

~~SECRET~~ STATUS Report 6
UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX I

Artesia, New Mexico - 16 January 1952

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

On 16 January 1952, two members of a balloon project from the General Mills Aeronautical Research Laboratory and four other civilians observed two unidentified aerial objects in the vicinity of the balloon they were observing. The balloon was at an altitude of 112,000 ft. and was 110 ft. in diameter at the time of the observation.

The objects were observed twice, once from Artesia, New Mexico, and once from the Artesia Airport. In the first instance, one round object appeared to remain motionless in the vicinity, but apparently higher, than the balloon. The balloon appeared to be 1½ inches in diameter and the object 2½ inches in diameter (ratio 3:5) and the color was a dull white. This observation was made by the two General Mills observers.

A short time later the same two observers and four civilian pilots were observing the balloon from the Artesia Airport. Two objects at apparently extremely high altitude were noticed coming toward the balloon from the northwest. They circled the balloon, or apparently so, and flew off to the northeast. The time of observation was about 40 seconds. The two objects were the same color and size as the first object. They were flying side-by-side. When the objects appeared to circle the balloon, they disappeared and the observers assumed they were disc-shaped and had turned on edge to bank.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Unfortunately this report was not made until 5 April and did not reach ATTC until 16 April. Due to this time lapse, no further investigation is contemplated. The observers are known to be very reliable and experienced.

III. CONCLUSIONS

None.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
3TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

15 April 1952

SUBJECT: Sighting of Two Unusual Objects
over Artesia, New Mexico on
16 January 1952
SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: MCIS

1. Attached hereto for your information are two copies of the report of investigation by Special Agent LINDELL W. POLITTE, 17th OSI District, file 24-8-30, dated 5 April 1952, subject as above.
2. Investigation predicated upon information contained in letter from District Office No. 24, wherein they reported results of an interview with [REDACTED].
3. Manager of Municipal Airport, Artesia, N. M., substantiated [REDACTED]'s statement. Two other civilians advised they had seen two unusual objects in addition to the balloon. All interviewees stated that it was a clear day, and they were certain that what they saw was not a reflection or a conventional type aircraft.
4. This investigation is continuing, and subsequent reports will be furnished your headquarters upon receipt of same in this office.
5. Attention is invited to par 7, AFR 205-1, dtd 14 Mar 49, which prohibits disclosure of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

1 Incl (in dup)
R/I, DO #17, dtd 5 Apr 52

Copy to:
Hq OSI w/o abv incl

D. G. North
D. G. NORTH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation is predicated upon information contained in a letter from District Office No. 24, wherein they reported results of an interview with [REDACTED], Aeronautical Research Division, General Mills, Inc., 2010 East Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota. DUGAN reported that while making observations of a balloon they had previously released over Artesia, New Mexico, they noted two (2) unusual objects flying in the vicinity of their test balloon on 16 January 1951.

AT ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO

1951

2. On 21 March 1952, [REDACTED], New Mexico, Manager of Municipal Airport was interviewed regarding the unconventional aircraft sighted on or about 16 January 1952. [REDACTED] advised that at the time of sighting, a Mr. [REDACTED], Mr. [REDACTED], Mr. [REDACTED], and Mr. [REDACTED] were present. [REDACTED] stated that the above mentioned group had been observing a balloon that had been released by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. That when this balloon reached an altitude of over one hundred thousand feet, the group noticed some disc shaped objects in the same vicinity as the balloon. [REDACTED] stated he did not know if the objects were above or below the balloon. That he observed two (2) separate objects besides the balloon, but that he received the impression that they were as high or higher than the balloon. [REDACTED] stated that the balloon was traveling east by five (5) to ten (10) degrees north and that the objects were moving southeast. That the objects never became completely motionless, but would slow down and speed up. That when they departed the vicinity of the balloon, they moved at an extremely fast rate of speed, covering an arc of approximately 45 degrees in two (2) to three (3) seconds and disappeared from view. [REDACTED] stated that the objects appeared to be two (2) to three (3) times the size of the balloon, which at that altitude was 110 feet in diameter. That the objects would scatter and then re-group while in the vicinity of the balloon and that when they departed the vicinity of the balloon they left in single file. [REDACTED] stated that the objects at no time passed between the observers and the balloon. That he is sure that the objects were not conventional aircraft of any commonly known type, as they appeared pale gray in color and left no con-trail or any other visible vaporization and the only appearance presented by the objects was a round and flat disc shape. [REDACTED] stated he got the impression that the objects were convex, although this impression may have been caused by the lack of bright reflection of the sunlight on the objects. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he has been a pilot for many years, is familiar with aircraft and has been the manager of the Municipal Airport at Artesia, New Mexico for over five (5) years.

3. On 21 March 1952, Mr. [REDACTED], Artesia, New Mexico, Manager REA Electrical Company was interviewed. SCHMIDT advised that he was present in the group previously mentioned during January 1952, and that his attention was first drawn to the objects by another member of the group. [REDACTED] stated that he believes the objects were much higher than the balloon. That they appeared oblong and while he observed them, traveled at a constant speed, generally from north to south. That he observed two (2) objects in

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-8-30 REPORT MADE BY S/A LINDELL W. POLITTE REPORT MADE AT 17th DO, Kirtland AFB, N Mex PERIOD 21 March 1952 OFFICE OF ORIGIN 17th DO, Kirtland AFB, N Mex STATUS PENDING	DATE 5 April 1952 blh
TITLE Sighting of Two Unusual Objects over Artesia, New Mexico on 16 January 1952			
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT			
REFERENCE Ltr, DO #24, file 24-0, dt 11 Mar 52			
SYNOPSIS Investigation predicated upon information obtained during interview with [REDACTED], who stated that while making an observation of a balloon over Artesia, New Mexico, two (2) unusual objects had been noted on 16 January 1952. Manager of Municipal Airport, Artesia, New Mexico, interviewed and substantiated [REDACTED]'s statement. Two (2) other civilians interviewed and both advised that they had seen two (2) unusual objects in addition to the balloon. All persons interviewed stated that the objects were larger than the balloon and were of a dull gray color. That both objects were moving an equal distance apart and appeared to make an abrupt turn and disappeared at a very fast rate of speed. All interviewees stated that it was a clear day and were certain that what they saw was not a reflection or a conventional type aircraft. Investigation continues. Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the existence of the information in this report to persons not normally entitled to such information may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director of Special Investigations, IG, or higher authority. Unauthorized disclosure of such information will be considered to be a violation of AFR 205-4.			
DISTRIBUTION CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, ATTN: MCIS 2 Hq, OSI 2 DO #10 2 DO #24 (Info) 1 DO #5 (Info) 1 File 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO FILE STAMP DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10 APPROVED  RICHARD G. COX Lt Col, USAF District Commander. UNCLASSIFIED	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
24TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
343 S. DEARBORN ST., CHICAGO 4, ILLINOIS

24-0

Mar 11 1952

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft
Artesia, New Mexico
16 January 1952
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: District Commander
17th District OSI (IG) USAF
Wright Air Force Base
Albuquerque, New Mexico

1451
1. Mr. [REDACTED] Aeronautical Research Division, General Mills, Inc., 2010 East Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, has advised this office that he was assigned as a photographer for a balloon project recently and while at Artesia, New Mexico, 16 January 1952, in company with Mr. [REDACTED] pilot for the project, made observations relative to a balloon which had previously been released.

2. While making their observations in Artesia, Messrs. Dugan and Stiles also observed a round object remaining motionless in the sky in the vicinity of, but at a considerable distance above the drifting balloon. The atmosphere was clear, without clouds or haze.

3. The balloon which they were observing at the time had attained a measured height of 112,000 feet at which altitude it should have been 110 feet in diameter and was drifting in an easterly direction at from 4 to 6 miles per hour. The balloon at that altitude appeared to be about 1-1/2" in diameter, and the unknown object appeared to be about 2 or 2-1/2" in diameter. It was also described as dull white in color.

4. Mr. [REDACTED] stated there was no way to judge the altitude of the object but it appeared to be at a considerable altitude above the balloon.

5. A short time later additional observations were made from the Municipal Airport about three or four miles west of Artesia. About 1100 hours Messrs. [REDACTED] the Airport Manager, three or four civilian pilots and two newspaper reporters from Artesia, were watching the balloon which was above and slightly north of the Airport. Mr. Dugan noticed two objects at an extremely high altitude come from a

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addition to the balloon. That they traveled through approximately a 50 degree arc in the sky, moving very fast and appearing to follow a direct course. That one object was behind the other and that he does not believe they were aircraft, as they appeared twice the size of the balloon which was at more than one hundred thousand feet altitude at the time. [REDACTED] stated that the objects were a dull gray in color and did not reflect the bright sunlight.

3. On 21 March 1952, Mr. [REDACTED], New Mexico, Manager of Goodyear Tire and Supply Company was interviewed. [REDACTED] stated that his attention was first drawn to the objects because of their proximity to the balloon. The objects were definitely not a reflection or a cloud formation as the sky was clear and the light was bright. He saw two (2) objects in addition to the balloon, that one object was more outstanding than the other, although, he could not remember why he maintains this impression. That the objects were larger than the balloon which was at a height of more than one hundred thousand feet. These objects were dull gray in color with a rose tinge as a haze, that they appeared to have a convex surface, being much longer than broad. When first sighted the objects appeared to be moving slowly or else they were moving away from the direction in which he was looking. Both objects were moving an equal distance apart and then appeared to make an abrupt 90 degree turn and leaving a terrific sense of acceleration going out of sight. That no visible con-trails were present and that he only viewed the objects with the naked eye. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] attempted to get the instrument he was using for observation of the balloon on the objects, but he is not sure if [REDACTED] was able to do this or not. All three of the above persons stated that they believe the objects were intelligently controlled, primarily because of the equal distance relationship they maintained while accelerating and decelerating. They stated they believe that [REDACTED] wrote an article in a local newspaper concerning the objects, but advised that Mr. [REDACTED] is presently employed at Abilene, Texas with a newspaper.

4. On 21 March 1952, a search was conducted of the files at the Artesia Advocate, local newspaper, but no record was revealed of any article concerning the sighting of the aforementioned objects. All of the above persons are pilots and are reputable businessmen in the community. They appear to be of sound mind, good physical condition and are hesitant in talking about the sighting through fear of ridicule. They appear to be sincere, but could furnish no additional information as the sighting by all of the above was with the naked eye only. All were explicit in the belief that the objects were not a conventional aircraft and were as high, if not higher, than the measured one hundred twelve thousand feet of the balloon being observed.

ENCLOSURES

FOR EACH COPY OF THIS REPORT

Letter, District Office No. 24, dated 11 March 1952

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northeasterly direction toward the balloon, fly around and above the balloon and then fly off in a northeasterly direction. The lapse of time was about forty seconds and there was no way to estimate the speed of the objects. The two objects appeared to be round discs, dull white in color and about the same size as the disc Mr. Dugan saw earlier in the morning. The objects traveled in flying formation, one to the side, about six or eight times the diameter of the disc, and slightly behind. As the objects made the turn around the balloon they turned on edge and could not be seen in that position.

6. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he did not know the names of the other individuals who were with him and Mr. [REDACTED] at the Airport; however, Mr. [REDACTED] who is presently employed by General Mills, Inc. at Pyote, AFB, Texas, knows the name of the Airport Manager, who in turn can identify the civilian pilots who were present.

7. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he believed that some of the other members of the group had been contacted by the OSI but that neither he nor Mr. [REDACTED] had been contacted to date. Mr. [REDACTED] added that he is more or less in constant travel status and suggests that any future interviews be arranged through General Mills, Inc.

/s/t/ B. V. MORGAN
Lt. Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was conducted by S/A EARL D. JAMESON.

AT ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO

2. On 8 May 1952, Mr. [REDACTED], Manager of Municipal Airport, Artesia, New Mexico, was re-interviewed to determine the actual day on which the sighting of the unconventional aircraft had occurred. HAZEL verified that the sighting had occurred on 16 January 1951 and not 16 January 1952, as originally reported.

3. On 8 May 1952, Mr. [REDACTED], Manager of Goodyear Tire Supply Company, Artesia, New Mexico, also verified that the sighting had occurred on 16 January 1951, instead of 16 January 1952, as originally reported.

4. Mr. [REDACTED], Manager of the REA Electrical Company, Artesia, New Mexico, and also one of the observers of the unconventional aircraft, was not available for interview at this time.

5. In that all logical leads have been developed and reported, further investigation is not contemplated.

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

3 June 1952

SUBJECT: Sighting of Two Unusual Objects
over Artesia, New Mexico, on
16 January 1951
SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

TO: Chief
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATI

1. Reference is made to letter, this office, dated 27 May 1952, subject and file as above.
2. Forwarded herewith for your additional information are two copies of the report of investigation by Special Agent EDGAR J. BETHART, 17th OSI District, dated 23 May 1952.
3. A re-interview of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] verified that the unconventional aircraft was sighted 16 January 1951 and not 16 January 1952.
4. No further investigative action is contemplated by the Office of Special Investigations and the files in instant case are considered closed.
5. Your attention is invited to paragraph 7, AFR 205-1, which prohibits dissemination of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

1 Incl
R/I, DO #17, dtd 23 May 52

Copy to:
Hq OSI w/o abv incl

D. G. North
D. G. NORTH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24/39-5	DATE APR 30 1952
TITLE CHANGED SIGHTING OF TWO UNUSUAL OBJECTS over Artesia, New Mexico, on 16 January 1951		REPORT MADE BY JACK M. LANDERS, S/A	REPORT MADE AT DO #10, Kelly AFB, Texas
		PERIOD 18 April 1952	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #17, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
		STATUS RUC	
		CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT	
REFERENCE Rpt, S/A LINDELL W. POLITE, DO #17, dated 5 April 1952, file 24-8-30			
SYNOPSIS [REDACTED] aeronautical engineer, reported sighting two (2) unusual objects while watching aeronautical research balloon on 16 January 1951 at Artesia, New Mexico. According to [REDACTED], objects were opaque and off-white in color and when first sighted were approximately five (5) degrees above the balloon which was at an approximate altitude of one hundred and ten thousand feet (110,000). Objects appeared to be same size as balloon and moved in straight line through thirty (30) degrees of azimuth in approximately three (3) seconds and then disappeared. [REDACTED] was military pilot for three (3) years and at time of observation had over one (1) year of aeronautical research experience.			
ATTENTION: Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the existence of such investigative information to persons mentioned in the report or to other persons not normally entitled to such information may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director of Special Investigations, IG, or higher authority, unauthorized disclosure of such information will be considered to be a violation of AFR 206-1.			
DISTRIBUTION DO #17 Hq OSI File	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO DOWNGRADED DECLASSIFIED DOD DIR 5200.10 APPROVED <i>Henry G. Hoar</i> Lt Col USAF JOHN G. SLOPE Colonel, USAF District Commander		FILE STAMP DOWNGRADED DECLASSIFIED DOD DIR 5200.10 UNCLASSIFIED 752-43764-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
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WASHINGTON

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THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

27 May 1952

SUBJECT: Sighting of Two Unusual Objects
over Artesia, New Mexico, on
16 January 1951
SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

TO: Chief
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATI

1. Reference is made to letter, this office, dated 15 April 1952, subject: "Sighting of Two Unusual Objects over Artesia, New Mexico on 16 January 1952".

2. Forwarded herewith are two copies of the report of investigation by Special Agent JACK M. LANDERS, 10th OSI District, dated 30 April 1952, subject as above.

3. [REDACTED] reported sighting two unusual objects while watching an aeronautical research balloon on 16 January 1951. [REDACTED] described these objects as opaque and off-white in color and when first sighted were approximately five degrees above the balloon which was at an approximate altitude of one hundred and ten thousand feet. The objects appeared to be the same size as the balloon and moved in a straight line through thirty degrees of azimuth in approximately three seconds and then disappeared.

4. In the event further investigative reports are received in this office pertaining to the above captioned case, same will be forwarded your headquarters.

5. Your attention is invited to paragraph 7, AFR 205-1, which prohibits the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

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1 Incl (in dup)-
R/I, DO #10, dtd 30 Apr 52

D. G. North
D. G. NORTH
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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the balloon previously mentioned at the same altitude (one hundred and ten thousand feet) in an attempt to estimate the direction of movement, and while standing in front of the main hotel in Artesia, New Mexico, he observed one (1) object near the location of the balloon which was then at approximately two hundred and sixty (260) degrees in direction and at an elevation of approximately twenty (20) degrees. According to [REDACTED] this object, when first sighted, was in the same direction as the balloon but at an elevation of approximately twenty-five (25) degrees; [REDACTED] watched the object, which seemed to be coming toward him, until the object reached an elevation of approximately thirty-five (35) degrees at which time he stopped observing the object because he thought it was a weather balloon. [REDACTED] stated that he learned later at the airport that no weather balloons had been used that morning. Since he thought that this object was an ordinary weather balloon, [REDACTED] continued, it did not make a vivid impression on him and he could not recall clearly any characteristics concerning this object, adding, however, that generally the characteristics were the same as those of the objects he sighted later. STILES stated that he has an Aeronautical Engineering Degree from the University of Minnesota, was a pilot in the Air Force for approximately three (3) years and at the time of the observations discussed in this report had been doing aeronautical research work for over one (1) year. [REDACTED] stated that his job with General Mills, Incorporated at that time consisted mostly of tracking aeronautical research balloons with an airplane. [REDACTED] concluded by stating that he has 20/20 vision in each eye and has never worn corrective glasses.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

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10D 24/39-5

DETAILS

1. The title of this report is marked "CHANGED" in order to reflect the correct date of the observation in question (16 January 1951) as determined by interview with [REDACTED] (referred to as [REDACTED] in referenced report.)

AT PYOTE AFB, TEXAS

2. [REDACTED], employee of General Mills, Incorporated at Pyote AFB, Texas, was interviewed 18 April 1952 in connection with the sighting of two (2) unusual objects over Artesia, New Mexico, on 16 January 1952. [REDACTED] stated that he was not in the Artesia area on 16 January 1952 but determined, after referring to his flight log-book, that exactly one year prior to this date (16 January 1951) he was standing on the west side of the main building at the Artesia Municipal Airport, Artesia, New Mexico, with a group of men at approximately 1100 hours (Mountain Standard Time) observing an aeronautical research balloon which was floating at approximately one hundred and ten thousand (110,000) feet above the airport. [REDACTED] stated that he could not recall the names of everyone present in the group but remembered that [REDACTED] of General Mills, Incorporated, a newspaper man, a pipe line pilot, and the manager of the airport, Mr. [REDACTED], were among those present. [REDACTED] recalled that while this group of men were observing the balloon, located at approximately zero (0) degrees (from true north) and at an elevation of approximately eighty (80) degrees, two (2) unusual objects appeared in the sky at an elevation slightly higher (approximately eighty-five (85) degrees) and in a direction approximately twenty (20) degrees to the left of the balloon. [REDACTED] stated that the two (2) objects moved in a straight line, leaving no trail and maintaining the same elevation, to a point approximately ten (10) degrees to the right of the balloon which made the total distance covered approximately thirty (30) degrees, and then suddenly disappeared from sight. According to [REDACTED], the objects did not seem to move out of sight--they simply were suddenly no longer visible. [REDACTED] recalled that the objects maintained what seemed to be a formation in that one was behind the other at approximately forty-five (45) degrees from the course of flight. [REDACTED] estimated the length of time that the objects were in sight as being about three (3) seconds and stated that he could not recall any other characteristics that might be of interest except that the objects seemed to be opaque and off-white in color. [REDACTED] would not attempt to say what shape the objects seemed to be but said that he did not notice any projections. According to [REDACTED] the objects were about the same relative size as the balloon which has a diameter of one hundred and ten (110) feet while at an altitude of approximately one hundred and ten thousand (110,000) feet, adding that since the objects were at a greater angle of elevation, it made him feel that the objects were above the balloon and therefore would actually be larger than the balloon. [REDACTED] added that on this particular morning the sky was clear with no clouds in sight. [REDACTED] continued that earlier this same day (16 January 1951) at approximately 0930 hours (Mountain Standard Time) while observing

[REDACTED] LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

ASTRO (METEOR)

F. 17, 1952

Dear Sir:

On Jan. 17, 1952, between the hours of 1⁰⁰ A.M. and 1³⁰ A.M., while sitting in my car, I have witnessed a green flash on the eastern end of Long Island, N.Y.

I was rather hesitant to report this, for fear it might have been doubted. The enclosed newspaper article on "Green fireballs" has given me the incentive to write this letter.

From my personal observation and recollection, I feel it is not a meteor, but a man made atomic rocket and will try to give my reasons on the attached detailed drawings.

Perhaps you might find this of some interest or value to the safety of our country.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - N.Y.

EXPEDITE PROCESSING
FEB 22 1952

FEB 20 1952

31

OSAF FILE NO.

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