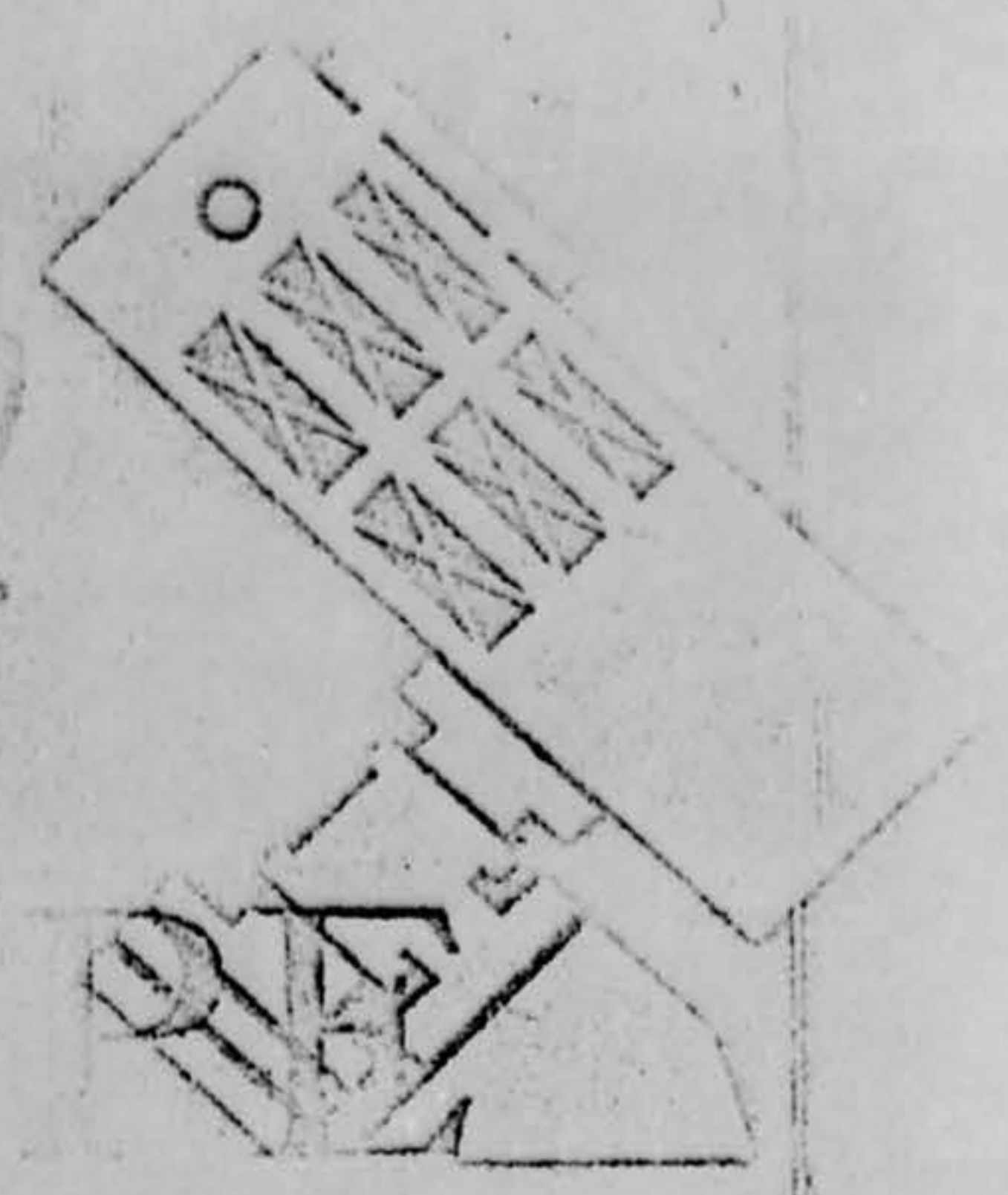


PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 26 September 1962		2. LOCATION Israel, Cairo, Egypt		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 _____ GMT 26/1600Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4-5 seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE Northerly	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Luminous obj traveling SE to North. Observed fm Port Said trailing white smoke at approximately 81,000ft. Obj fell into Mediterranean Sea. Smoke visible for 5 minutes after descent. Same object observed fm Israel in several locations. Photographs of smoke taken. Trail persisted fm 1544Z until 1617Z. Photos taken at 1615Z				11. COMMENTS Meteor.	

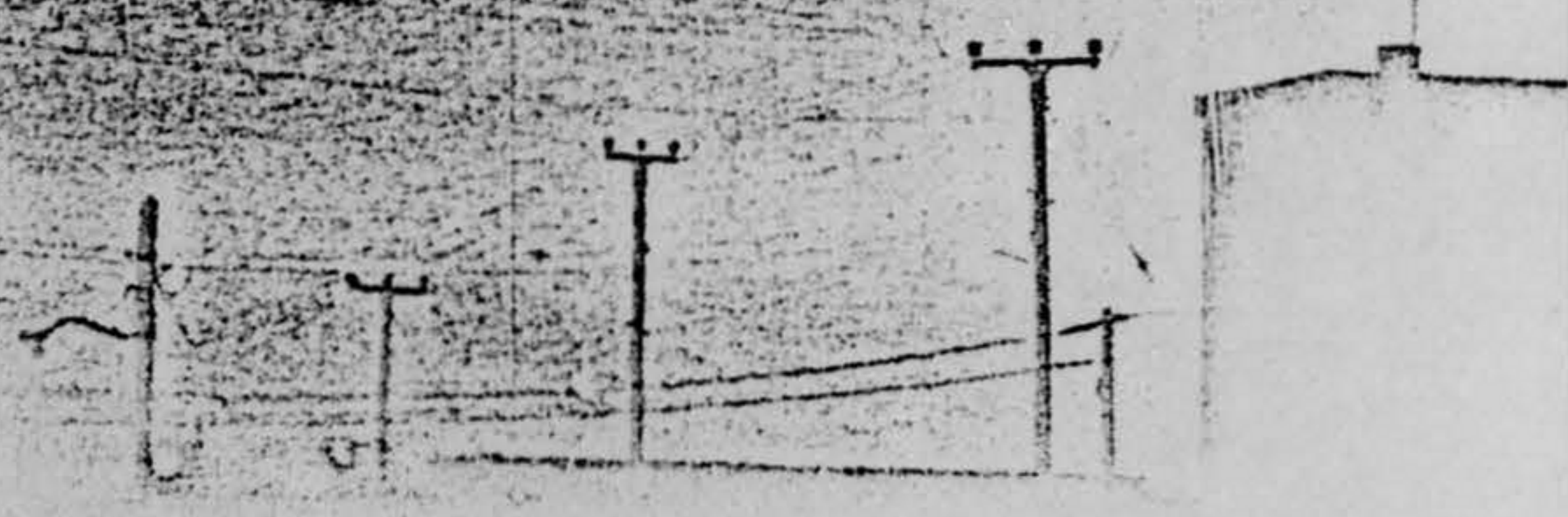
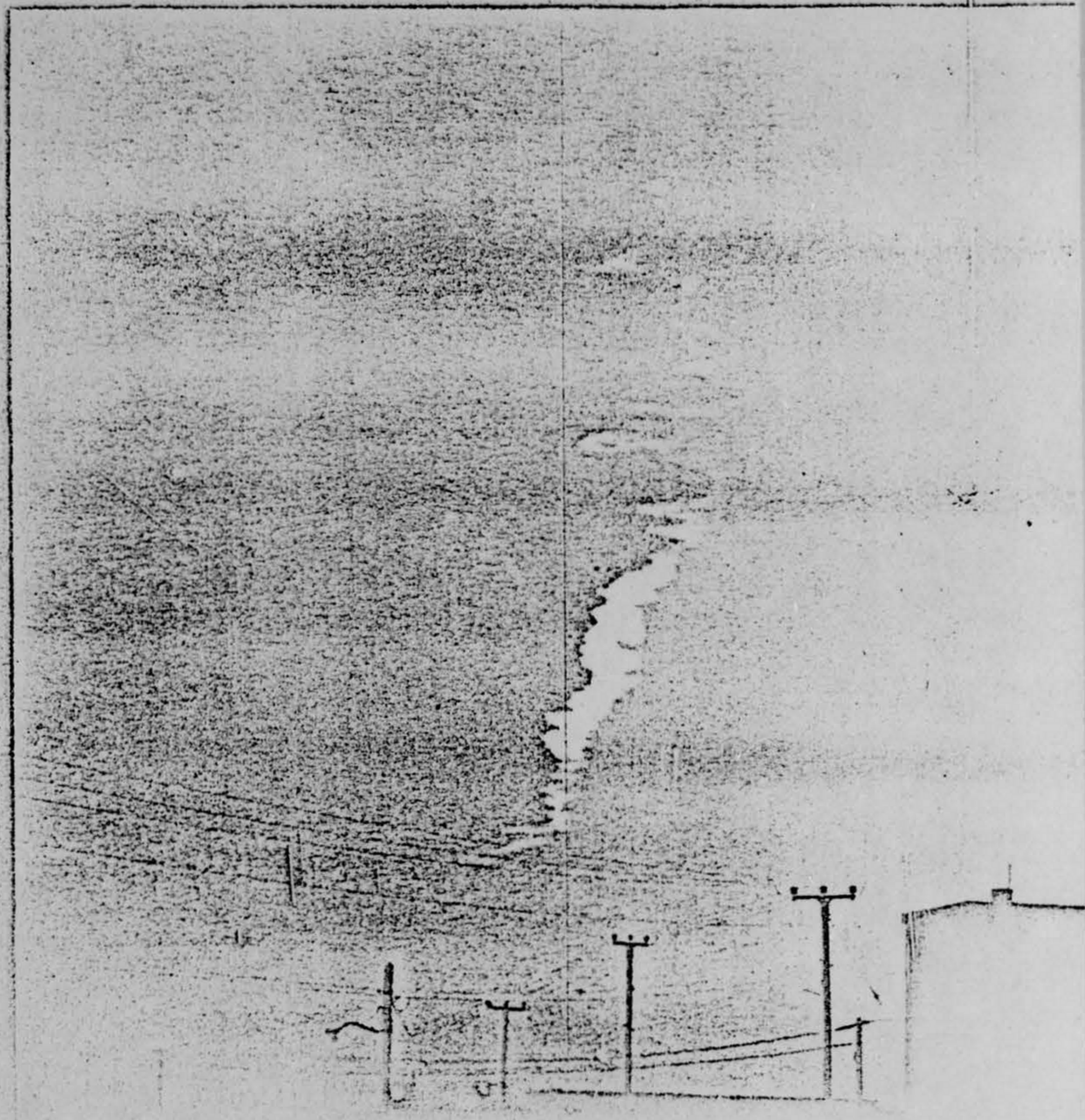
Key and

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ASTRONOMY

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... of Ohio State
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... Observa-
... Mars
... Astronomers
... News



COVER: On September 26, 1962, shortly after sunset, a brilliant fireball was seen throughout Israel from places as widely separated as 400 kilometers. Nathan Sadan, at Beersheeba in southern Israel, took the front-cover photograph of the meteor's long-enduring train. He used a Rolleiflex camera at f/4, exposure 1/125 second on Ilford FP3 film. At his location the train was 30-40 degrees above the horizon. (See adjoining column.)

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RAMBLING THROUGH JULY SKIES

FEATURE PICTURE: A close-up of the Altai Scarp region of the moon, photographed March 25, 1962, with the 120-inch reflector of Lick Observatory. (See page 19.) Center

SKY AND TELESCOPE is published monthly by Sky Publishing Corporation, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge 38, Mass. Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass.

Subscription: \$5.00 per year in the United States and possessions; \$9.00 for two years; \$13.00 for three years. To Canada, Mexico, and all countries of the Pan American Postal Union, \$6.00 for one year; \$11.00 for two years; \$16.00 for three years. To all other foreign countries, \$7.00 for one year; \$13.00 for two years; \$19.00 for three years. Canadian and other foreign remittances should be made in United States currency. Single copy 60 cents. Back issues: November, 1959, to present, 60 cents per copy. Vols. I through XVIII (November, 1941, to October, 1959), order from Walter J. Johnson, Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York 3, N. Y.

All notices of change of address must be sent one month in advance and accompanied by old and new addresses. When sending your renewal order, or writing in regard to your subscription, your current mailing address must be given. Return our bill form with renewal payment. Circulation manager, Nancy R. Bolton. Office staff: Sarah E. Bulger, J. Caroline Nason, Mary Silva, John Simmons, Stacia Strong, Catherine Wentzell.

Editorial and advertising offices: 49-50-51 Bay State Rd., Cambridge 38, Mass. Phone 617 UN 4-7360. Assistant editors: William E. Shewcross, production and advertising: Raymond N. Watts, Jr., features. Editorial assistants: Virginia K. Cox, Leif J. Robinson. Advertising rates are listed in STANDARD RATE AND DATA SERVICE. Sent upon request; closing date is 20th of second month preceding date of issue. Unsolicited articles and pictures are welcome, but prompt attention or return is not guaranteed.

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Fireball Train Observed Over Israel

EVERY meteor observer's dream is sometime to witness a really great fireball. My dream became true on the evening of September 26, 1962, at the village where I am a science teacher, about 20 kilometers south of Haifa and three kilometers from the coast. It was about 15 minutes after sunset, and I had gone on a short walk to enjoy a fine, perfectly cloudless evening.

At 15:46 Universal time, I was looking toward the point where the sun had set, when suddenly my attention was caught by a burst of light to my left. Turning, I saw a great drop of brilliant white light descend slowly down the sky, leaving an extremely intense sharp train, whose brightness swiftly spread backward along its length.

I estimated the duration of fall as three seconds, but perhaps it was much less. The fireball first appeared 12 or 18 degrees above the horizon (I could not be sure as I was facing in another direction), and disappeared at four to five degrees. The path was inclined 70 degrees westward to the horizon, and the azimuth of the point of disappearance was 15 degrees west of south, as estimated afterward from Polaris.

This fireball was intermediate in brightness between Venus and the full moon, probably nearer the latter, and its hue resembled the white of burning magnesium ribbon.

The train was at first intensely white, but within seconds it changed into a column of very strongly red and orange clouds, these tints undoubtedly influenced by the sunset. The train thickened and slowly became distorted into zigzags. As a whole, the train did not drift, but remained suspended without movement in the sky.

Slowly fading and becoming white once more, the last scattered clouds of the train could be seen until 16:22 — that is, 36 minutes after the fall. Undoubtedly I could have traced it longer if I had had a field glass.

I informed the press and radio, and my report was broadcast with the 9 p.m. news. From the extensive accounts in the next morning's newspapers, I learned that this phenomenon had been witnessed by many people throughout Israel.

Fortunately, one of these observers was Nathan Sadan, in Beersheeba, about 250 kilometers south of Haifa. I first saw his picture of the train (see front cover) in a newspaper, and he kindly supplied a print for SKY AND TELESCOPE.

ELI METZGER

21 Rosen St.

Ramat-Chen (Tel-Aviv)

Israel

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

Detachment 3 (European Office)
Foreign Technology Division
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
APO 633, New York, N.Y.

5. Oct. 1962

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ITIME

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] - Entry of Unknown Space Object as
Reported by USAIRA, Tel Aviv

TO: FTD (TD-B1)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

1. [REDACTED] Reference ITIME message (C) 41903X dated 27 Sep 1962. Thermofax copy of Operational Immediate message, C-059, received from the Air Attache, Tel Aviv, is attached.
2. [REDACTED] A preliminary analysis indicates that a meteor or decaying artificial space object was apparently consumed prior to ground impact. This Detachment has no information or rumor of actual impact of an object at that time. Reports from the Air Attache, Cairo, which could help locate the nadir point, are presently being requested. Any further collection will be forwarded.
3. (UNCLASSIFIED) This correspondence is classified [REDACTED] since it reflects intelligence information, the unauthorized disclosure of which could adversely affect the national defense.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Walter W. Long
WALTER W. LONG
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Missiles &
Electronics Division

1 Atch
(CONF) Fax cy CCT-36467

Copy to TD-A2d

Classification Cancelled
(or changed to UNCLASS)

Auth. *Director TDP*

By
Date 12 MAY 1989

AFR 2054, par 2-17e
3 Jan 68

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

[REDACTED]

DOC 36-467-I
4
EPDIDS

UNCLASSIFIED

ME

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE
CR 38-28-9
TOO 281300Z

(SECTION 1 OF 11)

Classification Cancelled
(or changed to UNCLAS)
Auth. Director TDP
By
Date 12 MAY 1969

AFR 2057, Jan 2472
3 Jan 69

Meters
1st minute

FM USAIRA TEL AVIV
TO HQ USAF LINDSEY AS
INFO 1127 USAFLDCTYSGP FT BELVOIR

[REDACTED] CITE C-059. USAF FOR IDCA. REF UR
TIME 41905 AND MY C 056. [REDACTED] ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
SIGHTING BY AIRA. LOCATION FIRST OBSERVED FROM 32 DEGREES 24 MINUTES
NORTH 34 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST. AIRA CONTINUED DRIVING
SOUTH TO 32 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 30 SECONDS NORTH 34 DEGREES 51
MINUTES EAST. TIME OF FIRST SIGHTING WAS 1544Z AND TIME OF ARRIVAL AT
SECOND POSITION 1615Z. VAPOR TRAIL WAS VISIBLE UNTIL APPROX 1617Z.
AZIMUTH OF FIRST SIGHTING WAS APPROX 50 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON WITH
SLIGHTLY ARCED DESCENT TOWARD EAST AT OVERALL ANGLE OF 18 DEGREES
FROM VERTICAL. DESCENT APPEARED AS WHITE FALLING STAR TO APPROX 35
DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON, CHANGING TO GREENISH BLUE AND DESCENDING TO
APPROX 25 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON, CHANGING TO ORANGE FIREBALL
EFFECT DESCENDING TO HORIZON. TOTAL LAPSED TIME OF DESCENT WAS 4 OR 5
SECONDS. DIRECTION WAS APPROX 190 DEGREES FROM OBSERVER AND TRAIL
VISIBLE THROUGHOUT TIME AIRA
WAS DRIVING TO 2ND POSITION. 3 OTHER PERSONNEL IN CAR OBSERVED
EVENT IN SAME MANNER. WEATHER WAS CLEAR, VISIBILITY UNLIMITED AND
NO RPT NO SOUNDS WERE HEARD. TRAIL THAT FOLLOWED EVENT LEFT THIN
PENCIL-LINE VAPOR FOR UPPER HALF OF VISIBLE TRAJECTORY BROADENING
TO FAIRLY THICK - VAPOR TRAIL APPROX 25 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON. ASST
AIR ATTACHE DID NOT RPT DID NOT SEE PHENOMENON DURING DESCENT.

BUT SIGHTED TRAIL APPROX 1546Z. BETWEEN 1549Z AND 1551Z HE TOOK 2
EXPOSURES OF TRAIL WITH 13.5CM LENS FROM HIS
HOME AT 32 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 10 SECONDS NORTH, 34 DEGREES 48
MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST. DESPITE FACT THAT SKY WAS BECOMING QUITE DARK,
PHOTOGRAPHS TURNED OUT WELL AND CLEARLY SHOW ANGLE OF DESCENT TO BE
ONLY 18 DEGREES OFF VERTICAL. PHOTOS TO BE FORWARDED BY IR. FROM
HIS POINT OF OBSERVATION DIRECTION AGAIN WAS APPROX 190 DEGREES AND

AXIMUM OF THE TOP OF THE TRAIL APPROX AS REPORTED ABOVE. PICTURES
CONFIRM AIRA'S OBSERVATION THAT UPPER HALF OF TRAIL DISPERSED
FAIRLY RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF WIND VELOCITY AND WIND SHEAR BUT LOWER HALF
OF TRAJECTORY REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT THROUGHOUT TIME TRAIL WAS
VISIBLE. PRESS REPORTS IN ISRAEL REVEAL THAT THIS PHENOMENON OBSERVED
BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ALL THE WAY FROM METULLA TO EILAT. A SCIENCE
TEACHER, MR. [REDACTED] WHO IS MEMBER OF BOTH
AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS SOCIETY IN JERUSALEM AND AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY
OF PENNSYLVANIA REPORTED HE SAW FROM A POINT NEAR HAIFA A LUMINOUS
BODY AT 5:45 PM FALL SLOWLY IN SOUTH SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION AND
VANISH 4 SECONDS LATER AT ABOUT 5 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON. ITS WHITISH
LIGHT HE SAID WAS ALMOST AS BRIGHT AS THAT OF THE MOON. JUDGING
BY TAIL OF THE LIGHT THAT REMAINED FOUR 40 MINUTES HE THOUGHT WAS
EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE METOR. [REDACTED] AN ENGINEER WATCHED A BRIGHT
LIGHT AT A DISTANCE OF "30 KILOMETERS". IT BURNED A BLuish WHITE AND
LEFT A TRAIL OF SMOKE VISIBLE FOR 50 MINUTES. PHENOMENON WAS
DESCRIBED AS A FIREBALL BY PRO YA ACOV BENTOR, DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. HE EXPLAINED TO REPORTERS
THAT IT WAS A PIECE OF COSMIC METAL OR STONE ATTRACTED BY THE EARTH
GRAVITY. IN GENERAL THESE REPORTS TEND TO CONFIRM OBSERVATIONS AS
REPORTED BY THIS OFFICE ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MORE SPURIOUS REPORTS BY
PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT THEY SAW PHENOMENON GOING UP RATHER THAN COMING
DOWN, THAT PHENOMENON WAS ROCKET LAUNCHED FROM JORDAN, ROCKET LAUNCHED
FROM SAUDI ARABIA, ETC. AIRA 100 PERCENT POSITIVE AND PICTURES
PROVE THESE SPURIOUS REPORTS INCORRECT.

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DCS/INTELL INCOMING MSG

ACTION: 2-171

REF: 1-101

1-191W

1-100

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1-106

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UNCLASSIFIED

14
JAN 11 1962
28 SEP 62

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

CR 34-20-9

NY 100-181000

(SECTION 11 OF 11)

US AIR TEL AVIV

TO HQ US AIR FORCE LINDSEY AS

INFO 1127 USAFLDACTYSGP FT BELVOIR

[REDACTED] CITE C-059. REPORT FROM EILAT BY UNQUALIFIED
OBSERVER "A FIREBALL DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS AND DISAPPEARED BEHIND
[REDACTED] IN THE SINAI PENINSULA". ALL REPORTS GIVEN TO IDF INDICATE
THAT DESCENT NOT IN ISRAELI TERRITORY BUT THAT DESCENT PROBABLY IN
SINAI OR RED SEA AREA. BELIEVE THIS EVENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBSERVED
IN CAIRO AND POSSIBLY JIDDAH AND KARTOUM. ALSO IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN
OBSERVED FROM ALL SHIPPING IN RED SEA AND SUEZ AREA AT THE
TIME. NO REPORT NO OBSERVER IN ISRAEL REPORTED ANY SOUND. SUGGEST
PLACES AND SHIPPING BE VERIFIED. ASCP-3.

Classification Cancelled
(or changed to UNCLASS)
Auth [Signature]
By [Signature]
Date 12 MAY 1963
AFR 2057, Para 2-17a
3 Jan 68

DCS/INTEL DISCLOSURE

ACTION

DATE

1-100
1-150
1-160
1-170

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

53

Action

AF IN : 22611 (28 Sep 62) L/dsk

Control: 21659

Rec'd: September 27, 1962

2:28 p.m.

ISA

Info

FROM: Port Said

G

TO: Secretary of State

NEA

P

NO: 7, September 27, 3 p.m.

USIA

NSC

INR

FOR SSA

CIA

NSA

OSD

ARMY

NAVY

AIR

NASA

RMR

Re CW 9986, luminous object sighted by Consulate member near Port Said September 26 1600 hours GMT. Flaming object travelling southeast to north trailing white smoke at approximate 81,000 feet. Object fell into Mediterranean Sea; north Port Fuad. Object not recovered but smoke visible for five minutes after descent. Airgram report follows.

WALTERS

MRJ

Classification Cancelled

(or changed to UNCLASS)Auth Dezalep TDPBy QuintanillaDate 12 MAR 1983AFR 2051, par 2-17 a
3 Jan 63

AF DIST: CIN-9, SAFS-3, XPD-3, OOP-CP-1, OOP-2 (18)

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