

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Aug 55		2. LOCATION Madrid, Spain		12. CONCLUSIONS ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1443</u> Day GMT <u>22/1343Z</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE mil *USAF			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 min, 15 sec $\pm$		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE SE & up	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING USAF Major in Spain heard Jet sound and upon looking up he saw white spherical obj which appeared like a wx balloon. The sound faded, but the obj remained, moving slowly and sometimes hovering.				11. COMMENTS A check with Spanish WX forecaster revealed a balloon released at 1400 hrs which would have easily drifted over sight of observation. Check revealed 2 USAF F86's in area at time of incident accounting for sound/	

1 Witness

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, 10TH DISTRICT OFFICE, MADRID, SPAIN
Ltr 23 Aug 55 Subj: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted at Madrid, Spain
1443 hours, 22 August 1955

JUSOP-3

1st Ind

JOINT U.S. MILITARY GROUP (SPAIN), APO 285, New York, N.Y. AUG 25 1955

TO: Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

1. The above sighting of an unidentified flying object is forwarded in accordance with paragraph 7a(2)(b), AFR 200-2, 12 August 1954.

2. Additional investigation by this headquarters reveals that two F-86 aircraft were flying in the Madrid area during the period of the reported sighting. These aircraft landed Getafe airdrome, Madrid, at 1453 hours local.

FOR THE CHIEF:

William L. Patterson
WILLIAM L. PATTERSON
Major, USAF
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES IN EUROPE
Office of Special Investigations
10th District Office-Madrid, Spain

APO 285, US Air Force

24-0

23 Aug 1955

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted at Madrid, Spain,
1443 hours, 22 August 1955

TO: Chief, JUSMG
ATTN: Director of Operations
APO 285, USAF

1. At 1050 hours, 23 August 1955, Major WILLIAM A. BURDICK, AO-728823, Chief, Procurement Division, Directorate of Procurement Production, Spain Air Materiel Area (SPAMA), (telephone #346300, Ext. 310) visited DO #10 to report having sighted an unidentified flying object.

2. Maj BURDICK stated that at 1443 hours local, 22 August 1955, while standing in the vicinity of the Generalisimo Building, in the north central part of the city of Madrid, he heard the sound of a jet aircraft. He looked up in the direction of the sound, which was directly overhead, and saw what appeared to be a white spherical object, first thought to be a weather balloon. The altitude or size could not be estimated. However, if the object were the size of a standard weather balloon (approximately 12 ft. in diameter, according to BURDICK), it would have been between 3,000 and 4,000 ft.

While watching the object, the sound of the jet (which was not seen) moved toward the Southeast. The object, which then seemed to be silver in color, appeared to remain in the same relative position for approximately 15 seconds and then moved slowly toward the Southeast at the same altitude. As it moved, the appearance changed from that of a sphere to that of a disc of the same relative size.

The object moved very slowly, appeared to hover for a moment, then continued moving. The appearance again changed, from disc to sphere to disc again. The object seemed to gain altitude very rapidly, and rose out of sight, its appearance being that of a disc, only the edge of which was visible. Approximately 3 seconds elapsed from the time the

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SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted at Madrid, Spain, 1443 hours, 22 August 1955 (CONT'D)

object started to rise until it vanished from sight. The total period that the object was in sight was from one minute and 15 seconds, to one minute and 30 seconds.

Regarding weather and visibility at the time of sighting, the sky was cloudless in the area of the object, the sun was shining brightly, the sky blue, there was no fog or haze and no relative wind at ground level. Ceiling and visibility were unlimited. There was no one else in the vicinity of Maj BURDICK at the time of the sighting.

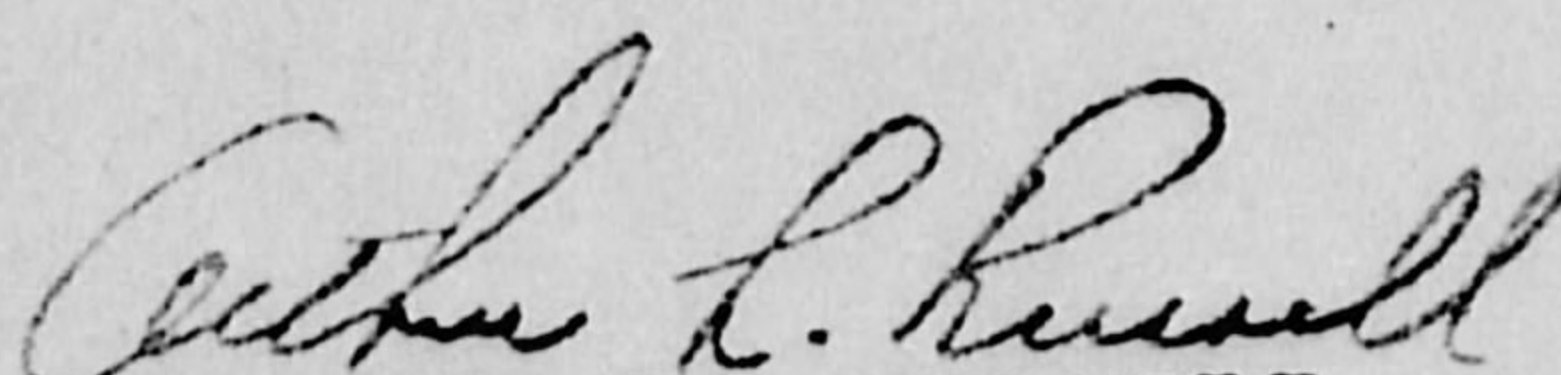
3. BURDICK stated that he is a senior pilot with approximately 6,900 hours in multi-engine aircraft. He has been on active duty in the U. S. Air Force from 1942 - 1945 and from 1951 to date. He is also a celestial navigator, and was employed as such with Pan-American World Airways from 1945 to 1951. He stated he had never observed or reported unidentified flying objects previously.

4. At 1130 hours, M/Sgt JAMES S. UNDERWOOD, AF 15018783, 29-36 Weather Detachment, APO 285, USAF, Weather Forecaster at Madrid - Getafe, advised that the U. S. Air Force weather station at Getafe does not send any balloons or other technical equipment aloft.

5. At 1135 hours, MANUEL CASTANS, Spanish Weather Forecaster at the civilian air terminal at Madrid - Barajas Airport (telephone #221165), advised that his office had sent a pilot balloon aloft at 1400 hours, 22 August 1955, for the purpose of measuring wind direction and velocity. The balloon, which was red and one meter in diameter, was kept in sight by weather personnel until 1423 hours, when it had reached an altitude of 5,200 meters. CASTANS stated it is possible the balloon passed over the northern part of the city where the sighting occurred. He added that at 1,000 meters in altitude, wind direction and velocity was 160° at 10 knots, and at 1,500 meters, it was 150° at 8 knots.

6. The foregoing information is furnished your office for reporting, in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 4a and 7, AFR 200-2, 12 August 1954. No further action is contemplated by this District.

cc: SPAMA (info)


ARTHUR L. RUSSELL
Major, USAF
District Commander