PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 25/1950 25 Feb 67 26/0150Z	2. LOCATION Fargo, North Dakota
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Visual: Possible Other (PLASMA) Photo: Possible Other (PLASMA) There was no radar contact or known air traffic in the area at that time. The sources estimate of size and distance are consistent with the photographic evidence, however, a definite size appreciation cannot be obtained due to the lack of neccessary detail for obtaining a scale factor.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 - 4 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	SUMMERY
7. COURSE NE	The observers stated that they sighted and photographed a luminescence "blob" that rose from the ground and accelerated away in a northeasterly direction. Theyestimated that the phenomenon was about 5 ft in diameter and about 200 ft away when they first sighted it.
8. PHOTOS XX Yes ☐ No	COMMENTS CON'D: Shutter speed was estimated by the observers as 1/15 and 1/100 of a second. However there is some question is to the nature of the streak of light at the bottom of the first photo. Dr Hynek feels that it could have been the result of either street light or auto headlights reflecting from the road embankment.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes XX No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

(OVER)

However, this analyst feels that it is more likely the result of the headlights of an auto that was traveling on the highway in the background and as such the photos would represent time exposure in which the shutter was open considerably longer than the reported 1/15 of a second. The second sighting from 50 miles away is probably of the planet Venus and does not appear to be related to the sighting from Fargo. Additional information was twice requested from the Fargo observers but they have failed to respond as of 7 Mar 69. There was a temperature inversion that night, surgace winds were from 180 deg at 20 knots, and light snow was reported in scattered locations. There are a large number of telephone and high tension wire in the area of the sighting. It is felt that if the sighting is not a hoax, the stimulus could possible have been a plasma of some type.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 319TH BOMBARDMENT WING (SAC)
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA, 58203

REPLY TO ATTN OF: 319DCOI/2Lt Rankin

16 Mar 1967

SUBJECT: UFO

TO: FTD (TDETR)

1. Basic UFO reporting data in format perscribed by paragraph 11, AFR 80-17.

a. Description of object:

(1) Shape: Round, with a bubble shape on top of sphere. (See photograph)

(2) Size: Approximately five feet in diameter.

(3) Color: White and very bright.

(4) Number: One.

(5) Formation: N/A.

(6) Discernable details: Small trail emanating from bottom. Bubble on top. (See photograph)

(7) Trail: Small trail emanating from bottom: (See photograph)

(8) Sound: None.

(9) Other pertinent features: Speed of object appeared to increase very quickly as object gained altitude.

b. Description of course of object:

(1) Observers' attention attracted by bright object in the sky at 1950 hours local time while driving east on Frontage Road, just south of Interstate 94. (See attached map.)

(2) Angle of elevation of object when first observed approximately 15°; azimuth approximately 30°.

(3) Angle of elevation of object upon disappearance: 40°.

19

Moon rising
in Pz of 88 deg
full-moon 24 Feb 67 at 1900 CST.

Peace . . . . is our Profession

(4) Description of flight path: Object moving from original point described in paragraph 1b(2) to elevation of 40° along a straight line about 40° east of true north.

(5) Object faded out as it proceeded farther away. Speed increased as object rose.

(6) Object visible for approximately two (2) to four (4) minutes.

c. Manner of observation.

(1) Ground - visual.

(2) No optical aids.

(3) N/A.

d. Time and date of sighting.

(1) Greenwich date-time group of sighting: 0150Z time 26 Feb 67; local time 1950 hours 25 Feb 67.

(2) - Night.

e. Location of observer: 46° 51'10"N, 096°49'00"W. (See attached map.)

f. Identifying information on observers:

(1) Civilian:

(a) [redacted]n: age 16; [redacted], Fargo, NDak; phone [redacted], student; no reason to doubt reliability of his report.

(b) [redacted]t: age 18; [redacted], Fargo, NDak; phone [redacted] student; no reason to doubt reliability of his report.

(2) Military: None.

g. Weather and winds aloft conditions at time and place of sightings:

(1) Observers account of weather conditions:

(a) Winds out of the south at approximately 20MPH; no clouds.

(2) Report from 26 Weather Squadron, Grand Forks AFB, NDak.

(a) Wind direction and velocity:

90

(1) Surface: 180° @ 20 knots.

(2) 6000': 250° @ 10 knots.

(3) 10000': 270° @ 5 knots.

(4) 16000': 280° @ 15 Knots.

(5) 20000': 300° @ 20 Knots.

(6) 30000': 310° @ 35 Knots.

(7) 50000': 300° @ 30 Knots.

(8) 80000': Not available.

(3) Ceiling: 1000': Thin scattered cirrus; high: thin scattered cirrus.

(4) Visibility: Nine (9) statute miles.

(5) No cloud cover, but extremely light snow reported in scattered locations.

(6) Thunderstorms: None.

(7) Vertical temperature gradient:

(a) Ground temperature: +11°F

(b) 5000' +44°F (deep inversion); from 5000' upward normal temperature decreases.

h. There is no indication of any unusual meteorological or astronomical activity or condition which might account for this sighting.

i. No interception or identification action taken.

j. 26th Weather Squadron reports that no weather balloons should have been in this area, and that a balloon should not look like the object photographed.

(1) The following organizations contacted by the 319th Bombardment Wing Command Post, reported no air traffic or radar contact in the area and at the time of the sighting:

(a) Air Defense Command in Duluth, Minn.

(b) Federal Aviation Agency, Minneapolis Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

(c) Hector Airport Tower, Fargo, NDak.

k. Comments of the preparing officer:

(1) The two boys who reported sighting the UFO appeared to be reliable. Their estimates of their distance from the object (approximately 200') and its size (5') are internally consistent with the evidence of the photographs. I talked with both boys, and believe that all the information they have to offer is incorporated in this report. The two boys, of course, have no scientific background.

(2) My inspection of the area of the sighting indicated that the surface below the approximate point of the first sighting did not reveal any burns or disturbance of any kind. Generally, the ground was partially snow covered, with substantial areas of plowed and frozen earth exposed. The object apparently first was seen over a concave section of the field shown on the map. The most noticeable characteristic of the field was the large number of telephone and high tension wires surrounding it. (See attached map.)

(3) We have no information that any aerial test, experimental aircraft, rocket, or missile was near Fargo at the time of the sighting.

(4) Although our information indicates that no aircraft could account for this sighting, I feel it should be noted that Hector Airport lies on a course approximately due north of the point at which the photographs were taken.

(5) Also enclosed is a Fargo Police Department Report, which reached this office 15 Mar 67, concerning an object sighted on the same evening, 25 Feb 67.

(6) Physical evidence report pursuant to paragraph 12, AFR 80-17.

(a) Photographic:

(1) Still photographs: Taken at 1950 local time 25 Feb 67, at the location of the sighting near Fargo, NDak approximately 46°51'10"N, 096° 49'00"W. (See attached two pictures and attached map.)

(2) Motion pictures: None.

(3) Supplemental photographic information:

(a) Polaroid Model 80.

(b) Focal length of lens: 100mm.

(c) Polaroid type 32 film (200ASA).

(d) Estimate of shutter speed: Between 1/15 and 1/100 of a second.

F-8. ← ? This must be the largest #?

(e) Lens opening used: Largest available, probably about

(f) No filters.

(g) No tripod.

(h) No panning.

(i) Direction of camera: 15° elevation; 30°E of true North.

(b) The enclosed original photographs should be returned to their owners when the investigation is completed. Send to: [redacted]S., Fargo, NDak.

(7) The investigating officer:

(a) Alfred M. Rankin, Jr., 2Lt, USAF
Chief of Target Processing Branch
319th Bombardment Wing (DCOITP)
Grand Forks AFB, NDak 58201
Area code 701: 594-6531-office phone.
594-5202-home phone.

Alfred M. Rankin Jr.
ALFRED M. RANKIN, JR., 2Lt, USAF
Investigation Officer

8 Atch
1. Picture #1
2. Picture #2
3. Detective Bureau Report
4. Newspaper clipping
5. Newspaper clipping
6. Detective Bureau Report
7. Map
8. Map

DEPARTMENT
N. D.

COMPLAINANT [redacted] SEX [redacted] NO.

ADDRESS [redacted] N. Dak. PHONE [redacted]

OFFENSE Information REPORTED BY Comp. ADDRESS Same

PLACE OF OCCURANCE 1 mile north of Detroit Lakes, Minn. on hwy.#59 BEAT NO.

REPORT RECEIVED BY Hovden, C. AT 9:20 A.M. DATE 3/8/67 19__ HOW REPORTED Person

DATE AND TIME OFFENSE COMMITTED 2/25/67, at approx. 7:35-7:40P.M OFFICER ASSIGNED

PERSONS ATTACKED

PROPERTY ATTACKED

HOW ATTACKED

MEANS OF ATTACK

OBJECT OF ATTACK

TRADE MARK

VEHICLE USED

PERSONS ARRESTED NO. NO.

DETECTIVE BUREAU

DETAILS OF OFFENSE (STATE FULLY ALL OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS OFFENSE AND ITS INVESTIGATION)

The above comp. reported that he and his wife were traveling north on highway north of Detroit Lakes, Minn., on said date and time. At this time they sighted an object hovering and or traveling in a northwesterly direction in the sky. He thought that the object was about 1,000 to 1,500 ft. in the air; would alternate its color from white to a reddish pink and seemed to throw rays towards a northerly direction. He continued to observe the object along with his wife for approx. 15-20 minutes.

Comp. and wife were traveling to Osena, Minn. and observed it all of the way reaching Osena, Minn., [redacted] he dropped his wife off at a relative's place and returned to the area in which he had last seen it, but could not sight it again. The reason he reported this, is that he had heard of the one sighted by [redacted] son and [redacted] and felt that his observations should also be reported.

Showed him a photograph of the one that was sighted by the above mentioned and he agreed that what he saw was in every respect similar to it. According to this is the first instance in which he has observed such an incident, however, wife has previously seen a similar object.

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED.

UNFOUNDED ☐

CLEARED BY ARREST ☐

EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED ☐

INACTIVE NOT CLEARED ☐

SIGNED [signature] DATE 3/8
INVESTIGATING OFFICER

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
CHIEF

24

GRAND FORKS HERALD 28 Feb.67

Air Force Checking:

2 Fargo Youths Take Photos Of 'Object'

FARGO (AP) —Was it a figment of the imagination . . . an unidentified flying object . . . or something else?

Two Fargo youths can't say for sure, but they did take two pictures of an object that looked like a bright light in the sky.

The boys, 16 and 18 years old, were returning from West Fargo Saturday night, about 8 p.m. when they saw a bright object to the northeast. They stopped the car, got out with a polarold camera and when the object began to rise they took a picture.

Another picture was taken immediately, but by that time the object was some distance away. They brought the pictures to the police station where they told police of their experience.

The youths said the object first traveled at about a 30-degree angle and then, after it gained some altitude, went northeasterly. They said the object went out of sight quickly, but it did not appear to be traveling fast until it gained altitude.

A description by the youths has the object from three to five feet in diameter, somewhat disc-shaped, quite round and entirely lit up with a plain bright light.

Police later went to the scene and checked, but to no avail. Police had withheld the information until Monday night, because the U.S. Air Force requested no publicity until after an investigation is made.

The names of the youths are also being withheld, along with the exact location to avoid sightseers blotting out possible marks at the scene.

Air Force officials told police that they would have investigators in Fargo Tuesday.

25

Atch
5

POLICE DEPARTMENT
FARGO, N. D.

COMPLAINANT [redacted] SERIAL NO. X

ADDRESS [redacted]. Far[redacted] N.Dak. PHO[redacted]
[redacted] S., Fargo, N. Dak.

OFFENSE UFO REPORTED BY Compls. ADDRESS Same.

PLACE OF OCCURANCE I-94 and 25th St. S., Fargo, North Dakota BEAT NO.

REPORT RECEIVED BY AT 8:30 P.M. DATE 2-25-67 19__ HOW REPORTED Person

DATE AND TIME OFFENSE COMMITTED Approx. 7:50 PM on 2-25-67 OFFICER ASSIGNED Mortes

PERSONS ATTACKED

PROPERTY ATTACKED

HOW ATTACKED

MEANS OF ATTACK

OBJECT OF ATTACK

TRADE MARK

VEHICLE USED

PERSONS ARRESTED NO. NO.

DETAILS OF OFFENSE (STATE FULLY ALL OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS OFFENSE AND ITS INVESTIGATION)

While at the station, Lt. Anderson asked me to watch by the desk while he was busy on the phone. Two parties came into the station and stated that they had a couple of pictures that they wanted me to see. The two boys are identified as, [redacted] Age 16, of [redacted] S., Fargo, N. Dak., [redacted]6 and Wi[redacted] Age 18 of [redacted] St. S., Fargo, N. Dak., [redacted]. The two boys showed me a couple of pictures that they had taken. They gave the following account of the incident;

They went to West Fargo and on the way back, they turned off of I-94 onto the intersection of I-29. They then took the frontage road along side of I-94 to 25th Street [redacted] told [redacted] to look at the bright object to the northeast of them. They were just at the south side of I-94 on 25th St. when [redacted] saw the light. They went to the north of the I-94 overpass and [redacted] got out of the car and got his Polaroid camera out of the trunk of the car and ran a little further north just about to the Milwaukee RR tracks and the object started to lift off from the ground. [redacted] took one picture and he pulled it from the camera a little too soon and then took another right away. This picture is attached as picture #1. Immediately after he took this picture, he took another and the object was quite some distance away. This picture is attached as picture #2. See Supl.

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:

UNFOUNDED ☐
CLEARED BY ARREST ☐
EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED ☐
INACTIVE NOT CLEARED ☐

SIGNED Mortes #23
INVESTIGATING OFFICER DATE 2-25-67
235-6529

SIGNED
CHIEF DATE

26

Atch #6

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

OFFENSE UFO SERIAL NO.

COMPLAINANT [redacted] X

ADDRESS [redacted] S., Fargo, N. Dak.
[redacted] Fargo, N. Dak.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.

The two boys stated that the object took off in a northeasterly direction. It was going up first at about a 30 degree angle and then after it got up a ways, it went to the north easterly direction. They stated that the object went out of sight quite fast. It did not appear as tho it went real fast but as it got up a little higher it kept on getting smaller and smaller quite fast. This is shown in the two pictures. They were asked as to how big the object might be and they stated that it looked as tho it was approximately 3 to 5 feet in diameter, was somewhat of a disc shape, quite round and was all lit up with a plain bright light. There was no other color lights to the object except natural bright light. The whole object was lit.

We went out to the location and the subject showed me where they were when they saw this object. We checked out in the field to the east of 25th St. and south of the Milwaukee RR tracks. Quite some area was checked but to no avail as it was quite hard to see out in the area as there was some of the plowed ground sticking out and small snow drifts all around. A further check will be made in the AM in the light by this writer.

J. Martes #23 2-25-67

Colonel Johnson, Commander of the 119th Combat Support Group at Hector Airport was called and he stated that he would contact Grand Forks Air Force Base would be called to see if the Air Force would like to check on this incident. See Suppl. by Lt. Anderson reference the call back from Grand Forks Air Force Base.

J. Martes #23 2-25-67

2-26-67 Checked the area where the object was supposedly located and could not find any sign of where an object may have landed or been close to the ground. Mark Arndt came and checked also and also Officer Cihek.

J. Martes #23 2-26-67

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:

UNFOUNDED ☐
CLEARED BY ARREST ☐
EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED ☐
INACTIVE NOT CLEARED ☐

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
INVESTIGATING OFFICER

SIGNED _____ DATE _____
CHIEF

THIS FORM IS USED BY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO A CASE TO REPORT PROGRESS AFTER THREE AND SEVEN DAYS AND WEEKLY THEREAFTER AND SO TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

27

ACTH #6

SUPPLEMENTARY OFFENSE REPORT
POLICE DEPARTMENT
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

OFFENSE UFO SERIAL NO.

COMPLAINANT [redacted] X

ADDRESS [redacted] Fargo, N. Dak.
[redacted] S., Fargo, N. Dak.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF OFFENSE, PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION, ETC.

9:30 PM Staff Sgt Robert L. Broden, 319 Bomb Wing Grand Forks Air base. Called and stated that Colonel Johnson of Fargo had called them informing them of an UFO here. The Sgt stated that he had checked all flights for the time of this sighting and there was none. He had not as yet checked with Radar.

The Sgt said that Major Joseph E. Zainey of the base, Phone 5945242, will be contacting this dept and investigating. He did not say when this would be done however. The photos taken by the boys were requested and held pending this investigation. Their office the Sgt said, requests no publicity on pending this investigation. Also publicity may send sightseer's to the scene blocking out any marks which may have been left in the snow. That is, providing there are any marks in the snow, this was a UFO. I refer you see the picture and maybe you'll be a believer too.

2/27/67 Contacted Major Zainey and he will have an Investigator here tomorrow to check on this. E. Anderson

THIS OFFENSE IS DECLARED:

UNFOUNDED ☐

CLEARED BY ARREST ☐

EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED ☐

INACTIVE NOT CLEARED ☐

SIGNED Lt. A. Anderson
INVESTIGATING OFFICER

DATE 2/25/67

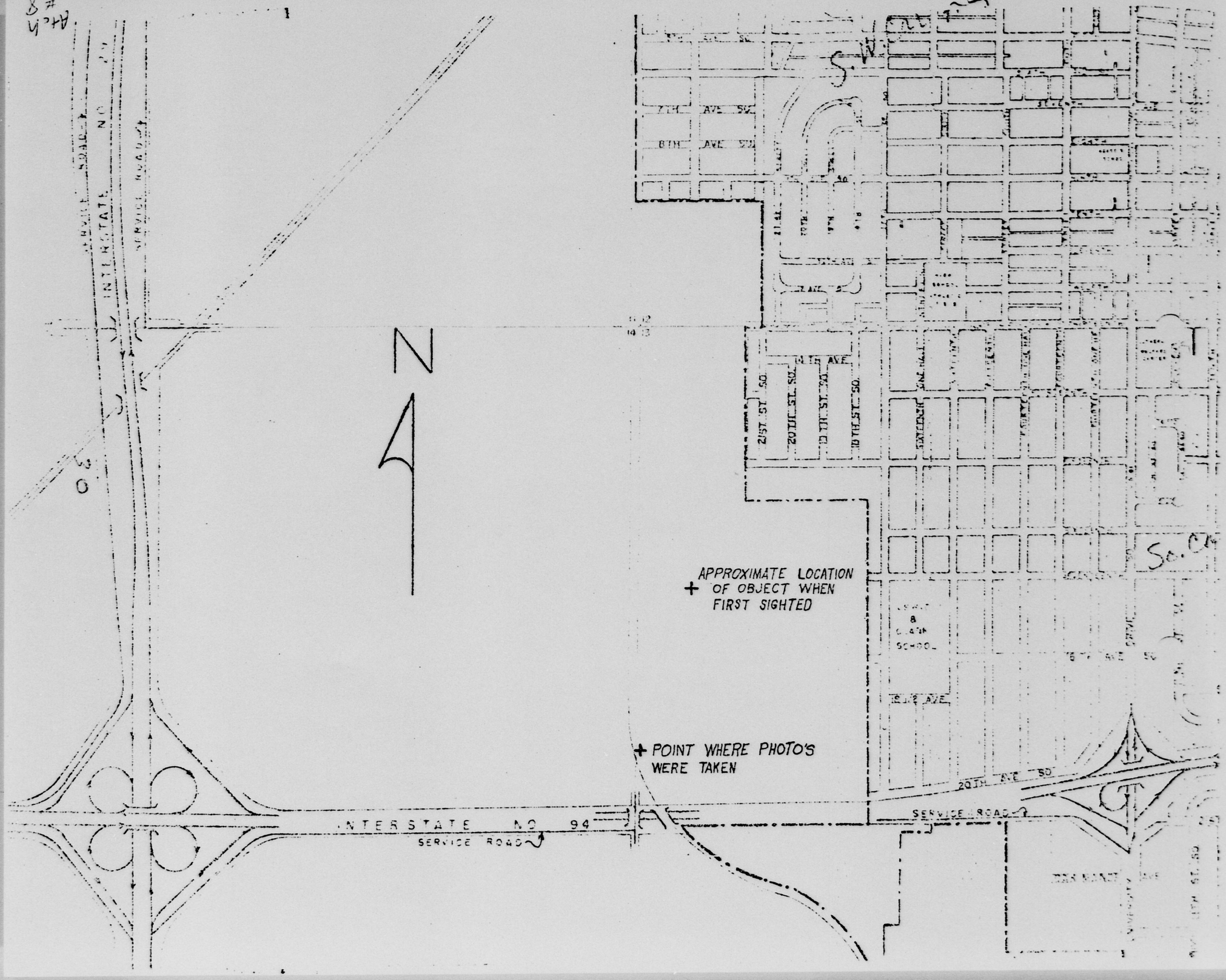
SIGNED _____
CHIEF

DATE _____

THIS FORM IS USED BY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO A CASE TO REPORT PROGRESS AFTER THREE AND SEVEN DAYS AND WEEKLY THEREAFTER; ALSO TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

25

Atch #8


INTERSTATE NO 94
SERVICE ROAD
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF OBJECT WHEN FIRST SIGHTED
POINT WHERE PHOTO'S WERE TAKEN
7TH AVE SO
8TH AVE SO
2ND ST SO
20TH ST SO
19TH ST SO
18TH ST SO
STATION
8 GRADE SCHOOL
20TH AVE SO
SERVICE ROAD
So. Ct



DRAWING NOT TO SCALE
ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE
—o— POWER LINES
—T— TELEPHONE LINES
---- CITY LIMITS (FARGO)
Λ TOWER
--•-- ROUTE OF TRAVEL

TO AIRPORT
3.5 NM

HOUSES

BARNS

+ APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF OBJECT WHEN FIRST SIGHTED

HOUSES

POINT WHERE PHOTO'S WERE TAKEN

CH11 Λ

INTERSTATE
94

FRONTAGE RD.

OBJECT FIRST SIGHTED

AT&T Λ

TO CH 13

Atch #7

FTD WORK ORDER

Date Issued

1. Description of Work: (Include title of unscheduled tasks.)

Request photo analysis be accplished on the two attached photographs to determine what unidentified object may be.

26 Feb 67, North Dakota sighting.

Request all material be returned upon completion of analysis

-FROM-

2. FTD W.O. No. 6 0 1 0 2 1 0 0 2

3. Monitor Maj H Fairchild, Jr

4. Phones 70915/75078

5. DIA Task No. DO5-01-59

6. DIA Priority

7. Date Needed

8. Consequence Code

9. Classification of Sources

10. Classification of End Product

11. PPTD or Dep Sig.

-TO-

12. Div./Dir. Symbol

13. M-H Estimate

14. Monitor

15. Phones

16. Div. Precedence

17. Div. Chief/Dir. Sig.

18. Div. Chiefs Instructions/Modification or Expansion of Work Description

15

67-58

18 Mar 67

FORM
FTD

PHOTO ANALYSIS REPORT

NR 67-45

DATE OF REPORT 29 May 1967

SUBJECT UFO

LOCATION FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA DATE 25 Feb 1967

PHOTOGRAPHY

AF _____ IR _____ QUALITY Poor

P NRS 2 original prints (B&W)

1. PURPOSE: This report is in reply to Work Order Number 67-58, submitted by Major Quintanilla TDET/UF, requesting photo analysis be accomplished on two photographs of an "unidentified object " to determine what the object may be. The photographs were taken in the vicinity of Fargo, North Dakota.

2. ANALYSIS: The "unidentified object" appears on each of the referenced photographs. On the first exposure the image appears as a white light, near circular in shape, with a short trace or trail of light emanating from its base. No other details are discernible. On the second exposure, the image appears only as a small white light and, again, there are no details discernible. The source's estimates of size (five feet in diameter) and distance (approximately 200 feet) are consistent with the photographic evidence, however, a definitive size appreciation cannot be obtained due to the lack of necessary detail for obtaining a scale factor. Although the photography appears to be authentic, the "object" could not be identified from the available evidence.

PHOTO ANALYSIS BY:

James R Schuit

JAMES R. SCHUIT
Intelligence Research Specialist

APPROVED BY:

William L Turner

WILLIAM L. TURNER
Major, USAF
Chief, Photo Analysis Branch

WILBER PRICE, JR.
Chief, Photo Exploitation Division

17

FTD FORM APR 62 132

get Lt. Hopkins). in case Photos insufficient Data

25 February 67

TDET/UFO (1st Lt Marley/70916/mhs/30 Jun 67) 3 July 1967

UFO Observation, 25 February 1967

Mr. [redacted]
Fargo, North Dakota 58101

1. Reference your unidentified observation of 25 February 1967 and subsequent photographs.

2. Your photographs were submitted to photo experts for their evaluation. Although both photographs possess an image, a definite identification is not possible since only a bright light is visible. In both cases the image appears as a white light, near circular in shape. Other than the light, there are no discernible features. A definite size appreciation cannot be obtained due to the lack or necessary detail for obtaining a scale factor.

3. Before making our final conclusions, we would appreciate additional information concerning the weather conditions.

a. Were there many clouds in the area of the sighting?

b. Were any stars or the moon visible at anytime during the sighting?

c. Did the object move in front or in back of a cloud at anytime?

4. This additional information would be quite helpful in our final analysis.

5. Inclosed are your original photographs. Upon completion of analysis, we will advise you of our findings.

JAMES C. MANATT, Colonel, USAF
Director of Technology and Subsystems

1 Atchs
Two (2) Photographs

Cy to: [redacted]

TDEF/UFO OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Hynek will interview on Nov. 14, 1967 in Fargo - then on other Business.

16

Send Ltr cc [illegible]

TDPT (UFO) Maj Quintanilla/70916/mhs/24 Nov 67

NOV 24 1967

UFO Observation, 25 February 1967

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]h
Fargo, North Dakota 58101

1. Reference your unidentified observation of 25 February 1967 and subsequent photographs.

2. Our letter of 3 July 1967 requested additional information on your observation. To date we have not received a reply. Therefore, we are inclosing a copy of our letter in the hopes that you will provide the data necessary to evaluate your sighting. Also inclosed is an AF Form 117 which we would like you to complete and return in the self-addressed envelope.

3. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

2 Atchs
1. Cy Ltr, TDET/UFO, 3 Jul 67
2. AF Form 117 w/envelope

Cy to: [redacted]
Fargo, North Dakota 58101

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE CY

8

NOV 24 1967

IDPT (UFO) Maj Quintanilla/70916/mhs/24 Nov 67
UFO Observation, 25 February 1967

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
Washington, D.C. 20024

1. We thought that the inclosed sighting from Fargo, North Dakota on 25 February 1967 might be of interest to you since it isn't the usual run of the mill sightings that we normally receive.

2. We requested additional data from the witnesses on 3 July. Since they have not responded to date, we are again requesting additional data from them, including an AF Form 117. If this information is received we will forward it to you. Also, we have not included copies of the photographs. We hope to have additional prints in the near future and will forward them to you at that time.

3. The FTD Form 164 that we used to supplement our investigations is now obsolete. A copy of the new AF Form 117 is inclosed for your information. It will be used by all Air Force installations throughout the United States to supplement their investigations.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

2 Atchs
1. Case File, 25 Feb 67, Fargo, North Dakota
2. AF Form 117

1.5

NOV 24 1967

FDFT (U70) Maj Quintanilla/7095/mns/24 Nov 67
UFO Observation, 25 February 1967

Dr. Donald H. Menzel
Harvard College Observatory
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

1. We thought that the inclosed sighting from Fargo, North Dakota on 25 February 1967 might be of interest to you since it is not the usual run of the mill sightings that we normally receive.

2. We requested additional data from the witnesses on 3 July. Since they have not responded to date, we are again requesting additional data from them, including an AF Form 117. If this information is received we will forward it to you. Also, we have not included copies of the photographs. We hope to have additional prints in the near future and will forward them to you at that time.

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HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

2 Atchs
1. Case File, 25 Feb 67, Fargo, North Dakota
2. AF Form 117

19

(25 Feb 67

TDPTR
Lt. Col. Smith

Request complete weather data:

Fargo, North Dakota
25 February 1967
1800 hrs. - 2100 hrs. local

Weather Data not what I had wanted.

TDPT (UFO)

5 Dec 67

70916

Sgt Coleman(?) to get complete weather data. Should have such since 25 Feb. due date 1 Feb. However don't expect till middle of Feb.

Project 5992D - SMAR [illegible] K

SOUNDING # 7 LOCATION: PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY DATE: 1 Dec 67

HEIGHT ~~(MSL)~~ Ft	PRESSURE mb	TEMP °C	DEW POINT °	DIRECTION °	SPEED
SFC(19L)				010	7
SFC(20L)				020	10
#6		Fargo, North Dakota		0000Z	25 Feb 67
		Temp °C			
6,000		-16	-29	340	21
10,000		-17	-35	350	35
16,000		-24	-39	350	59
20,000		-29	-43	350	80
30,000		-52		350	88
50,000		-53		340	48
80,000		-51		360	14
#9		Fargo, North Dakota		1200Z	25 Feb 67
6,000		-8	-18	250	22
10,000		-11	-29	300	25
16,000		-19	-34	330	36
20,000		-28	-38	330	44
30,000		-51		330	57
50,000		-55		340	39
80,000		-53		040	9

REMARKS:

DATA SOURCE: ETAC UPPER AIR HISTORY FILES.

ANALYST: SSgt Dunham

Project 5992D - Stat R

00002

DATE: 26 Feb 67

STATION # 10 STATION: Fargo, North Dakota

HEIGHT -MSL Ft	PRESSURE mb	TEMP °C	DEW PT °C	DIRECTION °	SPEED kts
6,000		0	-16	250	12
10,000		-6	-22	280	14
16,000		-17	-30	300	24
20,000		-26	-38	310	30
30,000		-48		320	42
50,000		-56		320	38
60,000		-53		010	12
#11		Fargo, North Dakota		1200Z	26 Feb 67
6,000		+3	-10	250	25
10,000		-4	-17	290	20
16,000		-16	-26	240	19
20,000		-27	-33	260	19
30,000		-48		270	25
50,000		-58		290	28
60,000		-54		320	12

REMARKS:

DATA SOURCE: ETAC UPPER AIR HISTORY FILES.

ANALYST: SSgt Denlon

+2

4

Project 5992D - STAR TREK

SURFACE DATA - Fargo, North Dakota

DATE	TIME (L)	SKY	VISIBILITY & WEATHER	SEA LEVEL PRESSURE(MBS)	TEMPERATURE & DEW POINT(°F)	WIND DIR. & SPEED (KTS)	ALTIMETER SETTING (INS)
25 Feb 67							
	0900	CLEAR	15+	1031.1	0/-9	170/14	30.35
	1200	CLEAR	5 BS	1028.7	11/4	170/16G22	30.29
	1500	CLEAR	5 BS	1024.2	19/12	180/14G21	30.16
	1800	CLEAR	5 BS	1021.4	15/6	160/19G25	30.08
	1900	CLEAR	7	1021.9	12/5	160/19	30.09
	2000	CLEAR	10	1021.3	10/3 (-13C)	160/19G26	30.07
	2100	CLEAR	10	1020.5	10/3	160/21G27	30.05
	2200	CLEAR	10	1019.3	11/5	160/18G25	30.02
26 Feb 67							
	0200	CLEAR	12	1014.8	15/7	160/18G24	29.90
Note:	"G" = Surface wind gusts to...						
	"BS"= Blowing Snow						
						Analyst: SSgt Dunham	

MAC FORM 36c JAN 66 PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE

GENERAL PURPOSE WORK SHEET

ATCH 2

S60-1111

Project 5957D - UFO Data - SURFACE DATA - Fargo, North Dakota

DATE	TIME (L)	SKY	CLOUD TYPES	WIND DIRECTION & SPEED (KTS)	VISIBILITY (Statute Miles)	WEATHER	TEMPERATURE and DEW POINT (°F)	SEA LEVEL PRESSURE (MBS)	ALTIMETER SETTING (MBS)
25 Feb 67	1800	CLEAR	None	160/19	5	DRIFTING SNOW	-9/-14	1021.4	MISSING
25 Feb 67	1900-2100	(OBSERVATIONS NOT AVAILABLE)							

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

21 February 1968

FTD (TDETR)
Research and Aerial Phenomena Division
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Attn: TDPT (UFO)

Subj: Fargo, No. Dakota Photo

to: Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr.

1. Enclosed is the original copy of the Fargo polaroid photo made on 5 February 1967 which you requested and one enlargement of same. Please keep the enlargement for your files and return the small copy at your convenience. Returned

2. I would appreciate learning from you the conclusions of your photo lab.

J. Allen Hynek

J. ALLEN HYNEK, Director
Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center
Department of Astronomy
Northwestern University

JAH:lp
encl. (2)

9 MAY 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mns/9 May 68
UFO Observation, 25 February 1967

Mr. Philip J. Klass
Marbcur Square
560 "J" Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

Reference the UFO observation of 25 February 1967, Fargo, North Dakota, which we forwarded to you previously. To date, we have not received the additional data from the witnesses. We are attaching a copy of the photograph and the weather data for this case.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

2 Atch
1. Photograph
2. Weather Data

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/9 May 68

UFO Observation, 25 February 1967

Dr. Donald H. Menzel
Harvard College Observatory
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Reference the UFO observation of 25 February 1967, Fargo, North Dakota, which we forwarded to you previously. To date, we have not received the additional data from the witnesses. We are attaching a copy of the photograph and the weather data for this case.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

2 Atch
1. Photograph
2. Weather Data

5

25 Feb 67

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/ahs/9 May 68

25 February 1967, UFO Observation

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Reference the UFO Observation of 25 February 1967, Fargo, North Dakota which was forwarded to you previously. To date, we have not received any additional data from the witness. We are returning your photograph of the case. Also attached is the weather data for this case.

VICTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

2 Atch
1. Photograph (Polaroid)
2. Weather Data

12 May 68

Dr. Hynek will write a summary of personal interview with observers and also give a tentitive eval.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

17 September 1968

FTD (TDETR)
Research and Aerial Phenomena Division
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Attn: TDPT (UFO)

Subj: UFO Investigation

To: Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, Jr.

Reference: Sighting of 25 February 1967 at Fargo, N. D. See Report of 16 March 1967 from Grand Forks AFB, N. D.

On November 14, 1967 I interviewed the two boys concerned in the sighting of 25 February 1967 and on the following morning I interviewed at breakfast, Mr. [redacted] who along with his wife reportedly saw the same or similar object some ¼ hour earlier, approximately 50 miles to the Northeast.

I was favorably impressed by the boys, who told their story in a very straightforward manner, but not at all as though it had been memorized. Afterwards, and before dark, I was taken by local newsmen to the locale of the sighting, where we tried to re-enact the circumstances of the sighting and I was able to take a series of photographs. (Color prints will be furnished if requested.)

No contradictions developed between the report originally submitted and the statements the boys made to me, but they were able to furnish additional details which follow:

The boys had been in West Fargo earlier for the purpose, among other things, to take Polaroid pictures of the Beatles who were appearing on TV. This was in answer to my question of how it happened that they had a Polaroid camera so conveniently at hand while traveling on a cold February night. The camera itself was in the trunk of the car. The object was sighted just as they were about to turn along the frontage road which turns and crosses Interstate 94, and which then crosses some RR tracks. One of the boys sighted it first, and told me he watched it for a short interval and then said, "Hey, what's that light over there?" to his campanion. It was hovering over the ground and seemingly not far away--in

any case, between them and the town. The boys described how they got the car off to the side of the road as soon as possible, how one of them had run to the trunk and retrieved the camera as fast as possible; how he had run a short distance in front of the car and took his first photo. He described how, in his excitement, he pulled the Polaroid film out too far after waiting the prescribed 10 seconds, thus wasting the second film. After he had corrected that, he took a second picture; by this time the glowing object was much higher in the sky and presumably farther away because it decreased both in apparent size and brightness.

I think one of the remarkable things about the boys themselves is that upon reaching town they first reported the event to the police. In the highly improbable event that the sighting was a hoax perpetrated by them (it is unlikely that on a cold February night, a hoax would have been perpetrated, especially since the timing would be wrong--the boys were returning from another town.) It is unlikely that they would report first to a police station. This still leaves the possibility of a hoax done by others; the wind direction was approximately correct for a hot air balloon, but not only does the coldness of the night, and the roughness of the terrain argue against this (as does the sighting 50 miles away) but the light must have been quite intense to have produced so dense an image in a small fraction of a second.

Note is made of the statement that a deep inversion existed: this I believe is an error--a difference of from +11 deg. on the ground, far below freezing, to +47 at 5000 feet, or well above freezing, is a situation that cannot occur in reality. Perhaps it should have been +17 instead of +47. The actual weather record, show no inversion at all.

The interrogation of the boys was good as far as it went, but the local UFO officer should have had the boys accompany him, at night, to the same spot, and he himself, using the same camera, should have taken several exposures, with the car headlights on, as I believe was the case, to see just how the distant lights showed up under test conditions. The exposure time could thus have been verified. The ASA rating of the film was stated to be 200; this is not fast and it may be that a test would have shown that a time exposure was necessary to obtain the town lights. The long streak of light at the bottom of the photograph apparently coincides with the road embankment, which apparently was reflecting light.

I would recommend that the local UFO officer be asked, even at this late date, to repeat the exposures to check on exposure time. Little can be done further to establish the reality, or unreality, of these photographs without such a test series of exposures, using the same camera,

and the same film. This exercise would have another spin off: further check could be made of the reliability of the boys under questioning after this much time has elapsed. If the Project so desires, I can make contact with the boys, and with the local officer, and ask that such exposures be made.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:ar

10 OCT 1968

TSPT (UFO) Lt Marano/70916/mhs/7 Oct 68

Request for UFO Information

Dr Donald H Menzel
Harvard College Observatory
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

1. Reference your letter of 15 July 1968. Please excuse the delay in replying.

2. We have reproduced a copy of the 25 February 1967 sighting from Fargo, North Dakota, for you. A copy of the file was sent to you on 24 November 1967, however, the attached case also includes material received since the 24th.

3. Inclosed is a copy of our evaluation card for a sighting from Elelson AFB, Alaska. Three of the four observers were aircraft controllers, and they all estimated that the "object" was eight to ten miles from them initially.

4. We also have a very interesting case for the late evening of 14 August 1968 or early morning hours of the 15th. The observers (apparently three very capable and reliable people) sighted a large orangish object that moved about in the sky, had a definite odor, and made a groaning noise. There was a strong inversion that night and the observers did not see the moon but did see stars. However, the moon should have been visible and in roughly the same position as the UFO. We have not evaluated this case yet because we are still trying to convince Dr Hynek that the moon may have been the culprit. We would appreciate your comments on this case.

5. Incidentally, we do not know anything about the decay of any Russian rocket body over Indiana in late June or early July 1968. Also inclosed is a copy of a letter that we recently received from Poltak Frantisek. Since it apparently involves St Elmos fire, we thought that you might be interested.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

4 Atch
1. Fargo N Dakota, 25 Feb 67
2. Evaluation Card, Elelson AFB
3. Yellow Springs, Ohio, 15 Aug 68
4. Ltr, Poltak Frantisek

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY
60 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

CABLE ADDRESS "OBSERVATORY" AREA CODE 617 864-7400

October 28, 1968

Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, Jr., USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Department of the Air Force
Headquarters Foreign Technology Division (AFSC)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Dear Hector:

Thank you for all of the interesting data you sent. I had seen the S[redacted] article. I simply cannot understand Hynek. I could support the idea of an international UFO project only on the idea that it might take our mind off of the more serious worries of the world. Scientifically, the idea is of course nonsense. I have not seen the notice in the Electronic News for September 30. I agree with you. I, too, am completely disgusted! Off the record, I would say that if I were in your shoes, I would terminate the consulting agreement forthwith. Otherwise, it will appear that the Air Force is now, through a special panel, endeavoring to pass judgment on the Condon Report. This would be completely untenable and embarrassing. One knows in advance from the personnel involved what the answer will be. Incidentally, I was in New York while the American Astronautical Society was holding its meetings, and was surprised to hear of the UFO Panel being conducted there. I have no information, though, as to what transpired, because I was busy otherwise. I think your censure of 11 October is certainly deserved, but far too restrained.

I apologize for not having replied earlier to your letter of 10 October and its interesting enclosures. But I was busy myself on a panel of the International Astronomical Union, naming craters on the far side of the moon. Following that, I spent the week in Colorado.

I was very much interested in the Czechoslovakian report. It is almost certainly St. Elmo's fire, as you surmised.

With reference to the 25 February 1967 sighting at Fargo, N.D., I don't know what that was that the boy's saw. But the "object" seen by [redacted]da in the northwest was almost certainly the Planet Venus. I quote from "Sky and Telescope" for March, 1967. "Venus, at magnitude -3.4, is striking in the evening sky, for it sets well after twilight ends." The changes of color and the rays are all consistent with the identification. I'd be inclined to think that probably the boys saw the same thing, but made an error in their determination of direction. That is very easy to do, especially if the road is winding.

I am not very much impressed with Hynek's investigation of the phenomenon. He makes the tacit assumption, which I believe is a serious defect of many such investigations, that the two separate groups saw the same "object." Well, if it was the same object, then it was the Planet Venus, beyond question. The boys might have seen something different.

There are lots of questions that I could ask, which apparently were not touched on. I'd like to know what the model of the Polaroid was. How did they determine the exposure time? Polaroid's have automatic controls for equalizing the exposure. But when one is taking the picture of a small bright object at night this control does not function satisfactorily. Are the spots on the picture stars? I would judge that they are not, because of their irregularity. I think pictures should have been taken under similar circumstances, to check the significance of the scratches seen at the edge of the film. How can one minimize the effect of camera warble for what must have been a fairly long exposure? There was nothing in the record to indicate that the object photographed by the boys might not have been a plane. The case is interesting, but the investigation leaves much to be desired.

No, in regard to the [redacted] case of 14 August 1968. After reading the record, I am completely convinced they were seeing the moon. It has been my experience that when a person says, in effect, "the sighting reminded me of ..., but it could not have been ...because...," then it almost always is "...", since the "because" is invalid. This would not be the first time that people have called the moon a UFO. I think that many of the UFO investigations have failed because the investigators take the statements of the witnesses at their face value. Under such circumstances, I subscribe to the motto that "People are Dumb!"

I would also concur with the identification of the [redacted] sighting of 11 July 1968 as the moon.

I had some interesting discussions with M[redacted]ert, the Dutch Astronomer, who was the chief individual working with me in naming craters of the far side of the moon. He is the author of a delightful book, "The Nature of Light and Color in the Open Air." Are you familiar with it? If not, you certainly should be, because it discusses many phenomena of meteorological optics. There is an inexpensive Dover edition, if you desire to get one.

He told me that he had discovered a number of extremely reliable observations of multiple images of the sun or moon, which in terms of reflection go up to 3 1/2 degrees! There is no simple explanation for these phenomena, but he was quite sure that something peculiar in the way of meteorological optics is responsible.

Sometimes I get discouraged at the situation. I have worked pretty hard, as you know, to get some sense into this area. I know of no other scientist that has gone as deeply as I have into the matter, with the possible exception of Hynek. But something definitely has happened to him and I don't know what it is. He now seems to regard the cases, not as individuals, but as part of a broad pattern. Apparently he feels you must solve the entire problem. In a letter to Condon he states: "Project Blue Book has limited itself, largely because of lack of funds and staff, to keeping files and dealing with cases solely on an individual basis. It is clear that each case, taken by itself, like a lone duck in a shooting gallery can nearly always be shot down by an ad hoc, frequently Menzelian approach."

I don't mind his reference to me in this fashion. In fact I consider it something of a compliment. But it shows his bias. I think each case has to be solved independently and on its own merits. For there are hundreds of different kinds of stimuli, usually completely unrelated. To me it sounds complete nonsense to say that you can solve individual cases, but you cannot solve them if you take them in a group. But why should my individual solutions be wrong, simply because they may not correspond to data in another, independent sighting. Frankly, I feel much of our present ignorance of UFO's must be laid at Hynek's door step, with his unimaginative approach to the subject. He, also, must take the blame for the fact that the Air Force questionnaire is so bad.

With thanks and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

DHM:md

Donald H. Menzel

25 Feb 67

15 OCT 1968

TEPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/14 Oct 68
UFO Observation, 25 February 1967, Fargo, North Dakota

Dr J Allen Hynek

Reference your letter of 17 September 1968. Please provide us with your written evaluation of the 25 February 1967, Fargo, North Dakota, sighting. We would appreciate your reply being forwarded by 1 November 1968 in order for us to close out all 1967 UFO case files.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

25 Feb 67
Hynek

3 DEC 1968

TDPT (UFO)

UFO sighting of 12 July 1968, Omaha, Nebraska

Dr J A Hynek
Northwestern Univerity
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dr J A Hynek

Reference our letter of 30 September and 12 November 1968 requesting that you not only forward a written transcript but also your evaluation of the 12 July 1968, Omaha, Nebraska UFO sighting. As requested in your letter of 18 November 1968 enclosed are 20 analysis cards. We would like you to complete a card on, not only the 25 Feburary 1967, Fargo, North Dakota sighting, but also on the 12 July 1968, Omaha, Nebraska sighting. The card should include a summary of the sighting, your evaluation, and your analysis as to why you evaluated the case as you did.

HECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
20 Project Record Cards

TDPT (UFO) OFFICIAL FILE

25 Feb 67

14 FEB 1969

TDPT (UFO)

Request for Evaluation of UFO Sightings

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201

1. Reference our letters of 30 Sep 68, 12 Nov 68 and 9 Dec 68, regarding a UFO sighting of 12 Jul 68 from Omaha, Nebraska. We again request that you complete a project record card on this sighting. The card should include a summary of the sighting and analysis as to why you evaluated the case as you did.

2. Reference the UFO sighting of 25 Feb 67 from Fargo, North Dakota. This case has been pending your evaluation since early in 1968. Please forward a project record card evaluating this sighting to us before 1970 since we do not wish to hold it in pending another year.

3. Reference our letters of 22 Nov 68 and 9 Dec 68 regarding a UFO sighting of 3 Apr 68 near Cochrane, Wisconsin. If you have been unable to gather any additional pertinent data, please notify us. If you telephoned the observer, please send us transcripts. Please evaluate the sighting on the project record card that was sent to you on 22 Nov 68.

4. Reference the UFO sighting of 17 Apr 67 near Jefferson City, Missouri. Please comply with our request of 7 Jan 69.

FOR HECTOR QUIMBANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY

LINDHEIMER ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH CENTER

27 February 1969

FTD (TDETR)
Research and Aerial Phenomena Division
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Attn: TDPT (UFO)

Reference: Your letter of 14 February

To: Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla

1. I enclose evaluation cards for all four cases requested. I regret that some of these cases are being sent to you unduly late. Reorganization of my office and files should prevent this in the future.

2. I regret also, from your standpoint, that all four cases must in my opinion be evaluated as unidentified.

3. I would rate the 12 July 1968, Omaha, Nebraska, case as the weakest in this category and the one at Cochran, Wisconsin, the strongest. I obtained a good tape recording in the [redacted] case, and will send you a copy of the transcription as soon as my secretary can accomplish this. I obtained an additional taped phone conversation from Mr. [redacted]z of Jefferson City because I needed to clear up several points, particularly the matter of the sighting possibly being caused by the launching of a hot air balloon. I will send that transcript also if you should wish it.

J. Allen Hynek

J. ALLEN HYNEK, Director
Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center
Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill. 60201