

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 Feb 58		2. LOCATION Chingmai, Bangkok		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 6:10 PM GMT 09/1110Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION varied- secs		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE W to E	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Several observers gave varying descriptions such as rocket shape to rnd & with various colors-white nose piece, orange body, black tail- white vapor trail with intermittent puffs of smoke or green vapor. Some claimed to have heard a rushing or swooshing sound. Most heard no sound.				11. COMMENTS Apparently a fireball.	

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Sp. No. 14
From Chiangmai

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Desp. No. _____
From _____

R7C

Due to the lateness in the day and lack of camping equipment to stay in the mountains, the party then returned to Sankampaeng and Chiangmai. Vice Consul [redacted] gave the woodsmen a sum of money to hunt for the object.

On the following Saturday, February 15, 1958, Political Analyst [redacted] led a group of reporters and Sankampaeng officials back to the same area. They walked and camped in the area until Monday night, February 17, 1958. The results of their search were negative, although they did meet other people in the forest who gave eyewitness accounts essentially the same as the woodsmen. Some felt tremors, others did not. All said, however, the object was very low and apparently descending, and thus must have crashed.

Summary Comment

From the several reliable eyewitnesses interviewed, apparently some object was sighted in the sky. Altitudes given by both the French priest and the Americans in Chiangmai are questionable, since the object to have reached Chiangmai from the west would have required a minimum altitude of 4,000 feet, and to have hit "near the summit" or "just over" the mountains east of Sankampaeng would have to be moving at a minimum altitude of 3,850 feet. All eyewitnesses stated the flight was horizontal rather than vertical or at an angle, such as the path of a meteorite might be. Although some ground search was made, it was not extensive and the forest might well conceal an object until found by happenstance. A limited search of the area was made by Thai police helicopter.

No further action is being taken by the Consulate.

*Indso! There are
stones
of fireballs
lying earth
strewn with
near horizontal velocities.*

W.B. Hussey
William B. Hussey
American Consul

cc: AmEmbassy, Bangkok
Army Attache, Bangkok

Astro (Fireball)

*The above was reviewed
by Dr. Robinson, and Capt.
Grayson. Conclusion: Apparently
a "fireball". The remark that any
apparently horizontal trajectory would make
this out is not a valid statement.*

*A number of fireballs have been reported
throughout 1957 (See Case Files)*

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

(Security Classification)

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992.812 / 3-458

FROM *M. J. L.* AmConsul, CHIENTAI

DESP. NO

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

APR 4 1958

March 4, 1958

67	ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept.	FE-4	IN R.V. 5/5A-1 1PC-8, P.5
Use Only	REC'D 3/17	OTHER CIA-12, USIA-10, ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Sighted Over Chiangmai

On Sunday, February 9, 1958, at approximately 6:10 p.m., various people in Chiangmai sighted a low flying object moving at high speed. Eyewitnesses, including several Americans, were of the general opinion the object was moving from west to east at an altitude variously reported as from 600 to 800 feet. An estimate of the object's speed was not ventured except by such statements: "as fast as you could turn your head," "like the rush of a jet plane," "as fast as a shooting star." Descriptions of the object were in general agreement: "like a ball of fire with white vapor or smoke trailing behind." Some few claimed to have seen a rocket-shaped object and described the various colors of the rocket (viz., white nose piece, orange body, black tail). Some claimed to have heard a rushing or swooshing noise as the object passed, but most said they heard nothing.

A single report was provided the Consulate by a French Catholic priest who stated that at 6:05 p.m. on February 9, 1958, he was on foot approximately sixty miles due west of Chiangmai when he sighted an object in the sky at an altitude of approximately 2,000 feet. He said the object was moving with tremendous speed, west to east, and appeared to him only as white vapor followed by intermittent puffs of green vapor or smoke. His impression of a shape was that it was round. There was no noise.

About mid-morning of the next day (Monday, February 10, 1958) reports were received from the town of Sankampaeng, 14 kilometers west of Chiangmai, that the object had landed in the mountains east of the town and that tremors as from an explosion had been felt. One report stated an object "as long as a big tree" had been sighted in the forest.

Action Taken

Vice Consul ~~Robert [redacted]~~, with Political Analyst ~~[redacted]~~, and several Chiangmai newspaper reporters proceeded to Sankampaeng immediately. Here they interviewed various officials and townspeople who gave statements essentially as above. The group, augmented by a police guard and several officials, proceeded by Land Rover into the mountains and on foot when the oxcart track ended. Later, in conversation with some woodsmen who claimed to be eyewitnesses, they said the object sped by at a low height over the trees and crashed either near the summit or just over the other side. They said they felt earth tremors as though from an explosion or high speed impact.

~~WHEATLEY/328~~ ~~TER~~

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