

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE August (middle) 1956		2. LOCATION Potma, USSR		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1600 GMT		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☒ Other Lenticular Cloud ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 45 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 3-4		9. COURSE varied	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Several spheres viewed by prisoners. Changed lighter and darker. Bright blue cloudless day. Objects in SW at 45 deg elevation. Golden color about 50 cm in diameter. 2-3 smaller spheres about 4 cm. Objects in trail with big one in front. Fast rising and lowering. No estimates as to speed or altitude. No sound. No detail other than golden spheres, disappeared at high speed.				11. COMMENTS Possibly lenticular clouds from the limited data presented. A/C and missiles ruled out.	

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO:

243.6012-1
1-9 Aug 1956

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Afternoon

SUBJECT: (U) Review and Comment - USSR UFO Report

TO: AFCIN-4E4

FROM: AFCIN-4F

DATE: 19 Sep 57 COMMENT NR. 2
Lt Col Prentiss/vh
66310/Bldg 263/Hangar A

1. A review of IR-1612-57 shows insufficient evidence on which to evaluate the sighting as aircraft or missile activity. As stated in the last sentence of Part II, even the observers were "sure that the objects were notaircraft of any sort."

2. The relative size of the objects, the large one being 12 times the size of the smaller ones, is further evidence that rules out aircraft or missiles.

3. From the position of the observer with respect to a sun low in the horizon, it appears that lenticular clouds were observed, drifting with the wind. The illusion of ascent or descent can be explained by the clouds blowing directly to or away from the observer.

1 Incl
n/c

Prentiss
PAUL E. VILLARS
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4F

2

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

(U) Review and Comment - USSR UFO Report

TO AFCIN-4F

FROM AFCIN-4E4

DATE 6 Sep 57 8th COMMENT NO. 14E4/Capt G.T. Gregory/wm
69216

1. Request your review and comment regarding probable identity of object described in attached report.
2. Data are insufficient for this office to form valid conclusions.
3. Believe this can be resolved from your knowledge of subject terrain and its activities as they may relate to aircraft and missiles.

1 Incl

IR-1612-57 (1-3p)

7/16/57 (T57-24174-1)

Henryk. Miley
HENRY A. MILEY
AFCIN-4E4

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REPLACES NME FORM 96, 1 OCT 48, WHICH MAY BE USED

16-54801-3

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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY OF ACTIVITY REPORTING GERMANY		REPORT NO. IR-1612-57	(Leave blank)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS USSR		DATE OF INFORMATION Aug 56	1121-16
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT HDB Team, 7051st Air INTSERG N 7050th Air INTSERG (USAF)		DATE OF COLLECTION 25 Jun 57	
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL EMIL A VINKLAREK, Major, USAF		DATE OF REPORT 16 Jul 57	SRI STATUS (If applicable)
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE (356276)-JCP-WW		EVALUATION C-3	SRI NO. CANCELED/COMPLETE
REFERENCES (BAIR Subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)			SRI NO. CANCELED/INCOMPLETE
SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)			SRI NO. ACTIVE
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS NEAR POTMA (54 40N/44 52E).			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (Date)
SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)			
I. Report gives a detailed eyewitness account of 3 - 4 unidentified flying objects which hovered in Mid-August for 45 minutes over the Prison Camp # 385/10 near POTMA. II. Additional Reports obtained by Interviewer GINGER, K.R. and Editor McLAUGHLIN, Frank from this SOURCE: IR-1611-57, AIRFIELD NEAR BYKOVO (55 37N/38 04E) IR-1613-57, PERSONAL LETTER FROM USSR IR-1614-57, WORK PASS FOR COAL MINE SHAFT # 8 AT VORKUTA (67 30N/64 03N/ IR-1615-57, PRIVILEGE PASS FOR PRISONERS IN THE USSR IR-1616-57, ARREST AND CONFINEMENT OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE IR-1617-57, POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL REPORT ON USSR IR-1618-57, AREA DESCRIPTION OF VORKUTA. APPROVED: <i>Edward M. Roan</i> HERBERT L. CRISLER Colonel, USAF Commander INCIS AFMIG USAF 7493 DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR (Except USAF and AFMIG. Indicate Dist Voz and copies & inclosures, if applicable) AFMIG 7493 WARNING: This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Section 793 and 794. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.			

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

10

FROM (Agency) NBG Team, 7051st Air INTSERON 7050th Air INTSERGU (USAF)	REPORT NO. IR-1612-57	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
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I. PREAMBLE:

a. SOURCE was friendly, talkative and very cooperative. He was a good observer, had a good memory and was a good judge of dimensions.

b. In Aug 56 SOURCE was transferred by train with 250 other prisoners from Prison Camp # 385/7-1 POTMA to Prison Camp # 385/10 about 20km air distance north of POTMA. The unidentified flying objects were observed by SOURCE and many other prisoners one afternoon in the middle of Aug 56. The observation of the unidentified flying objects can be substantiated by [REDACTED], F 4, # 17; and [REDACTED] 4, [REDACTED] 27, who were both repatriated with SOURCE on the 17th of Oct 56. Report based on SOURCE's observations made in Aug 56. All figures are appr. unless otherwise specified.

note

II. INFORMATION ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS NEAR POTMA:

One afternoon in the middle of August 1956 (SOURCE did not remember the exact date) at approximately 1600 hours (MOSKVA (55 45N/37 35E) time) SOURCE was sitting in one of the camp barracks and talked to other prisoners. All of a sudden a prisoner burst into the room with the words: "Come on out, there is something peculiar to see in the sky!". All prisoners immediately went outside and observed in southwest direction at approximately 45° one golden shining sphere of about 50cm diameter and 2 - 3 spheres of about 4cm diameter at outstretched arm distance. It was a blue and cloudless sky, with bright daylight and no wind. The flying objects appeared at first to be motionless in the sky with the large one leading and the others in trail. After a short while the spheres made turns to the right and to the left at moderate speed without breaking the formation. Then again the spheres gained altitude at a fast pace (SOURCE was not able to judge the speed), and came down again (SOURCE was not able to judge the altitude because there were no clouds in the sky) whereby one of the smaller spheres broke formation and stayed a little bit higher than the others, this lasted only about a minute after which the sphere went into formation with the others. These flight maneuvers took place for about 45 minutes because SOURCE remembers that he sat a good hour on a bench in front of the prison barrack. Then all of a sudden the objects travelled at high speed out of view. SOURCE could not remember the direction into which the spheres had left. All the time during the observation the sun was at the right of SOURCE which accounts maybe for the golden color of the spheres. SOURCE recalled that at different intervals the color of the spheres became lighter and darker individually. Absolutely no noise was heard. All objects were solid spheres and no balloons (SOURCE insisted that he knows enough about balloons to identify them in the air). No details could be observed on the spheres (SOURCE was very positive about the objects form). No vapor trails were observed. All the prisoners were baffled and as SOURCE put it, everyone was sure that the objects were not Soviet experimental aircraft of any sort.

III. PREPARING OFFICERS COMMENT:

This report is submitted referencing AICM M-46-56 due to the proximity of

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FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
NBC Team, 7051st Air INTSERON 7050th Air INTSERGU (USAF)	IR-1612-57	3	3	3

observation to referenced locale. Although SOURCE refused to make statements of positive identity of observed objects, he seemed almost certain that objects were not balloons which gives rise to the suggestion that "Vertical Take-off type Aircraft" is a possible answer. An evaluation is requested in regard to validity of referencing.

Emil A. Vinklarek
EMIL A VINKLAREK
Major, USAF
Commander
NBC Team, 7051st Air INTSERON

*Clouds or balloons -
but from the repeated
description of the shape (spheres)
probably balloons*

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