

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE August (middle) 1956		2. LOCATION Potma, USSR		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1600 GMT		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 45 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 3-4		9. COURSE varied	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Several spheres viewed by prisoners. Changed lighter and darker. Bright blue cloudless day. Objects in SW at 45 deg elevation. Golden color about 50 cm in diameter. 2-3 smaller spheres about 4 cm. Objects in trail with big one in front. Fast rising and lowering. No estimates as to speed or altitude. No sound. No detail other than golden spheres, disappeared at high speed.		11. COMMENTS Possibly lenticular clouds from the limited data presented. A/C and missiles ruled out.			

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO:

243.6012-1
1-9 Aug 1956

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Afternoon

SUBJECT: (U) Review and Comment - USSR UFO Report

TO: AFCIN-4E4

FROM: AFCIN-4F

DATE: 19 Sep 57 COMMENT NR. 2
Lt Col Prentiss/vh
66310/Bldg 263/Hangar A

1. A review of IR-1612-57 shows insufficient evidence on which to evaluate the sighting as aircraft or missile activity. As stated in the last sentence of Part II, even the observers were "sure that the objects were notaircraft of any sort."

2. The relative size of the objects, the large one being 12 times the size of the smaller ones, is further evidence that rules out aircraft or missiles.

3. From the position of the observer with respect to a sun low in the horizon, it appears that lenticular clouds were observed, drifting with the wind. The illusion of ascent or descent can be explained by the clouds blowing directly to or away from the observer.

1 Incl
n/c

Prentiss
PAUL E. VILLARS
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4F

2

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DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

SUBJECT

(U) Review and Comment - USSR UFO Report

TO AFCIN-4F

FROM AFCIN-4E4

DATE

6 Sep 57

COMMENT NO. 1

4E4/Capt G.T. Gregory/wm
69216

1. Request your review and comment regarding probable identity of object described in attached report.
2. Data are insufficient for this office to form valid conclusions.
3. Believe this can be resolved from your knowledge of subject terrain and its activities as they may relate to aircraft and missiles.

1 Incl

IR-1612-57 (1-3p)

7/16/57 (T57-24174-1)

Henry A. Miley
HENRY A. MILEY
AFCIN-4E4

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DD FORM 96

1 FEB 50

REPLACES NME FORM 96, 1 OCT 48, WHICH MAY BE USED

16-54801-3

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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY OF ACTIVITY REPORTING GERMANY		REPORT NO. IR-1612-57	(Leave blank)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS USSR	DATE OF INFORMATION Aug 56	1121-16	
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT HDS Team, 7051st Air INTSERG N 7050th Air INTSERGU (USAF)	DATE OF COLLECTION 25 Jun 57	SRI STATUS (If applicable)	
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL EMIL A VINKLAREK, Major, USAF	DATE OF REPORT 16 Jul 57	SRI NO. CANCELED/COMPLETE	
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE (356276)-JCP-WW	EVALUATION C-3	SRI NO. CANCELED/INCOMPLETE	
REFERENCES (BAIR Subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)		SRI NO. ACTIVE	
BAIR: (3A); (N-46-56). See II below		AUG 27 1957	
SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)			
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS NEAR POTMA (54 40N/44 52E).			
SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)			
I. Report gives a detailed eyewitness account of 3 - 4 unidentified flying objects which hovered in Mid-August for 45 minutes over the Prison Camp # 385/10 near POTMA.			
II. Additional Reports obtained by Interviewer SINGER, K.R. and Editor McLAUGHLIN, Frank from this SOURCE:			
IR-1611-57, AIRFIELD NEAR BYKOVO (55 37N/38 04E)			
IR-1613-57, PERSONAL LETTER FROM USSR			
IR-1614-57, WORK PASS FOR COAL MINE SHAFT # 8 AT VORKUTA (67 30N/64 03N/			
IR-1615-57, PRIVILEGE PASS FOR PRISONERS IN THE USSR			
IR-1616-57, ARREST AND CONFINEMENT OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE			
IR-1617-57, POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL REPORT ON USSR			
IR-1618-57, AREA DESCRIPTION OF VORKUTA.			
APPROVED: <i>Edward M. Roan</i> HERBERT L. CRISLER Colonel, USAF Commander			
INCL 5			
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) NBG Team, 7051st Air INTSERON 7050th Air INTSERGU (USAF)	REPORT NO. IR-1612-57	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
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I. PREAMBLE:

a. SOURCE was friendly, talkative and very cooperative. He was a good observer, had a good memory and was a good judge of dimensions.

b. In Aug 56 SOURCE was transferred by train with 250 other prisoners from Prison Camp # 385/7-1 POTMA to Prison Camp # 385/10 about 20km air distance north of POTMA. The unidentified flying objects were observed by SOURCE and many other prisoners one afternoon in the middle of Aug 56. The observation of the unidentified flying objects can be substantiated by [REDACTED], F 4, # 17; and [REDACTED] 4, [REDACTED] 27, who were both repatriated with SOURCE on the 17th of Oct 56. Report based on SOURCE's observations made in Aug 56. All figures are appr. unless otherwise specified.

note

II. INFORMATION ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS NEAR POTMA:

One afternoon in the middle of August 1956 (SOURCE did not remember the exact date) at approximately 1600 hours (MOSKVA (55 45N/37 35E) time) SOURCE was sitting in one of the camp barracks and talked to other prisoners. All of a sudden a prisoner burst into the room with the words: "Come on out, there is something peculiar to see in the sky!". All prisoners immediately went outside and observed in southwest direction at approximately 45° one golden shining sphere of about 50cm diameter and 2 - 3 spheres of about 4cm diameter at outstretched arm distance. It was a blue and cloudless sky, with bright daylight and no wind. The flying objects appeared at first to be motionless in the sky with the large one leading and the others in trail. After a short while the spheres made turns to the right and to the left at moderate speed without breaking the formation. Then again the spheres gained altitude at a fast pace (SOURCE was not able to judge the speed), and came down again (SOURCE was not able to judge the altitude because there were no clouds in the sky) whereby one of the smaller spheres broke formation and stayed a little bit higher than the others, this lasted only about a minute after which the sphere went into formation with the others. These flight maneuvers took place for about 45 minutes because SOURCE remembers that he sat a good hour on a bench in front of the prison barrack. Then all of a sudden the objects travelled at high speed out of view. SOURCE could not remember the direction into which the spheres had left. All the time during the observation the sun was at the right of SOURCE which accounts maybe for the golden color of the spheres. SOURCE recalled that at different intervals the color of the spheres became lighter and darker individually. Absolutely no noise was heard. All objects were solid spheres and no balloons (SOURCE insisted that he knows enough about balloons to identify them in the air). No details could be observed on the spheres (SOURCE was very positive about the objects form). No vapor trails were observed. All the prisoners were baffled and as SOURCE put it, everyone was sure that the objects were not Soviet experimental aircraft of any sort.

III. PREPARING OFFICERS COMMENT:

This report is submitted referencing AICM M-46-56 due to the proximity of

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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observation to referenced locale. Although SOURCE refused to make statements of positive identity of observed objects, he seemed almost certain that objects were not balloons which gives rise to the suggestion that "Vertical Take-off type Aircraft" is a possible answer. An evaluation is requested in regard to validity of referencing.

Emil A. Vinklarek
EMIL A VINKLAREK
Major, USAF
Commander
NBC Team, 7051st Air INTSERON

*Clouds a balloons -
but from the repeated
description of the shape (spheres)
probably balloons*

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