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23 September 1947

SUBJECT: AMC Opinion Concerning "Flying Discs"

TO: Commanding General,
Army Air Forces
Washington 25, D. C.

ATTENTION: Brig. General George Schulgen
AC/AS-2

1. As requested by AC/AS-2 there is presented below the considered opinion of this Command concerning the so-called "Flying Discs." This opinion is based on interrogation report data furnished by AC/AS-2 and preliminary studies by personnel of T-2 and Aircraft Laboratory, Engineering Division T-3. This opinion was arrived at in a conference between personnel from the Air Institute of Technology, Intelligence T-2, Office, Chief of Engineering Division, and the Aircraft, Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories of Engineering Division T-3.

2. It is the opinion that:

a. The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious.

b. There are objects probably approximating the shape of a disc, of such appreciable size as to appear to be as large as man-made aircraft.

c. There is a possibility that some of the incidents may be caused by natural phenomena, such as meteors.

d. The reported operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability (particularly in roll), and action which must be considered evasive when sighted or contacted by friendly aircraft and radar, lend belief to the possibility that some of the objects are controlled either manually, automatically or remotely.

e. The apparent common description of the objects is as follows:

- (1) Metallic or light reflecting surface.
- (2) Absence of trail, except in a few instances when the object apparently was operating under high performance conditions.
- (3) Circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top.

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- (4) Several reports of well kept formation flights varying from three to nine objects.
 - (5) Normally no associated sound, except in three instances a substantial rumbling roar was noted.
 - (6) Level flight speeds normally above 300 knots are estimated.

f. It is possible within the present U.S. knowledge—provided extensive detailed development is undertaken—to construct a piloted aircraft which has the general description of the object in subparagraph (e) above which would be capable of an approximate range of 7000 miles at subsonic speeds.

g. Any developments in this country along the lines indicated would be extremely expensive, time consuming and at the considerable expense of current projects and therefore, if directed, should be set up independently of existing projects.

h. Due consideration must be given the following:

- (1) The possibility that these objects are of domestic origin—the product of some high security project not known to AC/AS-2 or this Command.
- (2) The lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects.
- (3) The possibility that some foreign nation has a form of propulsion possibly nuclear, which is outside of our domestic knowledge.

3. It is recommended that:

a. Headquarters, Army Air Forces issue a directive assigning a priority, security classification and Code Name for a detailed study of this matter to include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data which will then be made available to the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, JRDB, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Group, NACA, and the RAND and NEPA projects for comments and recommendations, with a preliminary report to be forwarded within 15 days of receipt of the data and a detailed report thereafter every 30 days as the investigation develops. A complete interchange of data should be effected.

4. Awaiting a specific directive AMC will continue the investigation within its current resources in order to more closely define the nature of the phenomenon. Detailed Essential Elements of Information will be formulated immediately for transmittal thru channels.

N. F. TWINING
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding

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Condon Report. January 1969

Some Comments by Stanton T. Friedman, 1982

1. This memo was only classified Secret NOT Top Secret, so could not refer in any way to any information that was classified Top Secret or higher.. note especially item 2h 2.

2. Note especially the ^{technical} organizations to be kept informed as listed in 3. JRDB is the Joint Research and Development Board set up and headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush and the successor to the wartime Office of Scientific Research and Development also directed by Bush and which had set up both the wartime Manhattan Project and its successor the Atomic Energy Commission. NACA is the technical group-- National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics-- which had representatives from all the military services and civil aviation and which ran the wind tunnels, was responsible for the development of supersonic aircraft and later became the NASA. Its prewar chairman was Dr. Vannevar Bush who was a member still in 1947. Twining was also on it. Dr. James H. Doolittle and Dr. Detlev Bronk an aviation physiologist were added to NACA in 1948. Doolittle became Chairman in 1956. NEPA stands for Nuclear Energy for Propulsion Applications. Eventually became the Nuclear Aircraft Propulsion (ANP) program. Theodore Von Karman was Chairman of the AFSAG and was succeeded by Doolittle who had been a member for sometime. Another member was Dr. Edward Teller. The AEC was very important in New Mexico in 1947 with loads of classified land and facilities.