

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
NATWELL AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO

REPLY TO
ATTN OFF: TD-E

SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

SMC

TO: TD-G (Colonel Carlisle)

1. Reference our letter to AFCIN-P, subject: "Project Blue Book (Unidentified Flying Objects)", dated 20 April 1962, relating information concerning the briefing on unidentified flying objects given to Mr. Edward R. Trappnell, Assistant for Public Relations to the Secretary of the Air Force.

2. Paragraph 6 of the referenced letter expressed that in the opinion of FTD the UFO program should be discontinued as a special project and the function absorbed by the Air Force in the conduct of its overall mission. Investigating and evaluating UFO sightings should be the responsibility of the Air Force facility nearest the scene of the incident. Attempts should be made to determine the cause for all sightings, but the primary objective would be directed toward determining the threat potential of the occurrence.

3. Our opinion that the UFO program should be discontinued as a special project is drawn from the following:

a. During the past 15 years the USAF has studied over 7300 cases of sightings of unidentified flying objects without discovering one shred of evidence indicating that UFO sightings are due to interplanetary space vehicles.

b. Discontinuation of the UFO project would not result in the loss of valuable information. For those incidents which may be significant other than as UFO sightings, reports are made to other Air Force elements through channels completely independent for those spelled out for UFO reports.

c. Based on experience gained from handling thousands of cases, it is believed that field organizations could determine the causes for approximately 75 percent of the cases and evaluate the threat potential of them all.

d. Due to the time element and familiarity with the local environment, field organizations are often in a better position to determine the cause for sightings, such as those which result from the misidentification of aircraft, balloons launched locally, etc., than is FTD with the present method of operation.

4. Some of the sightings which take place during a year require more sophisticated treatment than some field units are capable of giving; however, in these instances the field unit should recognize the significance of the sighting and notify some agency with a specialized capability, e. g., the

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