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STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOK

I. OVERALL STATUS

A total of 89 reports of unidentified aerial objects were received by Project Blue Book during the period covered by Status Report No. 11 (March, April, and May 1953). A total of 188 reports were submitted for December, January, and February; the general influx has therefore dropped noticeably with the exception of the month of March 1953.

In March, 59 FLYOVERPTS were received, 53 percent from military observers, the remaining from civilians in various walks of life. Known astronomical phenomena accounted for 21 of the sightings or approximately 35 percent, with the planet Venus the established cause of 16 flying object reports. Venus appears low on the horizon at this time of year and is unusually bright; it is possible for it to appear to change color and perform erratic maneuvers when seen through thin clouds or ground haze. In this connection it is interesting to note that experienced military pilots reported this phenomena in four instances as an unidentified aerial object. However, the majority of proven Venus sightings were turned in by members of the Ground Observer Corps. One was reported by an airlines pilot.

During the last three months of operation, Project Blue Book has received an average of 10 reports per week which is considerably under the five FLYOVERPTS per day submitted during the fall of 1952. The volume of reports during the spring of 1953 has been the lowest in the last two years and it is believed the generally inclement weather throughout the United States has had much to do with this.

It is also the opinion of Project Blue Book, however, that one highly publicized sighting could again trigger off another "saucer" scare with resulting pressure on the Air Force and ATIC. The direct relation between newspaper publicity and the number of reports submitted has been firmly established by Project Blue Book. In this connection and because of latent public interest and possible hysteria which are believed to exist, ATIC is currently preparing a statement on unidentified objects which will be issued by P.I.O., Washington, D.C., at the first indication of publicity. It will give a full account of ATIC's findings, including percentage of unexplainable reports, percentage of known objects or phenomena such as aircraft, balloons, radar interference, etc. Thus the Air Force cannot be accused of withholding information. It is ATIC's policy to keep the public fully informed.

A complete statistical study of all reports from 1947 to 1952 is now in the final stages of I.B.M. preparation. A final report is expected on 15 August 1953. It will include statistical probabilities and indexes of comparisons on unidentified objects and a general commentary of the conclusions reached by the study, the first effort ever made to treat sightings mathematically. A total of over 3,000 reports will be processed in this study.

Another item of importance occurring during the period of this Status Report was the completion of a briefing tour of Air Defense Command units by Project Blue Book. This will be examined in further detail on following pages.

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Project Blue Book continued to screen and evaluate all reports as soon as possible after being received. The following represents a breakdown of the number of reports by month and the percentage breakdown of evaluations;

	Conclusion	No.	Percentage
March:-	Astronomical	21	35.6
	Balloon	7	11.8
	Aircraft	8	13.6
	Insufficient Data	12	20.3
	Other *	8	13.6
	Unknown	3	5.1
	Total	59	100.0
April:-	Astronomical	4	25.0
	Balloon	1	6.2
	Aircraft	5	31.3
	Insufficient Data	3	18.8
	Other *	1	6.2
	Unknown	2	12.5
	Total	16	100.0
May:-	Astronomical	1	7.1
	Balloon	5	35.8
	Aircraft	4	28.6
	Insufficient Data	1	7.1
	Other *	2	14.3
	Unknown	1	7.1
	Total	14	100.0
	January	63	* Water reflections
	February	75	Strange cloud formations
	March	59	Sun-Moon dogs
	April	16	Flying paper, etc.
	May	14	
	Total	227	Reports

An average of 45 reports received monthly since the first of 1953. 10% of all reports in 1953 are classified as unknown.

II. CANADIAN FLYING SAUCER

In the 11 February 1953 edition of the "Toronto Star" there appeared an article entitled "Canadian Flying Saucer". This article stated that a revolutionary type aircraft had been produced at the Avro Canada's Malton, Ontario, factory. This aircraft was reported to have a speed of 1500 mph, and that vertical takeoff and hovering would be possible.

Project Blue Book attempted to obtain more information through the Air Attache in Ottawa. The reply stated that there is no reason to believe that a "flying saucer" is under development in Canada at the present time.

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