[redacted]

Incident #126

DATE OF INFO 30 April 1948

ATIC NO. ----

AF NO. ----

LOCATION Anacostia Naval Air Sta. 38°52'N 77°00'W

SOURCE Naval Pilot

DATE IN TO ATIC ----

DATE OF ARRIVAL ----

COLOR Yellow

TIME OF SIGHTING 1015

SHAPE °phere

SPEED 100 mph Estimated Measured Estimated Hundred

SIZE 25'-40' °iameter

ALTITUDE 4500 ft

COURSE 360°N

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ----

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Aerial

SOUND ----

MANEUVERS ----

PHOTO ---- SKETCHES ----

Pat Wyllson

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #126 -- Anacostia, Naval Air Station -- 30 April 1948

There is nothing in the description of this incident to indicate astronomical origin of the object observed. It appears to have been a balloon.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	43				

Hq ARC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAKO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"EEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

A-15442-1

B/Ltr from AMC
dtd 5 Jan 1949
Subj: Project
"SIGN"

AWS DSS 1st Ind 24 Jan 1949

HEADQUARTERS, AIR WEATHER SERVICE Andrews Air Force Base, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAKO

Investigations by this headquarters reveal that a synoptic weather balloon could have been at the location where sightings were reported in the following incidents. In compiling this list consideration was given to the wind direction and speed at the surface and aloft at the scheduled time of balloon release, and the location of the nearest weather station making balloon observations.

2	52	91	126
3	72	93	148
4	73	94	155
25	76	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
n/c

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 126

1. Date 30 April 1948
2. Time 1015
3. Location Anacostia, Naval Air Station, 38°52'N, 77°00'W
4. Name of observer Marcus L. Lowe
5. Occupation of observer Lt Commander, US Navy
6. Address of observer N/S
7. Place of observation Air
8. Number of objects One
9. Distance of object from observer One mile
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude 4500 feet
12. Speed 100 m.p.h.
13. Direction of flight 360° N
14. Tactics N/S
15. Sound N/S
16. Size 25 - 40 ft diameter
17. Color Yellow (light colored)
18. Shape Sphere
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks: The object appeared to the pilot to be a yellow (or light colored) balloon, and attracted attention principally because

of its flight path. No external fittings or attachments were observed on the object. The speed of the object was estimated at about 100 m.p.h. The flight of the object was in approximately a south to north direction, despite upper winds from north northwest, and apparently followed a constant altitude. Pilot did not pursue object further because it was entering the prohibited flying area, U.S. Capitol, White House Area.

5-6-14

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

AFOIR-CO-5 (5-61) 21 May 1948

SUBJECT: Flying Discs

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
Attn: MCI

Attached is a report of a flying disc sighting by an officer on duty in the Offensive Air Branch of this Directorate.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

ROBERT TAYLOR 3rd
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Collection Branch
Air Intelligence Requirements Division
Directorate of Intelligence

1 Incl.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #126 -- Anacostia, Naval Air Station -- 30 April 1943

There is nothing in the description of this incident to indicate astronomical origin of the object observed. It appears to have been a balloon.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

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23	48				

T-84481-A

4 May 1948

Memo for Lt Col Thomas

The undersigned officer was participating as pilot on a local flight on Friday, 30 April 1948, in Navy aircraft SNJ Bumo 90731. At approximately 1015 local time, at an altitude of about 5500 feet, on a magnetic leading of about 180 degrees, just south of Anacostia Naval Air Station, an object was sighted ahead to the left and about 1000 feet below at a distance of about 1 mile. The object resembled a yellow sphere estimated at 25-40 feet in diameter. The flight path of the object was in approximately a South to North direction (despite upper winds from North Northwest) and apparently followed a constant altitude. Pilot did not pursue object further because it was entering the prohibited flying area, U. S. Capitol, White House Area.

The object appeared to pilot to be a yellow, (or light colored) balloon and attracted attention principally because of its flight path. No external fittingsor attachments were observed on the object. The speed of the object was estimated at about 100 MPH.

Marcus L. Lowe
Lt Cdr, U. S. Navy

5000

1/150

40/6000

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.