

1. 1 - 1

1. DATE	2. LOCATION		12. CONCLUSIONS
5 September 1957	Wales, North Dakota		☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
Local evening	☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Air-Visual	☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
GMT _____			
5. PHOTOS	6. SOURCE		☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
☐ Yes ☒ No	Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS	9. COURSE	☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
- - -	- - -	- - -	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING		11. COMMENTS	
Letter to senator requesting information on sighting.		Reply indicates that obj or objs were meteors.	
		No rpt in file.	

8 November 1957

Dear Captain [REDACTED]:

Inclosed herewith are correspondence and/or news clippings reporting an Unidentified Flying Object near Wales, North Dakota, in September 1957.

Request ATIC furnish this office an analysis or evaluation of this reported sighting for submission to Senator Langer.

Sincerely,

2 Inclosures

1. correspondence
2. news clippings

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Captain [REDACTED]
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

SAFIS-3 - comeback copy
SAFIS-1 - reading copy

UFO file

14 NOV 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ATTENTION: OASD (PA)

SUBJECT: Congressional Inquiry

1. Reference your memorandum of 18 October 1957 requesting information on which to base a reply to Senator Langer in behalf of Mr. [REDACTED] concerning a sighting of unidentified flying objects in the vicinity of Wales, North Dakota.

2. The following information is submitted as a proposed reply to Senator Langer:

"I refer to your inquiry in behalf of Mr. [REDACTED] of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

"This matter has been referred to the Air Technical Intelligence Center for analysis and evaluation. As soon as a report has been received you will be promptly notified.

"I am inclosing the latest Air Force Fact Sheet concerning the Air Force's Ten Year Study of Unidentified Flying Objects."

3. Request that all Congressional inquiries pertaining to Air Force matters be forwarded to this Directorate for processing.

COORD
COMEBACK
SAFIS
STAYBACK

RECEIVED

JOE W. KELLY
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Inclosure
DOD News Release
dtd 5 Nov 57

24611
0011

NOV 14 08 53.21

M/R: Recd SAFLL-1/8 Nov
Memo prepd/fwded based on r/s fr SAFIS-3 dtd 8 Nov s/Maj Tacker
Z

101020 1957

Dear Senator Langer:

I refer to your expression of interest in behalf of Mr. [redacted] of the University of North Dakota, who requested an explanation of an unidentified aerial object observed in the vicinity of Wales, North Dakota, on the evening of 5 September 1957.

An analysis of the sightings indicates that the object undoubtedly was a seldom seen phenomenon called a "fireball", or "bolide", as they are referred to in scientific terminology. A number have been seen this year, the most spectacular being the sighting from an aircraft of Pan American World Airways, Incorporated, over the Atlantic on 9 March and the recent fireball observed in four western states on 10 October.

It is significant to point out that the brief description of the object given in the clippings submitted by Mr. [redacted] is somewhat similar to that given by the press in the case of the aforementioned incidents. A description of fireballs given by a well-known astrophysicist may be of interest:

"An encounter with such an object is an extremely rare occurrence. Records indicate that the majority of people never see one in their lifetime. Bolides, or "fireballs", differ from ordinary meteors in that they are very much brighter (sometimes transforming night into temporary day) and appear like a magnesium flare hurtling through the lower atmosphere, and in that they persist to much lower levels in the atmosphere. Predominantly bluish-white in color, these often have orange, yellow and greenish tints intermixed. A bolide is generally a mass of meteoric material that ignites through friction with the earth's atmosphere. It becomes visible at heights above 50 miles but, unlike an ordinary meteor, does not burn out in the air but frequently persists until it crashes to earth singly or sometimes in pieces".

Our conclusions were submitted for comment to a member of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, considered knowledgeable in the meteorics field, who confirmed our findings.

Cys were fwd'd
to: Hon. McClellan
Sen. Langer

CC: COORD
COMB
SAFIS-CSAF
AFCEM-4EA ✓
STATBACK

Letter to Honorable William Langer (Cont)

Attached is a copy of the latest Department of Defense release regarding the Air Force's work in the field of unidentified aerial phenomena.

You may be assured that the Air Force will continue to study, analyze and present to the public the full facts on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

JOE W. KELLY
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Inclosure

~~100-80000-100000~~ Langer

United States Senate

NR:

Case received by BS from Maj Tacker/SAPIS-3/to Major Van Dyk/dd 4 Dec 57. on 21 Nov Maj Tacker received case with suggested reply attached from Capt G. T. Gregory/AFCIN-4E4; FL prep/wd 6 Dec based on suggested reply.

CORRES: ltr dtd 8 Nov to Capt Elwood, Wright-Patterson AFB, from Major Tacker/photocopy ltr fr Capt. Adams to Sen dd Oct 10 57/photocopy ltr to

✓ Hon Neil H. McElroy from Sen Langer dd 4 Oct 57/photocopy ltr fr Mr. [redacted] to Sen and newspaper clippings.