

Incident 171

3 Aug 1948

AP NO.

AP NO.

AP NO.

AP NO. Sunset

AP NO. Long - Narrow

AP NO.

AP NO. CH - 12

AP NO. 1

AP NO.

AP NO.

AP NO.

AP NO.

AP NO.

Incident #171 -- Moscow, Russia -- 3 August 1948

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

Perhaps the Russians were experimenting with their own
or a captured German dirigible.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 171

1. Date 3 Aug 48
2. Time Sunset
3. Location Moscow, USSR
4. Name of observer N/S - American Newspaper Reporter
5. Occupation of observer Newspaper reporter
6. Address of observer N/S
7. Place of observation About 25 kilometers (19 to 20 miles) NW of Moscow
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude Very high
12. Speed high but not excessive
13. Direction of flight Southwest-Northeast direction
14. Tactics N/S
15. Sound No sound
16. Size N/S
17. Color N/S - shone brightly
18. Shape long narrow
19. Oder detected N/S
20. Apparent construction Apparently metallic since it shone very brightly
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions N/S - sunny
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks: (over)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

T-56109

About Sunset on 3 Aug 48, about 25 kilometers (20 miles) northwest of Moscow an experienced American newspaper reporter saw an unidentified object at very high altitude. It was long and narrow and proceeded at a high but not excessive speed in a generally south-west- northeast direction. It shone very brightly probably from reflected sunlight. No wings could be seen and no sound was heard. It looked like a rigid airship and was so identified by a Russian acquaintance who saw it at the same time. However, the reporter, in spite of the appearance of the object was of the opinion that it was not a rigid airship due principally to its high speed. He had no theory to offer

NA COMMENT: This object might have been anything. Its speed seems insufficient for a guided missile, but it could have been either a jet or conventional airplane as unusual light conditions and fore-shortening frequently give aircraft a freakish appearance. The possibility that it was a dirigible should not be excluded. Reference "A" should not be excluded.

REFERENCE "A": The upper winds in Russia are not published but it was noted that on the following morning there were high surface winds with storm predictions.

Unidentified Object at High Altitude

(AMC-499)

NCIAXO

NCIAXF-2

3 Nov 1948

1

1. Reference is made to RMR dated 29 October 1948, subject, "Re Adapazari Incident."

2. Inclosed for your information is NA Moscow Report NA-123-48, NAD-27846, which was quoted in telecon CSAF, Item 1, dated 2 September 1948.

3. A request has been initiated to secure required information and it will be forwarded immediately upon receipt.

2 Incls:

1. Rpt NAD-27846

2. Form #75 in trip.

C. C. BROOKE

Chief, Foreign Liaison Section

Tech Intelligence Div

Intelligence Department

HAM/jc

6-5322

Bldg 268

Post 204D

See NAD 27846

TO BE A ROCKET, AND THE DEBRIS WILL BE ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
INSPECTED BY EXPERTS. OBSERVERS SAY THAT
THE ROCKET, WHICH IS CLAIMED TO HAVE COME
FROM THE NORTHWEST, WAS FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE
OF 200 METERS OVER ADAPAZARI BEFORE IT FELL.

"ACCORDING TO RUMORS, IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT THE ROCKET IS CONNECTED WITH THE FLY-
ING DISC EXPERIMENTS BEING CONDUCTED BY
THE RUSSIANS AT THE STATION ON MOUNT
ALACQZ CLOSE TO OUR EASTERN FRONTIERS."

SOURCE: NA, ANKARA, TURKEY, 10 MAY
1948, SERIAL 26-48, EVAL. P40.

DADDORSENT: AIR ATTACHE, ANKARA, TURKEY,
HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE THIS
INCIDENT FULLY AND ENCOURAGE TURKISH
GENERAL STAFF TO DO LIKEWISE. WHETHER
INCIDENT CAN BE CONFIRMED OR NOT AIR ATTACHE
HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO DETERMINE SOURCES
FOR INFORMATION CONTAINED IN YENI SABAH DOWNGRADED AT 3 Y
DECLASSIFIED AFT
DDP DIR 5
ARTICLE.

2. MOSCOW, USSR. "AT ABOUT SUNSET
ON 3 AUGUST 1948, ABOUT 25 KILOMETERS
NORTHWEST OF MOSCOW, AN EXPERIENCED
AMERICAN NEWSPAPER REPORTER SAW AN
UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT AT A VERY HIGH
ALTITUDE. IT WAS LONG AND NARROW AND
PROCEEDED AT A HIGH BUT NOT EXCESSIVE
SPEED IN A GENERALLY SOUTHWEST-NORTHEAST
DIRECTION. IT SHONE VERY BRIGHTLY,

171

PROBABLY FROM REFLECTED SUNLIGHT. NO
WINGS COULD BE SEEN AND NO SOUND WAS
HEARD/ IT LOOKED LIKE A RIGID AIRSHIP,
AND WAS SO IDENTIFIED BY A RUSSIAN

UNCLASSIFIED

ACQUAINTANCE WHO SAW IT AT THE SAME TIME.
THE REPORTER, HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF THE
APPEARANCE OF THE OBJECT, WAS OF THE
OPINION THAT IT WAS NOT A RIGID AIRSHIP,
DUE PRINCIPALLY TO ITS HIGH SPEED. HE HAD
NO THEORY TO OFFER, AND COULD ONLY
SAY THAT IT WAS A MYSTERY, LIKE THE
AMERICAN 'FLYING SAUCERS'.

NA COMMENT: "THIS OBJECT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ANYTHING. ITS SPEED SEEMS
INSUFFICIENT FOR A GUIDED MISSILE,
BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN EITHER A JET
OR CONVENTIONAL AIRPLANE, AS UNUSUAL
LIGHT CONDITIONS AND FORESHORTENING
FREQUENTLY GIVE AIRCRAFT A FREAKISH
APPEARANCE. THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT
WAS A DIRIGIBLE, AS SUGGESTED IN
REFERENCE (A), SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED, (4-BAWVAT

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

7, & 85-00-43,5 SPEED

WINDS.

//////
REFERENCE (A), SHOULD NOT BE FOUNDED,
OBTAINING ITS APPARENT SPEED FROM HIGH
WINDS. THE UPPER WINDS IN RUSSIA ARE
NOT PUBLISHED, BUT IT WAS NOTED THAT
ON THE FOLLOWING [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
HIGH SURFACE WINDS WITH [REDACTED]
INDICATIONS.

SOURCE: NA, MOSCOW, USSR, SERIAL
123-48, 4 AUGUST 1948, EVAL. B-2.

3. MOSCOW, USSR. "WHILE IN
MOSCOW THE FRIEND HAD MET WITH MEMBERS
OF THE MOSCOW, IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL STAFF,
AT WHICH TIME HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE
CENTRAL PARTY COMMITTEE IS MAKING A
SPECIAL, SECRET STUDY OF THE AMERICAN
"FLYING SAUCER" STORY AND THE "ROCKETS
OVER SWEDEN" INCIDENT. SOURCE HAD NOT
HEARD OF THE "FLYING SAUCERS" IN
AMERICA AND SO WAS COMPLETELY IN THE
DARK AS TO WHAT THE "SECRET STUDY"
MIGHT IMPLY.

DECLASSIFIED
DOD 1

SOURCE: NA, MOSCOW, USSR, SERIAL
38-S-48, 10 JUNE 1948, EVAL. P-3.

REQUEST AMC CONTINUE ANY FOLLOW-UPS
DEEMED NECESSARY UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF PROJECT "SIGN". INFORMATION RECEIVED
BY HEADQUARTERS, USAF, REGARDING FOLLOW-UP
ON TURKISH REPORT WILL BE FURNISHED TO AMC.
END CSAF ITEM 1 (SECRET)

C O P Y

C O P Y

UNCLASSIFIED

T-56109

JECAB V JEQ

RTT CONF NR 0051

FM: CSAF WASH DC

TO: CG AMC WRIGHT PAT AFB OHIO

SUBJ: REG A-2 CONF

CLASS: BY ITEM

PRES: LT COL MCGINNIS
LT HUNNICUTT

HOOPER IT IS SPECIAL A200

SORRY IT IS SPECIAL A-2 CONFERENCE

CSAF ITEM 1 (SECRET)

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED REGARDING FLYING OBJECTS
AND ARE FORWARDED FOR PROJECT "SIGN"
RECORDS:

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DGD DIR 5200.10

1. ITEM FROM TURKISH NEWSPAPER YENI
SABAH, ISTANBUL, 5 MAY 1948. "THERE
HAVE BEEN REPORTS LATELY TO THE EFFECT
THAT SHINING OBJECTS LIKE METEORS, HAVE
BEEN SIGHTED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY. SOME PEOPLE SUGGEST THAT THESE
MIGHT BE ROCKETS. INFORMATION RECEIVED
FROM AUTHORIZED CIRCLES REVEALS
THAT SUCH A THING PASSED OVER ADAPAZARI
AND WAS SEEN TO EXPLODE IN THE AIR.
PARTS OF IT FELL INTO A VILLAGE NEARBY,
AND KILLED A SHEEP DOG. THE THING WAS FOUND

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UNCLASSIFIED

Dr HYNEX'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:

#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,
95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140,
147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216,
219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:

#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 35, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100,
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192,
199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:

#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115,
126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163,
169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198,
200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:

#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107,
108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):

#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#38, 44, 45, 47, 56, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213,
229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:

#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71,
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162,
168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

JULY - AUGUST 1948 SIGHTINGS

INCIDENT NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
<u>JULY</u>				
140	July 1	Columbus, Ohio (Case Missing)	Civilian	Astro (Refraction of Sun)
	4	Gahanna, Ohio (Case Missing)	Civilian	Astro (Meteor)
160	4	Longmont, Colorado (NO CARD)	Zimmerman	A/C
137	4	Dravestburg, Pennsylvania	Jannicky	A/C
214	7	Chapel Hill, North Carolina	Leaves, Daniels	Other (Not a UFO Sound Only)
138	7	West Ridge, New Hampshire	Tasker (PHYSICAL SPECIMEN)	Other (Iron)
161	8	Columbus, Ohio (Case Missing)	Civilian	A/C
139	8	McKeesport, Pennsylvania	Veway, Goitz	A/C
145	9	Osborn, Ohio (Case Missing)	USAF Pilot	Insufficient Data
146	9	Fielding Lake, Washington	Caramia, Carpenter	Other (Insects)
168	17	San Acacia Dam, N.M. (Case Missing)	Military	Other (Birds)
163	20	Arnhem, Holland (Case Missing)	Civil Official	Insufficient Data
	21	Van Nuys, California	Multiple	Balloon
Info	24	Altoona, Pennsylvania (Case Missing)	Griebel	Astro (Meteor)
	24	Yakima, Washington (News Clipping)	Hunt, Robinson	
144	24	Alabama (FOLDER) *	Chiles-Whitted-McKelvie	"Fireball"
165	26	Chamblee, Georgia	Multiple	Astro (Meteor)
Info	27	Asbury Park, N.J. (News Clipping)	Balloon Launch from Princeton.	
147	27	Springfield, Ohio (Case Missing)	Gibson	Astro (Meteor)
148	27	Springfield, Ohio (Case Missing)	Henry	Astro (VENUS)
	28	Camp Hood, Texas (Case Missing)	Multi Military	Astro (Meteor)
151	29	Indianapolis, Indiana	Toney, Huggins	UNIDENTIFIED
159	30	Worthington, Ohio	Felton	Balloon (Hot Air)
155	31	Columbus, Ohio	Watson	Balloon (Hot Air)
156	31	"	Price, Rippetoe	
157	31	" (PHYSICAL SPECIMEN)	Goshorn	
152	31	Indianapolis, Indiana	Swigert	UNIDENTIFIED
	Jul-Aug	Marion, Virginia	Abbott	UNIDENTIFIED
<u>AUGUST</u>				
	Aug	Salt Lake City, Utah (NO CASE)	Civilian	A/C
158	1	Groveport, Ohio	Yantis	Other (Meteor Car-rail)
154	2	Columbus, Ohio	Saunders	Balloon
171	3	Moscow, USSR	Newspaper Reporter	Insufficient Data
230	4	North Powder, Oregon (NO CASE)	Ex USAF Pilot	Astro (Meteor)
153	5	Richland, Georgia (NO CASE)	Ex USAF Pilot	Astro (Meteor) Report)
162	11	Hazel, Minnesota	Deuer (Physical Specimen)	Other (Unreliable)
187	19	Godman AAB, Kentucky	Military Gd & Air	Astro (VENUS)
169	29	Maplewood, Ohio	Niswonger	Other (Spider Webs)
166	30	Los Angeles, California	Estes	Astro (Meteor)
143	5	Columbus, S.C.	MATTHEW S.	no details

* IN SEPARATE FOLDER

⊙ CASE MISSING

JUL - AUG 48