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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Office of Public Information
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

February 23, 1955

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This is in reply to your letter of February 22 regarding what you consider to be a change of Air Force position with respect to unidentified flying objects.

The paragraph you refer to was, I discovered some time ago, omitted from the later summary. I can offer no explanation other than oversight, since the omission carries no significance. The oversight appears to be of minor importance, however, since our position in that respect has been a matter of record for a number of years.

We have also made the following statement in answer to questions along this line: "We have been experimenting with new type aircraft and missiles for a long time, and possibly some of them have been reported as unidentified flying objects. However, the number of such sightings would be negligible. We have nothing which spins through the air like a disc, pulsates, glows, dematerializes, changes color, goes from a mid-air standstill to supersonic speed, soundlessly glides through the sonic barrier, or turns at square angles in full flight, as some sightings report."

I might point out that your paper, submitted earlier to the Security Review Branch, was reviewed only from the standpoint of military security. It should NOT be assumed that such review constitutes confirmation, or even agreement, with the material therein. I am sure a red stamp to that effect was placed upon this paper.

Sincerely,

Robert Sletten
Captain, USAF
Air Force Press Desk

Mr. Leon Davidson
14 Stonehrive Avenue
White Plains, New York

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
P. O. BOX 1395
Baltimore 3, Maryland
Telephone Lexington 9-2616, Ext. 89 - 90

FLAT FM RELEASE - 7 AM EDT - Wednesday, 15 July 1953 NO. 79-53

THIS RELEASE, DATED IN 1953,
IS NOT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

NEW USAF DEVICE FOR TAKING NIGHT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

BALTIMORE, MD. - A new device for providing an intense continuous light source for taking night aerial photographs is being developed for the United States Air Force by a group of scientists and engineers at Wesleyan University, Windsor Locks, Conn., Air Research and Development Command Headquarters announced here (Baltimore) today.

Called the "Fall Roarer", the device enables the taking of night aerial photographs by means of special cameras. The name, given to this mechanism by the Wesleyan group, originated from the roar emitted when in operation. The Air Research and Development Command's Wright Air Development Center, Dayton, Ohio, is working with the Wesleyan group on the development project.

The mechanism, contained in a torpedo-like 12-foot cylinder, attaches to the wing of a reconnaissance aircraft and is controlled by the pilot. Built-in warning signals indicate if anything is wrong, and the entire mechanism can be jettisoned if the plane is endangered. The fuel for the Fall Roarer is atomized or finely pulverized magnesium powder, which burns at an extremely high temperature and must be handled with extreme care. It puts out an intense light of approximately 10,000,000 candlepower and will burn for more than four minutes. The pilot can turn the Fall Roarer on and off as required.

During the first test flights conducted at Windsor Locks by the research group and Air Force personnel, nearly police and field officials were besieged with phone calls reporting flying saucers or planes going down in flames. An Air Force test conducted near Lubbock also brought numerous calls from excited observers.

Successfully tested on maneuvers, the device has given the U.S. Air Force hope that an old military problem has been solved: How to take pictures of enemy activity at night from very low altitudes and at high speeds. The idea was conceived by the Air Force in 1949 and development work started in fall of 1949. The first flight test model was designed and developed by Mr. Robert M. Dawson, a mechanical engineer of Rockington, Conn., with the assistance of other Wesleyan University scientists and technicians, who, since 1948, under the direction of Dr. Richard G. Clarke, have been engaged exclusively in research for the Department of Defense. The first flight test took place late in 1951.

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Photographs available on request to ARDC, Public Information Office.

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 12, 1953

Mr. Leon Davidson
906 South Irving Street
Arlington 4, Virginia

Dear Mr. Davidson:

In reply to your letter of April 5, 1953, the National Academy of Sciences has not been approached by any Government agency to study collected reports on "flying saucers".

As to the question of how the National Academy might be requested to undertake such a study, the usual procedure is by the negotiation of a contract with the Academy. The Congressional charter which established the Academy in 1863 provides that the Academy should advise the Government on scientific questions without charge except for actual expenses of the investigation that may be made. In addition, the Academy and its agency, the National Research Council, have acted in an advisory capacity to many private agencies through the mechanism of a contract negotiated with the Academy.

Sincerely yours,

L. A. Cornell
L. A. Cornell
Executive Officer

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Part II. The CIA PAPER, March of 1953

The material in the Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14 (see Part I) was first published in 1956 in the Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14, "Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects" (Contract AF 19(604)-1997, Battelle Memorial Institute, Prepared by Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 1955). The Report was given a "Secret" classification, but the Foreword, Introduction, and Appendix were given a "Confidential" classification. The Report was released to the public in October 1955 (see Part I). The Report (see Part I) was based on the Project Blue Book Special Report No. 12 (see Part I), which was based on the Project Sign Special Report of April 9, 1949 (see Part I) and the Project Sign Special Report of August 1949 (see Part I). The Project Sign Special Report of August 1949 was reproduced on pages 23 to 34.

Note that the main purpose of this Panel study (another of the CIA was concerned, apparently with the Project Sign Special Report of August 1949 (see Part I) was to propose a test