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The gratings or grating camera combinations would be inexpensive enough so that several hundred could be procured. Areas where observations have been concentrated would be stressed. Groups such as security patrols, control tower operators, and anyone who spends a great deal of time out-of-doors would be equipped with the instruments and be given a set of instructions as to how to use them.

Action has been taken to determine the feasibility of such a program.

F. Air Defense Command and Joint Air Defense Board Briefing

On 19 March 1952, General Chidlaw and his staff, of the Air Defense Command, and General Gardner and his staff, of the Joint Air Defense Board, were briefed by an ATIC briefing team. The groups were briefed on the history and operations of Project Blue Book and a member of the Aircraft Performance and Characteristics Branch of AIC presented data on missiles and types of unconventional aircraft that are known to exist or have existed.

The purpose of the briefing was to present the problem to ADC and determine how they can help. It was found that ADC presently has about 30 radar sites equipped with scope cameras. These cameras are not operational on a 24-hour basis but this could be accomplished in a minimum time particularly in locations of special interest to Project Blue Book. Radar scope photographs would be of great value in interpreting some of the unusual radar returns that are reported.

Action has been taken to initiate a program with ADC to utilize their radar facilities.

G. Beacon Hill Group Briefing

The Beacon Hill Group, Air Force Technical Advisers, were briefed on 26 March 1952 in Boston. This group, consisting of AF consultants in the fields of electronics, optics, acoustics, data collation and other fields, was briefed so that they would have an understanding of the problems confronting Project Blue Book and could offer suggestions. After the briefing several hours were spent discussing the project. The main point of the discussion was to arrive at some means of establishing whether or not there is some unusual type of aircraft flying over the United States.

Several very excellent suggestions were offered. One was to employ sound detection apparatus in the locations where concentrations of sightings have been reported. This equipment, which is very sensitive to sound, can be left unattended eliminating the problem of personnel for a continual watch. Sounds from aircraft, wind, insects, etc., can be identified, consequently, if the apparatus were placed far enough from a populated area and highway to eliminate a large percentage of the sounds, any unknown sound would be of value in indicating the presence of an unidentified object. It is understood that this equipment is available.

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The problem of photographic equipment was discussed. It was found that almost any type of photographic surveillance equipment desired could be built, however, some of it would be expensive. The question of the ability of large telescopes or meteor cameras was brought up. It was agreed that their chances of observing an object at random was low, unless they knew of its presence and directed their equipment toward it. This was very interesting because some people have had the theory that no unusual objects could exist because they would have been detected by observatories. In the future, cameras, professionally termed "patrol cameras", will be developed that can detect such objects, but this development is not contemplated in the near future.

Another suggestion offered by the group was to go back through old newspaper files and other sources and try to determine whether or not this phenomena is new. This has been done by several authors but the sources of some of these reports are doubtful. The group believed that if such phenomena as disk-shaped objects, green fireballs, etc., did occur they would have been reported and would be recorded.

This group, all of whom were experts in their fields, were very much interested in the problems of trying to identify these objects and can be counted upon for aid as problems arise.

II. REPORTS OF SPECIFIC INCIDENTS

A. Inclosed Summary List of Incidents

The inclosed list of incidents is (1) a summary of all incidents reported during the period 1 March 1952 to 31 March 1952; and (2) those incidents reported in Status Report No. 4, dated 29 February 1952, which are still pending or have been closed during the month.

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