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UFO UpDates Mailing List

SWISS-AIR UFO & N.T.S.B. Latest

From: **KY** <task@fuse.net> [**Kenny Young**]
Date: Thu, 09 Oct 1997 09:23:23 -0700
Fwd Date: Thu, 09 Oct 1997 21:40:59 -0400
Subject: SWISS-AIR UFO & N.T.S.B. Latest

What follows is a reply from NTSB spokesman Pat Cariseo to an inquiry regarding the Aug. 9, 1997 UFO/Balloon incident involving a Swiss jetliner. Below his reply is the question, forwarded initially to Lyn Donaldson.

Subject: NTSB Aviation Incident data from AUGUST 9
Date: Thu, 9 Oct 1997 09:02:35 -0400
From: Cariseo Pat
To: "'task@fuse.net'" <task@fuse.net>
CC: Donaldson Lyn

Kenny Young:

The NTSB investigates all civilian aviation incidents and accidents in which there are deaths injuries or substantial damage to aircraft or property. However, the NTSB also decided to look into this sighting by the Swiss Air crew after it was reported to air traffic control because the incident happened over New York airspace.

We assigned one of our investigators from our New Jersey office to look into it. He is preparing a brief report which is not yet available.

The FAA believes it was a weather balloon because one had been launched that day and the FAA issued a notice to airmen about it. Another airline crew reported seeing a weather balloon about 50 minutes after the Swiss Air crew reported seeing the unidentified object.

Although our investigator originally thought it might be a weather balloon, we may not come to that final conclusion.

After examining radar data, estimating the speed of the Swiss Air 747, and interviewing the Swiss Air crew, we do NOT believe it was a powered vehicle. It did not show up on radar and we believe that the object may have been stationary or drifting. The crew's observation that the object sped by them may have actually been the jet speeding past the object since the plane was going more than 500 mph.. One crew member described the object as spherical, the other as cylindrical. It could have been some other type of balloon (a

promotional balloon that escaped into the atmosphere, for example.)
When we complete the brief, it should show up on our home page under
the Aug. 9, 1997 date.

[Pat Cariseo, NTSB spokesman]

>From: Donaldson Lyn
>Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 1997 9:30 AM
>To: Cariseo Pat
>Subject: FW: NTSB Aviation Incident data from AUGUST 9
>
>Pat, can you handle this one?

-----Original Message-----

From: Kenny Young [SMTP:task@fuse.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 1997 8:40 AM
To: Donaldson Lyn
Subject: NTSB Aviation Incident data from AUGUST 9

National Transportation Safety Board:

I was hopeful that you could advise me where to turn with my efforts to
locate the NTSB summation of an incident happening after a Boeing 747
had taken off from Philadelphia on August 9.

The incident involved an unidentified, wingless object which passed
50-yards from the jetliner. NTSB spokesman Pat Cariseo said that the
object "was probably a weather balloon."

The incident involved a Swissair jetliner, and was disclosed to the
public after the Associated Press reported on the event.

In review of your web-site which contains a listing of Aviation
accidents and incidents, there is no listing available with regards
to the disturbance. I was curious to learn why the incident was/is
not listed within your database.

Enclosed is a copy of the Associated Press article regarding the
incident.

I was also seeking to review the report on this happening, as well
as the information available to NTSB spokesman Pat Cariseo which
revealed these findings. Would you be able to kindly assist me
with this inquiry and point me in the right direction?

I appreciate your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
KENNY YOUNG
task@fuse.net

Newspaper article:

"Weather Balloon Spooks 747"
The Associated Press
Friday, September 26, 1997

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) -- The mystery of one UFO has been
solved.

An unidentified flying object passed dangerously close to a Swissair
jetliner traveling between Philadelphia and Boston on Aug. 9, the
airline said Friday.

Swissair spokesman Erwin Schaerer said the crew reported that an
object sped by about 50 yards from the Boeing 747 after the plane
had taken off from Philadelphia and had reached 23,000 feet.

The pilot told the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board that
the object as long and wingless, but the copilot said it was more
spherical, he said.

And what was it?

It probably was a weather balloon, NTSB spokesman Pat Cariseo said Friday.

``(The sighting) does not lead us to believe that was something self-propelled,`` Cariseo added.

End of article

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T.A.S.K. UFO Research
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