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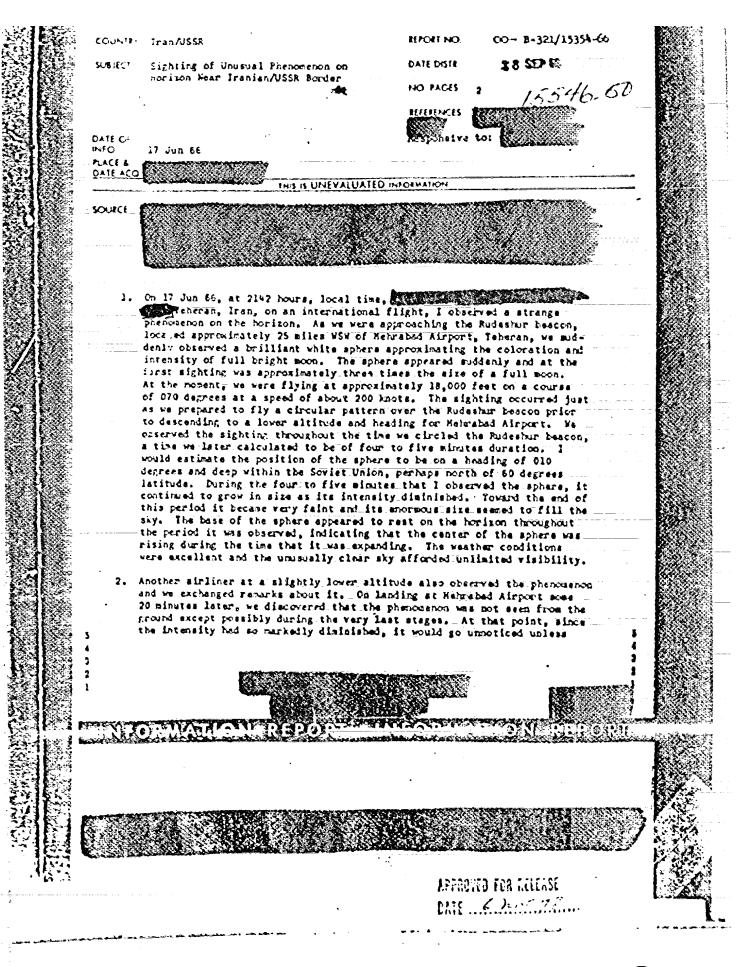
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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		FNO. 00~	8-321/15354-66
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	THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION)+\	

- 1. On 17 Jun 66, at 2142 hours, local time, Meheran, Iran, on an international flight, I observed a strange phenomenon on the horizon. As we were approaching the Rudashur beacon, localed approximately 25 miles WSW of Mehrabad Airport, Taheran, we muddenly observed a brilliant_white sphere_approximating the coloration and intensity of full bright soon. The sphere appeared suddenly and at the irrat aighting was approximately three times the size of a full moon. At the moment, we were flying at approximately 18,000 feet on a course of 070 degrees at a speed of about 200 knots. The sighting occurred just we prepared to fly a circular pattern over the Rudeshur beacon prior to descending to a lover altitude and heading for Helmahad Airport. We observed the sighting throughout the time we circled the Rudesbur beacon; a time we later calculated to be of four to five minutes duration. I would estimate the position of the sphere to be on a heading of 010 degrees and deep within the Soviet Union, perhaps north of 60 degrees latitude. During the four to five minutes that I observed the aphere, it continued to grow in size as its intensity disinished. Toward the end of this period it became very faint and its enormous size seemed to fill the sky. The base of the sphere appeared to rest on the horizon throughout the period it was observed, indicating that the center of the sphere was rising during the time that it was expanding. The weather conditions were excellent and the unusually clear sky afforded unlimited visibility.

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unless one were elected to look for it. The reason for its being obscured from the ground is attributed to the abrupt rise of the very high nountain range north of the city in the direction of the phenomenon.

3. I don't know what caused this strange occurrence which we observed. I had never seen anything resembling it in over 20 years of flying experience. One theory advanced to me was that the shere was a "false moon" and that such a phenomenon was seen near Rose, Italy. My feeling is that the sphere was formed by gases commetting perhaps from a men-made explosion. These gases forming the sphere may have been illustrated by the sun from the back side. If this were the case, it would account for the diminishing intensity as the density of the gases decreased with the expension of the sphere.

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