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STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOKI. OVERALL STATUSA. Briefing of the "Civilian Saucer Investigations"

On the evening of 2 April 1952, a civilian group who are interested in the investigation of reports of unidentified aerial objects was briefed on all of the unclassified aspects of the project. This group consists of employees of the North American Aircraft, Inc., Aerophysics Laboratory, and several non-technical persons. The organization is not, however, officially affiliated with the aircraft company. The majority of this group are qualified engineers and are working on missile developments.

The purpose of the briefing was to familiarize this group with the past history and present operations of the project. It is believed that these people will possibly receive reports of unidentified aerial objects from civilian sources that might not be reported to the Air Force. They are also in contact with other civilian groups in the United States that are collecting similar reports.

Although this group is financially unable to conduct any large-scale investigations, liaison has been established so that the Air Force will be advised of any outstanding reports they receive.

B. Visit to Rand, Inc.

A group of Rand, Inc., personnel were briefed on 4 April 1952. Although Rand, Inc., is not associated with the project in any way, some of the scientists are personally interested and have been following the status of the project. After the briefing, various aspects of the project were discussed, among them the use of a diffraction grating camera to obtain the spectrum of objects that may be observed. All of the group concurred that this would be an inexpensive method of obtaining more definite data.

The status of the Rand study on the satellite rocket was also discussed.

C. Status of Diffraction Grating Camera

The status of the proposed diffraction grating camera was discussed with Dr. J. Kaplan of UCLA on 2 April 1952. Dr. Kaplan used a laboratory set-up to demonstrate how the grating will function. Suitable gratings have been found and it is believed that they can be reproduced for from \$15 to \$20 each. Although these gratings are not of high quality, they will be good enough to give the results that are hoped for. Tests are now being conducted to determine how inexpensive a lens can be used to give the light gathering power and definition needed to obtain a satisfactory photograph. The intensity of the full moon is being used as "the standard brilliance" for the tests.

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Suggestions have been made for incorporating devices into the camera so that the azimuth, elevation and possibly the temperature of the source can be measured. The primary factors in determining whether or not these extra devices can be included are the cost and the fact that they will complicate the operation and maintenance of the cameras.

D. Visit of Look Magazine Reporter

On 25-26 April 1952, a representative of Look Magazine visited ATIG to obtain material for a forthcoming magazine article.

E. Status of Utilization of Radar Scope Cameras

On 21 April 1952, a letter was forwarded to Air Defense Command requesting the location of all ADC radar sites that have operational radar scope cameras and those sites that have cameras but do not yet have them operational. When this information is received, a request will be made to put all or part of these cameras on a 24-hour alert basis.

Although this will not provide definite identification of radar returns, it will aid in determining whether or not the return is due to weather phenomena, a malfunction of the set or a return from some unidentified object. A photograph of the exact size and shape of the return will then be available for study and the impression of the operator need not be relied upon.

F. Contractor Status

The contractual agreements with nishing aid in conducting this project have been finalized. At the present time these people are formulating a standard questionnaire which will contain all data pertinent to a sighting. There have been several such questionnaires used in the past. The good points of each will be combined to give a new, more complete system of obtaining information.

G. Reaction to Life Magazine Article

On 4 April 1952, Life Magazine published an extensive article entitled, "Have We Visitors From Space?" This article created a great deal of interest in the subject of unidentified aerial objects. During the period of 3 April to 6 April 1952, approximately 350 daily newspapers in all parts of the United States carried some mention of the article and some mention of the fact that the Air Force was interested in receiving such reports.

It should be noted here that the conclusions reached by Life are not those of the Air Force. No proof exists that these objects are from outer space.

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