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Tunis, Libya

11 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

An unidentified object was observed by the crew of a C-119 aircraft while enroute to Tripoli from Tunis. The object appeared very bright with a halo of diffused light surrounding it and was observed off the right wing of the aircraft flying at 7,000' on a 170° heading making I.A.S. of 170 knots. Length of observation varied from 5 to 55 minutes by assorted members of the crew some of whom stated that it appeared to ascend and then descend slowly.

II. Discussion of Incident

Four out of six of the crew stated that, in their opinion, the object was not a star, whereas the remaining observers would not commit themselves on a conclusion. Since the sighting seemed to be astronomical in nature, Project Blue Book submitted it to its contract astronomer, standard operating procedure in such cases. It was determined that Venus was probably responsible for the observation in that it appears at an approximate 200° azimuth in Libya on this date, and under fair weather conditions would appear very bright. The fact that it remained almost stationary and was observed for a long period of time would support this conclusion.

III. Conclusion

Probably Venus.

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64

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