - AT 0115, ONE REMAINED FLYING VERY SLOWLY. ALL OBJECTS WERE GONE BY 0145 HRS (LOCAL). THESE OBSERVATIONS NOT CONFIRMED BY RADAR. DURING THE NIGHT OF 7-8 AUG 76, AT 2348 THE CONTROL TOWER AT JERBA SIGHTED UNKNOWN TRAFFIC 7 KM NW OF AIRPORT. SIGHTING CONFIRMED BY TUNIS AIR PILOT, FLT 8321 ENROUTE TO JERBA FM PARIS. PILOT OF TUNIS AIR 717

APPROACHING JERBA AIRPORT REPORTED A FLYING OBJECT SHOWING ONE LIGHT SEEMED TO TOUCH DOWN NEAR AIRPORT THEN TURN SOUTH CLIMBING AS IT WENT, DISAPPEARING AT 2412 HRS (LOCAL). DURING NIGHT OF 8-9 AUG 76 - AT 1950 HRS LOCAL RADAR TRACKED UNKNOWN TRAFFIC THAT OVER FLEW SIDI AHMED AIRPORT AT BILERTE GOING EAST TO WEST THEN 37 KM WEST OF THE BASE TURNED AND DISAPPEARED GOING SOUTH" END QUOTE.

2. (C) THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT IS VERY PUZZLED BY THESE SIGHTINGS AND WANTS TO KNOW IF SIXTHFLT CAN SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHO OR WHAT THEY MIGHT BE. BALMA SHOWED RADAR PLOTS OF UFO TRACKS ON NIGHT OF 4 AUG 76 PLOTTED ON CHART. TRACKS COME GENERALLY FM NE OVER GULF OF TUNIS AND THEN PROCEED TO SOUTH OF CITY, TURNING TO EAST AND WEST AND DISAPPEARING FROM RADAR SCREENS. BALMA AGREED TO CALL ALUSNA AT HOME IF FURTHER SIGHTINGS WERE OBSERVED. NO REPORTED SIGHTINGS MADE NIGHTS OF 9-10 AUG 76.

3. (C) REQUEST ADVISE IF ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN NOTED IN VICINITY OF TUNISIAN COAST. BALMA REPORTS THAT VISUAL SIGHTINGS IF RED AND GREEN POSITIONS LIGHTS AND RADAR SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN MADE AND ON SOME OCCASIONS CORRESPOND WITH ONE ANOTHER. OBJECTS HAVE TRAVELLED AT HIGH SPEEDS (350KTS), SLOW AND SEEMINGLY HOVERED BUT HAVE MADE TO AUDIBLE SOUND. PHENOMENA COMPLETELY UNEXPLAINABLE FM THIS END. ANY ASSIST OR IDEAS WILL BE APPRECIATED. AMB CONCURS.

GDS 31 DEC 82.

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