740TH AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON
Ellsworth Air Force Base
South Dakota

17 December 1953

ND

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Emerson McMillin Observatory
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Dr. Hynek

This is in pursuance of our recent phone conversation and the letter which I received a very short time ago. Only one other letter was found that was sent by you and she stated that she may answer the letter but would need clarification as to where the letter came from and why it came from there. It was explained to her without divulging any information so it is very possible that she will answer.

The questions you asked me in the letter have been answered here to the best of my ability and I sincerely hope that they will help you in finding the source and whatever they are.

1. In my opinion the blips observed on the scope were definitely the same as those observed in the sky at the time, due to the first sighting. I made contact twice with them and on the second occasion for about fifteen minutes at which time the aircraft were vectored toward them and had a Tally-Ho.

2. In request for the total length of time that the object was on the scope, the first was about two minutes as I got ten or eleven definite blips with the speed of the antenna set at six rpm per minute. The second time in which I had another aircraft scrambled for the object was the longest as I carried it on the scope for approximately ~~fifteen minutes~~ as it moved from the Northwest to East and then directly North on a heading of 360°. A fighter pilot had a Tally-Ho on the object. It would move erraticly or seem to move north, stand still or with no movement. The pilot stated that it would move with an up and down motion. I had the pilot climb to 26,000 feet indicating 330 knots. He was then above the object and getting in position for a pounce when the object started on a climb to the north with an estimated speed ~~of a near 1,000 miles per~~ hour and it then left the scope. The speed was almost twice that of the F-84. The blips on the scope showed up to be approximately the same size as those made by a ~~B-36~~.

contradiction

3. The only time I noted any difference in speed between the plane and the object was when the plane was in "pounce" position and the object took off due north at a ~~terrific rate of speed~~.

4. In reference to question four, a statement was made at the time of the sighting. The following is the statement:

At 2005 MST, Mrs. Phyllis Killian of Black Hawk, South Dakota who was manning a post of the Rapid City Filter Center when she sighted an object which was bright red and very low at approximately four miles north east of Black Hawk. The object then made a pass over Rapid City at a very high note of speed and then returned back over Rapid City to approximately seven miles from where it was first sighted and continued to hover in one position. I had three men from the control room to take a look and all gave the same reply of seeing the object. The three men were S/Sgt Mc Donald, S/Sgt Burgess and A/1C Phillips. The object was round, changing colors from bright red to Greenish Silver depending on speed. There was no sound that could be heard although they stated it looked like a "V" shaped vapor trail was following the object.

The maneuverability of the object is very sharp in all directions, such as up and down and sideways.

I had a Lt. John W. Stockham on Cap for the first sighting and vectored him to the direction where the object was sighted last and at approximately fifteen miles north east of Black Hawk, Lt. Stockham made a sighting of the object. Upon trying to close in the object took off in a north west direction on a heading of about 320° at a high rate of speed. Lt. Stockham stated object was a bright silver color when last sighted. From the time the first object was sighted until object faded was about thirty-five minutes. At 2024 MST, Lt. David K. Needham was scrambled for CAP when report came from Mrs. Killian at Black Hawk that an object was about seven miles from where other sighting was at a medium altitude with the same color and actions the same. Lt. Needham was flying at 26,000 when vectored to 270° to check report. At approximately 20 miles north east of Black Hawk, Lt. Needham gave a Tally-Ho on object at about fifteen angels. I gave Lt. Needham directions to intercept or get a visual but every time he came very close the object would go up or down on speeds up to where he would lose sight of the object. I had two blips on the scope which coordinated with the report from Lt. Needham which was moving very fast. I vectored him to them and had the crew chief set up the camera to take photos of pictures of the scope. We had approximately fifteen blips of the object on a heading of 360° which Lt. Needham was trying to intercept out to 85 miles. At that distance I turned the fighter around and we took thirteen pictures on the scope. I called 54th FIS Maintenance to see if Lt. Needham had film in the gun camera to get an aerial picture and stated he had, so on his way back to home plate at about thirty miles from the station he sighted object again. Lt. Needham stated he had shot almost a complete rollof film of the object. Lt. Neddham was brought back to the base and all GOC Filter Centers were alerted in the northern area, as that was the direction of the last sighting of the objects.

At 0723Z, Bismark Filter Center gave a report of sighting object west of Bismark at a very low altitude with the same discription as the other sightings. The reports from Bismark Filter Center were all taken by T/Sgt. Reece. All people that have made sightings were instructed to make a personal statement as to what they saw in all respects.

NO

5. From my experience as a radar operator, I have tracked balloons, aircraft, cars, trucks, etc., and have had experience with interference from other radar sites but to the best of my knowledge and experience, I would definitely state that this was none of the above mentioned. I had Maintenance check the equipment at the time and there was normal function at the time of the sighting. The night was very clear at the time and I was not carrying any other aircraft on the scope so I do not think it is possible due to the direction and speed and erratical tracking that it would be an echo from a jet or ground object.

Any further assistance that may enable you to solve this problem will be willingly given.

Sincerely,

Howell I. Bennett

HOWELL I. BENNETT
WOJG USAF

Warrant Officer, J.G.

NO

DETACHMENT #5
4773D GROUND OBSERVER SQUADRON
225½ Broadway West
Bismarck, North Dakota

9 December 1953

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Professor of Astronomy
Emerson McMillin Observatory
Ohio State University
Columbus 10, Ohio

Dear Dr. Hynek;

I received your letter which followed our phone conversation and will endeavor to assist by answering the specific questions included in the letter, and also to give any personal ideas or concepts which may assist you in the investigation of the phenomonon.

1.. Our official log book contains in narrative form the following information: "Received call from Controller at 0343Z, 6 Aug 53, that a bright, shining object was flying NW of Rapid City at a very fast rate of speed. Object was then moving into the Alfa Alfa area of our Plotting board and believed to be penetrating the Billings Filter Center area which lies adjacent to ours on the West. We did not alert our posts or call other personnel at this time, however, we did call Billings and have them be especially watchful. We were also told that an intercept attempt was made but no contact was made." The previous information was attested to by A/1C Richard B.J. Haugen prior to his contacting 2d Lt. Charles Koontz, our Detachment Commander, and myself.

a. A/1C Haugen, at 0515Z, received another call from the Controller and was told that the Object was now about 70 miles South of Dickinson, N.D. at Grid position of CA 0655. He then called Lt. Koontz and myself and we arrived at 0523Z. The position of the object was then given as 15 miles North of Rapid City! We then alerted the West-Southwest area of our plotting board. At 0538Z, the Controller then stated that the object was now in DB 0052 and moving towards Bismarck. At this time I stepped out on top of the roof of the adjacent building and sighted the object which I made the initial report on.

2. Question #2 regarding "well lighted object".

a. The Object was "welllighted in this sense". That it definitely stood out in the night sky as seeming to be at least twice the size of any of the thousands of the stars out at the time, and because its color was changing. Its color was changing, and I firmly believe it to be true, from a bluish-white to a red-orange or green combination. I might add right here, that I am slightly color blind on certain colors such as a blue-green or very close shades of red-green. Therefore, to isolate the colors of any object, even clothing materials is difficult unless the colors are a distinct or a true color. I did see the colors mentioned at this time and also on the other objects. The object when maneuvering, which it seemed to do, reminded me in a way, of a darkened aircraft with light shining out from within. Also, when moving up and down or sideways, the light seemed become brighter in intensity.

Unidentified Object, Cont'd:

Question #2-Continued- When the object moved up and down, it seemed as if a trail of exhaust of a brighter color (red-orange) would prevail for a few seconds, from the under side of the object when ascending and from the top when descending. The object at this time also reminded me of light coming out of a porthole or something of that sort. Maybe, this part is something which my eyes could have tricked me on though. However, I usually pride myself on a good memory for details in everything I engage in and feel very strongly that I actually did witness everything stated in this letter and the previous report.

3. Question Three regarding talk with Mr. Wilhelm.

a. When I called Mr. Wilhelm I made this statement, as nearly as I can recall. " Mr. Wilhelm, Can you see any aircraft, balloons or any unusual object in the West or Southwest skies? Do you have any aircraft in the area at this time? Any Balloons?" At this time I did not inform him of our alert on the Object(s). (I had already sighted the object from the Filter Center along with 5 other people and I wanted to see if someone else whom I felt highly capable like Mr. Wilhelm could or would see the same object as we had. In the interim period we had checked all available contacts on Weather and Weather Balloons and definitely eliminated the Balloon angle. By checking with the CAA and our own military Air Force Units we knew that there was no aircraft or balloon s in the area.) Mr. Wilhelm then said he would check and call me back. He called back in a few minutes and stated he did see a brightly lighted object moving at this time rather slowly across the skies. I then told him the approximate position of the object in relation to the object from the Filter Center. From us it was approximately 220 degrees and at an angle of about 35-40 degrees at an altitude of 3-4 thousand feet. We then talked and agreed that we were both looking at the same object. During this time, the civilians and military were reporting the objects position to me and to the Direction Center. Mr. Wilhelm and myself conversed several times during the remainder of the evening on the object's position and we (the Filter Center) received very fine cobperation from Mr. Wilhelm. I am enclosing a sketch of the relative positions of the CAA Tower, The Filter Center and the positions of the Object.

4. Question Four regarding movement of the object(s).

a. When Object #1 hove into view, it would have moved, according to the scale you set, across the entire span of my hand in just a few seconds (5-10 approx.). However, once it had established its position to us in a general West or Southwesterly direction from the Filter Center it moved more slowly. The other objectsmoved slower, generally speaking, except when moving up and down. Then, they moved erratically and would have spanned the distance between each finger in about a second or less. The objects all moved into the Bismarck area very quickly it seemed and then began their hovering antics in which they seemed to increase and decrease speed at will.

5. (Actually this Question #4-Regarding Reconstruction of the Phenomonen)

a. I have thought this question over an awful lot and can reach no concrete answer or give an intelligent supposition. This was something that I have never seen before or since and is something that I can only classify in the "Flying Saucer" category, with the exception that the lights if thats what they were, reminded me of portholes or of a moving train at night.

6. When the Object(s) were moving most slowly and hovering, my knuckle would have hidden it completely for a matter of seconds. It did move erratically at times and when so doing it would seem to me now at this time that it did move up or down the breadth of one or more fingers. Sometimes it seemed like a steady movement and then it would spurt and definitely reverse directions to a small extent.

7. I am firmly convinced that Mr. Wilhelm and I made simultaneous observations of at least the first and second objects and only a very short time between the last two observations of objects. We had sighted the last three objects at almost exactly the same time as I was preparing to call him when he called us. I mentioned to him at the time that we should try to make the independent observations, keep track of the change in positions and when the objects ceased to be under our surveillance we could then discuss the positions and see how closely insofar as time, distance size of object, weather aloft and directions of objects we came to each other. We correlated the information as best we could with the equipment and found that our separate, independent observations tallied very closely with each other. I also feel that a surveyor could determine the actual altitudes and possibly gather more information pertaining to the sightings. Here is why. I cut marks around my shoes in the top of the tarred roof I was observing from here at the Center, I also lined my body up with other physical objects present such as power line poles, wires (the only things that could possibly have moved slightly), a brick chimney, the corner of a brick building and several features of other buildings in the surrounding area. The marks are still on the roof where I changed from one position to the other and the times can be correlated to prove the exact altitude, direction, angle of bearing and other information, including the speed,

8. Insofar as the Weather and temperature inversion records, I have no idea of their whereabouts as I had never seen them at the CAA Tower. This Filter Center maintains a constant picture of the weather from our Observation Posts and these reports are used strictly for tactical purposes. We only keep these reports at the most for one month, and in some instances only two weeks unless they pertain to and offical Air Force alert or interceptions of aircraft. We did not however, have the Weather & Temperature Inversion records, nor do we have them now. Our posts are required only to call in pertinent information such as heavy rains, snows, wind direction changes and speeds, etc. However, I have just finished contacting the Bismarck Weather Bureau and they have supplied me with this information: There was an iversion on the 4th, 5th, and 6th but none on the 7th.

5 August 53 at 0300Z
Surface Inversion extending up to 2000 feet.
Surface Temperature of 65 degrees
Top Temperature of 72 degrees

6 August 53 at 0300Z
Surface inversion extending to 1900 feet
Surface temperature of 66 degrees
Top Temperature of 69 degrees

4 August 53-0300Z Surface inversion extending to 1900 feet
Surface temperature of 62 degrees
Top temperature of 68 degrees

Unidentified Objects (Continued from Question #8)

I cannot understand why Mr. Wilhelm could not locate the Weather Inversion records because I have just finished contacting the Weather Bureau and they stated that they have maintained their records up to date for the past 6 months and that they are readily available.

9. The objects sighted were not aircraft, balloons, or stars in my estimation because of the following reasons.

a. They had no aerodynamic features such as visible structural materials, vapor trails, no sound connected with them, no exhaust trail such as a jet type aircraft would leave, the airborne characteristics were decidely different from any I have ever witnessed. Nothing was noted to make me believe there were landing lights or anything of that sort. And finally, as far as the possibility of being an aircraft, there were no known aircraft in this area at that time according to all Military and Civilian records available to this unit.

b. There were no balloons in the area at that time according to all records avalable to this Unit either. All weather balloons were down and accounted for at least two hours before the sightings. I have seen several airborne balloon both during the night and day and these objects resembled nothing of the sort.

c. I do not believe they were stars, due to their erratic movement, the speed with which they closed in on this area, and the activity which they accomplished while aloft. All this, when accompanied by the verification of twoother military Airman and 3 civilians here at the Center lead me to believe that something of a completely unusual type was up there. And also, the various stationary positions from which I watched the progress of the Objects is enough to convince me that these Objects were not Aircraft, Balloons or Stars.

10. At one point in my original statement I emphasized the point that I saw or thought I saw a type of pulsating signal from one to the other of the three objects in the North, NE and East. I believe that I also mentioned in the report, the presence of a USAF C-124 (Globemaster Cargo & Troop Carrier) which was entering the immediate vicinity of the objects. At this time, prior to even knowing of the C-124 in the area, I noticed the pulsating signal which would last about 5 seconds, stop for approximately 15-30 seconds and begin again. This happened several times and was witnessed independently by 5 other people from vantage points in and around the Filter Center. These signals or whatever they were lasted only until the C-124 was out of the area. Incidentally, the C-124 crew was alerted to spot the objects but at that time, a cloud bank or mist of some type was forming in the area. They did not see the objects because of this but we in turn could see both the C-124 and the objects very clearly. The C-124 was approximately 1½-2 miles south of the objects at this time and flying west. The signals seemed to be of a red-orange to bluish green and white color combination. It was at this time that the objects began fading from our vision.

11. The objects disappeared by fading from view, I believe primarily to distance and secondarily because of the light cloud bank coming in from the East. I do not believe they disappeared becasue the light went out. The only object of the group which I can truthfully say vanished to a combination of speed and distance was Object #1 which disappeared over the horizon to the West-Northwest.

Unidentified Objects (Continued to Question 12)

12. Insofar as general appearance was concerned, the last three objects sighted were alike, in general size and in the colors emitting from them. These last three, were also the ones where I saw the pulsating light or lights. Object #1 was different in that I felt that it was closer and therefore seemed larger. No signal type lights were observed on this object.

I have thought all the known quantities over in the case of these objects and arrive at a not too unreasonable answer. The answer is that these objects are Unknown, definitely and positively. The facts which we have checked and double-checked seem to bear out this reasoning. I and the two military people involved in it here at this Center come to the same conclusion. That the objects sighted actually existed, that they were not aircraft(as we know them), not stars and not balloons. However, with my limited knowledge of the subject I could not say what they are. One thing does stand out in my mind though and that is, that little is known of the Universe and it would be possible for another world to make technical advancements much farther than our own civilization. However, on the more logical side is the fact that there are several Unknown things right in our planet such as various types of weather phenomena and specifically, the Temperature Inversion Type. I believe that the inversion, if anything could have some definite effect or bearing on the so called Flying Saucer Incidents. I believe that much more knowledge should be gleaned from the Inversion of Temperature studies and maybe before too long the answer will come out of it. I still maintain though that I saw what I saw and whether it were something from another planet or something stemming from temperature inversion I saw something which I had never seen before and would really like to know the answer. I intend to keep this communication confidential and assume you will do likewise. However, if I may assist in any way at any time please contact me. I sincerely hope that I have helped in some small way to solve the riddle.

Sincerely yours,

Wesley N. Harry

WESLEY N. HARRY
S/Sgt, USAF
Operations NCOIC

P.S. I also would like to make it clear that this statement or report has no reflection on the military unit I belong to and is, in a large sense, my own viewpoint from what I believe was witnessed on the night in question. To emphasize it a bit clearer, this is not an official USAF statement from Detachment #5, 4773d Grd Obsr Sq, but is an opinion and a statement by one individual member of the unit. Thank you and good luck. WNH

WNH

NO

January 26, 1954
P.O. Box 752
Bismarck, No. Dak.

Dr. J. A. Hynek
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Ohio St. U.
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Sir:

It has been called to my attention by Ivar Nelson, chief Engineer of KFYR, Bismarck, North Dakota that you wished a description of the sighting of an unidentified object OR OBJECTS which ~~was~~ WERE visible to the unaided eye on the night of Aug. 4, and the Morning of Aug. 5, 1953.

The local air-raid filter center had sighted two objects on the evening of Aug. 4. One appeared due West of the city of Bismarck and another in the Northeast.

My first knowledge and sighting of these objects were at approximately 12:05 A.M. Aug. 5. As near as I could tell the one in the West appeared to be directly due West; and the other approximately 50 to 70 degrees North and East of due North as estimated at the KFYR transmitter location, which is approximately 13 miles east of Bismarck, No. Dak.

As to the description of these objects all that I can say is that they appeared much brighter than most of the stars and at times appeared to take on a rather dull blueish tint.

They appeared to move in the heavens, but at a rather a slow rate and unless a person braced his head against some stationary object to eliminate head movement it would be hard to tell that they were moving.

The one in the West eventually disappeared below the horizon and the one in the North-east gradually seemed to blend in with the rest of the stars until it was no longer visible. The time of the last sighting of both objects was about 1:30 A.M.

I hope I have in some measure helped in your research.

Very truly yours,

Leo H. Lilt

4 February 1954

Mr. Leo H. Litt
P.O. Box 752
Bismarck, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Litt:

Thank you for your letter of 26 January. Your observations are of particular value to us since they were made at a considerable distance from the others.

Do you remember the passage of a C-124 type aircraft from east to west, after 01:00 ? If so, would you be kind enough to draw a sketch of your position relative to the Filter Center, giving angles to the objects (angles along the horizon and also vertical angles). In any case, however, we would appreciate the sketch giving the approximate track of the objects and the duration of the sighting.

We are also interested in the motion of these objects across the sky. I should like to ask you to think back to the occasion and pretend that for each object you hold your hand out-stretched at arm's length, fingers spread apart, so that the lower knuckle of your middle finger was centered on each object, in turn. Now then, when each object was moving it's fastest, how long would you say it would have taken it to move to the next finger? Less than a second? Less than a minute? How long would it have taken to move across the entire span of your hand?

What, in your mind, would be the strongest arguments that these objects were not aircraft, stars, or balloons?

Those of us who are pursuing this investigation certainly appreciate your cooperation and interest in this matter. Hoping to hear from you at your early convenience, I am,

Very truly yours,

J. Allen Hynek,
Professor of Astronomy

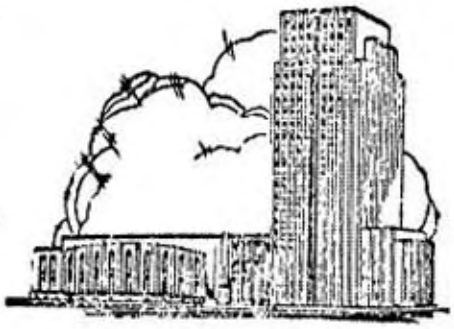
h/g

Copy to Sidney T. Lee

Bismarck Junior College

"The College with a Future"

7th AND Ave. D



Bismarck, North Dakota

SIDNEY J. LEE, DEAN
RALPH WERNER, REGISTRAR

January 14, 1954

Dr. J. A. Hynek
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I contacted Col. Harold Barker of the North Dakota National Guard this afternoon about the matter we discussed. He will ask General Heber Edwards to make an investigation and to report to you whether or not the National Guard might have been carrying on some type of experiment on the evening of August 5, 1953, which might have resulted in the phenomena that was reported.

I also contacted Ira Nelson, engineer for Radio Station KFYR, and he confirmed the visit that he had had with Captain Charles Hardin in the matter. According to Mr. Nelson, Leo Litt, an employee of Station KFYR had observed some unusual formations in the sky on the night of August 5, 1953. Mr. Nelson will have Leo Litt write out a statement describing what he saw and will have it sent to you.

If I hear anything at all which may be of assistance to you in this matter, I shall let you know. I enjoyed meeting you and Captain Hardin and I hope I can have the pleasure of visiting with you again if you are ever in Bismarck.

Yours sincerely,

Sidney J. Lee, Dean
Bismarck Junior College

SJL:cm

27 January 1954

Mr. Sidney J. Lee, Dean
Bismarck Junior College
7th And Avenue D.
Bismarck, North Dakota

Dear Dean Lee;

Thank you for your letter of January 14th. I appreciate no end your interest. We are still puzzled by the phenomenon.

I am particularly interested in the National Guard possibility, and likewise in the possible additional testimony of Mr. Litt. This will be important corroborative information. Would you be kind enough to ask him to be sure to include compass angles and elevation angles and times of sightings.

I would also appreciate it if you would casually mention this phenomenon to responsible people of your acquaintance. It is barely possible that one of them may know the answer. Thanking you again for your interest, I am,

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek,
Professot of Astronomy

jah/jg

UNCLASSIFIED

MST

2005 Mrs. Phyllis Killian, a GOC volunteer at Black Hawk, S. Dakota, called in to the Rapid City Filter Center that she had one unidentified object south-east of her post. When first noticed, the object glowed a bright red. The object then began to move to the west, changing color to green and getting greener as the speed increased. Upon reaching a position directly south of Black Hawk, it stopped abruptly and returned east to the approximate position where it was first noticed. Then it disappeared behind the ridges of hills to the south-east of Black Hawk.

W/O Bennett, controller on duty at the AC&W, received the report from the Filter Center. When he got the report that the object was heading south toward Rapid City (Black Hawk, pop. 75, is 7 miles NNW of Rapid City) he sent 3 airmen from the radar site out to look for it. They reported a light moving generally from north to south at a high rate of speed. This light was visible for 10 seconds.

At the same time, Bennett had 2 blips going south on the scope. He could not get a decent track because of ground clutter in the area.

An airborne F-84 was vectored into the area and after a search made visual contact. The F-84 was being vectored into a blip that was remaining stationary about 15 miles NE of Black Hawk. Bennett believed the F-84 pilot saw the target that was on the scope. Shortly after the Tally Ho by the pilot, the target started to move on a heading of about 320° magnetic (305 TOC.) Four good blips were obtained. Photos of this track were taken but the camera malfunctioned and the photos were useless. The last blip occurred out at a distance of 70 miles.

Stockham, the F-84 pilot, had visual contact for 20 to 30 seconds. The object appeared to be over Piedmont S. Dak. when he first sighted it. It

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

What were ground observers doing?

seemed to be moving twice as fast as his F-84 or (he estimated) 800 mph. The object was "brighter than the brightest star" he had ever seen; a "bright light varying in intensity."

As Stockham gave chase, the light "just disappeared." Now low on fuel, he broke off and returned to base.

There are 6 statements from civilians in the Black Hawk area. Of these, 5 stated that the object disappeared when the jet approached and re-appeared when the jet left the area. Two people said the light disappeared and reappeared in exactly the same positions. Mrs. Killian said also that the speed of the object indicated it was travelling about " 3 or 4 times as fast as the jet interceptor." While the jets were absent the light hovered, glowing brightly " a flaming red color, then diminish in intensity and then glow brightly again."

Only while the jets were absent.

How long was any one light visible continuously to anybody?

2115 Lt. Needham, in the second F-84, took off.

There was no blip on the scopes at the time. Needham was vectored to the area on a subsequent Killian's visual report.

1 hr. 10 min. later!!?

Several minutes later, Needham spotted an object. At the time of detection he was on a course of 330° from Ellsworth AFB at 15,000 feet. The object was approximately 30° to his right and appeared to be at a lower altitude. The object was a light of varying intensity and alternated from white to green in color. The object appeared to move spasmodically up and down and then continue on its previous course. During the pursuit Needham climbed from 15,000 to 26,000 and turned to a course of 360°. After being steady on 360 for a short time the radar lock-on light of the A-4 gunsight came on and remained on. On 360, the object was directly ahead of his a/c but at a slightly greater altitude. The object then appeared to move rapidly to a much greater altitude and the light decreased rapidly in intensity. Finally,

when he felt he was loosing ground, he broke off the chase and was given a vector back to the base.

This chase was being carried on the radar scope back at the Ellsworth AC&W. Bennett was following both an unknown target and the F-84. Both were on a heading of 345 true course. The blip seemed to stay about 5 to 10 miles ahead of the F-84. The chase continued until the F-84 was about 80 miles out. The target continued off the scope. Needham said the light definitely moved in relation to the stars.

The F-84 was now on a 180° heading, returning to the base. The AC&W called to advise him of another UFO which had been reported (by whom?) to be in the vicinity of the base. Needham went down to 17,000 to go under a cloud layer. After a few minutes he saw an alternating white and red light a few miles west of the base. The light disappeared, re-appeared, and then disappeared completely. This object did not appear on the AC&W scope, but only as a blip on their height-finder indicator at 8,000 feet. During this time the radar light in the a/c blinked off and on. Needham thought this indicated a malfunction of his equipment.

Approximately 5 minutes later, Needham reached the field. When east of the base on a heading of 330° the AC&W called to request that he attempt to take gun camera pictures of the original object. After a short search he located what appeared to be the original object and shot 40 feet of film, none of which came out. Then he landed.

22:35 Sgt. Harry of the Bismarck Filter Center, 220 miles NNE of Rapid City, received a call from Bennett that UFOs were entering the Bismarck area of control.

22:42 Harry, on Filter Center roof, spotted a well-lighted object moving at what seemed a high rate of speed approaching from the SW toward Bismarck. The color of the object changed from red-green to bluish white as Harry sighted along power lines to determine the object's position and the fact that it

with or against the wind?

actually was moving. Five other Filter Center people came out on the roof and verified Harry's observations. What was the duration of this total operation?

Must have felt it was a balloon.

Leaving the others to continue observing, Harry went inside and called the weather bureau to check on balloon launchings. All balloons were accounted for.

23:20 Harry called Jack Wilhelm, CAA control tower operator at the Bismarck airport, 5 miles SE of the Filter Center.

Ask Harry this.

→ what were they? Wilhelm

After Harry gave altitude and azimuth positions, ~~Harry~~ located the object 285° from his position. It resembled a bright star. He examined it with 7 x 50 binoculars, establishing that this object was not a star. How? It had a very definite color of bright green changing to yellow with occasional flashes of red. that could be a star. Was star there?

By this time another object had been spotted by the Filter center observers at 23:11. Wilhelm also observed this object at as. 75°. It appeared identical with the first. The second object was watched by Wilhelm for 15 minutes, during which time it moved once to the south. Most of the time it was motionless. Meanwhile, the first object changed position, gradually disappearing from sight (both to Wilhelm and the F.C. people) moving to the northern horizon.

00:15 First object disappeared.

00:45
00:47 Two more objects were spotted in the north-east. These objects had movement up and down and sideways, but these movements did not cover a large area of sky. The color of these objects changed from white to red to green. Three Filter Center observers stated that the color was greenish when the objects were in motion. The fourth object to appear was of a more reddish color than the others.

Ha! Undoubtedly Doppler effect!

01:09 A C-124 Globemaster flew over Bismarck, westbound at 8,000 feet.

As the aircraft flew over, the object appearing closest to it (#4) seemed to send out constant static like signals in red and green. This "signal effect" was seen by Wilhelm, at the airport, and Harry, at the Filter Center.

A chart of what both saw as #4 in relation to C-124 might help here — and can get the path of the C-124.

Wilhelm was in radio contact with the C-124. The crew was instructed to look for the object. They saw nothing.

By this time a scattered cloud layer was beginning to move in over Bismarck. Objects faded into clouds.

01:50

Any names?

No radar is available at Bismarck. All sightings were visual. About 45 people in Bismarck called in to the Filter Center to report the objects. Except for a few scattered clouds, the skies were CAVU, with "millions of stars", until 01:30. Winds aloft data indicate that the objects could not have been free-drifting and maintain the course and positions observed. Star charts set for the times of observation show that there were no bright stars in the positions where the objects were observed.

1. Hotel Res. — ✓
- morning flight —

2. Go over angles alt & ag. ✓

3. Winds aloft - exp. bus.

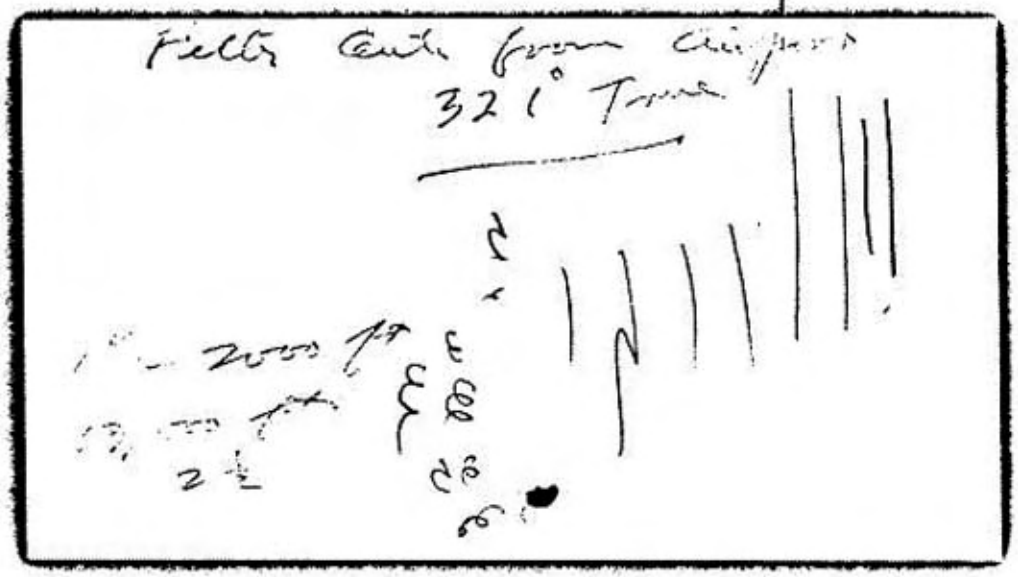
4. Photographs —
Sev. on roof ✓
Airport

5. Copy of log. ✓

6. Map of S.D. ✓

~~45 [illegible]~~

Mark photography


Fields South from Chippewa
321° True

Sgt. Smith rept. on Kilburn

Photographs — Black Hawk
have Kilburn mark —

Did Aldrens ever observe indep. of Kilb[illegible]

Contradiction in times — Mr. K (1) 20:[illegible]
45 min later in N.E. yet Aldrens
said they [illegible] this at 20:05.