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STATUS OF PROJECT GRUDGE

I. OVERALL STATUS

A. Files

All of the material in ATIC that relates to sightings of unidentified aerial objects has been reviewed and filed. All data on each sighting has been placed in a separate folder and the folders filed chronologically. There are a total of 695 incidents. These vary from nebulous reports from very questionable sources to more factual reports from reasonably reliable sources such as AF pilots, airline pilots and balloon observers.

The factual details of each incident have been placed on 5" by 8" cards and these cards are being cross-indexed. All the cards have been re-produced and cross-indexing is about 50 percent completed. When this phase of the project is finished, it will be possible to make a breakdown of all reported sightings as to the predominant shapes, size, course, geographical locations, etc.

B. Location of Additional Files

During the past month, a trip was made to Washington, D. C. to locate additional data on sightings. It was found that both the D/I library and TCS have such files. In the near future a trip will be made to Washington to review these files and obtain additional sighting reports.

C. Map of Sightings

A map has been prepared, showing all of the sightings in the United States. Colored tacks are used to designate sightings by years.

The plot of sightings shows that there is a concentration of sightings in the area of:

1. Dayton, Ohio
2. Columbus, Ohio
3. White Sands, New Mexico
4. Albuquerque, New Mexico
5. Oak Ridge, Tenn.
6. Camp Hood, Texas

No conclusions can be made or other facts about the distribution of the sightings stated until a further study of the distribution of sightings has been made.

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D. Directives for Reporting Incidents

The directive which outlines the reporting procedures to be used in this project is AFON-C/CG-2 letter dated 19 December 1951, subject: "Reporting Information on Unidentified Flying Objects". This directive is not believed to be adequate to cover all phases of the project and it is being revised. The revision of this directive has been given top priority as it is believed that the project cannot function properly until satisfactory reporting channels are set up.

E. Consultants

The consultants that will be obtained to assist in the project have finished their preliminary survey of past work done on the project and will submit their formal proposal during the early part of February. During the past month one of their members accompanied Project Grudge personnel on two interrogations to familiarize them with how reports are investigated.

F. Difficulties in Obtaining Reports

Recently several airline and Air Force pilots have been queried as to their feelings on reporting the sightings of unidentified aerial objects. The queries were predicated by reports that sightings were not being reported due to stigma that has been placed on the project by unfavorable newspaper releases, etc. Only a very few individuals were contacted, however, these people stated that they would be very reluctant to report any type of unidentified object to the Air Force. One pilot summed up the situation by stating, "If a space ship flew wing-tip to wing-tip formation with me, I would not report it." This feeling among people who are in a position to submit good reports is a great handicap to the objective of getting reliable data. The exact nature of some of the objects reported have not been determined, therefore, there is always the possibility that there exists some type of unconventional vehicle possessing extraordinary performance and characteristics. If such a vehicle should appear, its detection would be hampered by the reluctance to report sightings of unusual aerial objects.

A series of briefings of Air Force commanders is being tentatively planned to explain the functions and findings of this project in an attempt to break down the adverse feelings on reporting that are held by many people.

G. Radar Search

In compliance with suggests of the Directorate of Intelligence, a preliminary conference has been held on the possibility of using electronic means to detect and obtain data on the unidentified objects that are being reported. Radar would be used in conjunction with photographic equipment to accomplish this. In the past there have been unexplained radar contacts but whether or not these were due to weather phenomena, malfunction of the sets or actual targets has not been determined.

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