

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. W. LADD  
FROM : E. G. FITCH  
SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS

DATE: August 19, 1947

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

*S.W. Reynolds*

Aug. 19

*Mr. Garrett*

Special Agent [redacted] of the Liaison Section, while discussing the above captioned phenomena with Lieutenant Colonel [redacted] of the Air Forces Intelligence, expressed the possibility that flying discs were, in fact, a very highly classified experiment of the Army or Navy. Mr. [redacted] was very much surprised when Colonel [redacted] not only agreed that this was a possibility, but confidentially stated it was his personal opinion that such was a probability. Colonel [redacted] indicated confidentially that a Mr. [redacted] who is a scientist attached to the Air Forces Intelligence, was of the same opinion.

Colonel [redacted] stated that he based his assumption on the following: He pointed out that when flying objects were reported seen over Sweden, the "high brass" of the War Department exerted tremendous pressure on the Air Forces Intelligence to conduct research and collect information in an effort to identify these sightings. Colonel [redacted] stated that, in contrast to this, we have reported sightings of unknown objects over the United States, and the "high brass" appeared to be totally unconcerned. He indicated this led him to believe that they knew enough about these objects to express no concern. Colonel [redacted] pointed out further that the objects in question have been seen by many individuals who are what he terms "trained observers," such as airplane pilots. He indicated also that several of the individuals are reliable members of the community. He stated it is his conclusion that these individuals saw something. He stated the above has led him to come to the conclusion that there were objects seen which somebody in the Government knows all about.

Mr. [redacted] pointed out to Colonel [redacted] that if it is a fact experimentations are being conducted by the United States Government, then it does not appear reasonable to request the FBI to spend money and precious time conducting inquiries with respect to this matter. Colonel [redacted] stated that he agreed with Mr. [redacted] in this regard and indicated that it would be extremely embarrassing to the Air Forces Intelligence if it later is learned that these flying discs are, in fact, an experiment of the United States Government.

Mr. [redacted] subsequently discussed this matter with Colonel L. R. Forney of the Intelligence Division of the War Department. Colonel Forney stated that he had discussed the matter previously with General Chamberlin. Colonel Forney indicated to Mr. [redacted] that he has the assurance of General

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Chamberlin and General Todd that the Army is conducting no experimentations with anything which could possibly be mistaken for a flying disc.

Colonel [redacted] of the Air Forces Intelligence subsequently contacted Mr. [redacted] and indicated that he had discussed this matter with General Schulgen of the Army Air Forces. General Schulgen had previously assured both Mr. [redacted] and Colonel [redacted] that to the best of his knowledge and information no experiments were being undertaken by the Government which could be mistaken for flying discs. Colonel [redacted] indicated to Mr. [redacted] that he had pointed out his beliefs to General Schulgen and had mentioned the possibility of an embarrassing situation arising between the Air Forces Intelligence and the FBI. General Schulgen agreed with Colonel [redacted] that a memorandum would be prepared for the signature of General McDonald, A2, to General LeMay, who is in charge of Research and Development in the Air Corps. Colonel [redacted] indicated that this memorandum will set forth the characteristics of the objects seen by various reliable individuals. The memorandum will then request General LeMay to indicate whether or not any experiments are being undertaken by the Air Forces which could possibly be connected with any of the observed phenomena. Colonel [redacted] stated that when a reply is received from General LeMay, a communication will be addressed to the Bureau.

Mr. [redacted] will follow this matter closely with Colonel [redacted] and General Schulgen so that the Bureau will be promptly advised of all information regarding the flying discs, especially any information indicating that they are, in fact, an experiment of some Governmental agency.