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Wichita, Kansas

15 November 1952

I. Description of Incident

At 2025 CST on 15 November 1952, an AF major with 5,000 hours flying time was engaged in watching pilots under his command shoot landings in a B-47. He, another rated officer, and several airman observed what appeared to be an elliptical, blue-white light with an orange or red tail. The object moved erratically at a speed greater than that associated with a T-33 or B-47. The object was first observed to the north traveling rapidly on a heading of about 45°, then it suddenly appeared to stop. When the object stopped, the orange glow appeared to be on what had been the leading edge of the object. The object moved out again on a heading of 45° to a position NW of the airport, then stopped again for two minutes. It finally disappeared to the north. It was in view a total of five to ten minutes.

The weather was CAVU. The winds were:

19,000' - 265°/35K

24,000' - 265°/40K

34,000' - 265°/40K

39,000' - 235°/64K

II. Discussion of Incident

Two lighted weather balloons were launched at 2030 CST. Although there is a discrepancy of 5 minutes in time between the sighting and the balloon launches, the description of the object, the described course, etc., fits that of a balloon.

It is believed that the reported object was one of the weather balloons.

III. Conclusion

Probably a balloon.

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Imperial Beach, California

16 November 1952

I. Description of Incident

At 1838 PST two duty officers at a Naval station sighted an unusual large orange disc of light which hovered over the water for three to four minutes and then proceeded upward at a high speed. The object later appeared again and appeared to be a large yellow ball which, when looked at through binoculars, seemed to have a bluish tinge around the edges.

II. Discussion of Incident

At approximately this time the Navy and U.S. Weather Bureau released radiosonde and pibal weather balloons and since the objects hovered and then climbed, it is felt that either one of these caused the incident. The orange disc description fits here also as many times a rising balloon will catch the setting sun's rays and appear to be a glowing ball.

III. Conclusion

Probably a weather balloon.

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