

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12 March 1953

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Assistant Deputy Director/intelligence, has asked me to forward to you for your information the enclosed report "Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects", dated January 17, 1953.

This report was prepared by a panel convened in January 1953 at the direction of the former Director of Central Intelligence, General Walter B. Smith, with the concurrence of the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

Copies are being transmitted to the Secretary of Defense; the Director, Federal Civil Defense Administration; and the Chairman, National Security Resources Board.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

Secretary  
Intelligence Advisory Committee

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE 11/11/78

**INDEX**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2- (488)

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

[REDACTED]

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL  
ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

JAN 17 1953

1. Pursuant to the request of the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, the undersigned Panel of Scientific Consultants has met to evaluate any possible threat to national security posed by Unidentified Flying Objects ("Flying Saucers"), and to make recommendations thereon. The Panel has received the evidence as presented by cognizant intelligence agencies, primarily the Air Technical Intelligence Center, and has reviewed a selection of the best documented incidents.

2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:

- a. That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.

3. The Panel further concludes:

- a. That the continued emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these perilous times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning of the protective organs of the body politic.

We cite as examples the clogging of channels of communication by irrelevant reports, the danger of being led by continued false alarms to ignore real

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

indications of hostile action, and the cultivation of a hostile national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of duly constituted authority.

4. In order most effectively to strengthen the national facilities for the timely recognition and the appropriate handling of true indications of hostile action, and to minimize the concomitant dangers alluded to above, the Panel recommends:

a. That the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired;

b. That the national security agencies institute policies on intelligence, training, and public education designed to prepare the material defenses and the morale of the country to recognize most promptly and to react most effectively to true indications of hostile intent or action.

We suggest that these aims may be achieved by an integrated program designed to reassure the public of the total lack of evidence of inimical forces behind the phenomena, to train personnel to recognize and reject false indications quickly and effectively, and to strengthen regular channels for the evaluation of and prompt reaction to true indications of hostile measures.

/s/ H. P. Robertson, Chairman  
California Institute of Technology

/s/ Luis W. Alvarez  
University of California

/s/ Lloyd V. Berkner  
Associated Universities, Inc.

/s/ S. A. Goudsmit  
Brookhaven National Laboratories

/s/ Thornton Page  
Johns Hopkins University

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

14 - 17 January 1953

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>FIELD OF COMPETENCY</u>
Dr. H. P. Robertson (Chairman)	California Institute of Technology	Physics, weapons systems
Dr. Luis W. Alvarez	University of California	Physics, radar
Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner	Associated Universities, Inc.	Geophysics
Dr. Samuel Goudsmit	Brockhavan National Laboratories	Atomic structure, statistical problems
Dr. Thornton Page	Office of Research Operations, Johns Hopkins University	Astronomy, Astrophysics
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>		
Dr. J. Allen Hynek	Ohio State University	Astronomy
Mr. Frederick C. Durant	Arthur D. Little, Inc.	Rockets, guided missiles
<u>INTERVIEWEES</u>		
Brig. Gen. William N. Garland	Commanding General, ATIC	Scientific and technical intelligence
Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell	Assistant Director, O/SI, CIA	Scientific and technical intelligence
Mr. Ralph L. Clark	Deputy Assistant Director, O/SI, CIA	Scientific and technical intelligence

PERSONNEL (cont'd)ORGANIZATIONFIELD OF COMPETENCY

Mr. Philip G. Strong

Chief, Operations  
Staff, O/SI, CIAScientific and  
technical intelli-  
gence

Mr. Stephen T. Fossony

Acting Chief, Special  
Study Group, D/I  
USAFScientific and  
technical intelli-  
gence

Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, USAF

Chief, Aerial Phenomena  
Branch, ATID, USAFScientific and  
technical intelli-  
gence

Mr. J. Dewey Fournet, Jr.

The Ethyl Corporation

Aero Eng.

Lt. R. S. Neasham, USN

USN Photo Interpre-  
tation Laboratory,  
Anacostia

Photo interpretation

Mr. Harry Neo

USN Photo Interpre-  
tation Laboratory,  
Anacostia

Photo interpretation

[REDACTED]

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

14 - 17 January 1953

EVIDENCE PRESENTED

1. Seventy-five case histories of sightings 1951 - 1952 (selected by ATIC as those best documented).
  2. ATIC Status and Progress Reports of Project GRUDGE and Project BLUE BOOK (code names for ATIC study of subject).
  3. Progress Reports of Project STORK (code name for Battelle Memorial Institute contract work supporting ATIC).
  4. Summary Report of Sightings at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.
  5. Report of USAF Research Center, Cambridge, Mass., Investigation of "Green Fireball" Phenomena (Project TWINKLE).
  6. Outline of Investigation of U.F.O.'s Proposed by Kirtland Air Force Base (Project POUNCE).
  7. Motion Picture Films of sightings at Tremonton, Utah, 2 July 1952 and Great Falls, Montana, August 1950.
  8. Summary Report of 89 selected cases of sightings of various categories (Formations, Blinking Lights, Hovering, etc.).
  9. Draft of manual: "How to Make a FLYOVER", prepared at ATIC.
  10. Chart Showing Plot of Geographic Location of Unexplained Sightings in the United States during 1952.
  11. Chart Showing Balloon Launching Sites in the United States.
  12. Charts Showing Selected Actual Balloon Flight Paths and Relation to Reported Sightings.
  13. Charts Showing Frequency of Reports of Sightings, 1948 - 1952.
  14. Charts Showing Categories of Explanations of Sightings.
  15. Kodachrome Transparencies of Polyethylene Film Balloons in Bright Sunlight Showing High Reflectivity.
- [REDACTED]

- ... .. balls in bright sunlight showing high reflectivity.
17. Intelligence Reports Relating to U.S.S.R. Interest in U. S. Sightings.
  18. Samples of Official USAF Reporting Forms and Copies of Pertinent Air Force, Army and Navy Orders Relating to Subject.
  19. Sample Polyethylene "Pillow" Balloon (54 inches square).
  20. "Variations in Radar Coverage", JAMP 101 (Manual illustrating unusual operating characteristics of Service radar).
  21. Miscellaneous official letters and foreign intelligence reports dealing with subject.
  22. Copies of popular published works dealing with subject (articles in periodicals, newspaper clippings and books).
- [REDACTED]



STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

[Redacted]

C-30

FROM

SUBJECT

DATE:

[Redacted]

has read report & sees nothing of significance which should be reported to [Redacted] & [Redacted] representatives.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

10:50

Mr. [REDACTED] called.

He said:

Mr. [REDACTED] would like to have you get someone to look over the material on the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects. There may be something of interest there which should be reported to the [REDACTED] deputies. If there is <sup>interest</sup> nothing in the report, just forget it. and return the report to [REDACTED]