



---

# U.F.O. HISTORICAL REVUE

---

NUMBER 15

Editor: Barry Greenwood

June 2015

## Significant Ghost Rocket Documents Available

**After a search of the CIA's web site search engine, a pair of little-seen reports concerning the 1946 "Ghost Rocket" phenomenon have become available. These are not the usual briefings of current events but are formerly Top Secret reports involving the White House and President Truman.**

**The 1946 sightings, nicknamed "Ghost Rockets" were a phenomenon which plagued Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, most heavily through the summer and fall of that year. The reports have become iconic in UFO literature as one of the early manifestations of the modern UFO phenomenon. Strange reports of the streaking objects were widely disseminated throughout the world, generating much speculation over how far along the Russians were with their captured German missile experts and equipment, specifically at Peenemunde in northern Germany. At one point it was said that General James Doolittle has visited Sweden with the purpose of helping the Swedish military analyze reports. However, Doolittle had denied any such trip, stating years later that he only knew what he knew from the newspapers.**

**Copies of text from these documents have been in light circulation since at least 2010 but these particular copies originated from the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. As such, they are President Truman's original communications, with little-seen "Top Secret" markings, a very nice piece of visual history.**

**Oddly enough, the CIA chose to censor from this better-appearing copy a passage available in the carbon copies that have circulated (Memo page 1): "c. An S.S.U. source indicates that a Soviet ship is reporting by radio to shore stations on the passage of these missiles from Peenemunde over the north Baltic."**



TOP SECRET

NLT(ADF-SUBS) 372

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

P-  
AHZ

**TOP SECRET**

23 August 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR

The President

The attached report on "Ghost Rockets" received from the National Intelligence Authority is forwarded for your information.

*William D. Leahy*  
WILLIAM D. LEAHY

**TOP SECRET**

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~ SECRET

SECRET (S) 313

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY  
NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING  
21st and VIRGINIA AVENUE N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

<input type="checkbox"/> No Change In Class.	22 August 1946
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed to: TS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C 1992	
Next Review Date:	
Auth.: HR 70-3	
Date: 26 April 1982	

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

25X1

Since preparation of our original memorandum dated 1 August 1946 on the subject of "Ghost Rockets" over Scandinavia, additional intelligence indicates that the former tentative conclusions should be somewhat modified.

1. The weight of evidence now points to Peenemunde rather than to the Gulf of Finland as the probable launching site of most of these "rockets".

a. While it was originally believed that the German installations at Peenemunde had been dismantled and shipped to the U.S.S.R., General McNarney now reports that Peenemunde is operational.

b. The U. S. Military Attache Moscow has reported that a key Swedish Air Officer stated that, on the basis of Swedish radar course-plotting, most of the launchings have been identified with the Peenemunde area.



25X1

d. The Leopoldville radio reported in July that the Soviets were warning shipping against passage through certain parts of the Baltic and were threatening the death penalty to seamen who might disclose the "phenomena" which they saw.

2. On the basis of the above evidence it seems probable that the U.S.S.R. is carrying out large-scale guided-missile tests around the Baltic, in which most of the missiles are launched from the Peenemunde area and traverse Sweden toward the Gulf of Bothnia.

3. It is the belief of CIG that scientific experimentation is the primary Soviet objective and that political considerations, although thoroughly appreciated, are secondary.

a. In view of transportation difficulties it would seem logical for the Soviets to center their experimental program around Peenemunde where manufacturing facilities, materials and German personnel would be close at hand, rather than to set up new installations in Russia.

~~TOP SECRET~~ SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

b. There have been several foreign estimates that only those "rockets" which are off course, presumably through functional failure, land in Sweden.

*Hoys. Vandenberg*  
HOYT. S. VANDENBERG  
Lieutenant General, USA

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

*over file with  
Wright*

651

TOP SECRET

18 September 1946.

HR7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

With regard to our research into the question of the guided missiles which have for the past month been appearing over the Swedish area, we have noted a decided decrease in the intelligence from that field. This is of concern not only to us but also to the Joint Research and Development Board.

This date Captain Olsen talked with me about the matter and suggested that it might be desirable to send Dr. Hauffstad, presently a consultant for the Joint Research and Development Board, to Stockholm in an attempt to gain further and more up-to-date information. His suggestion was that Dr. Hauffstad continue to be paid by the Joint Research and Development Board but that CIG establish [redacted] for him. [redacted]

[redacted] but also that it would be practically impossible to provide [redacted] for a man as well known in the scientific field as Dr. Hauffstad but I agreed to discuss it with the Director.

Later in conversation with General Vandenberg, I presented this subject and he agreed that the plan of sending somebody to Stockholm had merit but that it was not desirable that a man as well known as Dr. Hauffstad be selected. He further felt in view of other arrangements with the [redacted] that any one sent to that area and in this connection could only be as an [redacted]

In view of the many difficulties with regard to this plan and the fact that we may as a result of [redacted] contacts receive additional information in the near future, I have called Captain Olsen and directed that we keep our fingers in this matter but refrain from any direct action, at least for the time being.

*E. K. Wright*

E. K. WRIGHT  
Colonel, GSC  
Executive to the Director.

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE DATE:  
30-Aug-2010

~~TOP SECRET~~

*Wright*

19 September, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING CHIEF, ICAPS.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Relating to Rockets over Sweden.

1. Reference is made to undated memorandum from your office, with inclosures.

2. Your memorandum of 19 August on same subject, made no request in fourth paragraph but merely put forth a suggestion which was not concurred in by the then Acting Assistant Director for Collection, who felt a responsibility toward O.R.E. in the matter and fulfilled that responsibility, but was not conscious of any responsibility toward ICAPS in the matter, which was and is of high classification.

3. [redacted] under which the [redacted] agree to give us all information developed on the subject and due to the current diplomatic situation with regard to [redacted] the former Acting Assistant Director for Collection has advised against sending Dr. Hafstad or anyone else to Sweden at this time, in this connection. The Director of Central Intelligence concurs in this realistic viewpoint and has so advised Captain Olsen, through Colonel Wright, on this date.

4. For your information, all sources (including the highest) have been fully exploited and copies of all reports, from all sources, have been furnished, as they come in, to O.R.E. A Photo-Interpretation Study of the three possible launching sites has been promised for 27 September, 1946 and will be forwarded promptly to O.R.E.

HARRY F. CUNNINGHAM  
Colonel, G.S.C. (AC)  
Former Acting Assistant Director for Collection

C/C: Capt. Olsen;  
Col. Wright; ←  
Dr. Parkman.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)**

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>Memo</del>	<del>For the President from Dean A. Gibson (3 attachments)</del> <i>Declassified 10-21-85</i>	<del>10-18-50</del>	<del>A</del>
Memo	For the President from James E. Webb	9-27-50	A
<del>Memo</del>	<del>To the Secretary from W. L. ... (15 attachments)</del>	<del>9-28-47</del>	<del>A</del>
Memo	For the President from William D. Leahy (attachment)	8-23-46	A

FILE LOCATION **TRUMAN PAPERS - P.S.F.  
SUBJECT FILE - FOREIGN  
FOLDER: "J"**

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 11652 governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.