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Appendix VII

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. - 11 October 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF INCIDENT

The only information available on this incident is a letter quoted below:

TRE: 0630, 11 Oct 51. Dick Reilly and I were flying at 10,000 ft. observing the grab bag balloon when I saw a brightly glowing object to the SE of University of Minnesota Airport. At that time we were a few miles north of Minneapolis and heading east. I pointed it out to Dick and we both made the following observation:

"The object was moving from east to west at a high rate and very high. We tried keeping the ship on a constant course and using reinforcing member of the windshield as a point. The object moved past this member at about 50 degrees per second.

This object was peculiar in that it had what can be described as a halo around it with a dark undersurface. It crossed rapidly and then slowed down and started to climb in lazy circles slowly. The eastern it made was like a falling oak leaf inverted. -It went through these gyrations for a couple minutes and then with a very rapid acceleration disappeared to the east. This object, Dick and I watched for approximately five minutes.

"I don't know how to describe its size, because at the time I didn't have the balloon in sight for a comparison.

"Shortly after this we saw another one, but this one didn't hang around. It approached from the west and disappeared to the east, neither one leaving any trace of vapor trail.

"When I saw the second one I called our tracing station at the U. of M. Airport and the observers there on the theodolite managed to get glimpses of a number of them, but couldn't keep the theodolite going fast enough to keep them in the field of their instruments. Both Doug Smith and Jack Jorian caught glimpses of these objects in the theodolite after I notified them of their presence by radio."

II. WATER

Unknown, but evidently clear.

III. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Further investigation produced no additional information as to the identity of the object. The theodolite operator was interrogated and stated that he could not observe "a brief blur for about two seconds". During his brief observation, the object appeared to be a smoky grey cigar shaped object. It left no vapor trail and gave off no reflection.

All observers were positive of the following facts:

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- A. The object, though vaguely defined and blurred, retained a definite shape.
- B. No vapor trails, exhaust flashes, or jet propulsion were observed.
- C. The object definitely seemed to be controlled. The sources are all experienced engineers with General Mills Balloon projects and have been observing all types of balloons for several years.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

No conclusions can be made. It is significant however, that the sources can be graded as very reliable and that they observed an object with which they were entirely unfamiliar.