



Office Memorandu UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

:Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence DATE: 4 April 1958 TO

FROM : Chief, Applied Science Division, SI

SUBJECT: Comments on Letters Dealing with Unidentified Flying Objects

References:

- (1) Letter to Director, CIA, from Leon Davidson, dated 11 March 1958
- (2) Letter to Director, CIA, from Donald E. Keyhoe, Director of National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
- 1. As a result of the action taken by the IAC on 4 December 1952 (IAC-M-90, Paragraph 3a), a Scientific Intelligence Advisory Panel vas convened 14-18 January 1953. The panel consisted of the following scientists: R. P. Robertson, Luis W. Alvarez, Lloyd V. Berkner, S. A. Goudsmit, and Thornton Page. The panel concerned itself-with the evaluation of any possible threat to National Security by unidentified flying objects. The penel issued a report dated 17 January 1953. This report was classified Secret.
- 2. The letters from Leon Davidson and Donald Keyhoe to the DCI concerned themselves primerily with Edward J. Ruppelt's book on Unidentified Flying Cojects. At the time that the scientific panel ret, Ruppelt was a Captain in the Air Force and attended the panel meetings. His book, however, is concerned with the identification of unidentified flying objects. Ruppelt's statements regarding the mission of the panel are in error. He has led the reader to believe the penel's mission was to identify the flying objects and to make recommendations on methods to further identify such cojects. This is the basis for the apparent contradictions which arose during the Mike Wallace television interview. This is also the basis for Mr. Keyhoe's misgivings.
- 3. In late October 1957, Major James F. Byrne of AFCIN-XIA requested a declassified version of the panel report. This office contacted each member of the panel and an agreed upon, declassified version was written and sent to the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force on 20 December 1957. It was the decision of all the panel members and the CIA that while no member of the panel objected to the use of his name in connection with the declassified version, they desired that no connection of the panel members with CIA be disclosed.

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- 4. It is apparent from reading Mr. Davidson's letter that Mike Wallace had a copy of the scientific panel report. In addition, the association of CIA with the US Air Force in the selection of the panel was revealed during the television interview. Therefore, the panel members have been associated with CIA, contrary to their wishes and contrary to CIA's desires.
- 5. The real intent of the referenced letters is to obtain a copy of the panel report. In view of this, and of the above, it would be most expedient to send them the declassified version.

 In order to not reveal an association between the panel members and CIA, either the Air Force should ensure the letters or we should make it plain to the recipients that we obtained the panel report from the Air Force.

6. Attached are copies of the declassified panel report.

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REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CEJECTS

17 James 1953 .

- The undersigned Panel of Scientific Consultants has not at the request of the Government to evaluate any possible threat to national security posed by Unidentified Flying Objects ("Flying Saucers"), and to make recommendation. The Panel has received the evidence as presented by cognizant Governmental agencies, primarily the United States Air Force, and has reviewed a selection of the best documented incidents.
 - 2. As a result of its considerations, the Panel concludes:
 That the evidence presented on Unidentified Flying
 Cojects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute
 - a direct physical threat to national security.

 We firely believe that there is no residuum of cases which indicates phanemens which are attributable to foreign artifacts capable of hostile acts, and that there is no evidence that the phanemens indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts.
 - 3. In the light of this conclusion, the Panel recommends:

 That the national security agencies take immediate steps
 to strip the Unidentified Flying Objects of the special status
 they have been given and the sura of mystery they have
 unfortunately acquired.

We suggest that this aim may be achieved by an integrated program designed to reassure the public of the total lack of evidence of inimical forces behind the phenomena.

/s/ Illoyd V. Berkner
Associated Universities, Inc.

18/ H. P. Robertson, Chairman /8/ S. A. Gondenit
California Institute of Technology Brookhaven National Laboratories

/s/ Inis W. Alvarez /s/ Thornton Page
University of California John Hopkins University