

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 14-19-21-23 April	2. LOCATION Manchuria
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 20-25	Pilot's comment: Large kites. D/I FEAF Comment: Balloons with kite-like attachments. Evaluated as balloons with Radar Attachments
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Radar - Several Minutes 30 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS An estimated 20-25 kite-like objects with trailing streamers were observed over ANTUNG Airfield. Some of the objects had balloon-like attachments below them. Observed visually and on radar.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Intercept Radar Air-Visual -	
7. COURSE 270 Degrees	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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ATIC DOCUMENT 127210, Manchuria

On 23 Apr 53 four F-86's were on a counter air mission over North Korea. The call sign of this flight was JOHN RED.

At 1500I the flight sighted what appeared to be an estimated 20 to 25 triangular shaped objects over UTM coordinates XE2250. These objects were at an altitude of approx 30,000'. Distance from friendlies to these objects was approx 5 miles. Weather at the time was CAVU.

The objects were described as triangular shaped. In the opinion of friendlies they appeared to be large kites, although no cables or lines were observed attached to them. Approx 5 to 10 of the objects had what appeared to be circular discs or balloons attached to the bottom portion and trailing dark colored streamers from the circumference.

The objects were observed for approx 30 seconds and did not appear to move during the observation. F-86's at the time were flying at a speed of .93 Mach. It was the opinion of the pilots that these objects could have been released from Antung Air Field as the wind was coming from that direction at the time of the sighting.

ATIC COMMENT: Flight activity of Chinese Communists have been noted before. The use of radar reflectors carried aloft by balloons is entirely possible, but the reasons for such action cannot be determined at this time. Such equipment may be sent aloft by the enemy to accurately check radar antenna lobe patterns or to check winds or other meteorological conditions aloft.

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4 7

COUNTRY Korea	REPORT NO. 53-74	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Objects		
AREA REPORTED ON Manchuria	FROM (Agency) Det. #1, 6004th AISS, APO 970	
DATE OF REPORT 29 April 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 23 April 1953	EVALUATION B-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) Murriel Thomas, Captain, USAF	SOURCE 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing	
REFERENCES (General number, direction, previous report, etc., as applicable) USAF BAIR 5M-23		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

This report contains information concerning the sighting of Unidentified aerial objects over Manchuria.

APPROVED:

John V. Hearn Jr.
JOHN V. HEARN JR
Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence
Fifth Air Force (Adv)

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*w/2 incl (A-B)
ATISD/B
12 June 53.*

2 INCL.

1. Sketch
2. Overlay

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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On 23 April 1953 four F-86s were on a counter air mission over North Korea. The call sign of this flight was JOHN RED.

At 1500I RED flight sighted what appeared to be an estimated 20 to 25 triangular shaped objects over UTM coordinates XE 2250. These objects were at an altitude of approximately 30,000 feet. At this time friendlies were at an altitude of 39,000 feet over UTM coordinates XE 3042 on a magnetic heading of 270 degrees. Distance from friendlies to these objects was approximately five miles. Weather at the time was CAVU (see inclosed overlay).

These objects were described as triangular shaped. In the opinion of friendlies they appeared to be large kites although no cables or lines were observed attached to them. Approximately five to ten of the objects had what appeared to be circular disks or balloons attached to the bottom portion and trailing dark colored streamers from the circumference. Because of the distance friendlies were unable to determine depth of the objects (see inclosed sketch).

The objects were observed for approximately 30 seconds without the aid of binoculars. These objects did not appear to move during the observation. Friendlies at the time of the sighting were flying at a speed of .93 Mach. The appearance of enemy aircraft in the area prevented further observation.

It was the opinion of the pilots that these objects could have been released from Antung Air Field (XE 1030) as the wind was coming from that direction at the time of the sighting.

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

1. The flight making this observation consisted of Major R.L. Bruce, 2d Lt. J.R. Kidd, 1st Lt. F.G. Dupree, and 1st Lt. Dozier. These pilots are all considered as reliable observers by intelligence personnel of the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing.

2. On 19 April 1953 another F-86 pilot observed similar objects at 30,000 feet over the mouth of the Yalu River. He reported the objects to be large kites. On the 14th, 19th, and 21st of April Army Liaison pilots observed unidentified flying objects in the CT 2030 grid square. These objects were reported at 50 to 10,000 feet. By the descriptions given, the objects were evaluated as large kites.

Kenneth E. Ebersole
KENNETH E. EBERSOLE
Captain, USAF
Detachment Commander

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D/I FEAF COMMENT:

1. Radar plots were reportedly recorded for eight-plus, slow-moving targets in the area of XE 0550 for several minutes starting at 1455-I. Winds aloft were reported as approximately 40 knots at 310 degrees.

2. Without a definite reference point in space, the actual objects could vary widely from the size which was reported. From the description, the objects could be balloons with kite-shaped objects attached.

3. The use of radar reflectors carried aloft by a network of balloons is entirely possible, but the reasons for such action cannot be ascertained. Such equipment may be sent aloft by the enemy to accurately check radar antenna lobe patterns, or to check winds or other meteorological conditions aloft. The "Spoofing" value of sending up such false targets for UN radar would be marginal.

George D. Hastings, Jr.
GEORGE D. HASTINGS
Colonel, USAF
Director of Requirements
Deputy for Intelligence, FEAF

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DET.# 1, 600th AISS, APO 970

53-74

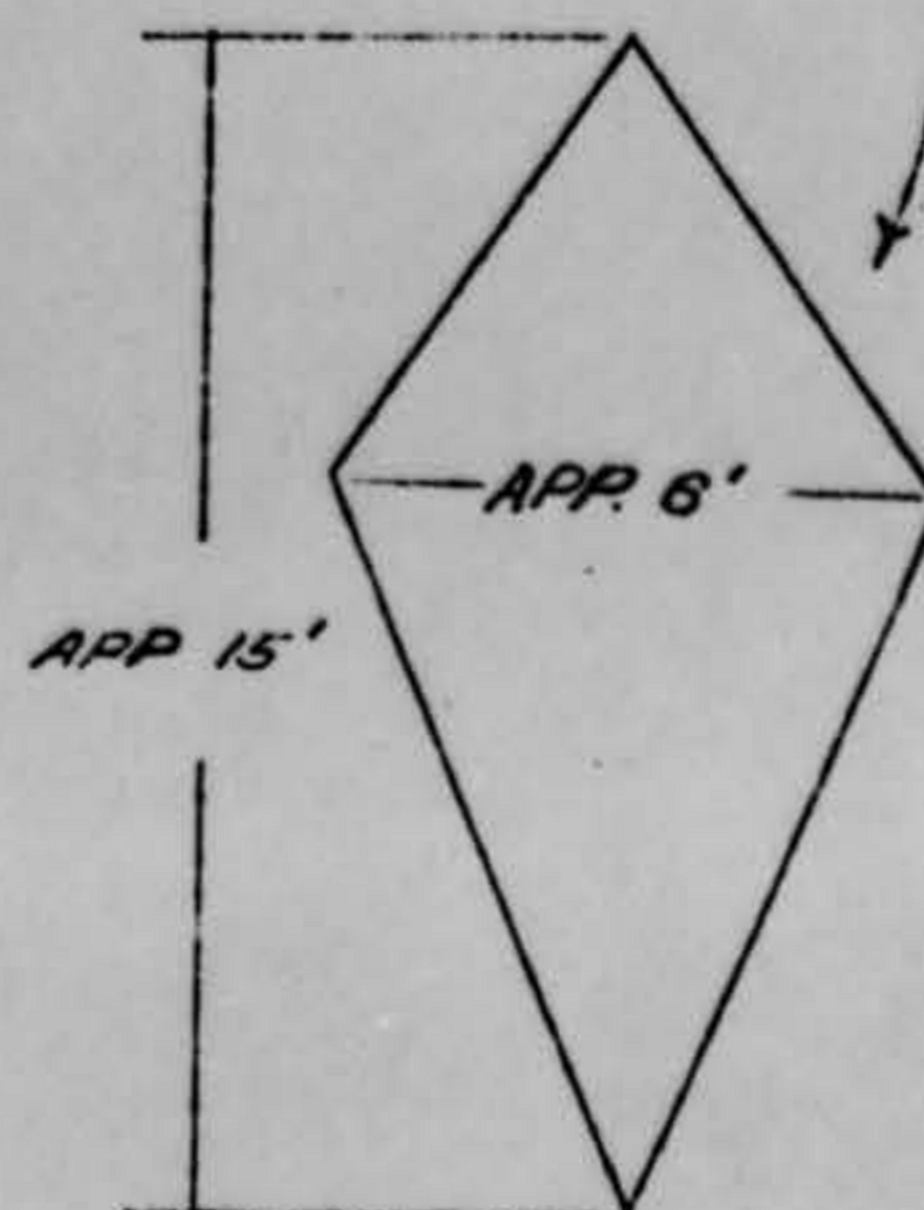
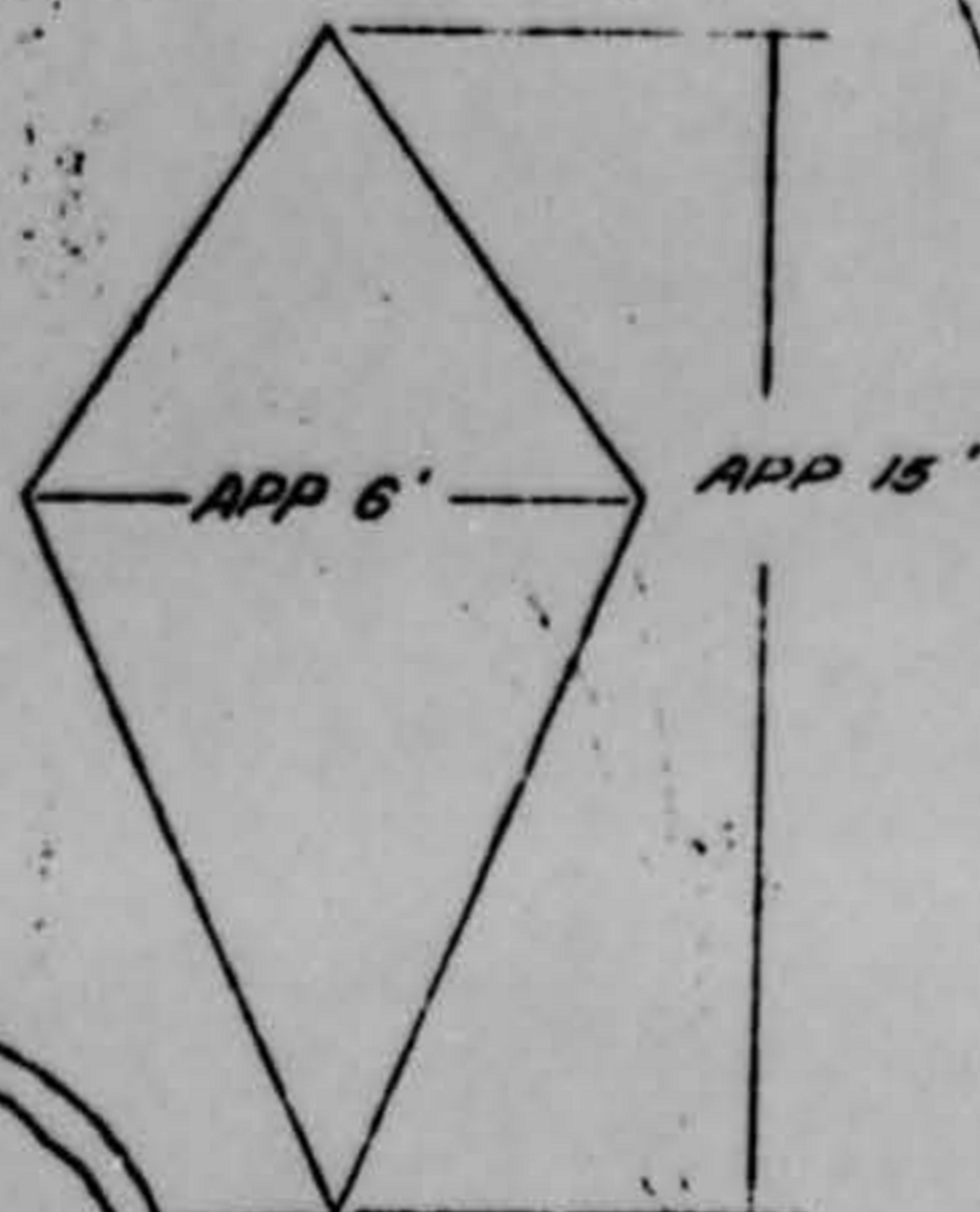
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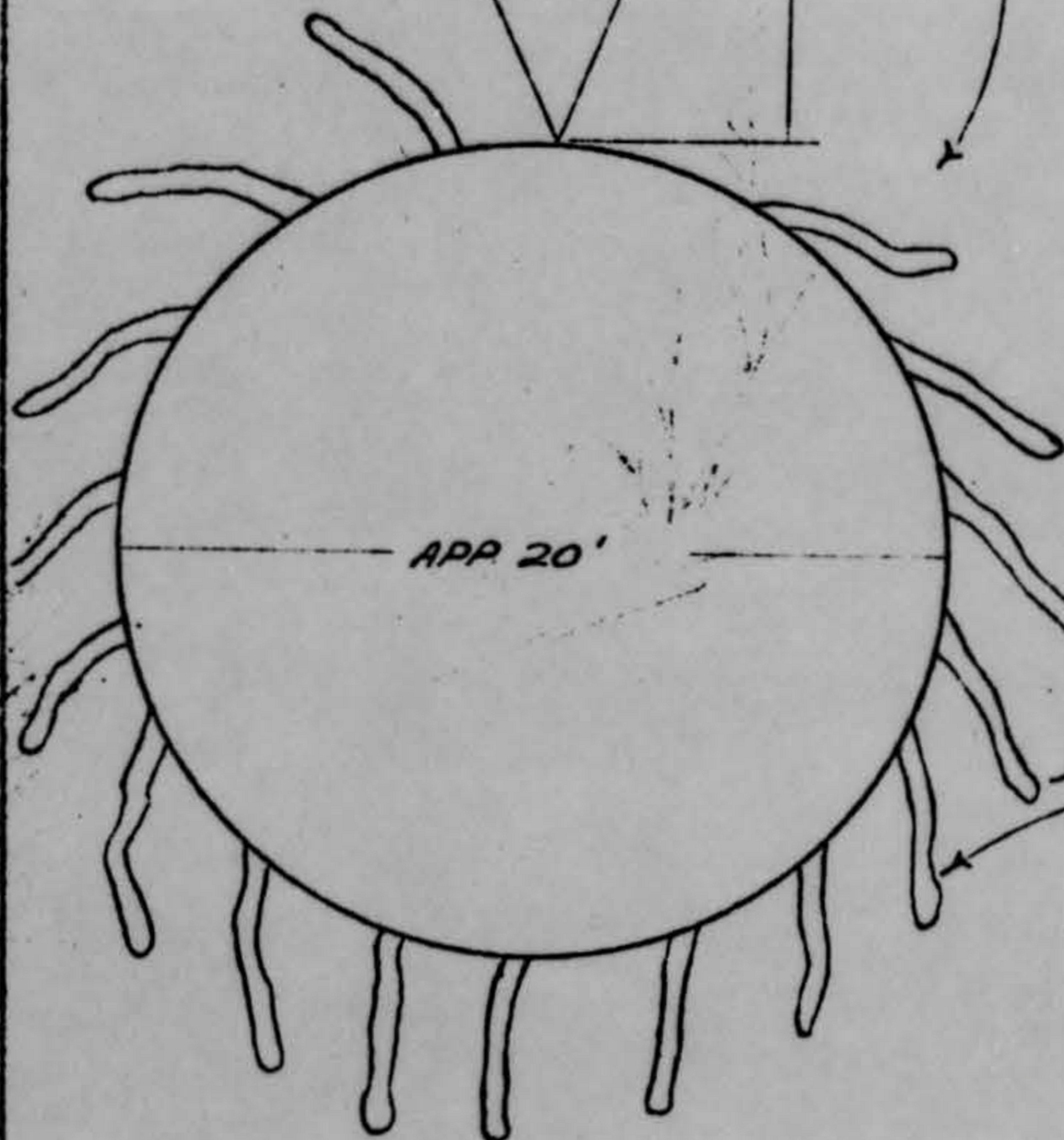
PAGES

5 TO 10 OF THE OBJECTS HAD DISKS
OR BALLONS ATTACHED

MAJORITY OF OBJECTS APPEARED
TO BE TRIANGULAR SHAPED



THESE OBJECTS WERE
GRAYISH-WHITE IN COLOR



DARK COLORED STREAMERS OR
FLAGS OBSERVED AROUND
CIRCUMFERENCE

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PILOT'S SKETCH

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APPROXIMATE DIRECTION OF WIND

ANTUNG

YALU

HERE

APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES

F-86'S MADE OBSERVATION FROM APPROXIMATELY HERE WHILE ON A HEADING OF 270 DEGREES

270°

270 DEGREES

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ALL 124419B

25 APRIL 1953

McMillin Observatory
22 June 1953

1st Lt. Robert Olsson
ATIC - Wright-Patterson AFB

Dear Lt. Olsson;

Here are the comments on the recent batch of material. A few cases are certainly of considerable interest. Over all, in this batch, Venus counts for only one: 28 January, Stuttgart. Fireballs most probably account for 4 cases; balloons for four and aircraft for three.

Coming to the interesting cases: the Korean 20 April should certainly be followed up. This comes very close to being a security-Intelligence matter. I'd certainly like to get more information on this. How about sending a few Form A's to Korea. Actually, this should have been investigated on the spot by Intelligence officers.

Pepperell AFB 2 May: This has some similarities to the old Gorman case. Much fuller report needed and Form A filled out on this.

San Antonio 7 May: This has many similarities to the Lubbock Lights and Form A should certainly be sent if this has not already been done.

Finally, a Form A for the 29 April Syracuse stationary-disc sighting would help.

The Miami 20 May green light sighting might have been jets but with the green light sighting, jets should have been traveling north instead of south in order for observer to see green navigation light. 2 second time interval also seems too fast. I hope that you can eventually send me more information on these: 20 April Korea; 2 May Pepperell; 7 May San Antonio.

I am enclosing my version of a report on our recent trip with which I hope you will concur.

And keep 'em coming. It's easier to handle a few at a time and frequently than a larger batch at longer intervals.
[redacted] send her regards.