

Acting Chief, P&E Division, SI  
THROUGH: Chief, WP Branch, P&E Division, SI  
GP Branch

27 January 1953

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Meetings of OSI Advisory Group on Unidentified Flying Objects,  
14-17 January 1953

1. At your request I represented P&E Division at the subject meetings. I was present at nearly all meetings of the group with the exception of the afternoon of Friday, the 16th and the session on Saturday, the 17th. During the latter two sessions the Advisory Group went into executive session for the preparation of their report to AD/SI.

2. The following OSI Consultants formed the Advisory Group:

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[Redacted], Chairman  
[Redacted] (missed morning session on 16th)  
[Redacted] (present only on afternoon of 16th and 17th)

Dr. J. A. Hynek (an ATIC consultant - he sat in all the sessions after the first day, but did not sign the report to AD/SI as an official group member)

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3. The following OSI staff members attended:

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Dr. H. M. Chadwell (most of the first day only)  
[Redacted] (first day only)

[Redacted] (although now an OSI consultant, he functioned as a staff member for the conference and attended all sessions including the executive sessions)

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[Redacted] Weapons Division  
[Redacted] P&E Division

4. The following persons were invited to present certain background information to the Advisory Group:

Captain Edward Ruppelt, ATIC who presented information on the work of Proj. Bluebook (and its predecessors "Grudge", "Saucer", and "Sign") and discussed in detail many of their specific investigations.

Major Fourney, AFOLIN (by now on inactive status and with The Ethyl Corp.) who presented findings independent of ATIC, representatives of the Navy Photographic Labs who presented their analysis of films of a "Sighting."

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5. The first business on the agenda was a welcome by and a charge (Att. #1) to the Group by Dr. Chadwell. This was followed by a statement of the CIA interest by [REDACTED] CIA had been requested by IAC to look into the "flying saucer problem" because of three related national security problems: (a) possible exploitation to produce mass hysteria, (b) the confusions and dangers inherent in observations of "flying saucers" by the U.S. radar and observer systems, (c) the danger of "flying saucer reports" overloading the emergency communication facilities of the Department of Defense.

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6. Because of the quality of the consultants and the excellence of their introduction to the subject by Dr. Chadwell and [REDACTED] the Advisory Group never lost sight of its goals inspite of the fact that the discussion took many excursions.

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7. The Advisory Group submitted its report to AD/SI on 17 January 1953. Their principal finding was that at the present time the unidentified flying objects pose no threat to the security of the United States. They recommended the establishment of program of education regarding the sightings particularly as concerns the U.S. radar and observer system, and for the general public as well.

8. Most of the OSI files on this subject are being retained in the office of the AD/SI. Weapons Division has a considerable file which according to [REDACTED], they would like to dispose of because of the findings of the Advisory Group that "flying saucers" pose no present threat to the United States security. [REDACTED] feels that the material in the Weapons Division file should be maintained in one of the substantive Divisions of OSI and has suggested that P&E Division take them over and maintain them. [REDACTED] of Weapons Division currently has the material and estimates that several hours per week will be required to keep it current. He indicates that he is suggesting to [REDACTED], Chief of Weapons Division, that P&E Division get the files. I would like to suggest that the Acting Chief, P&E Division discuss this with [REDACTED] I personally don't see why P&E Division has any greater interest in this material than Weapons Division.

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9. If GP Branch, P&E Division is given the responsibility for the files mentioned in paragraph 8, above, one (1) additional safe will be required.

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PCBO:ss

cc: Orig. & / - Div. Off.

1 - DHP

1 - GPF

**S E C R E T**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**

**CHARGE TO O/SI ADVISORY GROUP ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS**

1. To review available evidence on unidentified flying objects and to consider possible dangers to national security related thereto.
2. To advise concerning the amount and kind of data necessary for a scientific evaluation of these phenomena.
3. In particular to comment on:
  - a. Validity of current CIA evaluation of related dangers.
  - b. Methodology and scope of current and planned ATIC investigation.
  - c. Advisability of further meetings of this group or further review of the subject by a larger panel.

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**S E C R E T**

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REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL  
ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

17 January 1953

1. The undersigned Panel of Scientific Consultants has met at the request of the Government to evaluate any possible threat to national security posed by Unidentified Flying Objects ("Flying Saucers"), and to make recommendation. The Panel has received the evidence as presented by cognizant Governmental agencies, primarily the United States Air Force, and has reviewed a selection of the best documented incidents.

2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:

That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.

3. In the light of this conclusion, the Panel recommends:

That the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired.

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We suggest that this aim may be achieved by an integrated program designed to reassure the public of the total lack of evidence of insidious forces behind the phenomena.

/s/ Lloyd V. Berkner  
Associated Universities, Inc.

/s/ H. P. Robertson, Chairman  
California Institute of Technology

/s/ S. A. Goudswit  
Brookhaven National Laboratories

/s/ Luis W. Alvarez  
University of California

/s/ Thornton Page  
John Hopkins University

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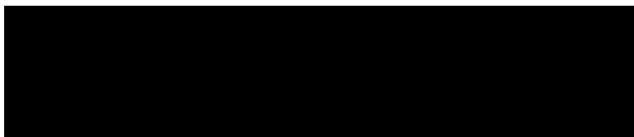
Memorandum for file OSI-W/A

21 January 1953

Meeting of OSI Advisory Group on UFO  
January 14 thru 17, 1953

At 0945 on January 14, 1953, an ad hoc panel of scientific consultants was convened to review the "Unidentified Flying Objects" problem. A detailed statement of the problem presented to the group by CIA is attached as Appendix A. The panel consisted of the following:

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Dr. J.A. Hynek, consultant to ATIC.

The following members of the staff of OSI were present for various parts of the discussions.

Dr. H.M. Chadwell



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To assist the scientific panel in its review and analysis of evidence, Capt. E. J. Ruppelt of ATIC, Lt. Neasham and Mr. H. Woo of the Navy photo interpretation lab at Anacostia, and Major Fournet and Capt. Smith of Air Force Directorate of Intelligence were present.

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A final report on the results of the meeting is being prepared for the AD/SI by [redacted] but it is believed that the following is a fair statement of the conclusions reached:

1. No evidence is available to indicate any physical threat to the security of the United States.
2. No evidence is available to indicate the existence or use of any as yet unknown (to us) fundamental scientific principles.
3. The subject "UFO" is not of direct intelligence interest. It is of indirect intelligence interest only insofar as any knowledge about the innumerable unsolved mysteries of the universe are of intelligence interest.
4. The subject "UFO" is of operational interest for three reasons:
  - (a) Interference with air defense by intentional enemy jamming or by lack of ability on the part of operating personnel to discriminate between radar anomalies and actual airborne weapons
  - (b) Related to (a), interference with air defense by overloading communication lines from the air defense observation stations.
  - (c) Possibility of a psychological offensive by the enemy timed with respect to an actual attack could conceivably seriously

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reduce the defense effort of the general public.

It is noted that these general conclusions as stated here do not specifically answer the needs presented in Appendix A. However, it is anticipated that comment on these points will be presented in a written statement from the scientific panel to AD/SI.

DBS:gl (typed 12 February 1953)

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SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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14 - 17 January 1953

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>FIELD OF COMPETENCY</u>
Dr. H. P. Robertson (Chairman)	California Institute of Technology	Physics, weapons systems
Dr. Luis W. Alvarez	University of California	Physics, radar
Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner	Associated Universities, Inc.	Geophysics
Dr. Samuel Goudsmit	Brookhaven National Laboratories	Atomic structure, statistical problems
Dr. Thornton Page	Office of Research Operations, Johns Hopkins University	Astronomy, Astrophysics
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</u>		
Dr. J. Allen Hynek	Ohio State University	Astronomy
Mr. Frederick C. Durant	Arthur D. Little, Inc.	Rockets, guided missiles
<u>INTERVIEWEES</u>		
Brig. Gen. William M. Garland	Commanding General, ATIC	Scientific and technical intelligence
Dr. H. Marshall Chadwell	Assistant Director, O/SI, CIA	Scientific and technical intelligence
Mr. Ralph L. Clark	Deputy Assistant Director, O/SI, CIA	Scientific and technical intelligence

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**TAB A**

<u>INTERVIEWEES (con't)</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>FIELD OF COMPETENCY</u>
Mr. Philip G. Strong	Chief, Operations Staff, O/SI, CIA	Scientific and technical intelligence
Mr. Stephan T. Peasony	Acting Chief, Special Study Group, D/I USAF	Scientific and technical intelligence
Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, USAF	Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch, ATIC, USAF	Scientific and technical intelligence
Mr. J. Dewey Fournet, Jr.	The Ethyl Corporation	Aero Eng.
Lt. R. S. Neasham, USN	USN Photo Interpretation Laboratory, Annapolis	Photo interpretation
Mr. Harry Woo	USN Photo Interpretation Laboratory, Annapolis	Photo interpretation

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**TAB B**

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS**

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14 - 17 January 1953

**EVIDENCE PRESENTED**

1. Seventy-five case histories of sightings 1951 - 1952 (selected by ATIC as those best documented).
2. ATIC Status and Progress Reports of Project GRUDGE and Project BLUE BOOK (code names for ATIC study of subject).
3. Progress Reports of Project STORK (code name for Battelle Memorial Institute contract work supporting ATIC).
4. Summary Report of Sightings at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.
5. Report of USAF Research Center, Cambridge, Mass., Investigation of "Green Fireball" Phenomena (Project TWINKLE).
6. Outline of Investigation of U.F.O.'s Proposed by Kirtland Air Force Base (Project POUNCE).
7. Motion Picture Films of sightings at Tremonton, Utah, 2 July 1952 and Great Falls, Montana, August 1950.
8. Summary Report of 89 selected cases of sightings of various categories (Formations, Blinking Lights, Hovering, etc.).
9. Draft of manual: "How to Make a FLYOERPT", prepared at ATIC.
10. Chart Showing Plot of Geographic Location of Unexplained Sightings in the United States during 1952.
11. Chart Showing Balloon Launching Sites in the United States.
12. Charts Showing Selected Actual Balloon Flight Paths and Relation to Reported Sightings.
13. Charts Showing Frequency of Reports of Sightings, 1948 - 1952.
14. Charts Showing Categories of Explanations of Sightings.
15. Kodachrome Transparencies of Polyethylene Film Balloons in Bright Sunlight Showing High Reflectivity.

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TAB B

16. Motion picture of seagulls in bright sunlight showing high reflectivity.
17. Intelligence Reports Relating to U.S.S.R. Interest in U. S. Sightings.
18. Samples of Official USAF Reporting Forms and Copies of Pertinent Air Force, Army and Navy Orders Relating to Subject.
19. Sample Polyethylene "Pillow" Balloon (54 inches square).
20. "Variations in Radar Coverage", JANP 101 (Manual illustrating unusual operating characteristics of Service radar).
21. Miscellaneous official letters and foreign intelligence reports dealing with subject.
22. Copies of popular published works dealing with subject (articles in periodicals, newspaper clippings and books).

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REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL  
ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

JAN 17 1953

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1. Pursuant to the request of the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, the undersigned Panel of Scientific Consultants has met to evaluate any possible threat to national security posed by Unidentified Flying Objects ("Flying Saucers"), and to make recommendations thereon. The Panel has received the evidence as presented by cognizant intelligence agencies, primarily the Air Technical Intelligence Center, and has reviewed a selection of the best documented incidents.

2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:

a. That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.

We firmly believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phenomena which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.

3. The Panel further concludes:

a. That the continued emphasis on the reporting of these phenomena does, in these parlous times, result in a threat to the orderly functioning of the protective organs of the body politic.

We cite as examples the clogging of channels of communication by irrelevant reports, the danger of being led by continued false alarms to ignore real

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indications of hostile action, and the cultivation of a morbid national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of duly constituted authority.

4. In order most effectively to strengthen the national facilities for the timely recognition and the appropriate handling of true indications of hostile action, and to minimize the concomitant dangers alluded to above, the Panel recommends:

a. That the national security agencies take immediate steps to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired;

b. That the national security agencies institute policies on intelligence, training, and public education designed to prepare the material defenses and the morale of the country to recognize most promptly and to react most effectively to true indications of hostile intent or action.

We suggest that these aims may be achieved by an integrated program designed to reassure the public of the total lack of evidence of inimical forces behind the phenomena, to train personnel to recognize and reject false indications quickly and effectively, and to strengthen regular channels for the evaluation of and prompt reaction to true indications of hostile measures.

/s/ H. P. Robertson, Chairman  
California Institute of Technology

/s/ Luis W. Alvarez  
University of California

/s/ Lloyd V. Berkner  
Associated Universities, Inc.

/s/ S. A. Goudsmit  
Brookhaven National Laboratories

/s/ Thornton Page  
Johns Hopkins University

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. The Advisory Panel concluded:
  - a. That the various phenomena reported through official channels as unidentified flying objects did not constitute any direct threat to national security, were not foreign in nature and were not phenomena based upon physical principles other than those being studied in current scientific research.
  - b. That dangers related to these sightings do exist, for example: in clogging of military channels of communication by irrelevant reports, in difficulty in distinguishing phenomena from possible enemy aircraft, and in the possible susceptibility of the public to mass hysteria by skillful hostile propaganda.

With respect to (b) above, the Panel believed firmly that continued official emphasis on reporting of these phenomena increases these dangers.

2. The Advisory Panel recommended that appropriate authority take immediate steps to strip the subject of "unidentified flying objects" of special status and to institute policies of intelligence, training, and public education designed:

- a. To reassure the public of total lack of evidence of any direct danger from the objects sighted.
- b. To train appropriate personnel so that they will avoid misidentifications.
- c. To strengthen regular channels for the evaluation of and prompt reaction to real danger.

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IAC-7  
Date

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Transmitted herewith for your information and appropriate action is a copy of the report of the scientific panel convened as a result of the action taken by the Intelligence Advisory Committee on 4 December (IAC-4-90, paragraph 3 a) on this subject. Attached to the report are a list of personnel participating and a summary of evidence presented.

2. It is proposed to transmit copies of this report to the Secretary of Defense; the Director, Federal Civil Defense Administration; and the Chairman, National Security Resources Board for their information and such action as they may feel necessary.

3. The results of the panel's studies have moved CIA to conclude that no National Security Council Intelligence Directive on this subject is warranted.

4. Please inform the undersigned by \_\_\_\_\_ if you do not concur in the action and conclusions contained in paragraphs 2 and 3, above.

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Acting Secretary

Attachments:

1. Panel report
2. List of personnel
3. Summary of evidence presented

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### POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

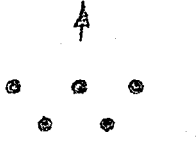



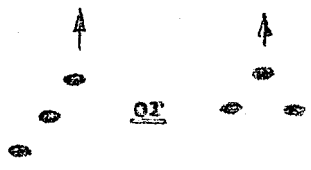



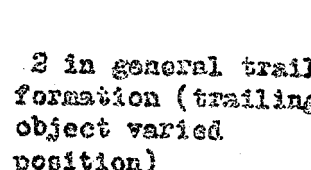
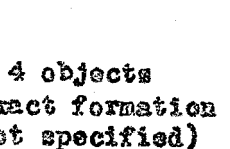
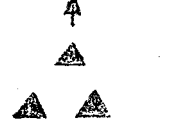
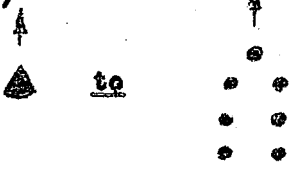
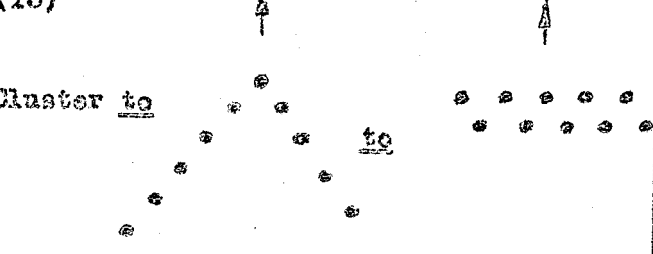

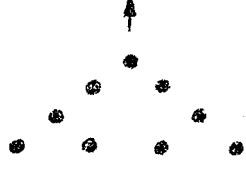
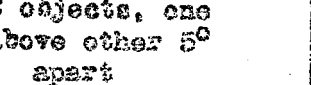
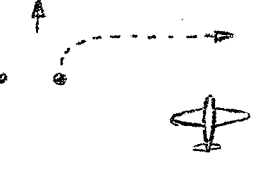
- A. Hysteria, hallucinations, hoaxes, etc. (Psychological)
- B. Misidentifications of conventional objects:
  - X<sub>1</sub> 1. Aircraft, missiles, searchlight reflections, etc. (man-made, controlled)
  - X<sub>2</sub> 2. Balloons, kites, etc. (man-made, uncontrolled)
  - X<sub>2</sub> 3. Birds, bugs, etc. (animal)
  - X<sub>2</sub> 4. Dust, seeds (e.g. dandelion), paper, etc. (foreign matter)
- C. Natural Phenomena:
  - X<sub>1</sub> 1. Light aberrations, reflections, refractions, etc.
  - X<sub>2</sub> 2. Anomalous radar propagation.
  - X<sub>1</sub> 3. Ionization, static electricity, ball lightning, etc.
  - X<sub>3</sub> 4. Planets, meteors and other astronomical bodies.
  - 5. Others.
- D. Unconventional man-made devices:
  - X<sub>4</sub> 1. US
  - X<sub>4</sub> 2. USSR and other foreign
- E. Extraterrestrial origin
  - 1. Animal
  - 2. Machine

*Basis of May Journey's presentation  
to OSI Adv. Sp 14-17 Jan 53  
(given on 16 Jan)*

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**IDENTIFICATION**  
**FORMATIONS**

<p>(1) </p> <p>(2 in rear darted around in circular or zig-sag manner)</p>	<p>(2) </p> <p>(All objects had a swerving motion from side to side)</p>	<p>(3) </p>	<p>(4) </p>
<p>(5) </p> <p><u>or</u></p>	<p>(6) </p>	<p>(7) </p> <p><u>to</u></p> <p>(Presumed)</p>	<p>(8) </p> <p>(Presumed)</p>
<p>(9) </p> <p>2 in general trail formation (trailing object varied position)</p>	<p>(10) </p> <p>4 objects (exact formation not specified)</p>	<p>(11) </p> <p>("perfect formation")</p>	<p>(12) </p> <p><u>to</u></p> <p>(Presumed)</p>
<p>(13) </p> <p>Cluster <u>to</u> <u>to</u></p> <p>(Presumed)</p>	<p>(14) </p>	<p>(15) </p>	
<p>(16) </p> <p>2 objects, one above other 5° apart</p>	<p>(17) </p>		