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11 May 1948

Report of Trip to Holloman Air Force Base, 5 - 6 May 1948

1. The primary purpose of this trip was to interview Dr. Peoples, representing the Watron Laboratories, who was temporarily on loan to Holloman Air Force Base. Upon arrival, it was learned that Dr. Peoples had returned to the Watron Laboratories at Red Bank, N. J. A teletype sent from Holloman Air Force Base stating that Dr. Peoples would not be available for interview did not reach Hq. AMC in sufficient time to postpone the visit. However, it was learned that Dr. Peoples would be at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. on or about 11 May 1948 for an indefinite period of time.

2. A civilian, Mr. Joseph Olsen, who works in the same laboratory with Dr. Peoples had also seen the unidentified flying object while in the presence of Dr. Peoples. Mr. Olsen was interviewed with the following stated results:

a. The object definitely was not a balloon.

b. The object appeared round and moved at a high rate of speed.

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3. Mr. Olsen promised to send in a detailed report through channels, together with the report of another civilian who also witnessed the phenomenon.

4. It was also learned that a Lt Barkley who works in the Radar Laboratory at Holloman AF Base has, on several occasions in the past, witnessed on his scope unidentified flying objects at high altitudes, moving at a very high rate of speed. Lt Barkley was not available for interview; however, a request for a detailed report of these observations was forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Holloman Air Force Base.

5. Lt Colonel James C. Beam and Mr. Alfred C. Loding proceeded to Phoenix, Ariz. to interview Mr. William A. Rhodes and follow up on the report and photographs submitted by him some months ago. Although Mr. Rhodes is currently employed as a plane pilot in a night club, his primary interest is in a small but quite complete laboratory behind his home. According to his business card, this laboratory is called "Aeromatic Research - Laboratory and Observatory", and Mr. Rhodes is referred to as the "Chief of Staff". Mr. Rhodes appeared to be completely sincere and apparently is quite interested in scientific experiments. Mr. Rhodes stated he was an aircraft recognition instructor during the last war, and that in his opinion, the object sighted definitely was not a wind-blown object. He reiterated that the object was not less than 2000 ft. away and that it was not much more than 2000 ft. away unless he had greatly underestimated its size. Mr. Rhodes pointed out where he had stood when he took the pictures of this flying object and indicated the exact path of approach and departure of the object. He added that when the object turned directly away from him, he observed what appeared to be one large opening or vent between the upper trailing edges. Mr. Rhodes promised to send in another more detailed report, incorporating this observation.

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6. Mr. Rhodes also mentioned having seen a series of photographs taken by another civilian in Phoenix, Ariz. on approximately the same day. He promised to investigate this phase and to forward a set of these photographs to this headquarters if they are available. Mr. Rhodes permitted the ordinary box type camera with which he took his pictures to be brought to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for examination.

JAMES C. BEAM  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Project Officer

Concurred in:

ALFRED C. LOEDDING  
Technical Assistant  
Tech Intelligence Div  
Intelligence Department

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