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Chief, Facility Operations **UNCLASSIFIED**

Chief, Washington Center

Undesignated Targets, July 26, 1952

Attached is a copy of the report written by the Senior  
Controller on duty, Harry G. Barnes, from approximately  
2300Z July 19, to 0800Z July 26, 1952.

Parts of this report have been given to Walter Williams of  
Air Force Intelligence, Lt. Col. Sandless, Office of Public  
Information, Department of Defense, and to Mr. Raymond  
Kellum, W-1.

Walter G. Young

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At 2340Z (19th) Controller Nugent called my attention to several targets observed on the VC-2 scope. Eight of them were counted and, although an occasional strong return was noted, most of the targets would be classified as fair to weak. After we had checked carefully on the movement (about 100 to 130 mph) and confirmed our findings with what the Tower saw on the ASR, I called MFS and reported it. This was about midnight EST. MFS later advised that the nearest military base was supposed to handle these matters and to call the BQF Intelligence Officer or AO. There was some confusion for awhile as to whether Andrews or Bolling was going to make the report, but it was finally determined that ADW would handle.

I called Thornadyke and asked if they could see them and was advised they saw nothing. Our MEW Maintenance then checked the equipment very carefully and advised that it was functioning satisfactorily and confirmed it with a fellow worker. (This lad tells me he has been working on this equipment for five years, so guess he knows what he is doing). The targets were noticed east and south of ADW so we asked the ADW tower to look and see if they saw anything, also asked ADW approach control to check scopes. ADW had a lad on the roof with glasses who spotted an object that looked to be orange in color and appeared to be just hovering in the vicinity of ADW. They saw others at the time went on with varying descriptions. Most of this information was given to Thornadyke and MFS with the expectation that they would run an intercept.

The information received from Thornadyke was to the effect that more information was needed to order an intercept. I told them our equipment was giving us good readings so we would be able to do any vectoring that might be necessary but they seemed to be leaving it all up to Smoke Ring. As time wore on, pilot reports were received - MFS saw 7 of the objects between Washington and Martinsburg variously described as lights that moved very rapidly, up and down and horizontally as well as hovering in one position and MFS saw one come in within five miles of Herndon and follow him to within 4 miles of touch-down. This was substantiated by Tower and Center radar.

In my conversation with MFS, ADW and the men on duty, we reached the point where we wondered just how much of this could be done and for how long before something could be done about it. I contacted Smoke Ring finally about 3000Z. They were doing nothing about it so I asked if it was possible for something like this to happen, even though we have them all this information, without anything being done about it. The man who was supposed to be in charge and to whom I had been talking, said he needed no. Then another voice came on who identified himself as the Captain Officer and said that all the information was being forwarded to higher authority and would not discuss it any further. I insisted I wanted to know if it was being forwarded tonight and he said yes, but would not give us any hint as to what was being done about all these things flying around Washington. He tried to assure me that something was being done about it. I asked too how he was getting his information. He said they would get it from Thornadyke and ADW. We were then told by MFS that they had no way of forwarding it to them. Smoke Ring then said that they were not really

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concerned about it anyway, that somebody else was supposed to handle it.

MPS then said that ADW was supposed to have forwarded it to Intelligence but when I checked with ADW (0505E) they said the AO had gone back to bed and the report would go in later. They confirmed the above by saying that they could not give it to anyone tonight.

It would be extremely difficult to write this so that it is in a logical sequence due to the confusion that seems to have existed throughout the whole affair. For example, ADW called us and asked what we wanted them to do with the information we had given them. (This took place after 0505E) At about 0530E Controller Ritchey reported seeing 10 targets in the vicinity of ADW which was confirmed by the other man in radar and I went in and counted 7 or 8 in scattered positions which indicated a very rapid movement if they were the same ones seen near ADW. This report was forwarded to both ADW and MPS. It was at this time that MPS advised they had determined that none of the information we had been giving to ADW was forwarded in accordance with procedures. MPS advised however, that they were following up with their own report.

At 0540E 7 targets counted in area.