[redacted]

Incident #104

ATIC NO. ----

DATE OF INFO 7 Mar 48

AF NO. ----

LOCATION Smyrna, Tenn.

REPORT NO. ----

SOURCE USAF Officers

DATE OF REPORT ----

DATE IN TO ATIC ----

TIME OF SIGHTING 2055 cst

COLOR yellow orange

SHAPE oval

SPEED very slow

SIZE ----

ALTITUDE 5° above horizon

COURSE WNW away from Smyrna

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 45 minutes

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground

SOUND ----

DAMEUVERS faded away

PHOTOS ---- SKETCHES 1

Prob Venus

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(8 Jan 50)

[redacted]

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #104 -- Smyrna, Tennessee -- 7 March 1948

The object sighted here was undoubtedly the planet Venus. The stated position checks exactly (within allowable observational error) with the computed position of Venus. Description of color, speed, and setting time also all check closely.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

T-84481-A

Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAXO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"EEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq, USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

P-SIGN-A

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 104

1. Date 7 Mar 49
2. Time 2055 C
3. Location Smyrna, Tenn.
4. Name of observer Frank L. Tenn, Maj, USAF, CO, Smyrna AF Base
5. Occupation of observer Sgt Richard S. Pattingill & Pvt Frank C. Johnson, CO of Smyrna & radio and tower operators
6. Address of observer AACS Station Smyrna AAF, Smyrna, Tenn
7. Place of observation Smyrna AAF - 6 miles from (ground)
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer 6 miles
10. Time in sight 45 minutes
11. Altitude About 5° above horizon
12. Speed very slow
13. Direction of flight NNW away from Smyrna
14. Tactics N/S Faded away
15. Sound None
16. Size Unknown
17. Color yellow-orange
18. Shape oval
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S - seemed to be flare
21. Exhaust trails None
22. Weather conditions CAVU - 10 miles
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs Pics (2) showing yellow orange flame-like oval
25. Manner of disappearance faded into horizon
26. Remarks: (over)

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED/ASSIFIED

000.92 8 March 1948

SUBJECT: Sighting of So-Called "Flying Discs"

TO : Commanding General
Air Material Command
Wright-Patterson AF Base
Dayton, Ohio.
Attn: MCI

1. In compliance with letter Hq. Tactical Air Command, subject "Reporting of Information on Flying Discs" dated 16 February 1948, the following information is submitted:

a. Object sighted 7 March 1948 at 2055C, situated between west and northwest, at an estimated six miles distance.

b. Weather clear, visibility ten miles.

c. Witnesses: Frank L. Fenn, Major, USAF, Commanding Officer, Smyrna AF Base, Cpl. Richard C. Pettingill and Pvt. Frank C. Johnson, radio and tower operators, AACS station, Smyrna AF Base.

d. No photographs available.

e.

f. (1) Number: One
(2) Shape : See above sketches
(3) Size : Unknown
(4) Color : Yellow-orange
(5) Speed : Unknown, estimated very slow.
(6) Object faded away in direction of heading in about forty-five minutes.
(7) Maneuverability: Unknown, faded toward horizon.
(8) Altitude: Unknown, about five degrees above horizon.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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CLASSIFIED

B/L Hq. Smyrna AFB, 8 Mar 48, Subj "Sighting of So-Called Flying Discs" (contd)

(9) Sound: None heard.
(10) Exhaust trail: No exhaust seen.

g. General Remarks: Object had appearance of a flare, moving directly away from this station and fading out in the distance, hovering just above horizon.

FRANK L. FENN,
Major, USAF,
Commanding.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

A yellow-orange object which had the appearance of a flare was observed some six miles from Smyrna AAF between the west and northwest just above the horizon and moving directly away from Smyrna. The speed was estimated as slow since the object remained visible some forty-five minutes. It gradually faded away disappearing into the horizon. No exhaust trail was seen and no sound was heard.

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.