A2

While working in Washington in 1952, I had seen classified photos of a certain Navy guided missile which disproved (to me, at least) the Air Force denials that the U.S. had no devices which looked like some of the saucers reported by the public. Major Fournet stated that he knew nothing about this missile, and I sincerely believe that he really didn't! Of such stuff are U.S.A.F. saucer investigators deprived!

While trying to clear a proposed article reporting this sad state of affairs, I was paid a visit by a team of three men, from the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Army Counter-Intelligence Corps, and the Inspector of Naval Materiel. These three men assured themselves that I had seen the missile photos legitimately in the course of my work, and that I had not compromised security procedures in handling my proposed release. (The O.N.I. man wore black, incidentally, for the information of those readers who have heard about saucer researchers being silenced after a visit from "three men in black.") A letter from Senator Flanders (p. A8) was a reply to my correspondence to Congress about this missile and the U.F.O.'s.

In letters to the Secretary of Defense and others in 1953, I pointed out that the Air Force's attitude of ridiculing and operationally ignoring all saucer sightings could allow an enemy to send aircraft or missiles through our defenses easily, merely by putting enough flashing lights on them to cause them to be reported as "flying saucers". (I personally verified that this would be possible, by working as a volunteer in the White Plains Filter Center of the Ground Observer Corps, and observing the treatment accorded to reports of strange objects.)

Perhaps as a result of such arguments, the Air Force revised its regulation AFR 200-2 in August 1954, pointing out that saucer reports should be taken seriously, just in case.... The Air Force also stopped denying that saucers might be American devices, by dropping from its 1954 (and later) press releases the denial paragraph which it had used up through 1953. (Compare the bracketed paragraphs in the press releases reproduced on pages A10, A14, and A17.) I then wrote and got cleared the letter shown on p. A19, pointing out the new position taken by the Air Force.

The 1953 release about the "Hell Roarer" flare (p. A20) shows a typical cause of some flying saucer reports, and furthermore shows how <u>legitimate</u> secret military activities have led to flying saucer reports. These usually receive immediate perfunctory denials that U.S. activities or aircraft had anything to do with causing the reports. Such denials are properly justified because of the secret nature of the activities at the time. The later admissions (as in the p. A20 press release, for example) tend not to catch up with the original denials, so that such events get established in the saucer literature as "authentic" cases. (See my article "ECM + CIA = UFO" in the March-April 1960 issue of <u>Flying Saucer Review</u> (London, England).)

A3

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
Washington 25, D. C.

No. 659-49

IMMEDIATE RELEASE — DECEMBER 27, 1949 — RE 5700, Ext. 79131

AIR FORCE DISCONTINUES
FLYING SAUCER INQUIRY

The Air Force has discontinued its special project investigating and evaluating reported "flying saucers" on the basis that there is no evidence the reports are of the results of aerial phenomena. Therefore, the Air Force, which conducted the project for the Department of Defense, has terminated the project as of the end of the year 1949.

The Air Force said that all evidence and analyses indicate that the reports of unidentified flying objects are the result of:

(1) Misinterpretation of various conventional objects,

(2) A mass form of mass hysteria,

(3) Or hoaxes.

The project was established by the Air Force in 1948 as Project Sign. In January 1949 it was renamed Project Grudge. Since its inception, the Air Force, Air Materiel Command, Air Training Command and Air Defense Command have been assigned. Assisting special investigators were scientific consultants from universities and from other government agencies.

The Air Force said that continuing of the project in another and also additional indications now are simply confirming findings already reached.

END

Mr. Leon Davidson
2113 9 60th Street
Los Lunas, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Davidson:

In reply to your letter of 24 April 1950, the project concerned with "flying saucer" investigations and analysis was terminated on 31 December 1949. Attached is a copy of the press release made 27 December on the subject.

At the time the project was discontinued, summary reports and opinions related to the first 241 incidents had been prepared. Copies of these reports are not available for public or scientific consultation. This material was turned over to the Directorate of Public Relations, Hq. USAF, to be used in the preparation of a final report covering the entire project, and is available for your inspection.

Sincerely,

1 Incl
Press Release