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STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK

I. OVERALL STATUS

A. General

During the period 1 November 1952 to 30 November 1952 a total of 27 reports were received through AF channels. This total represents a decrease of 13 from the October 1952 total of 40 reports.

Time not being spent on the actual evaluation of reports is being devoted to cataloging and reviewing reports received during the summer of 1952. At the time many of these reports were received, the workload was of such a degree that they were given only quick preliminary screening.

All reports received during 1952 are being cross-indexed. The cross-indexing of all reports up to 31 December 1951 was accomplished in March 1952. The categories for cross-indexing are:

1. Date
2. Location
3. Type of Observation (i.e., visual, electronic, etc.)
4. Conclusion

B. Briefing Given to Personnel of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory

On 23 October 1952, Col D. L. Bower and Capt E. J. Ruppelt presented a briefing on Project Blue Book to a group of 400 scientists, engineers, and technicians at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. The briefing consisted of a brief history of the project, details of the present operations, and several recent sightings. Approximately an hour and a half was devoted to a question and answer period following the presentation of the briefing.

After the briefing, the balance of the day was devoted to a meeting with a group of people from the Laboratory who have shown a great deal of interest in the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

C. Briefing Given to the OSI District Commanders Meeting

The Office of Special Investigations District Commanders Meeting was briefed at Kelly AFB, Texas, on 27 October 1952. Personnel from the Current Estimate Branch of D/I, Hq USAF and ATIC presented the briefing which stressed collection, analysis methods, and current situation.

D. Proposed Changes in Air Force Letter 200-5

A proposal for changing certain sections of Air Force Letter 200-5 has been written and forwarded to the Director of Intelligence. The major proposed change in the directive is to eliminate the presently required written Air Force Form 112 and to add several items to the required wire message.

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If a written report is necessary in addition to the wire, it will be specifically requested by ATIC.

It is believed that by eliminating the written report, a great many manhours can be saved on an Air Force-wide basis. In some instances, the Form 112 has merely been a repeat of the wire.

E. Status of Videon Camera

Letters have been prepared and sent to Air Defense Command and Aircraft and Air Communications Services (AACSS) to obtain concurrence on the current plan to place cameras in control towers and at certain selected radar sites.

F. Contractor Status

1. Analysis of Existing Sighting Reports

Sighting reports dated up to and including June 1952 have been processed. Except for the reports dated 1947 and 1948, all sighting reports up to and including March 1952 have been evaluated. The sighting reports for 1947 and 1948 are not available for evaluation. As soon as the 1947 and 1948 reports are available and can be evaluated, all sighting reports for the years 1947 to 1951 will be ready as a group for preliminary analysis utilizing IBM equipment.

Sighting reports for the month of July 1952 have been received. Because there are 450 sighting reports for July, processing them will not be completed until the first week in December. Evaluation of reports for the months of April, May, June, and July 1952 will require about six days of conference time. Conferences for the evaluation of sighting reports will be arranged as reports become processed in groups of 200. Each group of reports will require about two days of work for a cooperating researcher Blue Book evaluation team.

The evaluation of 1952 reports will be more time consuming than was the case for earlier reports, because reports now are in more detail and often consist of sightings of one object by more than one individual.

Since October 16, 1952, it has been necessary to establish a rotation system for handling sighting reports, no more than 100 sighting reports being permitted away from Blue Book at any one time. Questionnaires and work sheets completed here must therefore be put in duplicate folders before sighting reports matching these questionnaires and work sheets are returned to WPAFB in return for unprocessed sighting reports. When evaluation conferences are held, these folders must be matched before an evaluation is made. The necessity for establishing a rotation system has caused some delay in progress.

2. Analysis of Soil and Vegetation Samples