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Appendix IIILARSON AFB, WASHINGTON - 26 August 1951

On 26 August 1951 at 0836 PST, an unidentified flying object was detected by an AN/CPS-4 and AN/CPS-1 radar sets. The object was tracked continuously for a period of six minutes and made a timed ground speed of 950 mph. The object was on a course of 140° with only slight deviations enroute. An altitude reading of 13,000 feet was obtained but the accuracy of the measurement is questionable due to brief length of time the object was detected.

The F-86 aircraft were scrambled but radar contact with the object was lost before the aircraft were airborne. A visual search was conducted from 17,000 to 25,000 feet with negative results.

The operator of the radar set, an Air Force Captain, is considered to be an expert operator.

Weather

Weather conditions at the time of sighting were not favorable for anomalous microwave propagation.

Status of Investigation

Review of this incident by the Electronics Section of ATIC concludes that the return was possibly due to interference. This was concluded because of the apparent path of the object, directly approaching the station, and the fact that the target was observed on only the low beam of the AN/CPS-1 radar set.

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Appendix IVVANDALIA, ILLINOIS - 27 August 1951

The only information available on this incident is a newspaper article from "Vandalia Leader" of 30 August 1951.

"It wasn't a flying saucer! Nor was it a conventional type airplane! But whatever it was, it has aroused the curiosity of at least five persons who saw it soaring through the air Monday night.

"It was a big orange light with blinding intensity when I first noticed it over the southwest corner of the airport," Ray Williams told the Leader. "I had just taxied out onto the runway preparing to take a flight around the city when I noticed the light. It was between 8 and 8:30 p.m. I called over the radio to the CAA official on duty Albert Braoklec, and to Paul Reese and asked them to take a look."

"The lighted object disappeared into the west and we decided maybe there was nothing to it. So I decided to continue with my flight plans," Williams stated.

"Shortly after I had taken off I noticed the light again, approaching my plane. It came directly at me and then circled my plane twice before heading toward Greenville. I followed it and it made a circle round that town and came back toward Vandalia. I last saw it near the country club. The CAA radioed a transport pilot who was passing over Vandalia at the time at about 20,000 feet and he too saw the object!"

"It was all very spooky," the Vandalia airman said. "It wasn't an airplane but whatever it was the light was on the tail of it, and there was a small red light on top. Probably it was some military craft from Scott Field making a test run."

"The lighted object which appeared to have a 10 to 12 inch lens, was also seen by Dwight Kerns in St. Elmo the same evening."

Status of Investigation

An attempt will be made to obtain further information on this incident.

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