

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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BY KURT K. KUNZE, Capt, USAF
Historian

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THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF

18th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
AF SPECIALIZED DEPOT, BOX 310, MAYWOOD, CALIF.

21 February 1950

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Alleged Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft.

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

1. SYNOPSIS: [redacted] resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, telephonically advised Wing Intelligence Officer, Las Vegas Air Force Base that on 10 January 1950 he and his father, [redacted] an unidentified flying object in the vicinity of Las Vegas, Nevada. Object allegedly sighted at approximate altitude of 1500 to 2000 feet and described as round "like a balloon", pure silver in appearance, 25 to 30 feet in diameter, and at time of sighting traveling in North by Northeast direction. No exhaust trails, noise or external fittings observed by witnesses. Files of McCarran Field and Las Vegas Air Force Base reflect no record of release of meteorological balloons during period of alleged sighting of unidentified flying object. Information presently not evaluated.

2. DETAILS: [redacted] in an interview conducted 16 January 1950, stated that on 10 January 1950 at 1010 they were observing two (2) F-80 jet fighter aircraft coming in for a landing. They further stated that at this time they were observing the aircraft from their place of business located on Highway 93 approximately eight (8) miles from Las Vegas Air Force Base at an angle of approximately 45 degrees into the sun and saw an unidentified flying object at an altitude of approximately 1500-2000 feet. [redacted] stated that the object was within their vision for approximately twenty five (25) seconds, and that the appearance of the object was pure silver, round "like a balloon" and apparently constructed of a solid material, "a metal". [redacted] further stated that the object was approximately 25 or 30 feet in diameter and that the direction of flight was Northeast by North, and that they observed no tactical movement or maneuver of the object, but that had it been an airplane it could have been observing the flight of the jet aircraft. [redacted] stated that the motion of the object was smooth; at first slow and then a very rapid acceleration in a horizontal ascent, disappearing over mountains to the

Copy to his [redacted]
3

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4938

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east. They further stated that they observed no exhaust trails, or lights of any nature and that the day was clear with no clouds in the sky. [REDACTED] described the appearance of the object when first sighted as "suspended animation". They further stated that the object was apparently well controlled but that there were no supports of any kind and that the object had no air ducts or radio antennae and that they heard no sound other than the sound of the two (2) jet aircraft.

3. [REDACTED] stated that he was 63 years of age and that his [REDACTED] was 32 years of age. [REDACTED] stated that they are engaged in the business of automobile body repair in Las Vegas, Nevada, and that they both have private pilot's licenses presently in effect.

4. An examination of records of Base Weather Service, Las Vegas Air Force Base, Nevada, revealed that on 10 January 1950 at 1025 the sky was clear, visibility 35 miles, temperature 45 degrees, dew point 24, winds East by Northeast at 11 knots per hour. The altimeter readings for 10 January 1950 were missing as was the barometric pressure at sea level. The records of the Base Weather Service indicated winds aloft at 4000 feet were 170 at 5.

5. An examination of records at McCarran Field, Commercial Air Lines Airport, Las Vegas, Nevada, and records of the Base Weather Service, Las Vegas Air Force Base, revealed no record of the release of meteorological balloons at 1010, 10 January 1950.

6. ACTION: No further action contemplated unless otherwise ordered by Hq OSI.

Keefe O'Keefe
KEEFE O'KEEFE
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

*File
J.M.N.
(memo)*