MILITARY AIR

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Aug 60	2. LOCATION NNW of Lebreville, Africa	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other_____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local_____ GMT 2217512	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 sec	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE S

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Round, orange object, size of volley ball. Object exploded in a brilliant flash at an estimated 20-30,000 ft altitude. After explosion a bluish green trail was observed which lasted about 2 sec, then changed into a whitish gray could which lasted for 9 min.

11. COMMENTS

Witnesses probably saw a type of meteor called a "bolide."

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

SQB422TXDA792DHDA357 1960 AUG 23 21 40

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJFXHD 57

P 231630Z

FM 3906CSG SIDI SLIMANE AB MOR

TO RJWFAL/AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO

RJEDSQ/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF AFCIN WASHINGTON 25 DC

RJEZHQ/SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE SAFIS WASHINGTON 25 DC

INFO RJWXBR/SAC OFFUTT AFB NEBRASKA

RJFXBN/16AF TORREJON SPAIN

RJFXNO/4310ADIV NOUASSEUR AFB MOR

RJFPBAP/4TH MATS TRANSPORT PROVISIONAL SQUADRON CHATTERAUX AS FRANCE

BT

[redacted] FROM BDCOI 23-H-37. SUBJECT: UFO

(U). A. DESCRIPTION

(1) ROUND BALL

(2) VOLLYBALL SIZE AT ARMS LENGTH

(3) ORANGE

(4) ONE

(5) NA

(6) NONE

(7) NO TRAIL, TAIL OR EXHAUST

(8) NONE HEARD FROM COCKPIT

(C) MANNER OF OBSERVATION

(1) AIR-VISUAL

(2) NA

(3) C-124, AF 17276, 10,500 FEET, 299 DEGREES TRU HEADING, 210 KNOTS. AIRCRAFT'S HOME STATION, DDONALDSON AFB SOUTH CAROLINA, CREW'S HOME STATION, 85TH ATS, TRAVIS AFB CALIF

(D) TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

(1) 22/1751Z

(2) DUSK

(E) LOCATION OF OBSERVER

(00'52' NORTH, 08 DEG44' EAST) 85 NM EAST SOUTHEAST OF PRINCIPE ISLANDS, NORTH NORTHWEST OF LEBREVILLE, WEST AFRICA COAST

(F) IDENTIFING INFORMATION ON OBSERVERS

(1) NA

(2) MAJ WARREN L. CARRUTHERS, 16348A, 1/LT JAMES J. WOOD EAD A0307894

(G) WEATHER AND WINDS, ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTINGS

(1) EXCELLENT FOR OBSERVATION

(2) NONE

(3) 1/10 CIRRUS AT 30,000 TO 30,000 FEET

(4) UNLIMITED

(5) SOLID UNDERCAST TOPS ESTIMATED AT 9,000 FEET

(6) NONE

(7) PLUS 18 DEGREES "C"

(9) OBJECT EXPLODED IN A BRILLIANT FLASH AT ESTIMATED ALTITUDE 20,000 TO 30,000 FEET AFTER FOUR SECONDS OBSERVATION ON ITS COURSE. SIZE OF FLASH WAS AT LEAST TWO FEET IN DIAMETER AT ARMS LENGHT. AFTER EXPLOSION A BLUISH GREEN TRAIL WAS OBSERVED IN AN ARC OF APPORXIMATELY TWENTY DEGREES WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY TWO SECONDS AND CHANGED INTO A WHITISH GREY THLXZR ICPXATED CLOUD ESTIMATED FIVE FEET LONG AND ONE FOOT HIGH WHEN HELD AT ARMS LENGTH. OBSERVATION OF THIS CLOUD WAS OBSERVED BEING DISAPATED BY THE WINDS ALOFT. THIS CLOUD LASTED FOR A PERIOD OF NINE MINUTES. POSITION OF THE FLASH AND CLOUD FORMATION WAS ESTIMATED AT 50NM FROM OBSERVERS POSITION.

(B.) DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT

(1) AIRCRAFT COMMANDER FIRST OBSERVED OBJECT IN SKY DUE TO POSITION, COLOR AND SIZE AND SPEED OF OBJECT FROM DIRECTLY IN FRONT TO APPROZIMATELY A TEN O'CLOCK POSITION IN A DOWNWARD

ARC

(2) TWELVE O'OCLOCK POSITION WITH 80 DEGREES ELEVATION AT FIRST SIGHTING

(3) TEN O'CLOCK POSITION WITH 45DEGREES ELEVATION END OF SIGHTING

(4) OBJECT'S FLIGHT PATH WAS IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION

(5) BY EXPLOSION AND CLOUD FADEOUT

(6) OB3:5, FOUR SECONDS, CLOUD RESULT, NINE MINUTES

(H) NONE

(I) NA

(J) NA

(K) PREPARING OFFICER: JAMES F, WOOD, CAPT, USAF, BASE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, HQ 3906TH COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP APO 117, NEW YORK, NEW YORK. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM THE CREW MEMBERS: (1) CREW ARRIVED AT FLASH POSITION OF 50NM FROM AIRCRAFT BY TIMING RELATIVE MOTION OF CLOUD AS IT MOVED FROM TEN O'CLOCK TO NINE O'CLOCK POSITION DURING NINE MINUTE OBSERVATION. (2) CREW REPORTED SIGHTING TO CONGO AIRWAYS AT 22/1754Z AND RECEIPT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED. AT 22/1800Z, CONGO AIRWAYS AGAIN CONTACTED AND ADVISED CLOUD HAD

DISAPATED. CONGO AIRWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED. APPROXIMATELY 22/1820Z CONGO AIRWAYS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED AIRCRAFT POSITION AT TIME OF SIGHTING. (3) APPROXIMATELY 22/2200Z, SIDI AIRWAYS REQUESTED VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION GIVEN CONGO AIRWAYS AND ASKED IN ADDITION, FOR COLOR, DIRECTION, ALTITUDE AND DID THE OBJECT HIT THE WATER? THIS WAS ASKED IN RELAY FOR CHATERAUX. INFORMATION WAS GIVEN AT THIS TIME. (4) CREW FIRST LANDING AFTER SIGHTING WAS SIDI SLIMANE AB MOROCCO, AT 23/0955Z. COMPLETION OF INTERROGATION WAS AT 23/1400Z. COMMENT: DUE TO AIRCRAFT COMMANDER'S ELEVEN THOUSAND FLYING HOURS AND HIS DEFINATE STATEMENTS; (1) THAT THIS OBJECT WAS NOT A METEOR SIGHTING AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED METEORS, BUT RATHER LIKE THE SIZE AND APPEARANCE OF THE SOVIETS FIRST SPUTNIK WHICH HE HAD OBSERVED. IT IS BELIEVED POSSIBLE THIS SIGHTING COULD HAVE BEEN A MISSILE SIGHTING THAT WAS OFF COURSE FROM THE FRENCE MISSILE RANGE IN NORTH AFRICA. IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS DESIRED, THE CREW MEMBERS CAN BE CONTACTED AT 4TH MATS TRANSPORT PROVISIONAL SQUADRON, CHATTERAUX AIR STATION, FRANCE. THE CREW IS ON AN INDEFINITE TDY THERE FOR CONGO AIR LIFT.

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23/1800Z AUG RJFXHD

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Description cont;

Size of the flash was at least 2 feet in diameter at arms length. After explosion a bluish green trail was observed in an arc of about 20 deg which lasted about 2 seconds and changed into a whitish grey clout estimated 5 feet long and 1 foot high when held at arms length. The clout was observed being disipated by the wind. The cloud lasted for 9 minutes, the ~~flash~~ object 4 seconds. The flash and cloud was estimated to be about 50 NM from observers position.

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UFO ANALYSIS SHEET

Location NNW of Lebreville, West Africa (airborn)

Date 22 August 1960 Hour (Z) 1751Z

WX Vis unl, solid undercast, scattered clouds ~~xx~~ above

Description Round, size of volly ball at arms length, orange, first seen dead ahead (299 deg) 80 deg elev, last seen at 240 deg 45 deg elev, object moved south in a downward arc, it exploded in a brilliant flash at an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 ft altitude after about 4 seconds of obs on ~~xx~~ its course (over)

Direction of Motion South

Satellite: (AFCIN-4F3, Phone 69219) Ruled out

Astronomical Phenomena (Meteor, Comet, Planet, etc) Prob meteor (bolide)

Radar Analysis (AFCIN-4E1) None

Natural Phemomena (Ball Lightning, etc) -------

Aircraft, Balloons, Airships, etc. Ruled out

Other

Evaluation of Source Reliability Prob reliable

Analysis and Conclusions: The apparent size, shape and speed of the object rule out a missile such as reporting officer suggested. There was no satellites reentering at this time. The description of the object is very similar to that of a meteor as seen in the daylight hours. When a meteor enters the atmosphere in the daytime, the burning substance leaves a trail that cannot be seen at night. The witnesses probably saw a type of meteor called a bolide enter the earths atmosphere and explode.