

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 10 December 1957		2. LOCATION 20 Mi S of Portland, Maine		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other Sputnik ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1130 GMT 10/1130Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE B-47 Crew			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION approx 4 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE NW to SE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING B-47 crew sighted a small object somewhat similar to a star, while flying at 35,000 feet. Object was on an unvarying heading of about 170 dgrs. Did not appear to gain or lose altitude.				11. COMMENTS Time, appearance, bearings etc., indicate that the object was Sputnik - the Soviet satellite. Check with orbital tracks and Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory confirmed this assumption.	

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

16 DEC 57 07 59

A

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION—PHYSICALLY REMOVE
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION

1)
2) 4E4
3)
4-4x2c
[Signature]

BRA018
EOA 041SY005
RR RJEDEN RJEDSQ
DE RJWFSY 67
R\

FM COMDAIRDIV 802 SCHILLING
TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS
RJEDSQ/COMDR AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON
RJEPHQ/DI USAF WASHINGTON DC
BT

[REDACTED] 40DOI 75501 SECTION I OF II SUBJECT: "UFOB"
FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF THE SIGHTING OF AN UFOB BY TWO B-47 AIR
CREWS OF THE 40 BOMWG/

1.) DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

- (A) OBJECT APPEARED TO RESEMBLE A STAR FROM THE DISTANCE INVOLVED IN THE OBSERVATION.
- (B) IN SIZE OBJECT APPEARED COMPARABLE TO A PEA HELD AT ARMS LENGTH. IT APPEARED 3/4 THE SIZE OF PROCYON.
- (C) OBJECT WAS COLORLESS; GAVE OFF LIGHT COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A STAR OF THE 1ST MAGNITUDE.

Classification Cancelled
OR Changed to UNCL
Auth: AFR 205-1D
PARA 2-176(ii)
By H. [Signature]

UNCLASSIFIED

- (D) ONE
- (E) N/A
- (F) NONE
- (G) NONE
- (H) NONE
- (I) NONE

UNCLASSIFIED

2.) DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT

- (A) CREWS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO OBJECT BY ITS BRIGHTNESS AND ITS SPEED, AND BY THEIR INVESTIGATION AT THAT TIME FOR A CELESTIAL BODY SUITABLE AS AN AID TO NAVIGATION.
- (B) (C) OBJECT CROSSED THE TRACK OF BOTH AIRCRAFT WHILE THEY WERE MAKING GOOD A COURSE OF 230 DEGREES AT AN ALTITUDE OF 35,000 FEET. THE ANGLE OF ELEVATION OF THE OBJECT WHEN FIRST AND LAST OBSERVED WAS APPROXIMATELY 50 DEGREES. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBING A COURSE FROM 310 DEGREES TO 170 DEGREES, AT AN UNDETERMINED ALTITUDE (TRACK DESCRIBED IN TERMS OF CLOCK POSITION WAS FROM 0300 O'CLOCK TO 1000).
- (D) NO MANEUVERS WERE NOTED. OBJECT MAINTAINED AN UNVARYING HEADING OF 170 DEGREES, AND DID NOT APPEAR TO GAIN OR LOSE ALTITUDE.

- (E) OBJECT MAINTAINED ITS BRIGHTNESS UNTIL IT PASSED OUT OF THE RANGE OF VISION OF THE OBSERVERS. IT DID NOT BLINK NOR DID IT "GO OUT" ALL AT ONCE.
- (F) OBJECT WAS OBSERVED CONSTANTLY FOR FOUR MINUTES.

3.) MANNER OF OBSERVATION

- (A) AIR-VISUAL
- (B) NO OPTICAL AIDS WERE USED
- (C) B-47, ACFT NO 542, 35000 FEET, 230 DEGREES, 425 KNOTS, SCHILLING AFB, KANSAS.
- B-47, ACFT NO 566, 35000 FEET, 230 DEGREES, 425 KNOTS, SCHILLING AFB, KANSAS.

4.) TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

- (A) 10/1030Z - 10/1034Z
- (B) DAWN CONDITIONS PREVAILED. OBSERVERS STATED THAT IT WAS LIGHT ENOUGH TO MAKE MOST STARS INVISIBLE. ONLY PROCYON AND JUPITER WERE VISIBLE, ALONG WITH THE UFOB.

5.) LOCATION OF OBSERVERS:

- (A) OBSERVERS MADE OBSERVATION WHILE FLYING AN 8 AF DIRECTED MISSION. THEIR POSITION WAS 432628N- 703705W, APPROXIMATELY 20NM SOUTH OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

UNCLASSIFIED

*Sputnik
Chambers*

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE FOUR RJWFSY 67

6.) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS:

(A) N/A

(B) 1. IRVING, JOHN C. , MAJOR, USAF, 40BW, SAC,
AIRCRAFT COMMANDER RATED EXTREMELY RELIABLE, MAJOR
IRVINGS EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL ARE
A ATTESTED TO BY HIS POSITION OF STANDBOARD AIRCRAFT
W COMMANDER OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

2. MEAD FRANK F. III, CAPTAIN, USAF, 40BW, (SAC),
CO-PILOT, RATED EXTREMELY RELIABLE. CAPTAIN MEAD
IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO MAJOR IRVINGS CREW, AND
HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF IN HIS POSITION OF
WING STANDBOARD PILOT. FAMILIARITY WITH CELESTIAL
BODIES IS ESSENTIAL TO HIS DUTY OF ASSISTANT NAVIGATOR
WHICH INVOLVES POSITIONING THE AIRCRAFT BY CELESTIAL
NAVIGATION TECHNIQUES. CAPTAIN MEAD IS POSITIVE THAT
OBSERVED OBJECT WAS NOT A METEOR OR SHOOTING STAR.

2. BRETZIUS, WILLIAM F. III, CAPTAIN USAF, 40BW, (SAC)
AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, RATED EXTREMELY RELIABLE. CAPTAIN
BRETZIUS IS A REGULAR OFFICER IN THE USAF, WITH
CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN B-47 TYPE AIRCRAFT. HIS
CONSERVATIVE MANNER AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL RECOMMEND
HIS CORROBORATING TESTIMONY. IN ALL CASES FATIGUE

[REDACTED]

PAGE FIVE RJWFSY 67

HAS BEEN ELIMINATED AS A FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED.

7.) WEATHER CONDITIONS:

AIRPLANE WERE FLYING AT 35000 FEET. SLIGHT OVERCAST
WAS OBSERVED TO AN ALTITUDE OF 20000 FEET. VISIBILITY
ALONG THE FLIGHT PATH WAS UNLIMITED HOWEVER, THERE
WAS OBSERVED A THIN LAYER OF CIRRUS CLOUDS TO THE
RIGHT OF THE TRACK (EXTENDING TO 40000 FEET) AND A
CUMULUS BUILD-UP TO THE LEFT AT A DISTANCE APPROXIMATELY
100 NM. OBSERVERS STATE THAT VISIBILITY OF OBJECT AT
ITS EXTREME ALTITUDE WAS UNIMPAIRED BY WEATHER
CONDITIONS.

(B) WIND DIRECTION AND VELOCITY- REPORT SUBMITTED BY
DETACHMENT 28, 5TH WEATHER GROUP, SCHILLING AFB, KANSAS

SURFACE	- 030 DEGREES	- 10 KNOTS
6000 FT	- 180 DEGREES	- 30 KNOTS
10000 FT	- 150 DEGREES	- 35 KNOTS
16000 FT	- 180 DEGREES	- 70 KNOTS
20000 FT	- 180 DEGREES	- 90 KNOTS
30000 FT	- 220 DEGREES	- 150 KNOTS
40000 FT	- 230 DEGREES	- 145 KNOTS
80000 FT	- UNKNOWN	

E

BT

15/0325Z DEC RJWFSY

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Check with
Dr. Hynck, at
Cambridge on
20 Dec 1957 via
long-distance phone.
States all info. points
to object being
Spent 1 1/2 hours
only the one-hour
diff. prevents
conclusion
identical
9-5

757-335964

UNCLASSIFIED

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO
CATEGORY B ENCIPHERMENT--PHYSICALLY REMOVE
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION

16 DEC 57

A

1)
2) 4E4
3)
4-4X2a
AD

RA020EOA 049
R RJEDEN RJEDSQ
E RJWFSY 68

FM COMDAIRDIV 802 SCHILLING
TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS
RJEDSQ/COMDR AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON
RJEPHQ/DI USAF WASHINGTON DC

BT
/40DOI 75501 SECTION II OF II "UFOB."

(C) N/A

(D) VISIBILITY UNLIMITED

(E) NO CLOUD COVER ALONG TRACK OF OBSERVATION

(F) N/A

- 8.) UNUSUAL ASTRONOMICAL OR METEOROLOGICAL ACTIVITY : NONE
9.) NO INTERCEPTION ACTION TAKEN
10.) THERE WAS NO AIR TRAFFIC OTHER THAN THAT OF OBSERVING
AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE IN BOMBER STREAM FORMATION WITH
TEN MINUTE SEPARATION BETWEEN AIRCRAFT.

PAGE TWO RJWFSY 68

11.) COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

CAPTAIN THOMAS B. BOWDRE, 40BW INTELLIGENCE OFFICER,
PREPARING OFFICER EMPHASIZES EXTREME RELIABILITY OF
WITNESSES, AND HAS RULED OUT, IN PRELIMINARY
INVESTIGATION, THE POSSIBILITY OF FATIGUE AS A
CONTRIBUTING FACTOR. INVESTIGATION HAS FURTHER
ASCERTAINED THAT OBJECT WAS OBSERVED NOT AS THE DIRECT
RESULT OF UNUSUAL METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA. THE EXPERIENCE
OF ALL OBSERVERS INVOLVED INDICATES THEIR CAPABILITY TO
DETERMINE UNUSUAL ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENA. THE POSSIBILITY OF
OBSERVERS MISTAKING METEOR OR SHOOTING STARS FOR OBJECT WAS
INVESTIGATED AND IN ALL CASES WAS REFUTED BY OBSERVERS. NO
TAIL, TRAIL OR EXHAUST WERE OBSERVED. OBSERVERS DECLARE IN
ALL CASES THAT EXTREME ALTITUDE OF OBJECT, PLUS ITS UNDIVERTED
COURSE MAKE THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS BEING A MANNED AIRCRAFT
ALTOGETHER REMOTE. ALTHOUGH ALMOST TOO CONVENIENT, OBSERVERS
AND DEBRIEFING OFFICER AGREE THAT MOST LOGICAL CONCLUSION IS
THAT OBJECT WAS A SATELLITE IN ORBIT.

BT

15/0210Z DEC RJWFSY

757-33595-1

UNCLASSIFIED

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED 24

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

MULTIPLE 2 24 DEC 57 15 46Z
ADS.25c/ae
24/1956

PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION	ROUTINE	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE	AF	X	
INFO	ROUTINE			X			

FROM: COMDR ATIC

TO: COMDR, 802ND AIR DIVISION
SCHILLING AFB, KANSAS
CC: 1006TH AISS, ENT AFB
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORJWFSY
(INFO) RJEDDN

UNCL/FROM: AFCIN-4E4

12-2016-E

REF YOUR UFO REPORT TT MSG 40-DOI-75501, B-47 SIGHTING OF UFO, APPROX. 20 NM S. OF PORTLAND, MAINE, 10 DECEMBER 1957. EVALUATION OF ALL DATA DISCLOSES CHARACTERISTICS, DESCRIPTION AND TRACK OF OBJECT PRACTICALLY COINCIDES WITH ORBITAL TRACK OF SPUTNIK BETA FOR THAT AREA. TO CONCLUDE, REQUIRE CLARIFICATION OF TIMES OBSERVED, TIME CONVERSIONS USED, OR POSSIBLE INADVERTANT ERROR IN REPORTING TIME. REASON: ORBITAL TRACK SHOWS BETA IN THAT AREA AT EXACTLY 1130 Z. TIMES GIVEN IN UFO REPORT 1030 Z. IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICIES FOR KEEPING UFO REPORTS UNCLASSIFIED IF POSSIBLE, SUGGEST ABOVE REFERENCED TT MSG, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, BE DECLASSIFIED, UNLESS OPERATIONAL OR OTHER REASONS DICTATE OTHERWISE.

COORDINATION

AFCIN-4E4

H. K. Gilbert DATE 24 Dec 57

AFCIN-4E

H. K. Gilbert DATE 24 Dec

SYMBOL

COL. H. K. GILBERT

SIGNATURE

TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature required)

Capt. G. T. Gregory

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

PHONE

69216

PAGE

NR.

1

NR OF

PAGES

1

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

ROBERT E. O'CONNOR
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant

DATE

24

TIME

0800

MONTH

Dec

YEAR

57