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~~SECRET~~STATUS OF PROJECT BLUE BOOKI. OVERALL STATUS

There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of unidentified aerial object reports submitted to this Project in the period covered by this Status Report (December 1952, January and February 1953) when compared with the number submitted in the period covered by Status Report No. 9 (June, July, August, September, October and November 1952). Presently from two to three reports are received daily as compared to eight reports received daily during the period covered by the previous report.

Because of a marked decrease in newspaper publicity, fewer reports have been received from civilians with the result that military sightings now account for at least 60 percent of all unidentified object reports. In spite of the dropping of the subject by the national press, it is significant to note that a steady influx of three reports daily come in to Project Blue Book from persons who sincerely believe they saw an unusual phenomenon in the sky and this is one of the main reasons why the Air Force is still continuing and taking an interest in the Project.

Three incidents which occurred in January serve to illustrate the direct effect of publicity on the number and quality of FLYORPTS received by the Project. During the period 21 January to 27 January, a sighting from Northern Japan near Russian-held territory, a television program involving "flying saucers", and a sighting of an unidentified aerial object by a jet pilot on the West Coast all received considerable newspaper publicity which resulted in a noticeable increase in reports at the Air Technical Intelligence Center. This is illustrated by the graph in Section X of this Status Report.

Prior to the incidents mentioned above, the quality of flying object reports continued to improve in quality and completeness even to the extent that base intelligence personnel were analyzing reports at the locale of sighting, something which Project Blue Book encourages. There was a noticeable increase in the percentage of radar sightings made during this time. However, many reports submitted as a result of the flurry of late January sightings were so incomplete that many of them had to be categorized as "insufficient data". The probable reason for this is that the base intelligence officer responsible for preparing an unidentified aerial object report has lost interest in the subject due to the heavy load of low grade reports which he had to submit last summer.

During December, January, and February, Project Blue Book personnel spent a good portion of their time briefing such interested agencies as the Air Defense Command, the 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, and the Sandia Corporation with the dual purpose of (1) general education about Project Blue Book, and (2) bettering the quality of flying object reports themselves in addition to improving channels for obtaining supporting information necessary for analysis of a FLYORPT.

All reports received were screened and evaluated as soon as possible after being received. A percentage breakdown as to the evaluations is given below, along with a further breakdown of sources:

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100 Total Reports for December 1952, January 1953, and February 1953

Unknowns	17.00%
Insufficient Data	26.00%
Aircraft	13.00%
Balloons	17.00%
Astronomical	20.00%
Other	7.00%
	<u>100.00%</u>

15% of the total involved radar detection.

Sources:

Military	62%
Civilian	38%

II. SIGHTINGS OVER NORTHERN JAPAN

In the last month there has been a definite increase in the number of reports received from FEAF by ATIC. They have been accompanied by some publicity in the national press. Included in the reports have been a certain number of observations from Northern Japan near Russian-held territory and for this reason they have been given a good deal of attention by Project Blue Book.

The two most publicized sightings occurred on 30 December 1952 and 9 February 1953; the first was seen by a Colonel in an F-84 over Hokkaido Island, the second by a pilot and a radar observer in an F-94 aircraft also over Northern Japan. Reports of both sightings have been received and checked by ATIC. The F-84 sighting was analyzed as a probable star since it seemed to remain on the same azimuth (270°) and elevation throughout the period of sighting. The F-94 report involves a radar contact by the radar observer with a simultaneous visual sighting of the object and cannot be explained at the present time.

Since July 1952, 16 reports of unidentified flying objects being sighted over Japan have been received from FEAF. Undoubtedly, there were numerous other observations reported to FEAF intelligence personnel which were evaluated and eliminated as known phenomena on the spot. Seventy-five percent of these sightings have been explained to the satisfaction of Project Blue Book. Of the total number of sightings from Japan, 18.75 percent involved some type of radar equipment.

III. CORRELATION OF RADATION COUNTS

In the summer of 1952 it was reported to Project Blue Book that in the past several years there have been some instances where there existed a supposed correlation between the visual sighting of unidentified object and a rapid rise in radiation count on radiation detecting devices in areas close to the Mt. Palomar Observatory, California, and later at Los Alamos, New Mexico. In early fall of 1952 Project Blue Book began to make inquiries about these occurrences. It was found that in October 1949 such an incident had occurred at the Mt. Palomar

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