PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 29 Jan 52	2. LOCATION PHILADELPHIA, PENN.	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 29/1817 EST GMT 29/2317	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Varied (450 reports)	☒ Was Astronomical (METEOR) ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10-12 sec.	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE SW
		☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Various explanations of the object being a fireball. The general description of the object was that it was a bluish-green fireball traveling at terrific speed.

11. COMMENTS

1. Reported as a known meteor.

CARD #2

SECURITY INFO

UNCLASSIFIED

12 FEB 52
CSAF ITEM 77
ATIAA

ACTION

TO ATIAA-2C RUPPELT FROM AFOIN-V/TC FOURNET

BRIEFLY INTERROGATED COL JOSEPH D. CALARA, USAF 1048 A, OF OFFICE OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF RE U/I FLYING OBJECT OBSERVED BY HIM AND HIS WIFE. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF SIGHTING FOR YOUR INFO AND FOLLOW UP ACTION IF YOU THINK WARRANTED:

(1) BRILLIANT GREEN SHPEROID WITH TAIL SLIGHTLY NARROWER THAN DEAMETER AND LINGTH ABOUT 3 TIMES DEAMETER OF SPHEROID. TAIL OF ORANGE AND RED COLOR. TRAVELLING IN FLAT ARC GENERAL SW DIRECTION ACROSS NW QUARANT OF SKY FROM 45 DEGREE ELEVADTION TO ABOUT 20 DEGREEE ELEVATION, AT WHICH POINT IT FADED OUT OF SIGHT.

ATIAA

NO SOUND OR OTHER FEATURES.

(2) SIGHTED FOR A FEW SECONDS POSSIBLY 15 ~~33~~ TO 30 ~~AT~~ 2330 Z HOURS ON 29 JAN 52.

(3) VISUAL OBSERVATION FROM GROUND.

(4) OBSERVERS AT POINT IN WEST SECTION FALLS CHURCH, VA.

(5) COL CALDARA IS USAF PILOT WITH WW 11 EXPERIENCE IN PACIFIC. STATES THIS OFJECT BORE NO RESEMBLANCE TO NUMEROUS METERORS AND METEORITES OBSERVED IN PACIFIC. APPEARS TO BE RELIABLE.

COL CALDARA INITIATED ACTION THIS INCIDENT WHEN HE SAW AD IN NEWSPAPER " SUNDAY STAR" MAGAZINE SECTION OF 10 FEB. THIS AD BY DR LAPAZ SOLICITS INFORMATION OF SIGHTINGS GREEN FIREBALLS. DO YOU KNOW IF LAPAZ IS ~~WORKING ON USAF CONTRACT OR DOING THIS ON~~ HIS OWN, POSSIBLY WITH HOPE OF SELLING FINDINGS TO US? YOUR INFORMAL COMMENTS THIS QUERY WOULD BE APPRECTIATED

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

29 JAN 52 FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA. PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA. ASTRO (METEOR)

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 4

DATE: 29 Jan 52

TIME (Local): 1830

LOCATION: Falls Church, Va.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 15-30 Sec.

SOUND: None

SPEED: Unknown

ALTITUDE: 45° to 20°

HEADING: 225°

SOURCE: AF Colonel

ACTION OR COMMENTS: Green fireball phenomena. No conclusions..

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Brilliant green fireball traveling in flat arc.

7-2112-42

ITEM 4 AMC / [redacted] (TT-47
FROM LT E J RUPPELT ATIGA-2C [redacted] 15 Feb 52
TO CAPT FOURNET AFOIN-V/TC

UNCLASSIFIED

S[redacted]
REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR TELECON TT 43,
CSAF ITEM 7, 12 FEBRUARY 1952. OBJECT MENTIONED
IN GREEN FIREBALL TYPE OF PHENOMENA.
ATIC HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO GET FURTHER
INFO ON WHAT CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED BY
THE AF CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORY
WHO MADE A STUDY OF THIS PHENOMENA. THEY HAVE
SUBMITTED A REPORT TO THE DIRECTORATE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN WASHINGTON, BUT
WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET A COPY OF
THE REPORT.
DR. LAPAZ IS A WELL KNOWN AUTHORITY ON
METEORITES. WE HAVE NO INFO ON HIM
OTHER THAN THAT HE IS TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED
AND THAT HE ASSISTED THE OSI IN 1947 AND 1948
DURING THE FIRST OUTBREAK OF GREEN FIREBALLS
IN NEW MEXICO. HE IS NOT WORKING FOR ATIC, NOR ANY
AIR FORCE AGENCY AS FAR AS WE KNOW..
IT IS BELIEVED THAT HIS EXTREME INTEREST IN
THE GREEN FIREBALLS IS PURELY SCIENTIFIC
IN THAT HE IS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
METEORITICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO.
ATIC DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE ANY ACTION ON THIS
SIGHTING.

INFORMATION

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DOD DIR 5200.10

END ITEM 4 AMC / [redacted] [redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

TELECONFERENCE MESSAGE FORM

(See instructions on reverse side of this page)

UNCLASSIFIED

1. ITEM NO.	2. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted]	3. DATE TRANSMITTED 14 February 1952
4. FROM: (NAME & SYMBOL) Lt R. J. Ruppelt, ATIAA-2c		5. TO: (NAME & SYMBOL) Capt Fournet, AFOIN-V/TC

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] Reference is made to your telecon TT 43, OSAF Item 7, 12 February 1952. Object mentioned is green fireball type of phenomena. ATIC has been attempting to get further info on what conclusions were reached by the AF Cambridge Research Laboratory who made a study of this phenomena. They have submitted a report to the Directorate of Research and Development in Washington, but we have been unable to get a copy of the report.

Dr. LaPaz is a well known authority on meteorites. We have no info on him other than that he is technically qualified and that he assisted the OSI in 1947 and 1948 during the first outbreak of green fireballs in New Mexico. He is not working for ATIC, nor any Air Force agency as far as we know. It is believed that his extreme interest in the green fireballs is purely scientific in that he is head of the Department of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico. ATIC does not contemplate any action on this sighting.

(If more space is needed, continue on a plain sheet of paper.)

7. ORIGINATED BY: (NAME & SYMBOL	8. COORDINATED BY: (NAME & SYMBOL)
9. AUTHORIZED BY:	DOWNGRADED AT 3-YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10
Air Adjutant General, ATIPA	

SECRET [redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC FORM 106 (11 Dec 51)

ATIAA-2c file

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING AND SUBMITTING FORM

1. Submit ONE copy of the completed form to ATIPA by 1000 hours of day message is to be sent. Unless special arrangements are made with ATIPA for late submission, messages received after 1000 hours will not be sent until the following conference

2. Complete form as follows:

Block 1. Preparing office omit. Will be completed by telecon operator.

Block 2. If a classified message, stamp in security classification. If not a classified message, enter "Unclassified".

Block 3. Enter date the message will be sent, not date prepared.

Block 4. Enter name and symbol of sender.

Block 5. Enter name and symbol of receiver.

Block 6. If a classified message, enter as the first two words of the message "Security Information," then proceed with the message. If not a classified message, omit the words "Security Information.".

Block 7. Originator enter signature and symbol. (May or may not be the same person whose name appears in Block 4.)

Block 8. Coordinators enter name and symbol.

Block 9. Air Adjutant General enter signature.

Bottom of form. If a classified message, stamp in security classification.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIR MAIL

9

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
3RD DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
1612 S. CAMERON STREET, HARRISBURG, PA.
RHR/mn

3DO 24-84

28 February 1952

SUBJECT: Green Fire-Balls Reported over Phila. Pa.,
29 January 1952
SPECIAL INQUIRY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
3 MAR 1952
Attention is invited to paragraph 10, AFR 200-6, dated [illegible] ember 1950, which prohibits the disclosure of investigative [illegible] information to unauthorized persons.
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
SRCH INDEX
CLEAR
FILE
CHIEF
AGENT
TO:
FILE

TO: District Commander
5th District OSI (IG) USAF
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

1. Reference is made to telephone message received from Major JOHN F. O'CONNELL, your office, at 0930 hours on 27 February 1952, requesting the securing of information concerning a report to the effect that green fire-balls had been seen flying over Philadelphia on 29 January 1952.

2. In an interview on 27 February 1952, Dr. CHARLES POLLARD OLIVIER, Director, Astronomical Observations, University of Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

> At approximately 1817 hours on 29 January 1952 a FIRE-BALL, better known as a meteor, appeared over Northeastern Pennsylvania. This meteor was blue-green in color with great unanimity by the observers. He stated that the brillancy averaged to be that equal of a quarter moon. Its visibility lasted approximately 10 to 12 seconds at which time it disintegrated not less than 50 nor more than 100 miles Northwest of Philadelphia. The general phenomena gave a strong indication that the end point was low enough for fragments to have fallen as meteorites.
>
> Dr. OLIVIER stated that he had received approximately 450 reports from persons from Massachusetts to Maryland. These reports have been in the form of phone calls, letters, etc., of which approximately one-third have real scientific information of value.
>
> Dr. OLIVIER stated that he did not personally observe this meteor nor was it observed by anyone from the University of Pennsylvania Observatories. Dr. OLIVIER stated that there is no doubt that the phenomena was that of a brilliant FIRE-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED

BALL or meteor inasmuch as he has "worked up numerous cases of instances of this type".

Dr. OLIVIER advised that a report of this incident will be published in a scientific journal by himself and that the report will be contained in a publication known as the "Flower Astronomical Observatory" of the University of Pennsylvania.

3. The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin of 30 January 1952 carried the following article on the front page:

SEE A BIG METEOR? TELL IT TO ASTRONOMER

If you saw a meteor falling to the north of Philadelphia last night, Dr. CHARLES P. OLIVIER, Director of the Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, would like to hear from you.

Several persons reported seeing the phenomenon about 6.15. Some described it as a huge ball of blue and red flame. Others said the ball was green with yellow "tails". All agreed it seemed to be falling straight towards the earth.

Dr. OLIVIER, who is president of the American Meteor Society, said he had no first-hand knowledge of the meteor. But he said he would like to hear by letter from those who did, with a description of what they saw.

4. On 27 February 1952, Lt. A. T. McTAIG, Intelligence Division, Police Department, City of Philadelphia and Special Agent ELWOOD E. PETT, Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philadelphia, Pa., were contacted and both advised that their respective offices had received no reports of the fire ball.

5. This case is RUC.

Robert H. Ray
ROBERT H. RAY
Major, USAF
District Commander

CC: Hq OSI (dup)

DECLASSIFIED

OUT

INSTRUCTIONS: File to right when charging out case files or entire folders of correspondence. File on side when charging out individual documents within a folder. File in binder when charging out individual publications, or in place of binder when charging out entire binder.

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S)		CHARGED TO	
DATE OF DOCUMENT(S)	TITLE, FILE CODE OR SUBJECT, NUMBER, OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION	NAME, OFFICE TITLE OR SYMBOL, TELEPHONE	DATE CHARGED OUT
	Additional reported lightings (not cases)		
1/52	Mexico City, Mexico	Space Cafe Digest	
1952	Pacific	Spring Chase, 1958 → New Article	
1/21/52	Chase	" "	

OUT

AF FORM OCT 71 614 PREVIOUS EDITION WILL BE USED.

CHARGE OUT RECORD c48—16—81850-1 445-228 GPO

1 - 28 FEBRUARY 1952

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
Feb	Gonzales, Texas	[redacted]	Other (SAUCER FAN)
2	30.38N - 140.02W (Pacific)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
6	Dobbins AFB, Georgia	Military	BALLOON
10	Bander Abbis, Iran	Civilian	INSUFFICIENT DATA
11	Kansas City, Missouri	Civilian	BALLOON
11	Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
12	Washington, D. C.	Military	AIRCRAFT
13	Granite City, Illinois	Military (RADAR)	1. Other (RADAR MALFUNCTION) 2. INSUFFICIENT DATA
14	31.45N - 159.10E (Pacific)	Military	AIRCRAFT
16	Korea	Military (RADAR)	1. INSUFFICIENT DATA 2. AIRCRAFT
17	Roswell, New Mexico	Military	Astro (METEOR)
18	Virginia, North Carilona (CARDS MISSING)	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
20	Mt Diable, California (CARDS MISSING)	Montgomery, Watkins	BALLOON
22	El Paso, Texas	[redacted] (PHOTO)	Other (FLAW IN NEGATIVE)
23	Sinuiju, North Korea	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
23	36.50N - 08.50W (Atlantic)	Military	INSUFFICIENT DATA
26	74W - 43N (Near Albany, N.Y.)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
28	Cambells Creek, Newfoundland (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	INSUFFICIENT DATA

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION