

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

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Mr. Arthur Bray
1187 Agincourt Road
Ottawa 5, Ontario, Canada

Dear Mr. Bray:

Thank you for your letter of April 1; we would certainly be interested in seeing the brief on UFOs that you have submitted to the Special Senate Committee on Science Policy.

With respect to the object seen over Madrid last September 5, we did not go entirely by the "official" statement. So far as the behavior of this object was concerned, it conforms in all respects to that of a balloon: it was at a very great altitude, it seemed translucent, at least in part, it moved slowly or not at all, and its luminosity faded with darkness.

A long and detailed account in a Madrid newspaper for September 6 also makes significant comments about the appearance of the object; this is the point which would make the balloon hypothesis questionable if no other data were available. This account says that when first seen the object was spherical; then it became "bell-shaped" or triangular. The "three brilliant points of light" underneath the object, described by one of the pilots who saw it from the air, were not reported by anyone else, and his testimony was not repeated or amplified. This could be interpreted as official silencing of the pilot, of course; yet it must be remembered that many high-altitude balloons carry apparatus, which reflects sunlight.

The published photograph of the object is indeed unlike the shape of a balloon, but without examining the negative of this photograph under magnification we cannot be sure that the picture is to be taken as conclusive, especially in view of the divergent descriptions mentioned above.

On balance, therefore, we feel that in this case the "official explanation" was probably correct. I should add that the Spanish newspaper article took the matter very seriously, referring to the object repeatedly as "unidentified"; that is to say, their reporter was definitely not weighting his account in favor of the skeptics.

Thank you for your interest; we shall look forward to seeing your brief.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Davis

Isabel Davis
Assistant to Gordon Lore

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