

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: September 24, 1957

FROM : Mr. R. Roach

- Tolson
- Nichols
- Boardman
- Belmont
- Mason
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Nease
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1957; INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - WATCH COMMITTEE

Reference is made to my memorandum of September 23, 1957, on the captioned matter which reflected an Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC) evaluation of an Air Defense Command (ADC) report that radar stations at Montauk Point, Long Island, New York, and Benton, Pennsylvania, detected an unidentified object proceeding in a westward direction with an altitude of 50,000 feet and a speed of 2,000 knots (approximately 2,300 miles per hour) on September 20, 1957. The IAC intelligence evaluation of this report reflected that "It is highly improbable that a Soviet operation is responsible for the unidentified flying object reports of September 20, 1957."

Today, at an Executive Session of the IAC, General Millard Lewis, Director, Air Force Intelligence, advised that although the ADC has not completed its investigation of the evidence on this matter, there are continuing indications that the object detected was an atmospheric phenomenon. The radar pickups now reflect speed variations in the object's course, ranging from 1,500 miles per hour to 4,500 miles per hour. This latter speed is improbable according to U. S. scientific theory for any type flying object which this could conceivably be. General Lewis added that the present sun spots are associated with the peculiar radar activity throughout the globe and that this could have some cause for the captioned report.

ACTION:

Liaison will report further information on this matter as quickly as it is developed.

- MWK:bjt
(7)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
 - 1 - Mr. W.C. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. D.E. Moors
 - 1 - Mr. Whitson
 - 1 - Liaison Section
 - 1 - Mr. Kuhrtz

RECORDED-38

62-74590-151

SEP 26 1957

55 SEP 30 1957

EX-131

Memorandum ~~to~~ to Belmont
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTED
ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1957; INTELLIGENCE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE - WATCH COMMITTEE

over the U.S. It is unlikely that a Soviet aircraft could conduct a mission at this speed and altitude and return to Soviet territory. The Soviets are given credit for the capability of a "submarine launched cruise-type missile of low supersonic performance" and a range of about 500 nautical miles; however, there is no evidence of the existence of such a missile by the Soviets.

The Watch Committee also examined possible Soviet motives for launching a one way missile on an operation over the U.S., and it was concluded that there would be little motivation at this time except possibly a psychological or retaliatory motive. The Watch Committee ruled out one way reconnaissance operations on the likelihood that the results would be of small value and the risk of compromise would be very great. (This possible retaliatory motive by the Soviets could be in response to ~~U.S. flights~~ to a U.S. "Project Aquatone" flight over the USSR which was detected on September 9, 1956, by Soviet planes and mentioned in my memorandum of September 19, 1957.)

ACTION:

The above is submitted for information. Since the Air Defense Command is still investigating this report, further information will be reported as a more conclusive evaluation can be made.

Handwritten signatures and initials:
J.P. [unclear]
C. [unclear]
G.M. [unclear]
H.P. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont *ahr*

DATE: September 23, 1957

FROM : R. R. Roach *RR*

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1957; INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WATCH COMMITTEE

- Tolson
- Boardman
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- Nease
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

The following information was obtained by Liaison Supervisor M.W. Kuhrtz at the Intelligence Advisory Committee - Watch Committee special meeting on September 21, 1957, relative to the captioned matter. The initial report in this matter was given by the U.S. Air Defense Command to the White House on September 20, 1957, reflecting that an unidentified flying object was picked up by radar station at Montauk Point, Long Island, New York, at approximately 4 p.m., proceeding in a westward direction with an altitude of 50,000 feet and a speed of 2,000 knots (approximately 2300 miles per hour). The radar station at Montauk Point maintained an image for approximately one minute, and thereafter it was picked up by a radar station at Benton, Pennsylvania (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania), which coincided with the Montauk Point pickup and was tracked by Benton for approximately 9 minutes. Thereafter, jamming was reported by several radar stations westward as far as Chicago.

The Watch Committee at its meeting on September 21 was told by the Air Defense Command that the original reports had been downgraded, since there was an 11-minute break in the tracking by the various radar stations, and further that weather stations in the area were of the type which have in the past produced false radar "pips" and electronic information. Also, there were a number of Strategic Air Command planes in the Chicago area on a training flight. The Watch Committee was told that the Air Defense Command has not completed its investigation of this incident; however, in any event it was reported that the phenomena reported west of Buffalo, New York, were not related to the object as reported by Montauk Point and Benton, Pennsylvania.

The Watch Committee concluded that, "It is highly improbable that a Soviet operation is responsible for the unidentified flying object reports of September, 1957." The Watch Committee in considering this matter also concluded that there is no intelligence on Soviet activities which can be related to a missile launching of this type

MWK:awj (7)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
 - 1 - Mr. W.C. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. D.E. Moore
 - 1 - Mr. L. Whitson
 - 1 - Liaison Section
- 55-011-2, 1957

EX-116

RECORDED - 28

INDEXED - 28

18 SEP 27 1957

Handwritten notes and signatures