PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 13 Apr 58	2. LOCATION West Indies	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 14/0155Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar Shipboard ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian	☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 mins	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE Easterly
		☒ Other ~~Missile~~ DECAY SPUTNIK 2 ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Unusually brilliant meteor type obj. Appeared several times brighter than Venus. Obj emitted strong bluish light, also small balls of fire & smoke.

11. COMMENTS

~~This is approx course used by Cape Canaveral Missile Test firing. Probably missile.~~

DECAY SPUTNIK II

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Multi

15/015

22

ATIC

14 APR 58 07 32 58 12 58

RAYS6

SOB023 TYD942 TDA024NGF026

YV''''''MVVYY RJEDSQ RJEPBF

DE RJEPHQ 881

Y 142577Z

FM AFCIN HEDUSAF

TO RJEPBF/COMDR AF CAMBRIDGE RESEACH CENTER

INFO RJEDSQ/COMDR ATIC

Y 142243Z

FM CCGD SEVEN MIAMI FLA

TO RJEDDN/COMMANDER AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPHQ/CHIEF OF STAFF USAF WASHDC

RBEGK/COMEASTSEAFRON

INFO RBEGDG/COMEASTAREA

RBEPJC/COMDR COGARD

USCG GRNC

BT

FOL RECD FROM LANTANA RADIO/NOE X FROM SS ANDROS MERCHANT/ELXW X FOR

YOUR INFO AT 0155 GMT 14TH IN POSN 14-49N 58-33W OBSERVED OBJECT

APPARENTLY ROCKET X COURS 140 DEGS HEIGHT 100 TO 200 FEET REMAINED

VISIBLE FOR TWO OR THREE MINUTES X MASTER ANDROS MERCHANT

BT

E. OF ST. LUCIA island

CFN 0155 14TH 14-49N 58-33W 140 100 200

142247Z APR RBEMO

14/0288Z 206 207

ACTC

ADR IN 00 32 53

14APR50 07 33

NBRN024 TYB044 TDA2 JHOF030

****YY RJEPBF RJEDSO

DE RJEPHQ 804

Y 140610Z

FM AFCIN HEDUSAF

TO RJEPBF/COMDR AF CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH CENTER

INFO RJEDSO/COMDR ATIC

Y 140416Z

FM CCCGD SEVEN MIAMA FLA

TO RJEDDN/COMMANDER ADC ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPHQ/CHIEF OF STAFF USAF WASHDC

RDEGK/COMEAST SEAFRON

INFO RDEGDG/COMEAST AREA

RBEPJC/COMDT COGARD

USCG CRNC

PT

TO O X SITREP TWO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT M/V MICHAEL J REPORTS 1402 00Z FLAMING OBJECT SIMILAR TO ROCKET TRAVELLING SOUTHEAST X ALTITUDE 2000 FT TWO MILES DISTANT X OBJECT EMITTED STRONG BLUISH LIGHT EXTENDING IN ITS WAKE FOR SEVERAL MILES X ALSO SMALL BALLS OF FIRE AND SMOKE X REMAINED VISIBLE FOR ABOUT ONE FULL MINUTE X POSITION VESSEL 1147N 64.45W COURSE TRUE NORTH WIND EAST FORCE THREE SEA SLIGHT SKY CLEAR BAROMETER 29.96 TEMP 78 X GUADELOUPE REPORTS FURTHER OBJECT WAS VERY LOW AND APPEARED TO ENTER SEA VICINITY MARIE GALANTE ISLAND Y CASE PENDS

PT

OFN 1402 00Z 1000 11A7N 64.45W 29.96 78

1403 56Z APR RBEJJ

Okeke / Capt Mitchell

20 Apr 8352

11/0420

SOAOO9 TYBOOPHOFOOS

14AOOO 07 OOAIN OO 43'50

11/0550

ZZ RJEDSO

DE RJEPHQ 805

Z 140816Z

FM AFCIN HEDUSAF

TO COMDR ATIC

Z 140550Z

FM CAA MIAMI FLORIDA

TO RJEDDN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLO

RUEPC/SEC DEF WASH DC

NAVY GRNC

BT

Check w/ Capt Mitchell

GDCRED. 666?

CIRVIS CAPT [redacted] REPORTS AT 0155 OBJECT SIGHTED 24MILES EAST OF

LIN 666 45 DEGREES TO LEFT ON HORIZON PERSUING AN EASTERLY COURSE

STOP VISIBLE FOR APPROX 4 MINS STOP STREAM AT END OF OBJECT

POSOVPA 140420 MIAOWPA 140550.

BT

14/0631Z APR RJEPHQ

24 m. East of { Long. 64° W, Lat 45° N } Reported location

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

TO [illegible]/COMMANDER ADC EMT AFD COLO SPRINGS COLO

[illegible]/CHIEF OF STAFF USAF WASHDC

[illegible]/CONEASTSEAFRCH

[illegible]/COMSPACE

[illegible]

[illegible]

West of Martinique island

15-53N 65-34W

Note

[illegible] AT APPROXIMATELY [illegible] HOURS GMT ON APRIL 14 [illegible] OBSERVED AN UNUSUAL [illegible] OBJECT IN THE [illegible] HAVING BEARING ABOUT [illegible] BEARING ABOUT [illegible] DEGREES ALTITUDE ABOUT 18 DEGREES AND TRAVELING SOUTHEAST, DISAPPEARED ABOUT [illegible] 130 DEGREES ALTITUDE. [illegible] THE OBJECT APPEARED TO BE SEVERAL TIMES BRIGHTER THAN VENUS AND IT WAS VISIBLE [illegible] MINUTES. [illegible] BATTERY 3 TO 4 [illegible] 29.93 TEMP 79 WEATHER CLEAR

MASTER CHECKPOINT

ST

CRU 14TH 0155 15-53 N 65-34W 30 15 153 15 3 3 4 29.93 79

14VEG452 APR RDEHO

(1) Location of Sighting → 58°-33W 14-49N

~~[illegible]~~

(2) 130° Bearing 10° Elevation } Check with Missile Firings for that day at appt. 0155 GMT (Z), 14 April 1958

(1) ATIC COMMENT:
This is approximate course used by Cape Canaveral Missile Test firing.

(2) Unofficial report based on informal queries indicate missile test firings that day.

(3) Thus, pending information — PROBABLY MISSILE OR ROCKET FIRING.

Not all spectacular UFOs are meteors, of course, any more than they are all planets or balloons or rockets. Sudden brilliant illuminations of the night sky can have any one of a dozen or more explanations. The atmosphere is crowded with potential Unknowns, more than at any time in man's history. The air surrounding our planet plays host not only to meteors and fireballs, birds and insects, but also to military and commercial planes, private planes, jets, helicopters, weather balloons, experimental rockets, and an ever-growing number of artificial satellites. An ear-shattering detonation that rattles a house or breaks a window may come from an exploding fireball or it may come from a jet penetrating the sound barrier. Without an exact knowledge of all the circumstances, only the foolhardy would attempt to say positively what caused any given unusual aerial phenomenon.

Let us consider a sighting that might have received various wrong interpretations and would probably have become one of the most famous of the UFOs cited by saucerdom, had investigators lacked one essential fact.

Shortly after midnight one spring morning reliable witnesses on the east coast, particularly in Connecticut and Long Island, reported a brilliant bluish-white object flying at high altitude and incredible speed. As it flashed overhead, it changed color to become reddish, and several smaller objects apparently detached themselves from the main body and followed it in orderly fashion. About five minutes later more than fifteen ships in the Caribbean area observed similar objects soaring overhead but the reports varied in many details. Ship number two saw brilliant short flames darting about behind the main body, which had a long, tapered tail. Ship number four saw a flaming white object more brilliant than the full moon. Ship number seven reported a flaming green ball followed by a group of several small objects. Ship number nine observed at least fifteen smaller objects that suddenly separated from the main body and fell into formation behind it. Ship number eleven saw an object with a trail several miles long, brilliant as a peacock's tail, so luminous that the deck and sea around were bathed in pale light as the mass crossed overhead. Ship number twelve reported, "The main body appeared to have a blue-white head, then a short dark space before the glowing orange-yellow tail. Twenty-seven separate particles were actually counted as they appeared in the main plume. Each followed the main body and each developed its own glowing tail on leaving it." The main body was several times brighter than Venus, while the offshoots were each twice the magnitude of Sirius. One observer described it as round on top and bright blue-white, while the lower half, which was emitting sparks, seemed to be flattened and reddish in color.

During this period of less than five minutes, similar objects were observed from the ground by witnesses in the Virgin Islands. One man in Martinique saw a luminous green globe, brighter than Venus, followed at a slight distance by a flaming red, enormously long, cigar-shaped object. Observers in Barbados saw two huge objects followed by from twelve to eighteen "offspring" shaped like the main body; some of the offspring subdivided to form two small cometlike objects. The object disappeared into a cloud bank and vanished. No observations were reported from areas farther south.

What was it?

In a single period of about ten minutes spectacular luminous unidentified flying objects were reported over an area stretching from Connecticut to the coast of British Guiana, a distance of some 2700 miles. They flew in a straight course. All of the objects were noiseless. They were remarkably brilliant. They seemed to have one or more leaders, to discharge smaller objects, and to fly in formation. They maintained a substantially horizontal path, and only the last observers, who saw the things disappear into the cloud bank, noted any tendency to descend. No fragments were ever found, and all witnesses agreed that the objects were not like meteors. If all the observers were describing the same single phenomenon, it was flying at the incredible speed of more than 16,000 miles an hour.

With only these facts to build on, an investigator might interpret the sightings according to his own prejudices: an invasion fleet from another planet making a reconnaissance in force, the mother ships discharging the smaller craft at intervals; a mass hallucination; a peculiar meteoric display; a single spacecraft darting over the earth with incredible speed.

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Without knowledge of one essential fact, some hundreds of landsmen and seamen in the United States, the Caribbean islands, and the British West Indies might now feel firmly convinced that they had witnessed a genuine "Unknown." The date was April 14, 1958. The privileged observers had witnessed the death of Sputnik II, the Russian satellite launched on November 3, 1957.

The UFO reports inspired by this event presented no problem to the Air Force. All information on the re-entry of artificial satellites is immediately accessible to ATIC. Whenever a reported UFO shows any possible resemblance to a falling satellite, Air Force investigators check at once with Spacetrack. Astronomers who had been tracking this satellite as it circled the earth had predicted more than a month in advance that it would spiral toward the earth and fall sometime between April 12 and April 15. A few days before the actual event they had refined their estimate and predicted the time of the fall within a few hours [25].