



DO NOT OPEN

This acid-free mask contains³¹..... folios
with the date range¹⁹⁸⁴⁻¹⁹⁹⁰.....

The contents of the mask are:

Exempt from public access under paragraph(s) of the *Archives Act* 1983. You have a statutory right to seek a review of the exemption.

Not in the open period as defined by the *Archives Act* 1983.

Date mask applied:^{13 July 2012}.....

NAS 1061 (SEPT 1999)

Series no:

E 1327

Item no:

5/41 AIR PAF 6/7



DO NOT OPEN

This acid-free mask contains²..... folios
with the date range¹⁹⁸².....

The contents of the mask are:

Exempt from public access under
paragraph(s)^{33(1)(d)}..... of the *Archives
Act* 1983. You have a statutory right to seek
a review of the exemption.

Not in the open period as defined
by the *Archives Act* 1983.

Date mask applied:^{8.8.12.}.....

NAS 1061 (SEPT 1999)

Series no: E1327

Item no:

5/4/11R PT 6/7.





Australian Government



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER SECTION 40(5) OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983- INCLUDING DECISION ON ACCESS

Record Series: E1327	Control symbol: 5/4/AIR PART 6/7
Title: Unusual sightings and incidents	Total number of folios (i.e. equivalent separate pages) on the record: 2

1. Decision

After examining this record I have decided to close it for public access.

2. Basis for decision

I have taken into account:

- the content of the record requested
- the relevant provisions of the *Archives Act 1983 (the Act)*
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records
- information derived from my own enquiries

3. Material withheld

Category of material withheld	Number of total folios per category
Partially exempted folios (certain parts of the text have been expunged)	
Wholly exempted folios	2
Folios not within the open access period as defined in s3 (7) of the Act	
Folios withheld pending agency examination and advice	

4. Findings of fact and reasons for decision

A. Findings of fact

In Table A in Annexure 1, I have provided a summary of my findings of fact where I have invoked specific provisions under s 33 of the Act. By invoking these provisions, I have relied on material listed in part 2 above in order to arrive at my decision.

B. Reasons for decision

In Table A in Annexure 1, I have provided the reasons for my decision for each folio exempted and those reasons are derived from the findings of fact.

5. Appeal rights

National Archives undertakes careful examination of a record before making a decision to exempt any part of a record. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with my decision to exempt information under a provision of s 33 of the Act, you can contact a reference officer in National Archives and seek a further explanation.

If you are still not happy with the decision and within 28 days of receiving it, you can formally appeal by:

- 1) first applying to Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
- 2) if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please read the **National Archives Fact Sheet 12- *What to do if we refuse you access.*** You can also lodge a complaint with the Commonwealth Ombudsman in relation to the decision.

Decision maker Ben Heaslip

Designation APS 4

Date 8 August 2012

Annexure 1

Table A: Material exempted by folio number and grouped by the application of exemption provisions

Relevant legislative provision invoked under s33 of the Act	Folio number	Finding of Fact	Reasons for Decision
Section 33(1) (d) of the Archives Act provides that a record is exempt if it contains 'information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence'.	12, 12(2)	These records are wholly exempt as they contain the following references: 1. The information was given to the Commonwealth on the condition of confidentiality.	The information is still confidential in nature The information was communicated in confidence If disclosed now, such disclosure would be an unauthorised use of the information

DOCUMENT REMOVAL ADVICE

Series number: E1327 Control symbol: 5/4/AIR PART 6/7 Barcode: 7061048

Folios:- 12 and 12 (2)
have been removed from this item because they,

- are exempt from public access under section 33(1)(d) of the Archives Act 1983,
- are vulnerable to loss,
- have been referred to another agency for advice,
- are not in the open period as defined in the Archives Act 1983.

For further information about the removal of folios from this item, please ask a reference officer.

Removed by: Ben Heaslip

Position: APS 4

Date: 8 August 2012

When completed place this Advice on the file from which the documents have been removed. Place a copy of it with the removed documents.

MEMORANDUM

From HQDAR	File 5/4/AIR PT1(21)	Date 19 Dec 83	References
To HQSC	Attention CINTO		
For Information			
Subject UAS - RETURN OF IMAGERY			

ENCLOSED IS A PHOTOGRAPH THAT WAS REMOVED FROM HQSC RECORDS FOR TESTING + REPRODUCTION EARLY IN 1983. IT TOGETHER WITH COPIES RECENTLY MADE BY CPE WAS FORWARDED TO DARWIN AT MY REQUEST.

EARLIER THIS YEAR THE SUBJECT PHOTO WAS "COMPUTER ANALYSED" IN THE US AT THE BEHEST OF THE VICTORIAN UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF THE WRITTEN REPORT STATING THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS (DOES HQSC? IF SO, I WOULD APPRECIATE A COPY), MR PAUL NORMAN OF THE VUFORS DID GIVE ME TWO SMALL PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATING THE EFFECTS OF COLOUR + EDGE ENHANCEMENT TECHNIQUES ON THE SUBJECT PHOTO. I HAVE RETAINED THESE PHOTOS BUT FORWARD FOR YOUR INFORMATION + RETENTION ENLARGED COPIES PRODUCED BY CPE.

REQUEST THAT THE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH BE RETURNED TO ITS PROPER PLACE ON FILE AND THAT THE OTHER MATERIAL BE INCORPORATED INTO HQSC RECORDS.

- ENCLOSURES
- 1 x B+W ORIGINAL PHOTO 5/6/1/AIR PT1
Pl. 162A
 - 1 x B+W DUPLICATE
 - 1 x B+W EDGE ENHANCEMENT
 - 1 x COLOUR ENHANCEMENT

note IMAGERY RETAINED BY BR IN UAS SURVIVAL KIT,

Signature <i>B Biddington</i>	Name B BIDDINGTON	Rank FLTC	Appointment INTEW	Phone No. (089) 80 5226
----------------------------------	----------------------	--------------	----------------------	----------------------------

From: Flight Lieutenant Brett Biddington

Telephone: (089) 805226

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

File: 5/4/AIR PT1(26)

19 December 1983

Mr Daryl Martin
P.O. Box 272
BENDIGO VIC 3550

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 1983. I am sorry that I have not replied sooner, however, it has taken me until today to reach my copies of your initial batch of photographs such has been the pile of work I inherited here.

Firstly, thank you for setting me straight on the errors that occurred in transcribing your handwritten report into type. I should have checked for mistakes myself and not entrusted that task to the Corporal who was helping me out at the time. Also, the additional information you supplied on that photography as well as your equipment was much appreciated.

I have given some thought to the imagery I would request you to acquire, at your convenience of course, that will enable me to complete my informal UAS Handbook. There are basically three types of imagery needed:

- a. Some more photography of Jupiter and its moons illustrating apparent movement in the moons but, not evident, movement of the planet itself. (you may recall you have given one photo of this subject already and, if I recall correctly, the visual affect was due to a tracking error in your telescope's drive).
- b. Examples of parallel star trails. You pointed out that the photography of Canopus also includes the trail of an accompanying red star. I wonder if you could photo a part of the heavens where there are a number of readily visible stars so that some imagery of multiple star trails can be gained?
- c. Examples of the effects that can be obtained when photographing celestial objects, say the moon, if the telescope is moved/ bounced/ rotated whilst the camera shutter is open. Naturally, I dont want you to do anything that would damage your equipment in any way but I would be most appreciative if you could take some "trick" shots for want of a better way of saying it and if you would record the types of distortions, vibrations or whatever you decided to introduce. My concern is to be able to say that all is not what it may seem to be.

If you are able to produce these results before school starts I would be most grateful. Also, I think with such imagery I would not need to impose further on your good pffices.

I was very pleased to learn that you have been elected a councillor of the ASV for 1984. I mentioned your name during my lecture at Frankston and there were a number of nods of recognition around the room - so it seems your work and your interest in the ASV had not gone unnoticed even before the elections.

I hope you have a happy and peaceful Christmas and that 1984 is free of illness and full of study.

P.O. Box 37906

WINNELLIE

26

YOUR REF 5/4/AIR PH (25)

Dear Flight Lieutenant Biddington

Please find enclosed report
as requested on unusual aircraft occurrence, the date
is approx as it is a few ~~some~~ weeks since
I phoned in the sighting and only today I
received the report.

Yours Faithfully

RB

May have been a Mirage, although
the Saturday day does not fit that well
No further investigation proposed at this stage.

RB
19 Dec 83

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of Observer RICHARD BETT Age 34
 Address LOT 45 POWER RD
HUMPTY DOO State NT Postcode _____
 Occupation SALES SUPERVISOR
 Phone (Home) 881252 (Business) 843233

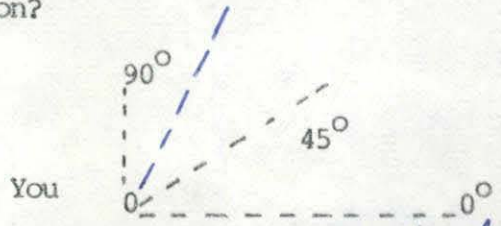
2. Exact location of observer ~~RUNNING PARALLEL~~
LOT 45
POWER RD, McMINNIS LAGOON AREA, HUMPTY DOO

3. Start of observation: Date 5th or 12th NOV Time approx 2.30 am/pm
SATURDAY
 End of observation: Date SAME DATE Time approx 2.30^{1/2} am/pm

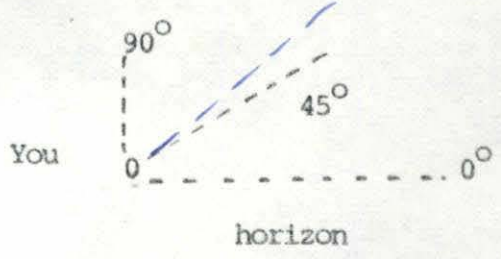
4. Accuracy of date ~~APPROX~~ APPROX Times APPROX

5. Weather conditions at time of observation, referring to cloud, wing visibility etc SLIGHTLY OVERCAST BUT MAINLY
SUNNY

6. In what direction was the sighting first observed? heading due North
 At what angle to the horizon?



7. In what direction was the sighting last observed? heading approx
due North
 At what angle to the horizon?



8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer _____
APPROX 30-40 FEET ALTITUDE, NEARLY OVERHEAD

9. Describe the object(s)/light(s) in your own words, referring to the number, colour, size, shape, brightness (relative to full moon/star), movement, sound speed, method of propulsion, manner of disappearance and any other unusual features. If possible provide a sketch.

DESCRIPTION/SKETCH OF OBJECT

It was a single object, no lights (daytime) dull no-descript colour, moved very fast over the house (I guess ± 160 kph) approx size would be 4-6 feet long, long and slim possibly winged, it made a fluttering whosh! noise like a very silent jet, could feel faint shock wave. dogs dived under chair in fright.

It awoke my wife who was dozing in chair on verandah, she just caught a glance as it disappeared over treetops 200m away, it just cleared tree tops which are approx 30-40 feet high

10. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? NO

11. How many other witnesses to the sighting? (Please provide names and addresses if possible) ONE WITNESS, MY WIFE WAS SITTING BESIDE ME (SAME ADDRESS)

12. Any additional comments you wish to make.



898211

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

5/4/Air Ptl (25)

23 November 1983

Mr Bett
PO Box 33906
WINNELLIE NT 5794

Dear Mr Bett,

Thank you for reporting your observation of an unusual aerial occurrence to the RAAF. To permit further investigation of the report, additional details are necessary.

A ^(C)observer's report is enclosed. Would you complete the report as soon as possible and return it to the above address.

Yours faithfully,



(B. BIDDINGTON)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Enclosure: 1. Observer's Report

st. Humpty Doo

(24)

2: - 2:30

30ft

whoosh.



4ft long est.

100m +

Mr. Bett

Box 33906 WINNELLI

898211

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

5/4/Air Ptl (23)

23 November 1983

Mrs Sue Dibbs
23 Frangapani Street
NIGHTCLIFF NT

Dear Mrs Dibbs,

Thank you for reporting your observation of an unusual aerial occurrence to the RAAF. To permit further investigation of the report, additional details are necessary.

An observer's report is enclosed. Would you complete the report as soon as possible and return it to the above address.

Yours faithfully,



(B. BIDDINGTON)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Enclosure: 1. Observer's Report

Svc Debs.

VFO (22)

Tues Afternoon.

4:10.

Die Wad Road to Nightclub

to NPL.

White. Stationary, then.

1/3 way up.

Bright light. Cigar shape.

Progress Dr couldn't see.

Svc. Debs.

23 Frangamp ST

Nightclub.



898211

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

5/4/Air Ptl (21)

23 November 1983

Mr Patty Peckover
Block 21
Cornish Road
HUMPTY DOO NT

Dear Mr Peckover,

Thank you for reporting your observation of an unusual aerial occurrence to the RAAF. To permit further investigation of the report, additional details are necessary.

An observer's report is enclosed. Would you complete the report as soon as possible and return it to the above address.

Yours faithfully,



(B. BIDDINGTON)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Enclosure: 1. Observer's Report

20

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of Observer PATTY PECKOVER Age _____
 Address BLOCK 21 CORNISH RD HUMPTY DOD
 _____ State NT Postcode _____
 Occupation FIREMAN
 Phone (Home) _____ (Business) _____

2. Exact location of observer 2-3 km SOUTH OF FINNIS RIVER
ON WANGI ROAD

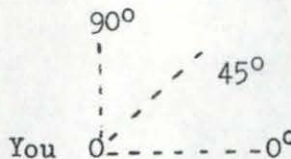
3. Start of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm
 End of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

4. Accuracy of date _____ Times _____

5. Weather conditions at time of observation, referring to cloud,
 wing visibility etc. _____

6. In what direction was the sighting first observed? _____

At what angle to the horizon?



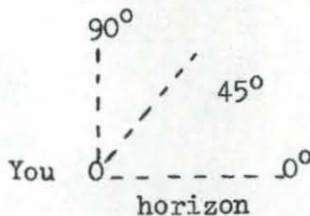
7. In what direction was the sighting last observed? _____

A/L 42
 ASI 3/A/5
 Annex A
 31 May 74

/At what

ANNEX A

At what angle to the horizon?



8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer _____

9. Describe the object(s)/light(s) in your own words, referring to the number, colour, size, shape, brightness (relative to full moon/star), movement, sound, speed, method of propulsion, manner of disappearance and any other unusual features. If possible provide a sketch.

Description/Sketch of Object

A/L 42
ASI 3/A/5
Annex A
31 May 74

/10. Have

66

10. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? _____

11. How many other witnesses to the sighting? (Please provide names and addresses if possible) _____

12. Any additional comments you wish to make. *Mr. Beckover stated:*

On TUES 25 OCT 83 approx 1130Z driving along Wangi Road the vehicle's lights, cassette player and other electronics suddenly ceased operating. The vehicle was brought to a stop and manipulation of the various controls failed to produce any result.

Mr. Beckover opened the vehicle door to alight and all electronics returned to normal.

He continued on his journey

A/L 42
ASI 3/A/5
Annex A
31 May 74

/Part 2



898211

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

5/4/Air Ptl (19)

22 November 1983

Mrs Helen McFarlane
PO Box 2546
DARWIN NT 5794

Dear Mrs McFarlane,

Thank you for reporting your observation of an unusual aerial occurrence to the RAAF. To permit further investigation of the report, additional details are necessary.

An observer's report is enclosed. Would you complete the report as soon as possible and return it to the above address.

Yours faithfully,

(B. BIDDINGTON)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Enclosure: 1. Observer's Report



Helen McFarlane. Darwin.

85356(2.18)

~~11 pm~~ half hour.

PO Box 2546
DN 5794

4th floor mansions Milner.

Stationery (1) vicinity radar & water tower
(2) end of runway (city)
(3) further left of 2.

very bright - big.

stars.

141

090

030

11 - midnight.

Sun nite

SN

17

898211

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

5/4/Air Pt1 (17)

23 November 1983

Mr Kerry Petersen
77 Byrne Circuit
MOIL NT 5792

Dear Mr Petersen,

Thank you for reporting your observation of an unusual aerial occurrence to the RAAF. To permit further investigation of the report, additional details are necessary.

An observer's report is enclosed. Would you complete the report as soon as possible and return it to the above address.

Yours faithfully,



(B. BIDDINGTON)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Enclosure: 1. Observer's Report

minute



South Australia / Northern Territory Region

OPS DARWIN.

29/10/83.

1406Z. U.F.O. REPORT RECEIVED FROM

MR KERRY PETERSON OF MOIL PHONE 279070.
77 BYRNE CIRCUIT.
MOIL. 5792

First sighted by in-laws at KARAMA - they rang Petersons who could also see it. They followed in their car - object appeared to be moving. Followed it around MOIL - KARAMA area - then object moved toward HOWARD SPRINGS.

Object was putting out coloured lights - changing colour ~~RED~~ RED, AMBER, GREEN, WHITE.

Operations staff had a look and saw what appeared to be a star, about 30° above horizon, ^{toward Howard Springs.} flashing fairly brightly, and definitely changing colour, RED, GREEN, WHITE, AMBER. ~~RE~~ No movement apparent.

No known aircraft operating, nothing showing on radar.

R. J. Balder

SOC DARWIN.

1450Z. WOMAN FROM KARAMA RANG (MRS PETERSONS SISTER-IN-LAW)
REPORTED 4 UFO'S TOWARD AIRPORT - NOTHING SIGHTED.

RESTRICTED

110000Z

5/L/Air Pt 7(15) 26 Sept 83

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - THE AIR FORCE OFFICE DAFHS-1LD

POSSIBLE UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

1. PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED A COMPLETED PROFORMA ON AN UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING. NO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THIS HEADQUARTERS ON POSSIBLE SATELLITE / SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY. ANY FURTHER ACTION WILL DEPEND ON AIR FORCE OFFICE DIRECTION.

ENCLOSURE A. REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

J. Vaisey

J Vaisey

FLGUFF

INTEL 5226

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RECEIVED
- 4 AUG 1983
HQ DAR

FOLIO
2

REFERS

KXA959EKA164 RESTRICTED
ROUTINE 030130Z AUG 83

FROM HQOC
TO HQAMB
HQBUT
HQDAR
HQRIC
HQTVL
HQWLM
92WG
BT

R E S T R I C T E D
SIG EGG
120/SOINT

ALL UNITS FOR INTELO (HQWLM FOR 77SQN INTELO)
UAS INVESTIGATIONS.

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE PREPARATION OF A HQOC SUBMISSION ON UAS INVESTIGATIONS: (UFOs)
- A. NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS INITIATED EACH MONTH SINCE 1JAN83.
 - B. ESTIMATE OF AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON EACH INVESTIGATION BY:

PAGE 2 RAYROB 924 R E S T R I C T E D

- (1) INTEL SECTION, AND
 - (2) OTHER SECTIONS OR AGENCIES (SPECIFY)
 - C. DETAILS OF ANY PARTICULARLY TIME-CONSUMING INVESTIGATION.
 - D. GENERAL COMMENTS.
2. IN COMMON INTEREST REPLIES ARE SOLICITED ASAP
- BT
END RESTRICTED

NOA
I phoned SOINT
(NFA Reynolds) &
told him that AIR 4's
absence makes this task
a bit difficult. He said,
'forget it'. NFA.
sAngos

	FOR ACTION	INFO	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
HQ DARWIN	✓		Reply direct
BASE SQN			Copy to HQ Darwin
ZCRU			Submit reply for
APMNT			Signature by O.C.
SON DET			
Special Instructions			Reply to HQ Darwin by INTEL FILE hs.

Adminiso
Opho
BF to INTELO
w/ his posting date

DISTRIBUTION	
OC	✓
ADMINSO	✓
AIR 4	
FLG FLT	
ORD. ROOM.	

RESTRICTED

MINUTE PAPER

(14)

13

Stock No 7530-66-034-7471

(Write on this side only)

5/4/Air Pt1 (14)

DPE 9504

Subject: UAS REPORTING PROCEDURES

OC Approved
OC
5 AUG 82

1. Reference folio 13.
2. Darwin was not one of the units referred to, however in common with them we lack formal procedures for internal reporting of unusual aerial sightings (UASs). Most reports received this year have come through air traffic control channels, the remainder; one; through the switch. I feel that this is indicative of the general trend. To satisfy the HQOC requirement I propose introduction of an FSO detailing actions to be taken when a UAS report is received at RAAF Darwin. A draft FSO is attached.
3. For your comments and approval if appropriate please.

Gordon M Bennett
(G.M. BENNETT)
SQNLDR
FIO

4 Aug 82

Enclosure: 1. Draft FSO OPS 9/5 - Reporting of Unusual Aerial Sightings

Retained
5 AUG 82
[Signature]

FSO OPS 9/5 REPORTING OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

1. Introduction. All reports of unusual aerial sightings (UAS) received at RAAF units must be investigated without delay and results forwarded to higher authority. To ensure that UAS reports received at RAAF Darwin are investigated by the appropriate specialist personnel, the procedures detailed in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 are to be complied with.
2. Reports Received by the Switchboard Operator and Other Personnel. UAS reports received during formation working hours are to be directed in the first instance to the Formation Intelligence Officer (FIO), extension 5238. Should the FIO be uncontactable, the report is to be directed to the Formation Counter Intelligence Officer (FCIO) extension 5046. Calls received outside working hours are to be directed to the Orderly Officer. The FCIO and ~~the~~ Orderly Officer are to complete Part 1 of the 'Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting' proforma and forward the report to the FIO.
3. Reports received by Air Traffic Control Personnel. Air traffic controllers who receive UAS reports through air traffic communication links are to complete Part 1 of the 'Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting' proforma and forward the report to the FIO.
4. Action by the FIO. The FIO is to action all UAS reports as directed by HQOC ASI 3/A/4.

AUG 82

(13)

KKA187E KA 687 UNCLAS
ROUTINE 030403Z AUG 82
FROM HQOC
TO AIG 3808 (EXEMPT AJASS
HQBUT
HQOCU
RAAFSUTG
RAAFTUS
1 JCU)



BT
UNCLAS
SIG ADA
AI550/INT2
FOR FORMATION UAS OFFICERS
UAS REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. A UAS WAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO TWO RAAF BASES OUT OF NORMAL WORKING HOURS. AT BOTH LOCATIONS THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR DID NOT KNOW BASE UAS REPORTING PROCEDURES OR THE IDENTITY OF THE DESIGNATED UAS OFFICER THIS RESULTED IN BAD PUBLICITY FOR THE RAAF
2. TO AVOID ANY FURTHER PROBLEMS OF THIS NATURE SQOMATION UAS

PAGE 2 RAYROB 892 UNCLAS
OFFICERS ARE TO REVIEW CURRENT REPORTING SYSTEMS ARE ARE TO IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES WHEREBY A CALLER REPORTING A UAS RECEIVES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. FOLLOW-UP ACTION IS DETAILED IN HQOC A51 3/A/5
3. IF FORMATION UAS OFFICERS ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT HQOC (INT2) FOR FURTHER ADVICE

BT
END UNCLASSIFIED

	ACTION INFO	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
HQ DARWIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BASE SON	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reply direct
TRU	<input type="checkbox"/>	Copy to HQ Darwin
SPMNT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit reply for
SON DET	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signature by O/C
		Reply to HQ Darwin

Special Instructions
[Signature]
AIDLL

INFORMATION FROM THIS FOLIO
EXEMPTED FROM ACCESS
UNDER s. 33(1)(d).....
ARCHIVES ACT 1983

12(2).

INFORMATION FROM THIS FOLIO
EXEMPTED FROM ACCESS
UNDER s. 33(1)(d).....
ARCHIVES ACT 1983

TELEGRAM

TELEGRAM

GRAM

TELEGRAM

TELEGRAM

898211

11



TELEPHONED

TO 898211

TIME 5/23P

IN TLB LM

POST BOX POST

3/4 5 00 PM '81

DNA 195= PAB 34= WWM31 =
 KALUMBURU OUTPOST RADIO WYNDHAM WA 39 3.20P

³³ HEADQUARTERS
 RAAF BASE ATTN. SADMINS
 DARWIN

ONE UFO SEEN AT KALUMBURU 7.40PM 9/11/81
 LIGHT IN CLOUDS MOVING DUE SOUTH HEIGHT ONE TO TWO THOUSAND
 FEET ONE MILE WEST OF KALUMBURU SPEED OVER 1000 MPH
 FATHER KELLY AND MR BREMNER BENEDICTINE MISSION KALUMBURU

COL UFO 7.40PM 9/11/81 1000 MPH

4.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

(Air Force Office)

RUSSELL OFFICES
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

IN REPLY QUOTE AF554/1/30 (34)

16 October 1981

See Distribution List

UAS INVESTIGATION - SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY

1. As you are aware, the recent re-entry of a meteorite near Marble Bar at the same time as Cosmos 434 was due to re-enter, caused considerable confusion. The statement by the Perth Observatory that it was nuclear powered, created great, and unwanted, media interest.
2. A Department of Defence meeting last week discussed procedures for reporting of space vehicle re-entry. As you are aware, the two main sources of information on re-entries available at base level are the DSTO Sattellite Bulletin and the NASA Spacewarn Bulletin. These two sources do not, however, contain any classified information; this is held by JIO. Similarly, JIO have access to information concerning nuclear powered satellites and know well in advance of any likely re-entry of a nuclear powered satellite. Department of Defence SOPs for reporting of re-entries are now being revised, with JIO being tasked as the central agency for the decisions on satellite re-entry.
3. The RAAF UAS investigation/reporting chain is to remain unchanged. Investigating officers are, however, requested to refrain from putting a possible name to any suspected space debris re-entry, as often the exact debris cannot be identified from unclassified records. Investigating officers are to classify the reports as 'probable space debris' or 'probable meteorite' as applicable. (Space debris usually has an orange/red tail while a meteorite often has a blue/green tinged 'tail'). Hopefully by not speculating upon the exact nature of the debris, undue media interest can be avoided.

(I.S. FRAME)
Squadron Leader
for Chief of Air Staff

Distribution List:

Headquarters RAAF Base Amberley (INTELLO)
Headquarters RAAF Base Butterworth (INTELLO)
Headquarters RAAF Base Darwin (INTELLO)
Headquarters RAAF Base Edinburgh (OSO)
School of Air Navigation RAAF Base East Sale (FLTLT Gordon)
No 5 Squadron RAAF Base Fairbairn (INTELLO)
Base Squadron RAAF Base Laverton (SATCO)
RAAF School of Languages RAAF Base Point Cook (SQNLDR McCarthy)
No 2 Flying Training School RAAF Base Pearce (UAS Officer)
Headquarters RAAF Base Richmond (INTELLO)
Headquarters RAAF Base Townsville (INTELLO)
Base Squadron RAAF Base Wagga (COBS)
Headquarters RAAF Base Williamtown (INTELLO)

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command (SOINTEL)
Headquarters Support Command (SOINTEL)

89 8211

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

5/4/AIR(9)

21 October 1981

Mr Alan Caust
C/- St John Ambulance
PO Box 570
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

Dear Sir,

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Further to our telephone conversation of 21 October 1981, herewith proforma. It would be appreciated if you could complete this form and provide whatever information you may consider relevant or pertinent.

Following receipt, we will further our investigation into the sightings.

Yours faithfully,

(P.J. BENNETT)
Squadron Leader
for Officer Commanding

JJ ADDNYU
192332 ASMOYC

SURORG 81/012(6) UFO REPORT

A. TELECON COSURCEN/SOC ADDN 191235 OCT 81

1. TENNANT CREEK RESIDENT. MR ^{Alan} CAUST REPORTED SIGHTING VERY BRIGHT LIGHT 2-3 NM SW OF ADTC AT APPROX 4-500FT. OBJECT DISAPPEARED AT TREETOP LEVEL AT APPROX 9 PM LOCAL 19 OCT. INFORMANT ADVISES OBJECT CHANGED COLOUR FROM RED TO BLUE AND GREEN AND HAD BEEN SIGHTED ON AND OFF FOR PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS
2. MET OFFICER ADTC REPORTED THAT MET BALLOON WITH LOW POWERED LIGHT WAS LAUNCHED AT 8PM LOCAL AND DRIFTED SW OF ADTC. MET OFFICER WAS OBSERVING UNTIL 8.50 PM AND DIDNT SIGHT ANYTHING UNUSUAL IN SW SECTOR.
3. MR CAUST PREVIOUSLY REPORTED UFO SIGHTINGS ON 26 SEP 80 AND 5 OCT 80. THESE SIGHTINGS ASSESSED AS MET BALLOONS.
5. PLS ONPASS TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE

CL ST JOHN AMB
PO BOX 570
TENNANT CR NT 5760

W 622279
H 622376



8

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: Darwin 89 9911

Headquarters
RAAF Base
DARWIN NT 5789

IN REPLY QUOTE...5/4/Air Pt5 (8)..

17th October 1974

The Editor
Northern Territory News
Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 5790

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

During the morning of 16th October 1974, a number of reports of unusual aerial sightings were received at RAAF Base Darwin. These emanated from Katherine in the Northern Territory and from several localities around Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia. The reports generally, were of a group of reddish "tailed" lights moving rapidly across the sky from Southwest to Northwest, shortly after 8 pm on the evening of Tuesday 15th October.

A preliminary investigation has been carried out at RAAF Base DARWIN, and it is thought that the most probable cause of these sightings was man-made. Calculations indicate that a PAC-A satellite launched in 1969, and an OAO-3 rocket, launched in 1972, together with discarded remnants of their respective launch stages, should have been visible at about the time and in about the area of the sighting reports. The other possibilities are that the sightings were due to short-lived satellite or rocket stages recently launched or other man-made objects rendered incandescent as they re-enter the atmosphere after long periods in orbit.

The original sighting reports will be sent to Department of Defence (Air) in Canberra for fully and more detailed investigation. Should that examination indicate other or different causes, you will be informed.

(S.L. HARDING)
Squadron Leader
for Officer Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

SUMMARY NO 5

JANUARY 1973 - DECEMBER 1973

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
2 Jan 73 18 Jan 73 19 Jan 73	1335 1345 1350	Chadstone, Vic	Small star like object travelling approx SSW	Cosmos satellite 44 and rocket AOA3
2 Jan 73	1227	Turner, ACT	White flashing object, high and travelling fast to the east	Meteorite
6 Jan 73	1000	Shoal Bay, NSW	Intense blue light travelling at high speed from north east to the south east	Re-entry of space debris
14 Jan 73	1030	Coolangatta, QLD	Red and white lights to the west in the vicinity of Coolangatta Airport and pools of light on the ground on the side of the highway north of Balina	A private helicopter and pools of water reflecting moonlight
14 Jan 73	1000	Surfers Paradise QLD	Light and noise like beat of helicopter travelling north	Helicopter
19 Jan 73	1000	Queanbeyan, NSW	Saucer shaped object with revolving red, orange, yellow, green and violet lights	Suspected hoax
3 Feb 73	0940-1200	Dingadee, NSW	Large, bright multi-coloured lights in sky	Planet Saturn sighted through temperature inversion
4 Feb 73	1110	Kimba, SA	Orange shaft of light adjacent to Eyre Highway near Kimba	Possibly burning methane gas
15 Feb 73	1100	East Kew, Vic	Round object with reddish light in centre and amber coloured lights around circumference travelled NE to SW	Balloon

/24 Feb 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
24 Feb 73	1030	Leongatha, Vic	Light in sky on bearing 345° at an elevation of 032°	Star Capella or planet Saturn
9 Mar 73	1000	Belmont, NSW	Purple glow over lounge room and contents. One of the occupants went outside and immediately sighted two globular lights moving across the sky at high speed	Methane gas blown into house from adjacent mine shaft. Globular lights caused by optical illusions due to image retention by retinae
9 Mar 73	1830	Charlestown, NSW	Shiny metallic silver object with associated 'cloud of vapour' moving south	QANTAS flight QF151 from Tahiti en route Sydney
9 Mar 73	0730	Tea Gardens, NSW	Greenish blue light of great intensity travelling at high speed from the SSE to NNE	OAO-A2 Rocket No 1968/110B
10 Mar 73	0710	Balcombe, Vic	Two flashing red lights crossing Nepean Highway at low altitude from North to the East	Light aircraft carrying out flying training from Moorabin under night visual meteorological conditions
13 Mar 73	0900	Newcastle, NSW	Bright flashing white light and basic red glow in sky travelling at high speed from SSE to the West	Mirage aircraft operating at high altitude in the Sydney-Richmond area

/13 Mar 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
13 Mar 73	1300	Subiaco, WA	Red and white lights in sky at low altitude travelling in an arc from East, through North to the South West	Aircraft entering final approach for Perth airport
15 Mar 73	1235	Mereweather, NSW	Red light in SW travelling from azimuth of approx 14° to horizon	Meteor or space debris re-entry
16 Mar 73	1615	Amberley, Qld	Bright green light in sky travelling at high speed from NW to South at elevation of approx 5°	Meteor or space debris re-entry
18 Mar 73	0630	Mascot, NSW	Silvery grey object in sky travelling from ENE to NW at high speed	Unknown
18 Mar 73	0010-0020	Antill Ponds, Tas	Bright white light to NNE later turned green and then pink diminishing in size as elevation decreased	Light aircraft enroute Hobart to Launceston
	0105-0110	Perth Tas vicinity	Bright white light in sky to the SW	Star Sirius
25 Mar 73	0900	Boolaroo, NSW	Object falling from sky, plus red light blinking on and off	Meteor and the planet Saturn distorted by atmospheric conditions
25 Mar 73	1100	Charlestown, NSW	Sparkling silver object travelling through the sky at an elevation of 30° from SSW to North	US satellite No 1964/001A
26 Mar 73	1205	Kew, Vic	Bright object moving through sky in a southerly direction	Aircraft en route Launceston

/26 Mar 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
26 Mar 73	1045	Manly, NSW	White flashing light travelling along coast from south to north	Commuter service aircraft en route Newcastle
28 Mar 73	0920	Ravenswood, Tas	Two flashing lights heading ENE passing overhead	re-entry of space debris
31 Mar 73	0900	Holbrook, NSW	Bright white light (later turned orange) travelling across northern sky towards NNE	Light aircraft operating under night visual meteorological conditions
3 Apr 73	1530-1630	Darwin, NT	Blinking light of several colours sighted to the SW at an elevation of about 30°. Disappeared overhead. Lights of car flickered on and off with a flicking sound.	Reflection from telephone/power line insulators. Circuit breaker in car operating due to fault in headlight wiring
5 Apr 73	2200	Claredale, via Ayr, Qld	Shining silver object with a line of lights or reflections of sunlight in a gold, blue and red colouring	High flying research balloon
6 Apr 73	1730	Rochedale, Qld	Brilliant blue light accompanied by a clicking sound moving at a speed of approx 5-10 mph at an elevation of 15°	Ball lightning or 'Kugelblitz'
8 Apr 73	1118	Nunawading, Vic	Bright orange crescent shaped object disappeared over horizon to north east	Setting crescent moon viewed through inversion
8 Apr 73	1730	Springbrook, Qld	Brilliant orange/white ball elevation 10°-20° travelling at 5-10 mph to the south west	Ball lightning or 'Kugelblitz'

/9 Apr 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
9 Apr 73	1145 1155 1200 1200 1200 1200	Kyneton, Vic) Bendigo, Vic) Dingley, Vic) Clayton, Vic) Frankford, Tas) Lake Bolac, Vic)	Group of white lights travelling in a straight line from west to south, elevation approx 30°	Re-entry of space debris
9 Apr 73	2000	Croydon, Vic	White light travelling in a north westerly direction, elevation 60°	Re-entry of space debris
9 Apr 73	2000	Lockleys, SA	Two yellow lights in sky, elevation 10-15° sighted due north, travelling west to east'	Re-entry of space debris
10 Apr 73	1530	Wynnum Nth, Qld	Multi-coloured lights near Brisbane airport	Fokker Friendship departing Brisbane airport
11 Apr 73	1240	West Dubbo, NSW	Flashing blue, red, white, green light in western sky, finally merging to constant white	Star Sirius
7/13 Apr 73	0830	Targa, Tas	Flashing red and white light moving from WSW to NW	Electra aircraft on 7 Apr. Second sighting undetermined through lack of information
12 Apr 73	1030	Canberra, ACT	Steady electric blue light in vicinity of Canberra airport descended below visual horizon	Cessna aircraft on final circuit on runway 12

/14 Apr 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
14 Apr 73	0200	Korong Vale, Vic	Four spiral indentations on side of road	Report received late and on investigation indentations had been erased. Cause undetermined
14 Apr 73	0110	Dubbo, NSW	Silver metallic object performing aerobic manoeuvres overhead at approx 10,000 ft	Aircraft
15 Apr 73	1345	Chermside, Qld	Bright yellow object descending slowly from about 50° elevation to horizon	Rocket flare or similar pyrotechnic device
18 Apr 73	1140	Vaucluse, NSW	Bright white light low on the horizon to the East appeared stationary at first then moved rapidly to south	Aircraft operating out of Sydney International airport
22 Apr 73	0530	Wandin East, Vic	Dull grey object of large size with flashing amber lights on top perimeter moved slowly overhead from NE to S. Height 80 to 100 ft elevation 45-50°	Refracted image of vehicle moving along nearby road
25 Apr 73	1926	Williamstown, NSW	Intense white light with red trail, elevation 45° in northern sky. Descended to about 15°	Space debris on re-entry
29 Apr 73	approx 1600	Western Australia	Bright light in sky travelling from approx north to south east sighted by 12 observers from Port Hedland to Kambalda	Space debris on re-entry
2 May 73	1200	Amberley, Qld	Two fast moving bright lights in sky moving from east to south	Army helicopter activity

/2 May 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
2 May 73	0935	Umina, NSW	Group of red and white lights in SW sky, elevation 45° moved at speed to the SSW	Two RAAF Mirages on training flight from Williamtown
approx 4 May 73	approx 1730	Bowen, Qld	Brilliant light in sky in the west, elevation 45°	Unknown
6 May 73	0840	Nth Carlton, Vic	Yellow to orange object with white tail, elevation 45° to 50° to the NW moved at speed to south east	Space vehicle desig 1973 - 018B on re-entry
9 May 73	1235	Croydon, Vic	Ululating sound moving from E to W	Ambulance siren
10 May 73	0930	Noble Park, Vic	Bright white light travelling low in sky from east to north	Space vehicle desig 1973 - 018C on re-entry
12 May 73	1355-1800	Mascot, NSW	Bright suffused light with occasional red, blue and green flashes moving slowly from 020° to N and climbing from horizon to about 45° elevation	Star VEGA
5 May 73	0825	Amberley, Qld	Three moving star-like objects in sky, two moving N to S and the other from E to W	Space debris and the satellite PAGEOS I.
12 May 73	0830	Gosford area, NSW	Bright white light in sky travelling southerly direction	Cessna flying from Kempsey to Sydney
13 May 73	2010	Wynyard, Tas and Riverside, Tas	6 lights in sky moving from SW to NE	Debris from Salyut 6 on re-entry
				/14 May 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
14 May 73	1830	Hobart, Tas	Bright white light heading east	Pageos 1
14 May 73	1845	Newnham, Tas	Unusual white light in SE sky	Mars
15 May 73	1945	Killarny Vale, NSW	Gold light which later turned red approx size of bread and butter plate moving N to S	QANTAS aircraft QF 764 en route Bangkok to Sydney
16 May 73	1500	Montrose, Vic	Dull light accompanied by ululating sound, actual object not sighted	Passing police car
18 May 73	1500	Sassafras, Vic	Siren like noise above house accompanied by bluish white light	Passing police car
22 May 73	1130	Minto, NSW	Light in south western sky, elevation approx 30°, colour alternating white/red/purple	Star Canopus viewed through a .5° inversion
22 May 73	1925	Doncaster, Vic	Ululating sound heard from rear of house travelling east to west	Passing police car
23 May 73	0920	The Entrance, NSW	Two sets of bright orange-red lights in eastern sky, elevation 30°-45°	Image of the rising moon through a severe (8°C) temperature inversion
23 May 73	1105	Forest Hill, Vic	Yellowy-orange light moving from overhead to the South at a steady speed	Space debris on re-entry
25 May 73	0222	Balga, WA	Dull white object with pulsating red glow performing aerial manoeuvres	Macchi from RAAF Pearce

/29 May 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
29 May 73	1215	Chadstone, Vic	Small bright light 15° elevation in eastern sky	Planet Jupiter
29 May 73	0940	Lynwood, WA	Large, bright green object in northern sky descending rapidly	Space debris
29 May 73	0810	Ringwood, Vic	Orange and red lights at approx 80° elevation moving towards NW	Boeing 727 en route Tullamarine
29 May 73	0330	Amberley, Qld	Bright white light trailing smoke plummeted into ground	Space debris on re-entry
31 May 73	pm hours	Springbrook, Qld	Moving flashing lights in sky, mainly white but flashing green or red on occasions	Stars seen through inversion
31 May 73	0915	East Doncaster, Vic	Large bright light, flashing red light and bluish light in sky heading towards west	Boeing 727 en route Tullamarine
12/13 Jun 73	1300-1700	Ulverstone, Tas	Three closely grouped white lights in the south, possibly one object, flashing red and green	Rigel Kentaurus
13 Jun 73	1330	Terang, Vic	Amber yellow light crossed in front of car in a north westerly direction. The light then changed direction to the south west and finally disappeared in a north easterly direction	Ball lightning
13 Jun 73	2236	Robbs Jetty, WA	Bright yellow star-like object with five or six smaller objects trailing moving in a westerly direction, elevation 40°	Space debris re-entry

/15 Jun 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
15 Jun 73	1015	Avondale Heights, Vic	White light source on photograph negative	Camera fault or unobserved light source
17 Jun 73	1100	Toowoomba, Qld	Bright white flashing light moving in a southerly direction	Star Canopus through 3.5° C inversion
19 Jun 73	2050	Nornington Peninsula, Vic	Orange light sighted from aircraft. Moved parallel to but at a lower altitude to the aircraft for about 10 miles then moved off at right angles	Reflection of the rising sun from a light aircraft
21 Jun 73	2220	Morang, Vic	Bright light in the west in the vicinity of Tullamarine airport	Ansett Boeing 727 with landing lights on, on approach Tullamarine
22 Jun 73	1130	Blackwall, Tas	Bright white/orange light moving slowly south-NW	Light aircraft
23 Jun 73	1130	Mareeba, Qld	Greenish colour light, slightly larger than Venus, elevation approx 15°, moving slowly to the east	Planet Jupiter
24 Jun 73	1110	Perth, Tas	One bright light initially, then four, moving north-south fading rapidly	Space debris re-entry
24 Jun 73	2100	Brisbane area, Qld	Brilliant white light elevation approx 70° bearing 30° E	Planet Jupiter
				/24 Jun 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
24 Jun 73	0330	Mullewa, WA	Large red/white round object emitting noise like engine	Meteorological balloon. Other noise, possibly train or truck, associated with sighting
25 Jun 73	0200	Wembley, WA	Two white objects at high altitude moving to the north west	A Macchi formation from RAAF Pearce
30 Jun 73	1940	Mornington, Vic	Bright white light rising in sky with long, high-pitched quivering sound	Unknown
Jul 73		Terang, Vic	Several local people engaged in skywatching activities sighted a variety of lights	Satellites, Aircraft
1 Jul 73	0700	Rokewood, Vic	Big light in western sky changing colour orange, red, blue-green moving away	Undetermined light aircraft in uncontrolled airspace
3 Jul 73	0735	Camberwell, Vic	Bright white light moving ENE-NNE without sound	Landing lights of DC-9 VH-TJD
3 Jul 73	2145	Lancefield, Vic	Long narrow white cloud with pink reflection underneath	Stratus patch
4 Jul 73	0725	Rokewood, Vic	Bright orange light stationary in western sky, flattened out and disappeared	Reflection of sun on ice crystal layer or cloud
8 Jul 73	0845-0930	Ablingi Island New Britain, PNG	Brilliant Orange - Red light low on western horizon	Venus

/8 Jul 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
8 Jul 73	1000	Ablingi Island New Britain, PNG	Bright white object in NE sky	Vega
8 Jul 73	1515	Launceston, Tas	Intense orange light, viewed from above fog bank, disappeared into the fog	City lights obscured by moving fog bank
8 Jul 73	2250	Launceston, Tas	Bright silver object flashed past window	DC-9 Launceston- Melbourne
8 Jul 73	2250	West Launceston, Tas	Bright silver object flashed past window	DC-9 Launceston- Melbourne
9 Jul 73	0815	Box Hill, Vic	Bright sparkling star	Initial report only. Pro forma not completed. Investigation closed.
14 Jul 73	0430	Boroko, PNG	Bright white light ascending to the NE	Initial report only. Pro forma not completed. Investigation closed.
14 Jul 73	0715	Boroko, PNG	Three bright lights in triangular formation	Antares, Shaula, Kaus Australia
14 Jul 73	0730	Kimbe, PNG	Conical glowing object with red light on top hovering 5' above horizon	Initial report only. Pro forma not completed. Investigation closed.
17 Jul 73	1005	Williamtown, NSW	Cream, Yellow, orange light moving rapidly north-south, south-north	Ball lightning or 'Kugelblitz'
17 Jul 73	1612	Pearce, WA	Flashing red lights which followed air- strip and rose rapidly	Spurious report

/18 Jul 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
18 Jul 73	1250	New Lambton, NSW	Two white lights moving slowly away from observer changing to red before fading from view	Aircraft lights
20 Jul 73	0835	Wallsend, NSW	Single white light moving straight across the sky	Cosmos 330
22 Jul 73	0830	North Entrance, NSW	Flashing red light changing to bright white light which moved rapidly NE-SE and faded out	Two separate light sources. JUPITER through temperature inversion and aircraft lights
22 Jul 73	0845	Kavieng, PNG	One bright object and five less bright objects in cross formation in western sky.	Venus and other minor stars
23 Jul 73	0745	Frankston-Kyneton, Vic	Fourteen reports of blue/green light/object descending rapidly NE-NW	Meteor
23 Jul 73	0830	Saidor, PNG	Brilliant white object moving rapidly from west to east	Pegasus 2
23 Jul 73	0940	Ballarat, Vic	Blue light travelling rapidly east-west and disappeared over horizon	Meteor
24 Jul 73	0745	Watsonia, Vic	Spherical white object moving rapidly across sky east-south west	Meteor
24 Jul 73	0746	Beaumaris, Vic	Pale green-white star like object descending rapidly NNW-NW	Meteor
				/24 Jul 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
24 Jul 73	0800	Chelsea, Vic	Aqua-blue light descending rapidly north-south over horizon	Meteor
24 Jul 73	0825	South Croydon, Vic	Bright white, yellow light moving NE-NW	Landing lights of one of three flights scheduled into Tullamarine
24 Jul 73	0845	Lilydale, Vic	Bright white stationary light	Canopus magnified by temperature inversion
24 Jul 73	0930-1230	Madang, PNG	Bright white light	Initial report only. Pro forma not completed. Investigation closed.
25 Jul 73	0905	Sale, Vic	Various reports of object which coincided with reports from NSW and Victoria of meteor	Meteor
25 Jul 73	0914	Puckapunyal, Vic	Bright green light moving rapidly east-west	Meteor
25 Jul 73	0945-1215	Saidor, PNG	Bright yellowish/white object in the east moving slowly and erratically west. Smaller white flashing object appeared to be attached beneath brighter object	Meteorological balloon.
30 Jul 73	0914	Lilydale, Vic	Two small white lights moving north-south low on horizon	Aircraft lights

/2 Aug 73

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
2 Aug 73	1225	South Hedland, WA	One flashing red light and one steady red light heading SSW gaining height	F-28 Pt Hedland-Wittenoom
5 Aug 73	1110	Forrest, WA	Pulsating light in the east changing colour white-green-red	Venus
6 Aug 73	1540	Colac, Vic	Bright glowing red/orange light rising quickly and disappearing	Jupiter magnified by Cirrus cloud. Apparent speed due to cloud movement
8 Aug 73	1430-1515	Footscray, Vic	Red, white, green light hovering and revolving erratically	Canopus distorted by temperature inversion.
11 Aug 73	1350	Oatslands, Tas	Extremely bright flashing red, white and blue object high in eastern sky	Jupiter
12 Aug 73	1235-1320	Swanbourne, WA	Bright white/blue-white lights in ENE moving south and disappeared behind trees	Aircraft approaching Perth airport.
13 Aug 73	0930-1000	Rowville, Vic	Single white light initially which became three as object approached observer and became red flashing lights on underside as it passed overhead. Accompanying jet noise.	Air New Zealand DC-8
14 Aug 73	0830-0900	Williamtown, NSW	Three separate white lights moving rapidly south-north east	Space debris re-entry
15 Aug 73	0930-1230	Glen Waverley, Vic	Pulsating red, green and white light moving gradually south-south east and rising then disappeared	Achernar distorted by pollution
			/16 Aug 73	

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
16 Aug 73	1120	Pinucane Island, WA	Bright white object rising erratically NW-WSW	Meteorological balloon released from Port Hedland
17 Aug 73	0925-1010	East Bentleigh Vic	Brilliant light in western sky flaring intermittently	Altona waste burn-off
19 Aug 73	1100	Ingham Qld	Three Blue lights in eastern sky moving backwards and forwards.	Unknown. Possible spurious report
19 Aug 73	1200	Cairns Qld	Orange light rising gradually and fading intermittently	Jupiter
20 Aug 73	1130	Townsville Qld	Flashing yellow light in west moving slowly up and down and faded from view in NE	ATC vehicle lights
30 Aug 73	0950	Mont Albert Vic	Bright orange/gold light moving from the east, halting momentarily and moving off to the north and disappeared with a slight flash	Boeing 727 landing at Tullamarine.
30 Aug 73	1405	Kew Vic	Stationary scarlet light	Canopus discoloured by pollution
31 Aug 73	0950	East Gosford NSW	Orange/white objects with green tail heading south emitting a low hum. Remained stationary for 15-20 seconds and then moved off rapidly to the east	Light aircraft
5 Sep 73	1330	Hawkesdale Vic	Round blue object flashed through sky and disappeared in three seconds.	Meteor
5 Sep 73	1818	O'Connor ACT	Yellow/orange light heading SE and disappeared in two seconds with 'Whooshing' noise	Meteor

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
6 Sep 73	0927	Northcote Vic	Bright white light moving north and turning west then south	Air New Zealand DC-8 in approach circuit for Tullamarine
7 Sep 73	1000	Killara NSW	Object with bright red and white lights hovering in the east and disappeared ENE	Aircraft
7 Sep 73	1200-1230	Balgowlah NSW	Bright white light in eastern sky	Mars
8 Sep 73	0500-0600	Sunshine Vic	Oval shiny object with bright white light	Reflection of sun off aircraft and the aircraft light.
8 Sep 73	1145	Hawkesdale Vic	Two white lights heading 270° three minutes apart maintaining constant course	Two DC-9 aircraft Launceston-Melbourne
8 Sep 73	1845	Alice Springs NT	High flying lights	Satellites
9 Sep 73	1100	Cove Hill Tas	Bright white light approaching observer from ENE became flashing red light which circled three times and faded away to the north	DC-9 Departing Hobart
9 Sep 73	2240	Osborne Park WA	Stationary white light in ESE sky which suddenly disappeared	Aircraft approaching Perth
11 Sep 73	0855	Donvale Vic	Bright steady yellow/white light in northern sky, stationary at first then moving to the west gaining speed and disappeared behind a hill.	Ansett DC-9, VH-CZE, Brisbane - Melbourne
12 Sep 73	1505-1515	South Yarra Vic	Circular shaped object with red, green and white lights heading south-north	Brain and Brown DC-3 Launceston - Essendon
13 Sep 73	1040	Longford Tas	Bright white light in the west which disappeared after 3-4 minutes	Venus

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
17 Sep 73	1005	Campbell Town Tas	Bright red and white lights high in the east which disappeared with a humming noise behind trees in the NW.	DC-9 Hobart- Launceston
19 Sep 73	0920	New Lambton Heights NSW	Bright yellow/white light low on NE horizon then 5° movement west and return and disappeared behind a hill	Initially OAO-3 rocket then Beechcraft.
23 Sep 73	1230-1300	Blackman's Bay Tas	Bright light in WSW shining upwards varying in intensity and faded after 30 minutes	Aurora australis or similar phenomena
24 Sep 73	0828	Maryville NSW	Brilliant white light changing to amber heading NNW-SSE varying in intensity, variable flight path with bursts of acceleration and faded in SSE.	Light aircraft
28 Sep 73	1110	Mullewa WA	Two dark objects sighted just above the western horizon suddenly disappeared	Refracted images of ships
29 Sep 73	1630-1745	Queanbeyan NSW	Three bright white lights in eastern sky appearing to hover and move in an irregular pattern	Sirius, Rigel and Procyon
Oct 73	1255	Wagga Wagga NSW	Well lit low flying object about the size of a Boeing 707	Initial report only. Pro-forms not completed investigation closed.
5 Oct 73	1005	Evandale Tas	White light moving west east from 60° to horizon appearing to zig zag before fading from view	Satellite
8 Oct 73	1230	St Lucia Qld	Bright white light and smaller red light fell vertically then moved horizontally and disappeared behind a building.	TAA DC-9 landing at Brisbane

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
14 Oct 73	0430	Alderly Qld	silver object floating south-north for 10 minutes and faded from view	Meteorological Balloon
16 Oct 73	0400-0500	Mentone Vic	White round object sighted high in NNE moving west.	Venus
16 Oct 73	0800-1000	Konos, New Ireland PNG	Bright yellow/red light sighted just above NNE horizon rising to 45°.	Mars
21 Oct 73	0817	Kedron Qld	White light to the ESE with orange tips receded quickly to ENE.	Aircraft lighting
21 Oct 73	1645-1700	Dianella WA	Red, brown and mauve light rose rapidly from NW horizon over to SE horizon.	Space debris
24 Oct 73	1200	Inaloo WA	Three red and one white light appeared from the west and disappeared south behind houses.	Lights of Altair MU-2 Aircraft Geraldton-Jandakot
26 Oct 73	1820	Bluff Point WA	Single bright white light flashed across sky from West-SE.	Space debris
28 Oct 73	0430	Ouyen Vic	Large object high in the sky moving West-East	Meteorological Balloon
29 Oct 73	1134	Maryville NSW	Yellow light rising erratically from SW-NNE occasionally hovering then disappeared.	Meteorological Balloon
30 Oct 73	1605	Darwin NT	Two large round golden bright lights moving rapidly NE-South	Boeing 707 Hong Kong - Darwin
31 Oct 73	1115	Olinda Vic	Three colourful objects moving East-west	Space debris
1 Nov 73	2338	Norwood Vic	silver disc shaped object moving rapidly SW	Venus behind moving cloud
2 Nov 73	1230	Maldon Vic	Bright flashing object changing colour from red-yellow-orange moving back and forth erratically and disappeared below tree line.	Juxtaposition of Venus & Jupiter

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
4 Nov 73	0930-1100	Brisbane Qld	Numerous Brisbane Residents reported bright objects floating about during and after a tornado	Ball lighting
7 Nov 73	1340	Sorrento WA	Dull yellow disc with bright red and white lights moving rapidly across the sky	Cosmos 372
10 Nov 73	1145-1230	Launceston Tas	Single Bright yellow/white light in the west disappeared below the horizon	Venus setting
12 Nov 73	0920	Launceston Tas	Single bright yellow light rose above northern horizon moving south, remained stationary for 5 minutes and climbed out of sight to the SE	Cessna 172, VH-KOU Bairnsdale, Launceston
12/13 Nov 73	0830-1430	Waratah NSW	Two bright white and one bright yellow lights in line travelling slowing NE-NW and rose out of sight, seen on successive nights	Mars, Hamal and Menkar
20 Nov 73	1420	Boddington WA	Bright amber/blue light in the west disappeared suddenly below NW horizon	Ball lighting or 'Kugelblitz'.
20 Nov 73	1345	Wandering WA	Single bright blue light in SW moving intermittently in the same spot, last sighted in NW	Ball lighting or 'Kugelblitz'.
20 Nov 73	1711	Cheltenham Vic	Bright star sized light moving rapidly to the north	Satellite
21 Nov 73	1650	Cheltenham Vic	Object moving on constant course NW-SE	OAO-A2 Rocket
23 Nov 73	1145	O'Donnell Town NSW	Shower of 10-15 objects descending rapidly into trees with noise similar to low flying jet.	Flock of birds

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
23 Nov 73	1400	Darwin NT	Two white lights high in ESE flashing at about one second intervals descending vertically	Strobe lights of DC-10
30 Nov 73	0100-0600	Kuri Bay WA	Dull white object in the east remained in close proximity to the moon	Venus
1 Dec 73	0425	Mosman Park WA	One large bright silver object rising from the south - NNE	Meteorological balloon
18 Dec 73	1133	Dandenong Vic	Two pulsating light moving rapidly NNE-SSW	Aircraft on IFR approach to Moorabbin
18 Dec 73	1340-1415	Murrumbeena Vic	Two submarine shaped objects in the SE showering sparks	Spurious Report
21 Dec 73	1055-1155	Toukley NSW	Bright coloured light waxing and waning descending slowly to the horizon	Juxtaposition of Venus and Jupiter
23 Dec 73	1210	Balcatta WA	Single bright white light moving rapidly NW-SSE and disappeared	MU-2 inbound Perth
27 Dec 73	1000-1015	Toukley NSW	'V' formation of red, blue, green and yellow lights hovering and moving slowly south-SE	Ball lightning
28 Dec 73	0900-1000	Merrylands NSW	Three separate orange/red lights moving on constant course SSW-ESE and one white light on same course which appeared to disintegrate	Three satellites and space debris re-entry
30 Dec 73	0900	Tascott NSW	Bright white light sighted briefly in the SE	Canopus through cloud
31 Dec 73	1115	Turner ACT	Two separate white lights travelling NW-SE and fading out over the horizon	OAO-2 rocket and unpredicted satellite

As on
Book Copy

The investigation of reports of unusual aerial sightings in Australia is carried out by the Royal Australian Air Force. Preliminary investigation of the reports is conducted at the nearest Royal Australian Air Force base. The reports are then forwarded to the Department of Defence (Air Office) where an investigating team completes the investigation.

Between January 1960 and December 1973 815 sightings were reported to the Royal Australian Air Force. 90 per cent of the sightings were attributed to causes which included aircraft, satellites, meteors, space debris re-entry, meteorological balloons, stars and planets. Seven per cent of reports were either received too late or did not provide sufficient information to permit proper analysis and evaluation. Three per cent of reports were attributed to unknown causes.

The United Kingdom Air Ministry has stated that on an average, 90 per cent of the sightings it investigates are explainable by causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights. The other 10 per cent probably remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

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- a. 80 per cent of sightings were natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects;
- b. 17 per cent of sightings provided insufficient data to permit thorough analysis and evaluation; and
- c. three per cent were unidentified.

United States and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. The Mariner series of space exploration to Mars appears to have proved it a 'dead' planet. The only other source of extra-terrestrial life, therefore, would have to be in another solar system. The nearest visible star to Earth is Alpha Centauri which is about 25 million million miles away. Even if life forms existed there and were capable of space travel at speeds currently known to man ie about 25,000 mph they would take about 115,000 years to reach Earth. Consequently, the probability of extra-terrestrial life forms visiting Earth is extremely remote.

Enclosed are five summaries of unusual aerial sightings for the period January 1960 to December 1973.

TEXT FOR LECTURES ON THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL
AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA

ANNEX C TO
HQOC 60/AIR(6)
DATED 9 SEP 74

IN AUSTRALIA, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING REPORTS. THIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS VESTED IN THE AIR FORCE IN THE EARLY 1950S WHEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, IN COMMON WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS, WAS CONCERNED THAT 'UFOS' MIGHT HAVE POSED A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS INVESTIGATION OF SIGHTING REPORTS IN AUSTRALIA, THE HONORABLE F.M. OSBORNE, THEN MINISTER FOR AIR, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IN CANBERRA ON 20TH OCTOBER 1960 SUMMARIZING THE POSITION. HE CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING 'NOTHING THAT HAS ARISEN FROM THAT THREE OR FOUR PER CENT OF UNEXPLAINED CASES GIVES ANY FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE BELIEF THAT INTERLOPERS FROM OTHER PLACES IN THIS WORLD OR OUTSIDE IT HAVE BEEN VISITING US'.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USAF, SPENT TWO YEARS PROCESSING AND INVESTIGATING ALL AMERICAN REPORTS. THE FINDINGS WERE PUBLISHED IN 1963 BY BANTAM BOOKS AS THE 'CONDON REPORT'. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT 'NOTHING HAS COME FROM THE STUDY OF UFOS IN THE PAST 21 YEARS THAT HAS ADDED TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE' AND THAT 'FURTHER EXTENSIVE STUDY OF UFOS PROBABLY CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED IN THE EXPECTATION THAT SCIENCE WILL BE ADVANCED THEREBY'.

WHILE THESE GENERAL CONCLUSIONS STILL HOLD TRUE TODAY, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AS A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. IN ALMOST ALL REPORTED CASES PEOPLE HAVE SEEN SOMETHING AND ARE CONCERNED AS TO THE CAUSE. IN SOME CASES PEOPLE ARE GENUINELY ALARMED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE MAY BE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH OUR INVESTIGATIONS ANY FEARS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE ABOUT 'UFOS' CAN BE ALLAYED. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF REPORTS CAN BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WE DO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A SMALL PERCENTAGE THAT WILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED PROBABLY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED, LATE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OR CURRENT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BEING INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A DEFINITE EXPLANATION.

/BEFORE

BEFORE GOING INTO RAAF INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, IT IS PERHAPS RELEVANT TO CLARIFY THE TERMS 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' OR 'UFO' AND 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING'. UNFORTUNATELY THE TERM 'UFO', BECAUSE OF ITS WIDESPREAD AND INDISCRIMINATE USE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR 'FLYING SAUCER'. THIS IS A RATHER IRONIC SITUATION SINCE THE TERM WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED TO COMBAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, AND SO OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO HAPHAZARDLY PROMOTE ALL UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS TO THE SPECTACULAR CATEGORY OF 'FLYING SAUCER'.

THE TERM 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' IS SOMEWHAT OF A MISNOMER FOR THREE REASONS. FIRSTLY, MANY SIGHTINGS ARE NOT OF MATERIAL OBJECTS. FREAK WEATHER CONDITIONS, ELECTRICAL STORMS AND UNUSUAL LIGHT CONDITIONS CAN GIVE RISE TO MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS, ESPECIALLY TO THE UNTRAINED EYE. SECONDLY, EXCEPT IN SIGHTINGS OF AIRCRAFT, THE PROCESS OF FLYING IS RARELY INVOLVED. MANY SIGHTINGS ARE OF STARS AND PLANETS, OR OF SPACE DEBRIS, OR METEORS, NOT UNDER CONTROL AND THEREFORE NOT FLYING, ENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. FINALLY, THE WORD 'UNIDENTIFIED' CAN BE CHALLENGED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CLASSIFICATION IS A PURELY TENTATIVE ONE, SINCE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE OBSERVER GENERALLY PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SIGHTING. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ALL WELL-REPORTED SIGHTINGS CAN BE IDENTIFIED SATISFACTORILY.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERM 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' IS USED AS IT IS A MORE ACCURATE DEFINITION OF THE OCCURRENCE.

MOVING ON NOW TO REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA. REPORTS ARE MADE INITIALLY TO THE NEAREST AIR FORCE BASE. AT THE BASE THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OR OTHER SUITABLY QUALIFIED OFFICER CONDUCTS THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION. HE CONTACTS THE OBSERVER PERSONALLY OR IN WRITING TO OBTAIN A COMPLETED 'REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' PRO-FORMA. THIS PRO-FORMA IS DESIGNED TO EXTRACT ALL THE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SIGHTING AND THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED BASED ON THIS INFORMATION. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT, WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS OF CIVIL AND MILITARY

/AIRCRAFT

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS, STAR AND PLANET POSITIONS, KNOWN SATELLITE PASSES, METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON RELEASES AND PREVAILING WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABLE CAUSE IS THEN FORWARDED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE) IN CANBERRA WHERE THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED AND A REPLY SENT TO THE OBSERVER. WHERE NECESSARY ADVICE AND INFORMATION IS SOUGHT FROM SPECIALIST AGENCIES SUCH AS WRE, CSIRO, DEFENCE STANDARDS LABORATORIES, OBSERVATORIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

BETWEEN JANUARY 1960 AND DECEMBER 1973 815 REPORTS WERE RECEIVED. 90 PER CENT OF THE REPORTS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO CAUSES INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, SATELLITES, SPACE DEBRIS, BALLOONS, METEORS, STARS AND PLANETS. SEVEN PER CENT DID NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PERMIT PROPER ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION AND THREE PER CENT WERE ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN CAUSES. WE ENCOUNTER VERY FEW DELIBERATE HOAXES.

INVESTIGATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES HAVE PRODUCED SIMILAR FINDINGS TO OUR OWN. THE UNITED KINGDOM AIR MINISTRY HAS STATED THAT ON AN AVERAGE 90 PER CENT OF THE SIGHTINGS IT INVESTIGATES ARE EXPLAINABLE BY CAUSES RANGING FROM METEOROLOGICAL BALLOONS AND METEORS TO AIRCRAFT LIGHTS. THE OTHER 10 PER CENT PROBABLY REMAIN UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION.

THE USAF 'PROJECT BLUE BOOK' INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS BETWEEN 1953 AND 1965 ANALYZED 7641 REPORTS. THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT:

- a. 80 PER CENT OF SIGHTINGS WERE NATURAL PHENOMENA, HOAXES, BIRDS OR MAN-MADE OBJECTS;
- b. 17 PER CENT PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT DATA TO PERMIT THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION; AND
- c. THREE PER CENT WERE UNIDENTIFIED.

/WITH THE

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PERIOD 1970/71, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN AUSTRALIA, TO THE POINT WHERE ALMOST ONE QUARTER OF ALL SIGHTINGS BETWEEN 1960 AND 1973 WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR. THERE IS NO DEFINITE EXPLANATION FOR THIS INCREASE EXCEPT THAT:

- a. THE SUBJECT OF 'UFOS' HAS BEEN GIVEN A LOT OF PUBLICITY IN ALL FORMS OF THE MEDIA;
- b. TV AND CINEMA VERSIONS OF THE BOOK 'CHARIOTS OF THE GODS' HAVE GENERATED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT; AND
- c. THERE IS AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF SATELLITES IN EARTH ORBIT AND SPACE EXPLORATION IS EXTENDING FURTHER INTO THE OUTER REACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

LET US NOW LOOK AT SOME OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AND WHY PEOPLE REPORT THEM AS SUCH.

FIRSTLY SPACE DEBRIS. FIGURES PUBLISHED IN JULY THIS YEAR SHOW THAT SINCE 1957 7353 MAN-MADE OBJECTS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED INTO SPACE. OF THESE 3204 WERE STILL IN SPACE ON 30 JUNE. THESE OBJECTS PERIODICALLY DECAY AND BURN-UP DURING RE-ENTRY INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. ONE WELL REPORTED CASE INVOLVED 12 SEPARATE SIGHTINGS, FROM PLACES AS WIDESPREAD AS DERBY AND KALGOORLIE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, OF A LARGE FIERY OBJECT WITH A GLOWING TAIL. WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE OBJECT WAS IN FACT A SPACE VEHICLE DESIGNATED 1973-024B WHICH WAS THE BOOSTER ROCKET ASSOCIATED WITH LAUNCHING OF A RUSSIAN SATELLITE COSMOS 555 (DESIGNATED 1973 - 024A). THIS OBJECT MEASURED APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES IN LENGTH AND WOULD HAVE GENERATED TREMENDOUS HEAT AND DISINTEGRATED DURING RE-ENTRY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED PROBABLY REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WITNESSES TO THIS SIGHTING BUT IS SUFFICIENT TO INDICATE THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE ALARMED AT AN INCIDENT STRANGE TO THEM YET READILY EXPLAINABLE WHEN ALL THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN EVALUATED. THIS PARTICULAR SIGHTING IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SPECIALIST AGENCIES PROVIDING A SOLUTION. WRE

/WERE CONTACTED

WERE CONTACTED INITIALLY BUT WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING. THEY IMMEDIATELY TELEGRAMMED THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE IN MARYLAND, USA WHO PROVIDED THE ANSWER IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS.

MOVING ON NOW TO AIRCRAFT OR MORE PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT LIGHTING. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL EXTERNAL LIGHTING AIRCRAFT COMPANIES ARE NOW ILLUMINATING COMPANY MARKINGS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES, FITTING STROBE ANTI-COLLISION LIGHTS, AND LANDING LIGHTS ARE BEING TURNED ON UP TO 100 MILES AWAY FROM THE AIRPORT. THE UNKNOWING GROUND OBSERVER WHEN FACED WITH THIS CONFUSING ARRAY OF LIGHTS HARDLY SURPRISINGLY REPORTS LONG CIGAR OR SAUCER-SHAPED OBJECTS WITH EERIE FLASHING LIGHTS.

STARS AND PLANETS ARE ANOTHER CAUSE OF A GREAT MANY SIGHTING REPORTS. IN MANY OF THESE CASES PEOPLE ARE QUITE GENUINE IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD NOT MISTAKE SOMETHING AS WELL KNOWN AS VENUS OR EVEN A LESSER KNOWN STAR FOR WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN. THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT AWARE AT THE TIME, HOWEVER, OF THE STARTLING EFFECTS POLLUTION, TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS AND A PHENOMENON KNOWN AS ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION CAN HAVE ON THESE LIGHT SOURCES. ANY ONE OF THESE CAN PRODUCE COLOUR CHANGES FROM RED AND YELLOW THROUGH TO BLUE AND GREEN AND CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION IN PARTICULAR, A PHENOMENON CAUSED BY VARYING ATMOSPHERIC DENSITY LAYERS, CAN PRODUCE RAPID FLUCTUATIONS IN BRIGHTNESS, POSITION AND COLOUR OF LIGHT SOURCES SUCH AS VENUS. EARLIER THIS YEAR YOU MAY RECALL THE MEDIA GAVE A LOT OF COVERAGE TO REPORTS OF TWO EXTREMELY BRIGHT LIGHTS CLOSE TOGETHER IN THE SKY. THE LIGHTS APPEARED TO REcede RAPIDLY AND SUDDENLY INCREASE IN BRIGHTNESS AND APPARENTLY PERFORMED STRANGE MANOEUVRES CREATING A VERY UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY QUITE ALARMING EFFECT. THESE LIGHTS WERE IN FACT NO MORE THAN THE PLANETS VENUS AND JUPITER SEEN THROUGH EITHER POLLUTION OR A TEMPERATURE INVERSION OR AFFECTED BY ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION.

OF COURSE NOT ALL REPORTS RECEIVED ARE OF AN AERIAL NATURE. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS A NUMBER OF REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM QUEENSLAND,

/SOUTHAUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA OF STRANGE CIRCULAR MARKINGS IN THE GROUND.

UNFORTUNATELY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF THESE MARKINGS. (THE REPORTS FROM QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA PARTICULARLY WERE WELL COVERED IN THE PRESS WHICH GAVE RISE TO SUGGESTIONS OF 'SAUCER NESTS'. WITH THIS TYPE OF PRESS COVERAGE OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THE REPORT FROM VICTORIA WAS RECEIVED LATE AND HEAVY RAINS HAD REMOVED ANY TRACE OF THESE MARKINGS.) SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS CAUSES AND THESE INCLUDE WILLY-WILLIES, FUNGUS, HELICOPTERS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND ANIMAL NESTS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT ANY ONE OF THESE WAS THE CAUSE. AT THE SAME TIME INVESTIGATIONS DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY EVIDENCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RESIDUES OR RADIOACTIVITY.

4-12
K. J. J.

FINALLY THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS 'WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY THAT UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS ARE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN?' WE WOULD BE UNWISE TO DISCOUNT COMPLETELY THE POSSIBILITY THAT LIFE FORMS EXIST ELSEWHERE. UNITED STATES AND SOVIET SPACE EXPLORATION, HOWEVER, HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE THEORY OF LIFE ON PLANETS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. THE MARINER SERIES OF SPACE EXPLORATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE PROVED THAT MARS IS A 'DEAD' PLANET. THE ONLY OTHER SOURCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE, THEREFORE, WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM. THE CLOSEST VISIBLE STAR TO EARTH IS ALPHA CENTAURI WHICH IS ABOUT 25 MILLION MILLION MILES AWAY. EVEN IF LIFE FORMS EXISTED ON THIS STAR AND WERE CAPABLE OF SPACE TRAVEL AT SPEEDS CURRENTLY KNOWN TO MAN I.E. ABOUT 25,000 MPH THEY WOULD TAKE ABOUT 115,000 YEARS TO REACH EARTH. THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE A LONG JOURNEY TO UNDERTAKE JUST TO REMAIN IN ONE VICINITY FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS, OR PERHAPS MINUTES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROBABILITY OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE FORMS VISITING EARTH IS EXTREMELY REMOTE.

3

6Q/Air (10)

1st October 1974

- Headquarters RAAF DARWIN
- Headquarters RAAF TOWNSVILLE
- Headquarters RAAF AMBERLEY
- Headquarters RAAF WILLIAMTOWN
- Headquarters RAAF RICHMOND
- Headquarters RAAF FAIRBAIRN
- Headquarters RAAF EDINBURGH
- Headquarters Operational Command Unit RAAF PENRITH
- No 5 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF LEARMONTH
- Australian Joint Anti-Submarine School NOWRA
- Senior Air Force Officer HQPNG Defence Force Murray Barracks Free
 Bag BORO KO PNG

REVISED POLICY - UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Policy relating to investigation of unusual aerial sightings is at Reference A. Revised policy was forwarded under Reference B. The annexes to Reference B were incorrectly identified and are to be amended as follows:

- a. Annex A to 6Q/Air (6) of 9th September 1974 is enclosed.
- b. Annex C to 6Q/Air (6) of 9th September 1974 is to be amended to read Annex B to 6Q/Air (6) of 9th September 1974.

Kenneth D. Clark
 (K.D. CLARK)
 Squadron Leader
 for Air Officer Commanding

Encl: 1. Annex A to 6Q/Air (6) of 9th September 1974

	FOR		ACTION TO BE TAKEN
	Action	Info	
HQ DARWIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Reply direct
BASE SQN			Copy to HQ Darwin
2CRU			
APMNT			Submit reply for
SQN DET			Signature by O.C.
			Reply to HQ Darwin by
Special Instructions			
INTEL O			

RS



DATED 9 SEP 74

INFORMATION PRO-FORMA

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Enclosed are five summaries of unusual aerial sightings for the period January 1960 to December 1973.

2

31st Nov 1979

Headquarters
RAF Base
SARNUN NT 5189

Mrs. [Name] [Address]
[Address]
[Address]
[Address]

20 November 1979

Dear Son,
Thank you for the informal
copy of the [document] [document] to me in
[document] of [document] by the [document]
[document] of [document]. So allow us to
document [document] [document] the [document]
[document] [document] you [document] [document]
[document] [document] the [document] [document]
[document] [document] [document] [document] [document]
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I am enclosing [document] copies
of the [document] [document] the [document]
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[document] [document] [document] [document] [document]

MESSAGE FORM

RAAF
COMM-CEN

Instructions for message
contained in
102 Chapter 6

Line 1 RESERVED FOR COMM-CEN/SIGNALS USE				Security Classification and Special Handling Instructions RESTRICTED					
Line 2									
Line 3									
Line 4									
Line 5									
Precedence - Action ROUTINE		Precedence - Info ROUTINE		Date - Time Group 300530Z / NOV 79		Message Instructions			
Routing Indicators		FROM HQDAR				Orig No SIG EQJ			
		WRITE ONLY ONE ADDRESSEE PER LINE THE PROWORD 'INFO' IS TO BE INSERTED BEFORE THE FIRST INFORMATION ADDRESSEE				A1094/AIR 4			
		TO HQOC							
		DEFAIR CANBERRA				GR			
<p>UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED SECOND HAND FROM THE MANAGER OF BIRRIIMBA STATION (EIGHTY ODD MILES SOUTH OF KATHERINE / TINDAL) ON 29 NOV 79. MANAGER REPORTED SEEING A LARGE BRILLIANT LIGHT VISIBLE FOR ABOUT 40 SECONDS MOVING WEST TO EAST ABOUT 15 DEGREES IN APPARENT DESCENT. SIGHTING WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ELONGATED CYLINDRICAL OBJECT REDDISH ORANGE IN COLOUR AND MOVING RAPIDLY. WEATHER COND. AT TIME CLEAR WITH SOME SMOKE HAZE BUT NIL CLOUD. OBSERVER STATED THAT OBJECT LEFT A CONTRAIL BUT DETAIL OF PERSISTENCE NOT YET AVAILABLE. TIME OF SIGHTING WAS 0625 HOURS ON 22 SEPT 79 AND WAS REPORTED FOLLOWING PUBLICITY GIVEN TO US SATELLITE OBSERVATION ON THAT DATE.</p>									
Refers to Message		Page No 1		Drafter's Name and Title RODDY AIR 4		Phone No 5238	Ref File No 5/4/AIR	Date 30/11/79	
Classified YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		No of Pages 1		Releaser's Name and Title RODDY SEN LDR		Signature <i>[Signature]</i>			
FOR OPS USE R	Date	Time	System	Operator	Date	Time	System	Operator	Security Classification RESTRICTED