PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 5 November 1957	**2. LOCATION** Scotia, Nebraska	**12. CONCLUSIONS** ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1730 GMT 05/2330Z	**4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION** ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ 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 not given	**8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS** one	**9. COURSE** down then up
		☒ Other unreliable rpt ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Noise was heard overhead which sounded like a helicopter and an odor similar to burning fuel. Object looked like a balloon and appeared to be descending. Observers stated they seemed to be paralyzed for a short period of time upon sighting the object. The object did not reach the ground and began ascending into the air again and disappeared.

11. COMMENTS

Hearsay information - possibly balloon; however, case evaluated as unreliable report.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1010 Federal Office Building
Omaha 2, Nebraska
November 13, 1957

Colonel Kenneth W. King
District Commander, USAF
13th District Office of
Special Investigations
Offutt Air Force Base
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Colonel King:

This will confirm telephonic communication between Lieutenant Colonel William J. Spratt and Special Agent in Charge Joseph E. Thornton on the morning of November 13, 1957, concerning the alleged sighting of a balloon in the vicinity of Scotia, Nebraska, on November 5, 1957, at about 5:30 PM. The following information was furnished to our Resident Agent, Joseph R. Partington, at Grand Island, Nebraska, by Mr. [redacted] South Dakota [redacted] Hastings, Nebraska.

Mr. [redacted] stated he talked with a Mr. [redacted] on November 2, 1957, at Hastings, Nebraska. [redacted] is an employee of the [redacted] in Hastings. He informed Mr. [redacted] he had recently been visiting at Scotia, Nebraska, and while there had talked with two boys who were farmers and who advised about 5:30 PM, November 5, 1957, while at their farm home, they heard a noise overhead which sounded like a helicopter and indicated they could smell an odor similar to burning fuel. According to [redacted] these two boys looked up into the air and saw an object which looked like a balloon and which appeared to be descending. Upon sighting this object, they indicated they appeared to be paralyzed for a short period of time. The object did not reach the ground and began ascending into the air again and disappeared.

Mr. [redacted] also advised Special Agent Partington he was in Kearney, Nebraska, on November 7, 1957, attending a furniture auction at the Lightner Auction Sales Company and while there talked with an individual whose last name was [redacted] first name unknown. Mr. [redacted] told him he saw an object resembling a balloon in the Kearney,

Nebraska, area on November [redacted], 1957. Mr. [redacted] described [redacted] as being about 50 years of age, [redacted] feet 10 inches, heavy build, weight 24[redacted] pounds, dark hair, round smooth face. He presume[redacted] is a used-furniture dealer and is undoubtedly known to the people who operate the auction sale at Kearney, Nebraska.

In the event any further information is obtained, it will be immediately relayed to you.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Thornton

JOSEPH E. THORNTON
Special Agent In Charge