

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 16 Oct 61		2. LOCATION Gettysburg AFS, South Dakota		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☒ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1805 GMT 170005Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 20 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE Varied	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Objt size of baseball. Heavy contrail, apparently heavier at time, reportedly disappearing during maneuvers. Objt appeared fm 260° aprox, proceeding in NE track, turning to S, proceeding SW along same track as inbound sighting. Initially appeared fm horizon and was under visual observation until it disappeared over horizon and under visual observation at 0° on outbound track. Turns were abrupt.				11. COMMENTS Witnesses sighted what they thought to be a contrail heavier than that normally left by a/c. There were 2 B-52's in area at time with with a flight path closely paralleling that of reported objt. Witnesses probably saw 1 of these a/c and intermittently heavy contrail could have been caused by layers of air of slightly different temperatures. It is therefore concluded that objt reported was probably 1 of a/c in area.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE

AF IN : 30773 (17 Oct 61) **INCOMING**

H/rjp

ACTION : CIN-17

INFO : OOP-2, OOP-CP-1, SAFS-3 (24)

SMB B 101

CZCHQD443ZCYJB521

PP RJEZHQ

DE RJEDAFU 1

ZNR

P 170415Z

FM 903D RADAR SQ GETTYSBURG AF STN SDAK

TO RJWFAL/AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO

RJWFKF/29 AIRDIV RICHARDS-GEBAUR AFB MO

RJEDSQ/AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF WASHDC

RJEZHQ/SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE WASHDC

BT

UNCLAS OCE 0354/61 FOR ADOIN AT ADC, 290IN AT 29AD, AFOIN
AT USAF, SAFIS AT SAF. UFO. FOLG INFO FURNISHED IAW AFR
200-2; PARAGRAPH 15.

A. (1) NO DEFINITE DETERMINATION MADE

(2) BASEBALL

(3) INDEFINITE, DUE TO ALTITUDE

(4) 1

(5) N/A

(6) NONE OBSERVED DUE TO ALTITUDE

(7) HEAVY CONTRAIL, APPARENTLY HEAVIER AT TIMES, REPORTEDLY

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DISAPPEARING DURING MANEUVERS.

(8) NONE DETECTED

(9) NONE

B. (1) HEAVIER THAN NORMAL CONTRAIL, SPEED AND MANEUVERS.

(2) OBJECT APPEARED FROM 260 DEGREES APPROXIMATELY, PROCEEDING IN NORTHEASTERLY TRACK, TURNING TO SOUTHERLY TRACK, THEN PROCEEDING SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG SAME TRACK AS INBOUND SIGHTING. OBJECT APPEARED FROM HORIZON INITALLY, AND WAS UNDER VISUAL OBSERVATION UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED OVER HORIZON ON OUTBOUND TRACK.

(3) 0 DEGREES, INTO HORIZON.

(4) INITIAL TRACK WAS STRAIGHT FLIGHT, TURNS WERE ABRUPT, WITH OBJECT GIVING APPEARANCE OF DROPPING IN ALTITUDE WHILE MANEUVERING.

(5) OBJECT DISAPPEARED GRADUALLY INTO HORIZON

(6) OBJECT WAS VISIBLE FOR 20 MINUTES

C. (1) GROUND VISUAL

(2) NONE

(3) N/A

D. 0005Z/17 OCT/61

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(2) DUSK (SUNSET)

E. 45 DEGREES 03 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE, 99 DEGREES 57 MINUTES
WEST LONGITUDE, 4 MILES NORTH OF GETTYSBURG, SOUTH DAKOTA.

F. (2) SSGT [REDACTED], 903D RADRON RADAR OPER RELIABLE

A2C [REDACTED], 903D RADRON AIR POLICEMAN RELIABLE

A A2C [REDACTED], 903D RADRON, IEO, RELIABLE

A2C [REDACTED], 903D RADRON, MOTOR POOL, RELIABLE

A2C [REDACTED], 903D RADRON, COMMUNICATIONS, RELIABLE

G. (1) ALL OBSERVERS REPORT GOOD WEATHER, NO PRECIP NOTED.

SIGHTING MADE NEAR SUNSET

(2) SURFACE

6000 280 DEGREES 15 KNOTS

10000 300 DEGREES 25 KNOTS

16000 290 DEGREES 30 KNOTS

20000 300 DEGREES 35 KNOTS

30000 290 DEGREES 30 KNOTS

50000 310 DEGREES 30 KNOTS

80000 310 DEGREES 15 KNOTS

(3) CEILING CLEAR

(4) VISIBILITY 15 MILES

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(5) NONE

(6) NONE

(7) 6 DEGREES/80 MILES

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. SAC AIRCRAFT REPORTED IN AREA FOLLOWING TRACK CLOSELY MATCH-
ING REPORTED TRACK SAC AIRCRAFT, 2 TYPE B-52

AIRCRAFT PRESENCE IN AREA AT TIME OF SIGHTING HAS BEEN CONFIRMED
BY GRADS WEAPONS SECTION.

K. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT SIGHTING WAS
SAC B-52 TYPE AIRCRAFT IN ALL PROBABILITY. SUN
REFLECTION ON AIRCRAFT AT TIME OF SIGHTING PROBABLY CREATED UNUSUAL
APPEARANCE

GIVING OBJECT EFFECT OF HIGHER SPEED. INTERVIEWS WITH ALL OBSERVERS
REVEALS NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT OBJECT WAS PROCEEDING
AT SPPD OR PERFORMING MAEUVERS WHICH CONFIRMED AIRCRAFT WOULD
NOT BE CAPABLE OF.

L. NONE

BT

17/0840Z OCT RJEDAFU