

After reading reports like this, which seemed to contradict the official Air Force policy of UFOs being unimportant, J. Edgar Hoover asked the following in a March 1950 note, "Just what are the facts re 'flying saucers'?" A short memo as to whether or not it is true or just what Air Force, etc. think of them."

The Air Force produced the standard reply of "misidentifications," "weather balloons," etc. Whether this satisfied Hoover or simply exasperated him is unknown, but the UFOs continued to fly.

In August 1950, the following memo was received by FBI headquarters. Title: "Summary of Aerial Phenomena in New Mexico."

Purpose

To advise that: (1) OSI has expressed concern in connection with the continued appearance of unexplained phenomena described as green fireballs, discs and meteors in the vicinity of sensitive installations in New Mexico. (2) Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, meteor expert of the University of New Mexico, reported that the phenomena does not appear to be of meteoric origin. (3) OSI has contracted with Land-Air Inc, Alamogordo, New Mexico, to make scientific study of the unexplained phenomena.

Nature of Phenomena

Observations of aerial phenomena occurring within the vicinity of sensitive installations have been recorded by the Air Force since December, 1948. The phenomena have been classified into 3 general types which are identified as follows:

1. Green fireballs, objects moving at high speed in shapes resembling half moons, circles and discs emitting green light.
2. Discs round flat shaped objects or phenomena moving at fast velocity and emitting a brilliant white light or reflected light.
3. Meteors, aerial phenomena resembling meteoric material moving at high velocity and varying in color.

The above phenomena have been reported to vary in color from brilliant white to amber, red and green.

Since 1948, approximately 150 observations of aerial phenomena referred to above have been recorded in the vicinity of installations in New Mexico. A number of observations have been reported by different reliable individuals at approximately the same time.

Results of an Inquiry by Professor Lincoln LaPaz

Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, submitted an analysis of the various observations on May 23, 1950. He concluded, as a result of his investigation, that approximately half of the phenomena recorded were of meteoric origin. The other phenomena commonly referred to as green fireballs or discs he believed to be U.S. guided missiles being tested in the neighborhood of the installations. LaPaz pointed out that if he were wrong in interpreting the phenomena as originating with U.S. guided missiles that a systematic investigation of the observations should be made immediately. LaPaz pointed out that missiles moving with the velocities of the order of those found for the green fireballs and discs could travel from the Ural region of the USSR to New Mexico in less than 15 minutes.