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ED/S&T 370/85

26 JAN 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Evaluation of UFO's

1. This memorandum is for your information in response to your request.

2. As you know, there has been a recent spate of reports of UFO's (unidentified flying objects) in news media. Widely publicized UFO reports during the past 18 months include: the July 1963 Roswell, California, incident in which the UFO was later identified as an aircraft; the UFO's reportedly associated with the Gemini launching in April 1964 which probably were due to fragments causing radar reflection; and the Patuxent, Maryland, incident in December 1964, in which two objects were apparently tracked by radar, but later analysis attributed the sighting to malfunctioning radar circuitry. Evaluation of these and other reported phenomena reveals no evidence that UFO's are of foreign origin or are a threat to the security of the United States.

3. The Office of Scientific Intelligence/ED S&T monitors reports of UFO's, including the official Air Force investigation reports, and concurs with the Air Force conclusions, which are unclassified and available to scientific investigation. Of some 121 UFO reports investigated during 1964, only 33 are classed as unidentified; 11 investigations are still pending. Attached are the official Air Force statistics for the time period 1956-1963 by year and for 1964 by month.

Edward F. Christman
EDWARD F. CHRISTMAN
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

COMMENTS:

Robert S. W...

Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

2 FEB 1965

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Approved for Release

2/2010

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STATISTICAL DATA FOR YEARS 1954 - 1962
(Compiled 1 Nov 64)

REPORT BY CATEGORY

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	TOT
Astronomical	127	135	128	141	144	144	143	138	139	129
Aircraft	69	124	143	117	105	63	68	75	67	162
Balloons	23	102	69	112	97	30	72	37	19	50
Insufficient Data	101	14	120	150	111	64	168	115	62	16
UFO'er	58	63	61	120	90	72	83	74	64	77
Satellite	0	0	0	3	15	0	21	69	77	21
Unidentified	47	73	15	16	11	13	14	12	15	1
Total	387	342	387	1003	623	737	533	533	489	571

ASTRONOMICAL SIGHTINGS

Meteors	82	78	33	179	103	100	137	119	94	57	112
Stars & Planets	44	82	131	164	58	40	43	78	30	23	62
Other	1	4	3	18	7	4	3	5	8	3	3
Total	127	164	267	341	268	144	283	292	132	83	177

OTHER CASES

Comets, Hallucina- tions, Unreliable Reports and Psycho- logical Causes	2	17	17	37	23	13	12	17	11	15	17
Aircraft and Rockets	1	1	2	2	6	14	12	12	9	12	7
Balloons	6	4	3	2	7	10	2	3	3	0	2
Stars & Fireworks	4	8	0	8	2	3	7	4	3	0	2
Mirages & Inversions	2	4	1	5	2	4	5	6	3	0	2
Aurora & Groundlights	8	14	9	12	6	5	6	1	3	2	0
Clouds & Contrails	3	2	1	9	3	2	4	5	4	3	4
Chaff	2	0	1	2	6	1	4	3	3	2	1
Birds	7	2	6	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	1
Spectral Analysis	7	0	7	27	2	3	6	6	0	1	0
Photo Analysis	1	2	4	1	6	4	6	2	2	2	2
Physical Specimens	6	3	3	8	10	3	7	4	18	3	4
Ultraviolet Decay	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	2	1
Other	7	4	0	6	3	3	3	3	1	4	1
Total	53	51	61	153	50	72	53	73	64	56	53

TO : Chief, Contact Division
Attn: [REDACTED]

72-65
DATE: 25 January 1965

FROM : Chief, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)
Case [REDACTED]

1. This confirms [REDACTED] conversation 19 January 1965, at which time various samples and reports on UFO sightings procured from NICAP were given to [REDACTED] for transmittal to OSI. The information was desired by OSI to assist them in the preparation of a paper for [REDACTED] on UFO's.

2. In accordance with [REDACTED] request, we met on 19 January 1965 with Mr. Richard Ferris Hall, Acting Director of NICAP. Though Major William Kehoe, founder of NICAP, is still listed as Director of the organization, we gather that he is present on the premises at 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., only infrequently.

3. The material which was given to us on loan by Mr. Hall is representative of the type of information available at NICAP. Their past and present correspondence from all over the US relative to UFO sightings is voluminous. They have slack periods, as was the case in December 1964, thus there were no "Investigators" reports immediately available for the month of December. NICAP has active Committees scattered throughout the US. Investigators active with these committees call upon the sources of reported UFO sightings to obtain first hand, eye witness accounts of the sightings. A printed form, prepared by the Air Force for NICAP's use, is utilized during the interview, and submitted to NICAP headquarters along with the source's eye witness account as told to the investigator. It was our understanding that copies of these reports go directly to various Air Force bases. There apparently is a strong feeling on the part of NICAP officials, i.e., Kehoe and Hall, that the Air Force tends to downgrade the importance of UFO sightings because they (the Air Force) does not care to have too much made of the sightings by the US press. We were told by Mr. Hall that there have been instances where the Air Force has attempted to intimidate witnesses and get them to sign false statements relative to UFO sightings.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE 16 Nov 78

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W.S-72-65
25 January 1965
Case [REDACTED]

4. The most recent UFO sighting of considerable interest to NICAP was the series of pick-ups of UFO's on the radar screen of the Patuxent Naval Air Station between 1500 and 1530 on 19 December 1964. This incident was reported in the press as a single sighting, a UFO approaching Patuxent at speeds up to 3300 miles per hour. The Air Force a day or so later stated in the press that the blip was caused by faulty radar equipment. Actually, according to Hall, who talked with an unidentified person close to the situation, there were three separate sightings:

- (a) Two UFO's about 10 miles apart, southeast of Patuxent, approaching at a high rate of speed, disappeared from the screen;
- (b) A single UFO picked up 39 miles southeast of Patuxent, altitude estimated somewhere between three thousand and 25 thousand feet, approaching base at estimated speed of six thousand miles per hour. UFO lost from screen about 10 miles out;
- (c) A single UFO eight miles northeast of Patuxent, approaching at high rate of speed, made 160° turn, and dropped off the screen.

The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) station at Salisbury, Maryland, was contacted to determine if any reported UFO's; a radio operator had received a message from a US Coast Guard ship reporting "visual objects sighted" in same locale at approximately the same time of day. Hall did give us the name of one of the radar operators at Patuxent--a Chief Pinkerton.

5. There was another UFO sighting reported in the area by the Washington Post within the last week or 10 days. Several men watching from the windows of the old Munitions Building on Constitution Avenue watched several UFO's on the horizon traveling at high rates of speed. They have promised to fill out NICAP's sighting questionnaire, which Hall says we are welcome to see when available.

6. [REDACTED] informed us that she is requesting a security clearance on Mr. Hall predicated upon biographic information provided by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]