

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 Oct 61		2. LOCATION Duluth, Minnesota		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☒ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft (REPEL OFR) ☒ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1940 GMT 120140Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3-4 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 3		9. COURSE NE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Objts observed at terrific speed. Assumed orbital by observer except 3 to 5 times faster than Echo. Covered about 110° arc in 3 min. 1st objt 15 times size of 2 trailing objts. 1st objt yellowish; other 2 red tint with apparent attachment to 1st objt.				11. COMMENTS Observation appears to be 1 of refueling mission. Quick time sector of lime soda (24,000-29,000). Speed, altitude, and duration of sighting conform to this analysis.	

NATIONAL
AERONAUTICS
AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION



NASA HEADQUARTERS
1520 H STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
TELEPHONE: EXECUTIVE 3-3260 TWX: WA 753

IN REPLY REFER TO AB

November 14, 1961

Commander of the Air Tactical
Intelligence Center
Department of the Air Force
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

Subject: Unidentified Flying Object reported by Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] of Duluth, Minnesota

Enclosures: (1) Letter from Mrs. [REDACTED] dtd. October 17, 1961
(2) Letter from NASA dtd. November 14, 1961

The enclosures are forwarded for your information and for
whatever action may be deemed appropriate.

James A. Hootman
James A. Hootman, Executive Secretary
Inventions and Contributions Board

Enclosures (2)
a/s

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AB

November 14, 1961

~~Mrs. [REDACTED]~~
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]:

This is in response to your letter of October 17 in which you report observation of what appeared to be three companion satellites orbiting the earth at a high speed, which you estimate as from three to five times that of the Echo I balloon.

As you may know, a number of similar observations have been reported for which there is no particularly satisfying explanation. For example, the New York Herald Tribune reported on September 1, 1960 the photographing of a mysterious reddish object sighted over Chicago and various East Coast areas by a tracking camera of the Grumman Aviation Engineering Corporation in Beth Page, Long Island. This occurrence is reported because Mr. Robert I. Johnson, Director of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, and his assistant reported seeing that object and estimated that it was travelling about three times the speed of Echo I.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has neither the assignment nor the facilities to investigate such occurrences. We have therefore forwarded your letter to the Department of the Air Force which has the primary responsibility for investigating this type of phenomena. Your interest in reporting your observation is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Original signed by
James A. Hootman

James A. Hootman, Executive Secretary
Inventions and Contributions Board

RECEIVED
NAS

161 OCT 21

Washington, DC

MA 8A

Heathman:

On October 17, 1961, I observed what appeared to be three components orbiting the sky at a terrific speed in a southeasterly to northeasterly direction.

The objects passed across the horizon 3.5 times as fast as the Echo balloon, I estimated it traveled about $\frac{3}{5}$ of the horizon.

The first object was huge and of a luminous orange yellow hue; the others were the color of stars. They appeared as spheres at first, and then they appeared like the diagram for 15-30 seconds. Later they appeared as spheres. B+C seemed to emit beams of light which were red at the periphery. The dark red hue at the end of neither B nor C seemed to reflect light. The distance from the sphere to the red ball was the great.

When these objects were almost directly overhead, they were all above the same orange yellow hue and were the same distance apart. (Now 15 times as large as B+C, at least I was amazed to be able to see the parallax).

I was amazed to see that they must have been in line with brilliant A plus A to account for this fact. There was no mean that night and the sky was a dark velvet blue. They were observed by clouds for about 1/2 minutes.

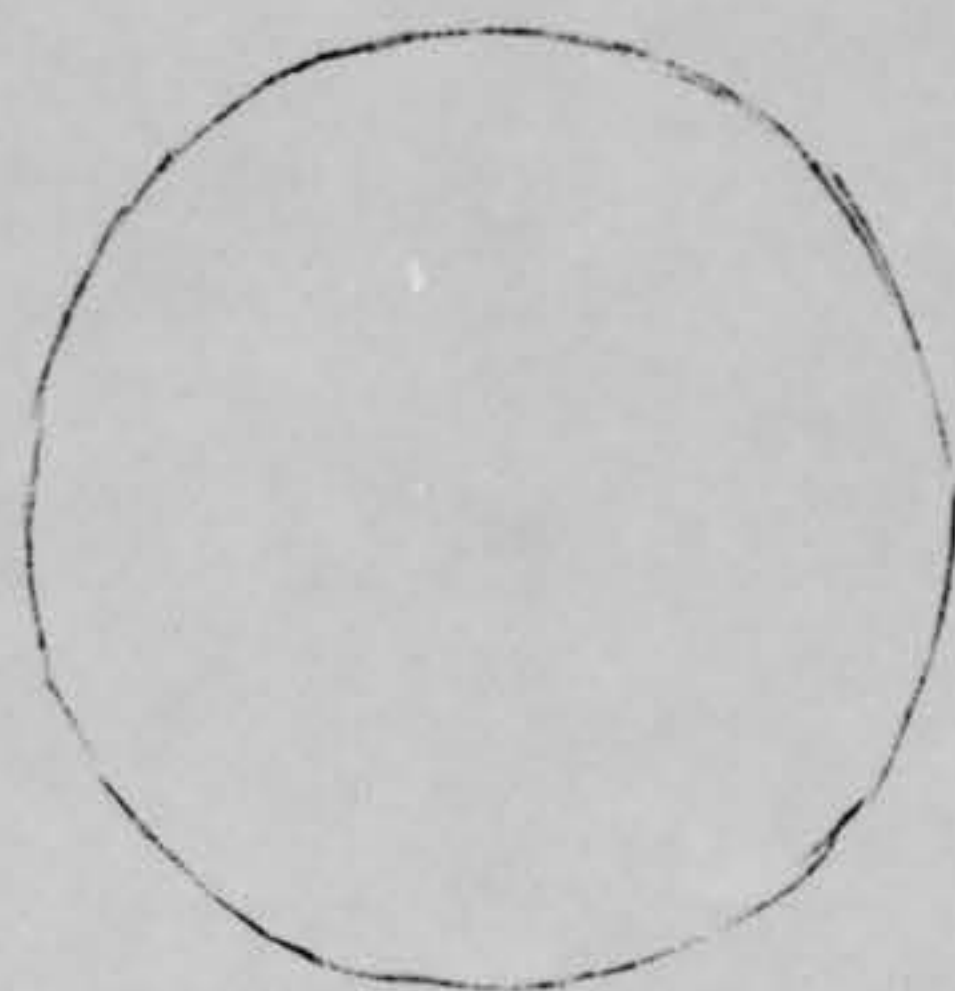
It was slightly larger than 1/2 the size it was when I first saw it as it emerged from above the clouds. By the time the others had emerged, they all appeared to be the same size, and they seemed to be three times higher in the sky.

Two high school boys joined this spectacle with me, and a child a block away reported seeing this to his parents. I was at the top of a hill and I viewed this from above a lower elevation at first.

I am curious to know what this phenomenon was and about a picture to know from you! Sincerely yours, 460-
Miss [redacted]

October 17, 1961

Robert M. Heathman
[redacted]



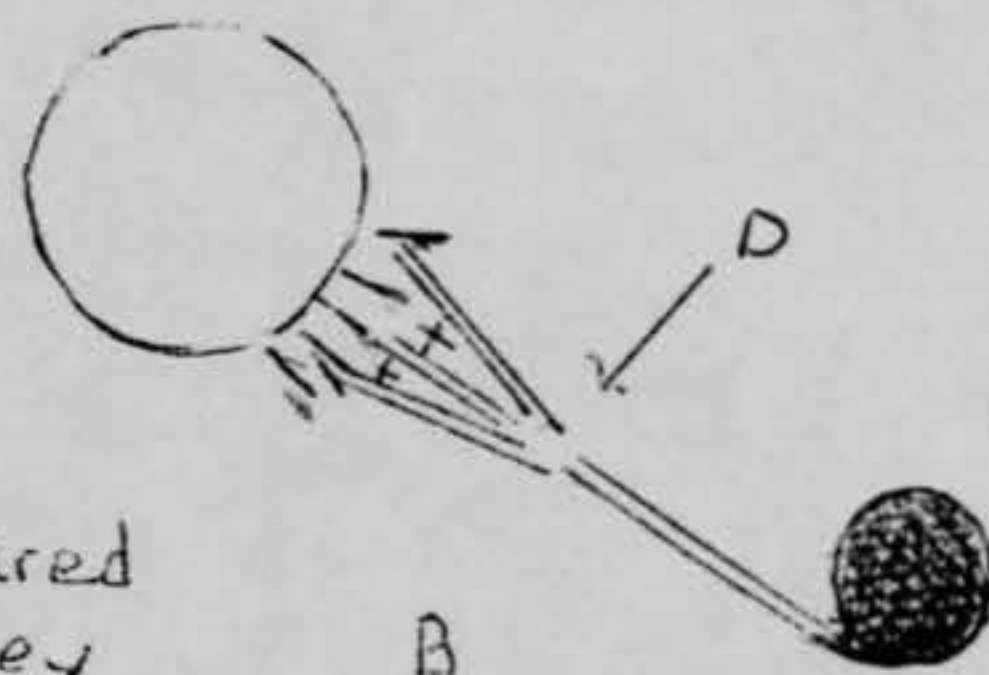
A

Objects viewed in horizon
on October 11, 1961 at 7:40-7:43 P.M. C.S.T.
in Duluth, Minnesota.

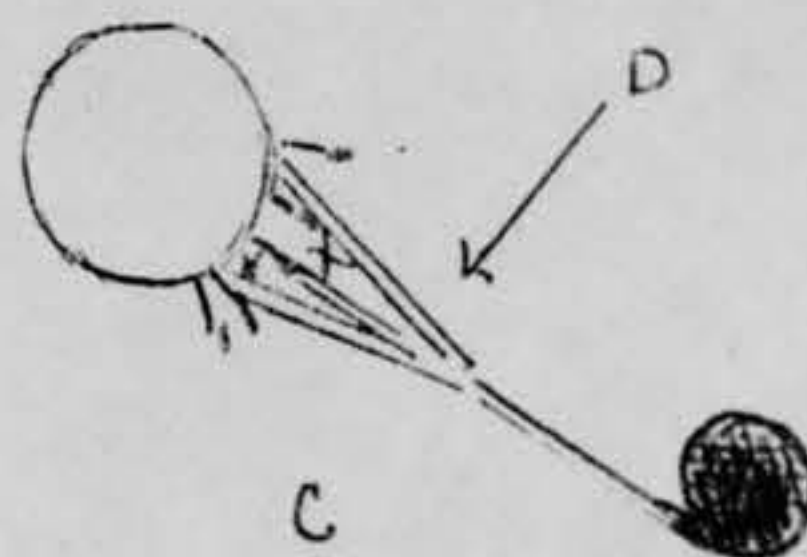
This has been drawn
diagonally to get them on
the page. They first appeared
like spheres, and then they
were like this for 15-20 seconds.
After that they appeared like
spheres again.

Sphere A was 15-20 times larger
than B or C when they were almost
directly overhead. B & C were the same
size then.

D seemed to be ducts.
sky was visible at
points marked x.



B



C

Mrs. [REDACTED]



This approximates
the proportion of the B & C projectiles