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ADDRESS REPLY TO
DIRECTOR, SPECIAL DEVICES CENTER
SDC:901:JGV
AND REFER TO:

U. S. NAVY
OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

SPECIAL DEVICES CENTER
SANDS POINT, PORT WASHINGTON
LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Executive Order
0-4630

3157

MAY 23 10 25 AM '49


20 MAY 1949

From: Commanding Officer and Director
To: The Chief of Naval Operations
Attn: Office of Naval Intelligence
Via: The Chief of Naval Research

Subj: Sighting of Unidentified Object--Report of

Encl: (A) Statement of C. B. Moore, General Mills
Aeronautical Research, Minneapolis

1. Encl (A) is a statement submitted to this activity by Mr. C. B. Moore (General Mills Aeronautical Research) who sighted and tracked an unidentified object on 24 April 1949 while engaged on Special Devices Center Project 9-U-J-1 in the vicinity of White Sands Proving Ground.
2. Mr. Moore's statement is forwarded as significant because of the detailed theodolite tracking data it contains and because the object's variation of azimuth and elevation might indicate some degree of controlled flight.
3. The observer is known to the Special Devices Center as a graduate mechanical engineer with an Air Force Reserve captaincy in meteorology. Mr. Moore, prior to his employment by General Mills, headed the New York University constant level balloon research program for the Air Force, and can be considered to be a competent, mature, and highly experienced observer.

cc:
(with encl) 
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency

J. R. Ruhseberger

ISO/113
CIA/OSI
MAY 25 10 30 AM '49

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OBJECT REPORT

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On 24 April 1949, at 3 miles north of Arrey, New Mexico, (107° 19½'W 32° 52½'N) 4 Navy enlisted men from White Sands Proving Ground (Chief Akers, Davidson, Fitzsimmons and Moorman) and I saw a rapidly moving object while making a pibal wind run. We had released a 350 gram balloon at about 1020 MST and were following it with a standard ML-47 (David White) Theodolite. After the 1030 reading, Davidson took over the theodolite, and Akers and I looked up to find the balloon with naked eye. We thought we had the balloon when we saw a whitish spherical object right along the direction the theodolite (45° elevation and 210° azimuth) was pointing. The object was drifting east rapidly (5°/sec. as estimated by stopwatch and width of fingers) but we had thought to encounter similar winds on the balloon. When the difference in angle between the theodolite and supposed balloon became apparent, I took over the theodolite and found the true balloon still there, whereupon I abandoned it and picked up the object after it came out of the sun. (The computed bearing of sun was 127° azimuth and elevation 60°) The object was moving too fast to crank the theodolite around, therefore one of the men pointed the theodolite and I looked.

The object was an ellipsoid about 2½ : 1 slenderness ratio, length about .02° subtended angle, and white in color, except for a light yellow of one side as though it were in shadow. I could not get a hard focus on the object due to the speed at which the angles changed. Therefore I saw no good detail at all.

The Azimuth angle continued to decrease as the object continued on a north heading, growing smaller in size. At around 20° - 25° Azimuth, the Azimuth held constant and the elevation angle began increasing from the 25° minimum to about 29°. The object then apparently disappeared due to distance after a total time of observation of about 60 seconds.

The object was not a balloon and was some distance away. Assuming escape velocity, a track was figured which put the elevation about the station of about 300,000 feet over the observed period. If this is true, the flight would have probably gone over the White Sands Proving Ground, Holloman AirForce Base and Los Alamos.

We made another pibal wind run 15 minutes later. This balloon burst after an 88 minute flight of 93,000 feet only 13 miles due south of us. Therefore this object could not have been a free balloon moving at such angular speed below 90,000 feet.

Information is desired if this was some new or experimental aircraft or for any explanation whatsoever.

NOTE:
No clouds in sky, no haze.
No noise, very quiet in area
(no cars, planes or other
engines running)
No trail, no exhaust visible.
No odor.

ENCLOSURE A
/s/ C.B. Moore
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