

INTER-OFFICE MEMO SLIP
HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects: New Mexico

No.	Date	From	To	REMARKS
1	29 Dec 48	Major Godsoe	A C/S G-2	<p>1. Since the initial report of unidentified objects, described as flares or moving lights, in the vicinity of Las Vegas, New Mexico, on 5 December 1948, there have been 23 reports from observers up to and including 28 December 1948. Of these reports, 21 have been in New Mexico, 1 in Arizona and 1 in Oregon.</p> <p>2. The 21 observations in New Mexico have, in general, been in the vicinity of an area bounded in the east by the city of Las Vegas and in the north by Los Alamos. Two observations were made in the vicinity of Albuquerque.</p> <p>3. The appearance of the lights are of a definite pattern. All have been of an intense white or greenish white. The trajectory or path of flight has been north to east, north to west or west to east. Altitude has been reported from 3000 to 20,000 feet above the terrain, which in this area is 5000 to 7200 feet above sea level. Speed has been undetermined except that it seems to be above the supersonic range.</p> <p>4. This office, the FBI and the intelligence agencies of Sandia Base and Kirtland Field have been unable to evaluate or determine the significance or origin of the phenomena. We have therefore agreed that the 17th District, Office of Special Investigation (OSI) of the Air Force be the gathering and reporting agency in that they have a direct reporting channel to Washington, have access to aircraft and observation facilities and are in coordination with the Geophysics Laboratory of the Air Materiel Command, USAF.</p> <p>5. The OSI has obtained the cooperation of Dr. Lincoln La Paz of the University of New Mexico. Dr. La Paz is one of the top ranking meteorologists in the United States. He is qualified to identify the sighted objects as natural meteoric phenomena or otherwise. Dr. La Paz has, from descriptions of observations furnished him and, <u>BY PERSONAL OBSERVATION</u>, determined that the objects sighted are <u>NOT</u> natural meteoric phenomena. Dr. La Paz is in consultation with other scientists in an effort to solve the problem but up to this time have arrived at theories only. Theories advanced to date have fallen into <u>CATEGORY III</u> possibilities. Experimental tests</p>

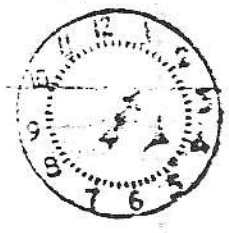
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				<p>have been made at the university to determine what material would give off the whitish-greenish glow under extreme heat. The only material which they have discovered giving off this color is <u>Beryllium Copper</u> a metal used in the construction of guided missiles. It is the unsubstantiated opinion of Dr. La Paz that the presently unidentified objects are man made missiles constructed to be self disintegrating, hence the whitish-greenish color given off at the time of observation.</p> <p>6. It is of interest to note that at least two of the objects have been sighted directly over the Los Alamos AEC project. One person who observed one of the objects at Los Alamos has stated that it looked exactly the same as <u>V2 Rockets</u> he had seen over England during the war.</p> <p>7. In view of the continuation of these objects being sighted over this area, it is suggested that Fourth Army coordinate with the Air Force and the Air Materiel Command to conduct a scientific study of the phenomena. The situation is beyond the capabilities of ordinary intelligence agencies, who can only report occurrence and cannot evaluate the probabilities or possibilities.</p>

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