PROJECT 10073 RECORD

293

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 7 April 49 07/0600Z	2. LOCATION Memphis, Tennessee
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astro (STAR/PLANET)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 4-7	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 houts	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observers sighted a silver-like oval object. It was very large, very brilliant, visible by reflection. It was moving clockwise, whirling, diving and climbing. It disappeared rather suddenly after being in view for a long time.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Erratic motion	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

[redacted] CLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 24-33	DATE 20 May 49
REPORT MADE BY William T. Hockart, Sr.	
REPORT MADE AT DO/8, Maxwell AFB	
PERIOD 16, 17, 18 May 1949	
OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO/5, Wright-Patterson AFB	
STATUS RUC	

TITLE

PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Memphis, Tennessee
7 April 1949

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

Initial Report fr DO/5, Wright-Patterson AFB, file SD 24-21G, dtd 29 Apr 49.

SYNOPSIS

Interviews were conducted with two persons who said they observed unidentified aerial phenomena between 0001 and 0400 hours on 7 April 1949 at Memphis, Tennessee. One person, who was quoted by a local newspaper as an observer of this phenomena, could not be located for interview. The investigation further revealed that no astronomical irregularities were observed by the Government Weather Bureau, nor were any unusual aerial operations conducted or observed by the Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION

Hq OSI	2
DO/5	4
File	2

2 Exhibits:
Newspaper clippings

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

APPROVED

PATRICK N. HAYES
Lt. Col., USAF
District Commander

FILE STAMP

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7-3713-11

HQ FORM JAN 49 0-208 Replaces AFCSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, which may be used. [redacted]

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Distance from Observer:	Estimated at one to two miles.
Direction of Flight:	Erratic; diving, climbing, whirling.
Time in Sight:	0200 to 0400 hours, 7 April 1949.
Velocity:	Five to ten miles per hour.
Sound and Odor:	None noted.
Trail:	None noted.
Luminosity:	Medium brilliance visible by reflection.
Projections:	None noted.
Maneuvers:	Climbing and diving while whirling.
Manner of Disappearance:	Was not observed.
Effect on Clouds:	None noted.
Weather Conditions:	Clear sky, no moon.
Additional Information:	Objects appeared to avoid flight path of three or four airplanes which flew overhead at intervals during the time of observance. Observer was not wearing glasses of any kind.

3. On 13 May 1949, interview was conducted with Miss [redacted], Graham Apartments, 1042 Madison Avenue [redacted], Memphis, Tennessee, [redacted] a housewife and registered nurse. She stated that she had nothing to drink on the night in question. She appears to be a highly emotional person. A check of the Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, was made concerning [redacted] with negative results. [redacted] supplied the following information:

Date of Observation:	7 April 1949, 0001 to 0400 hours.
Place of Observation:	[redacted] Memphis, Tennessee. 35 Deg, 3' N; 89 Deg, 59' W.

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PROJECT GRUDGE, 24-55

DETAILS:

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

1. On 16 May 1949, a review of the files at the Memphis Press-Scimitar and the Memphis Commercial Appeal disclosed articles which were published on 8 April 1949 concerning the appearance of strange aerial objects during the early hours of 7 April 1949. These articles named Mrs. [redacted], Miss [redacted], and Mrs. [redacted] as observers of the phenomena. (Exhibits 1 and 2)

2. On 16 May 1949, an interview was conducted with Mrs. [redacted], 45 East Gage Avenue (formerly of 2009 Union Avenue), Memphis, Tennessee. [redacted] is employed as Night Manager at [redacted], Memphis, Tennessee. [redacted] stated that she does not drink, and she appears to be conscientious, truthful, and cooperative. Local police check was negative. [redacted] supplied the following information:

Date of Observation:	7 April 1949, 0200 to 0400 hours
Place of Observation:	2009 Union Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 35 Deg. 8' N; 89 Deg. 59' W.
Position of Observer:	First viewed through window of ground-floor apartment then from outdoors in back yard.
What Attracted Attention:	Neighbor, Miss [redacted]
Number of Objects:	6 to 9, scattered and whirling.
Apparent size:	Appeared to be the size of a gallon jug.
Color of Objects:	Yellowish-White.
Shape of Objects:	Oval
Altitude:	45 degrees above horizon.
Direction from Observer:	First seen at 325 degrees; last seen at 235 degrees.

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4. On 16 and 18 May 1949, all attempts to locate Mrs. [redacted], Memphis, Tennessee, met with negative results. The address given is non-existent. Mrs. [redacted], stated that she has lived in that neighborhood for over forty years, and she did not know [redacted]. Neither [redacted] or [redacted] (paragraphs 2 and 3 above) were acquainted with [redacted]. A review of the city and telephone directories failed to disclose any information concerning [redacted]. On 19 May 1949, Mr. [redacted], Postal Clerk, U. S. Post Office, Memphis, Tennessee, reviewed the official records of his office which failed to disclose [redacted] present or former address. On 19 May 1949, Mrs. [redacted], Memphis, Tennessee, reviewed the attendance records which failed to disclose any information concerning [redacted], son of Mrs. [redacted].

NOTE:

The neighborhood in which [redacted] and [redacted] resided is one largely composed of rental property and there is a frequent turn-over of tenants.

5. On 25 May 1949, Mr. [redacted], Re-Write Desk, Commercial Appeal Newspaper, Memphis, Tennessee, stated that on 7 April 1949, he received a telephone call from a person who identified herself as Mrs. [redacted]. She said that she had observed balls of light in the sky during the early hours of 7 April 1949. [redacted] stated that no reporter had been detailed to interview [redacted] (or [redacted] and [redacted]). He said that the article which appeared in the newspaper on 8 April was written on the basis of information received over the telephone. Mr. [redacted], City Editor, Commercial Appeal, verified [redacted] statements.

NOTE:

[redacted] stated that [redacted] has called the newspaper on several occasions seeking or offering information on various, unnewsworthy subjects. He considers her to be a minor nuisance. [redacted] said that it was entirely possible that [redacted] had made the telephone call attributed to [redacted].

6. On 17 May 1949, Mr. [redacted], Chief Forecaster, U./S. Department of Commerce Weather Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, stated that weather balloons were sent aloft at 2100 hours on 6 April 1949 and at 0300 hours on 7 April 1949. He said the balloons contained a two-volt light, that they rose at the rate of 500 feet per minute, and that the light would be visible for 10 or 15 minutes. [redacted] furnished the following weather information for 7 April 1949:

0001: Clear; visibility 15 miles; wind SSW at 15 mph.

0100: Clear; visibility 15 miles; wind SSW at 19 mph.

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PROJECT CRUDE, 24-33

Position of Observer:	First viewed through open window and then from outdoors in back yard of apartment house.
What attracted Attention:	Accidental observation.
Number of Objects:	4 to 7, whirling, diving, and climbing.
Apparent Size:	About the size of a gallon jug.
Color of Objects:	Silver.
Shape of Objects:	Oval.
Altitude:	45 degrees above horizon.
Direction from Observer:	First and last seen at 225 degrees.
Distance from Observer:	About two miles.
Direction of Flight:	Clockwise whirling movement, climbing and diving.
Time in Sight:	0001 to 0400 hours, 7 April 1949.
Velocity:	50 to 75 miles per hours.
Sound and Odor:	None noted.
Trail:	None noted.
Luminosity:	Very brilliant, visible by reflection.
Projections:	None Noted.
Maneuvers:	Clockwise turning, climbing and diving.
Manner of Disappearance:	Disappeared suddenly at 0400 hours.
Weather Conditions:	Clear sky; no moon; no rain.
Additional Information:	At approach of aircraft, objects would move out of flight path. Observer viewed objects through eye glasses.

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5D-OSI/JEM/fmm

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5D 24-210 3 June 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Memphis, Tennessee
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAMS

1. Reference is made to report of investigation by Special Agent JOHN E. MORRILL, subject and file as above, dated 29 April 1949.

2. Inclosed for your information and any action deemed necessary is report of investigation by Special Agent WILLIAM T. HEKLART, SR., 5th OSI District, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

3. With the submission of this report, the files of this office are being closed in instant investigation.

1 Incl
R/I dtd 20 May 49
(in Dup)

THOMAS F. DOYLE, JR
Captain, USAF
Acting District Commander

Cy to: Hq OSI

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0200: Clear; visibility 15 miles; wind SW at 12 mph.

0300: Clear; visibility 15 miles; wind SW at 13 mph.

0400: Clear; visibility 12 miles; wind WNW at 12 mph.

0500: Clear; visibility 10 miles; wind W at 8 mph.

CARNEY stated that no unusual astronomical phenomena had been observed or reported by any of his subordinates during the above period.

7. On 17 May 1949, Mr. [redacted], Senior Aircraft Controller, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Airways Communication Station, Municipal Airport, Memphis, Tennessee, stated that his daily log for 7 April 1949 disclosed no report of aerial phenomena during the hours of 0001 to 0500.

AT MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE:

8. On 18 May 1949, Lt. Comdr. P. S. GAI, USN, 129670, Operations Officer, Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee, reviewed the official records of his office which disclosed that no ground radar units were in operation during the hours 0001 and 0400, 7 April 1949. He stated that there were no unusual operations during this period and none had been reported.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION

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[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

D 21-210
PROJECT GRUDGE

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

FOR OSI DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will contact weather and research agencies, and interview all witnesses, obtaining statements as to aerial phenomena at Memphis, Tennessee on 7 April 1948 using the enclosed guide for reference.

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[redacted]

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 21-20

DATE: 29 April 1949

REPORT MADE BY: JOHN B. MORRILL

REPORT MADE AT: DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio

PERIOD: 21 and 29 April 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio

STATUS: PENDING

TITLE

PROJECT GRUDGE
Incident, Memphis, Tennessee
7 April 1949

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

None, this is an initial report

SYNOPSIS

Investigation requested by RR from MCIAIS, Hq ARC, dated 25 April 1949, to obtain detailed information from witnesses, as well as weather and research opinion of sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena at Memphis, Tennessee on 7 April 1949.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION

CG, ARC (MCIAIS)	2
Hq OSI	2
DO #4 (Incl)	2
File	2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO: CG, ARC (MCIAIS)

APPROVED

JOHN L. MAST
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

FILE STAMP

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AFHQ FORM 15 JAN 49 0-208 Replaces AFCSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, which may be used. [redacted]

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SD 21-216
PROJECT GRUDGE

DETAILS:

1. Investigation predicated upon an RAR from MCLAIN, Hq ARC, dated 26 April 1949, in which request was made to contact particularly weather and research agencies for possible releases of balloons or radar tracking targets, at Memphis, Tennessee, on 7 April 1949.

AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

2. The files of this office contain a copy of a teletype received by Technical Intelligence Division, Hq ARC, from 6th Naval District, Charleston, S. C., which is quoted:

"* * * * * PRESS REPORTS OF 6 APRIL FROM MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AREA INDICATE SEVERAL OF OVALAR LUMINOUS OBJECTS IN WESTERN SKY IN SEVERAL OBSERVERS BETWEEN 0030 AND 0200 on 7 APRIL 1949. OBJECTS WERE REPORTED TO BE SIMILAR ABOUT SIZE OF GALLON JARS WHIRLING CONSTANTLY AND MOVING UP AND DOWN AT HIGH ALTITUDES. LOCAL METEOROLOGIST STATES PRESUMEDLY CONSIDERABLE DISCOUNTING THEM AS METEORS OR WEATHER BALLOONS. WITNESSES INCLUDE [redacted] AND MRS. [redacted] AND [redacted] OF [redacted] MEMPHIS."

Inclosure:

FOR CSI DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

Guide to Aerial Phenomena Investigation (in part)

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CSAF ITEM 9/UNCLASSIFIED

PROJECT GRUDGE FROM OIR-CO-2

FOLLOWING FROM COMMANDANT 6TH NAVAL

DISTRICT CHARLESTON, S.C., QUOTE

PRESS REPORTS OF 8 APRIL FROM MEMPHIS,

TENNESSEE AREA INDICATE SIGHTINGS OF

OVULAR LUMINOUS OBJECTS IN WESTERN

SKY BY SEVERAL OBSERVERS BETWEEN

0030 AND 0200 ON 7 APRIL 1949.

OBJECTS WERE REPORTED TO BE SILVERY

ABOUT SIZE OF GALLON JARS WHIPLING

CONSTANTLY AND MOVING UP AND DOWN

AT HIGH ALTITUDE. LOCAL METEROLOGIST

STATES PHENOMENA UNEXPLAINABLE DIS-

COUNTING THEM AS METEORS OR WEATHER

BALLOONS. WITNESSES INCLUDE [redacted]

[redacted] AND MRS [redacted]

[redacted] OF [redacted]

[redacted] MEMPHIS. UNQUOTE.

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END CSAF ITEM 9/UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

HP
SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Objects 11 April 1949

4. No aircraft were reported in this vicinity that could possibly have been the aerial objects referred to above at the times and dates mentioned. In this respect, Air Force activities, National Guard and Naval Operations were checked.

5. For your further information, inclosed is a photograph sent by Associated Press to the Memphis newspaper pertaining to an alleged "flying disc" fragment found in western Colorado. No further information pertaining to this available in this vicinity.

6. In respect to the information contained in the first four paragraphs, no confirmation has been received or apparently can be obtained or factual basis for reasonable explanation available.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

WILLIAM O. POINTER
Captain, USAF
Adjutant

1 Incl
Photograph

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[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HP
MDC/WOP/cht

11 April 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Objects

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

TO: Commanding General
11th Air Force
Orlando, Florida
ATTN: Director of Intelligence

1. The Press-Scimitar of 8 April 1949, published in Memphis, contained a story concerning unidentified aerial objects seen by residents of this city.

2. This office interviewed Mr. Tally, reporter for the Press-Scimitar who covered the story, to see what additional information could be obtained. He had no additional information and was of the opinion himself that the reports by the residents of this city were without factual basis.

3. The persons mentioned in the story were themselves interviewed concerning the incident. Mrs. [redacted] who had first reported it, stated she had seen these unidentified aerial objects in the west at approximately 2400 hours between the 6th and 7th of April. They seemed to be about one-quarter the size of the moon and resembled silver-like stars; several were seen at the same time. From her description the motions of the objects resembled either loops or alternate zooming and diving. Allegedly one went over her house at an undetermined altitude. She stated that the actions seemed to be controlled and in her words "went so far then hovered and then changed directions". She stated that they seemed to move out of the path of planes. These objects were again allegedly seen at approximately 0100, 0200 and 0330 hours on 7 April 1949. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] age 11, stated that they allegedly have seen same also at the times and dates specified above. The address of the latter family is 2009 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

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[redacted]

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INCIDENT NO. 293

1. Date of Observation 7 April 1949 Date of Interview 18 May 1949

2. Exact Time (local) 0100-0400

3. Place of Observation Memphis, Tennessee

4. Position of observer Ground - First through window, then outdoors

5. What attracted attention to object

6. Number of objects 4-7

7. Apparent size 1/4 size of moon

8. Color of object Silver like

9. Shape Oval

10. Altitude 45° above horizon

11. Direction from observer First and last seen at 225°

12. Distance from observer 2 Miles

13. Direction of flight of object(s)

14. Time in sight 3 hrs

15. Speed 50-75 mph

16. Sound and odor

17. Trail

18. Luminosity Very brilliant, visible by reflection

19. Projections

20. Maneuvers Clockwise, whirling, diving and climbing

21. Manner of disappearance suddenly

22. Effect on Clouds

23. Additional information concerning object at approach of a/c, objects moved out of flight path

24. Weather Conditions
Clear, visibility 15 miles 12-19 mile changing wind

(over)

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Incident 293

Name and address of observer: Mrs. [redacted], Graham Apts., [redacted]., Memphis, Tenn.

Occupation and hobbies:

Housewife and Registered Nurse

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Appears highly emotional

(See full details in original report)

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

Incident 23A

Name and address of observer: Mr & Mrs. [redacted] .
[redacted] 11)
[redacted] ve., Memphis, Tennessee

Occupation and hobbies:

Night Manager of Andy's Grill

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Appears conscientious, truthful and cooperative.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

INCIDENT NO. 293A

1. Date of Observation 7 April 1949 Date of Interview 16 May 1949

2. Exact Time (local) 0200 - 0400

3. Place of Observation Memphis Tennessee 35° - 8' North, 89° - 52' West

4. Position of observer Ground thru windowm then outdoors

5. What attracted attention to object Miss hall

6. Number of objects 6-9

7. Apparent size Size of gallon jug

8. Color of object Yellowish white

9. Shape oval

10. Altitude 45° above horizon

11. Direction from observer First seen 225° Last seen 135°

12. Distance from observer 1 - 2 miles

13. Direction of flight of object(s) 5-10 miles per hour

14. Time in sight 2 hrs

15. Speed 5-10 mph

16. Sound and odor None Noted

17. Trail None Noted

18. Luminosity Medium Brilliance, Visable by reflection

19. Projections None Noted

20. Maneuvers Erradic, diving climbing, whirling

21. Manner of disappearance

22. Effect on Clouds

23. Additional information concerning object Objects appeared to a void paths of aircraft in area and flew overhead at intervals

24. Weather Conditions Clear sky, no moon.

(over)

CONTROL NO.	SUBJECT: Ltr	DECIMAL FILE NO.	FOLLOW UP ON
P- 719	Report of Info on Flying Disc CONF.. R-144		DATE

FROM: Air U Maxwell AFB Ala. DATED 4/15/49

TO: IAIS NO. INCLS. 0

RECORDING DESK AXI-3 DATE RECORDED 4/20/49 HOUR 0800

ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1 IAIS	N/R	[illegible]	4/[illegible]
2			
3			

DATE OF REPLY | OTHER DISPOSITION:

TRANSMITTAL
AMC FORM NO. 10-2
(20 NOV. 47)

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

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, Alabama G/mdl/R

452

15 APR 1949

SUBJECT: Report of Information on "Flying Disc"

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
ATTN: MCI

The following TWX from Commandant Sixth Naval District Charleston, SC is quoted for your information and in compliance with Letter, subj: "Reporting of Information on Flying Discs", Hq USAF, 6 February 1948:

"Ref CNOBOE Ser zero four four two two peter three two of four Nov one nine four eight NOTAA press reports of eight April from Memphis, Tenn area indicate sighting of ovular luminous objects in western sky by several observers between zero zero three zero and zero two zero zero on seven April one nine four nine pd Objects were reported to be silvery about size of gallon jars whirling constantly and moving up and down at high altitude pd Local meteorologist states phenomena unexplainable discounting them as meteors or weather ballons pd Witnesses include [redacted] and Mrs [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] of [redacted] Memphis...END"

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

U887

F. E. LANKSTON
Major, USAF
Adjutant General

Information copy to:
Directorate of Intelligence
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D.C.

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Objects, 11 April 1949

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HQ FOURTEENTH AIR FORCE, OAFB, Orlando, Florida

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. ATTENTION: TSDIN

Forwarded for your information and action deemed necessary.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

L. CARMICHAEL
Maj, USAF
Asst Adj Gen

1 Incl
n/c

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Inc 293

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