

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

18/00500

ATTC NO. --- DATE OF INFO 17 Sept 1950

AP NO. --- LOCATION TATULL NI

REPORT NO. --- SOURCE Aircraft BADO.

DATE OF REPORT 20 Sept 1950 DATE IN TO ATTC ---

TIME OF STARTING 2100 1750 COLOR Bluish-white

SHAPE Circular SPEED fast Estimated

SIZE 101 diameter ALTITUDE 8000 Measured

COURSE NW LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ---

NO. IN GROUP 1 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

BOUND --- MANEUVERS Made sharp turn to right

PHOTOS --- SKETCHES ---

Temporary ATIC Form 329  
(2 Jan 52)

**RESTRICTED**

ASTRO (REFRACTION OF SETTING SUN)

AMERADA PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
P. O. BOX 2040  
TULSA 2, OKLAHOMA

17 Sept 1950 <sup>9241</sup> 15232686

Tatum, New Mexico  
Sept 18 1950

Chief, U S Army Intelligence  
Roswell Army Air Base,  
Roswell, New Mexico.

Dear Sir;

I wish to pass on to you the following observation made by me while enroute to my duties as geologist at the Amerada State RA "1", a wildcat well being drilled in Sec 22, Township 8 South, Range 32 East, Chaves County, New Mexico. Whether it has any military significance I do not know but you may evaluate the follow as you see fit.

Below are the contents of what I wrote after getting to the well. The contents were written at 8:45 PM, the observation was made about 5:50 P.M. (5:50PM) New Mexico Time. The elapsed time was due to the need to run up the samples in order to report in by radio.

COPY

Sept 17 1950  
Sec 22 T8S R32E

To whom it may concern;

I, [REDACTED] being of sane mind and body wish to make the following statement. At or about 5:50 PM, New Mexico Time, while enroute to the wildcat well Amerada State RA, within a mile of the location I observed the following phenomenon:

An orange red ball, wider in the center than its outer edges appeared, the first time I saw it, it appeared in a vertical position, I would say it lasted ten seconds, it seemed to come forward and then, though it did not actually stop, it seemed to stop coming forward and receded. I thought at first the sun was coming back out (it was raining very hard) and the rainstorm was going to cease. A few seconds later it reappeared, this time much closer, (it seemed to stop raining) I would say maybe a mile or a mile and a half away, in a horizontal position. This time it lasted at least 15 or 20 seconds or it may have

Incl #1

17 Sept  
7-3712-32

even been a minute. It seemed to head right toward me, I was looking west, my left window was open ( I was driving a Dodge Powerwagon) and I could see it much better. It was larger than the largest plane I have ever seen ( A B-36 or B-29 is the largest I have seen, I don't know the type planes the air force has but have seen one with 6 propellers and I believe that is the B-29.) It came slowly in a gliding matter, getting closer and closer, I thought at first it might be a tornado or a lightning bolt, I thought I would stop but then decided to proceed as quickly as I could, it came down in a slow glide , then finally again without seeming to stop it headed back west, it seemed to bank just a little, the south end going up and the north end down, then it rededed and disappeared.

The third time I saw it was a few seconds later, it was headed south and maybe a little west, more south than west, this time it appeared more as a round ball, but larger than before, looked like a large comet, then it disappeared. I was very excited and still driving as fast as I could, maybe ten miles an hour. ( The roads were soft and filled with water).

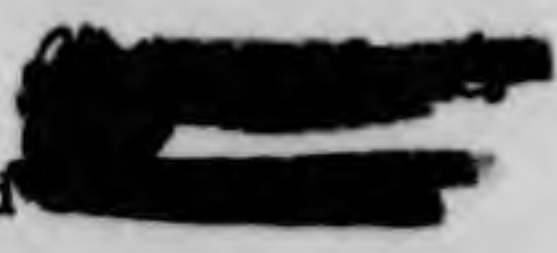
I reached the rig and told the driller and one of the roughnecks about it, they did not see nothing. On my way to the rig after the last view of the object I thought I saw a gray hill like mass in the distance looking west, looked like some scattered gray objects coming down. There are no hills in the area, my best estimate would be that the hill was 200 feet high, it appeared a mile away.

After being at the rig probably ten minutes it seemed to get lighter outside and two apparent patches of light to the south appeared. They were probably two miles away on the horizon. Four small clouds? appeared in the lighted area to the west and they slowly settled to the ground. and disappeared.

The rain seemed unnatural, I can't explain exactly what I mean, but I did see level clouds to the north and west and it appeared they were stationary and did not look like rain was coming from them, but still it was raining in that direction.

No one at the rig saw the object.

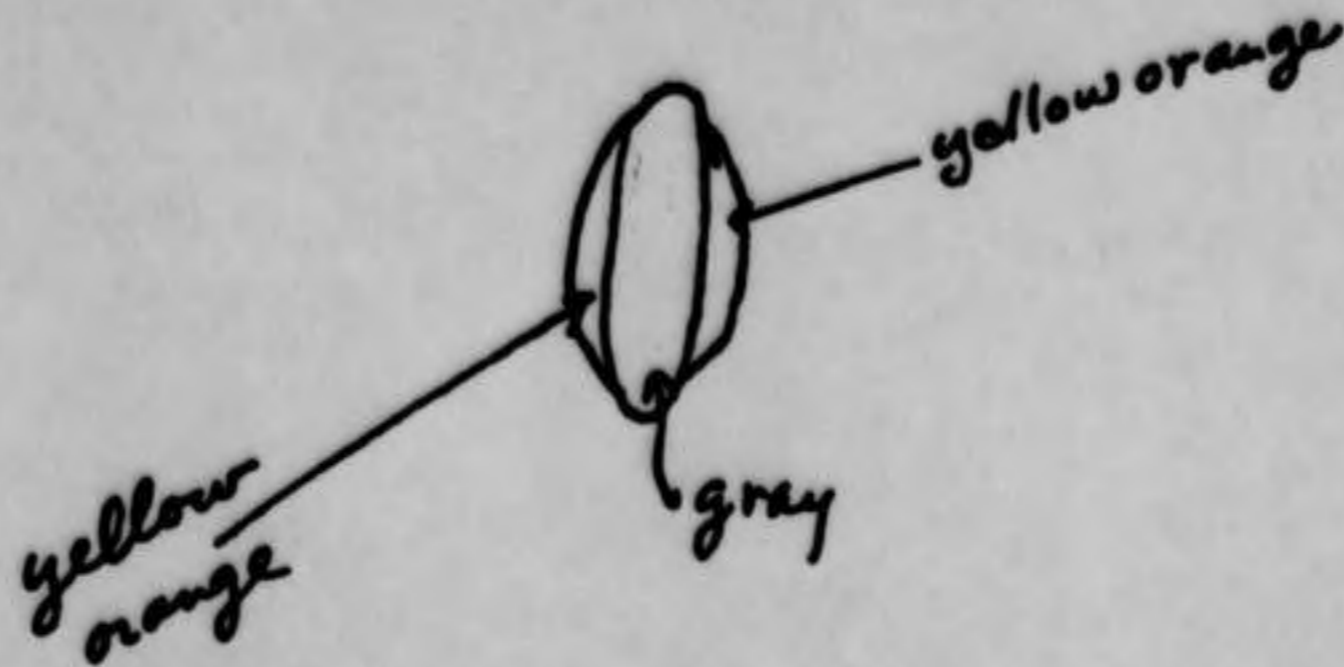
This is a true statement.

signed 

Written at 8:45 PM, Sept 17, 1950 at the location.

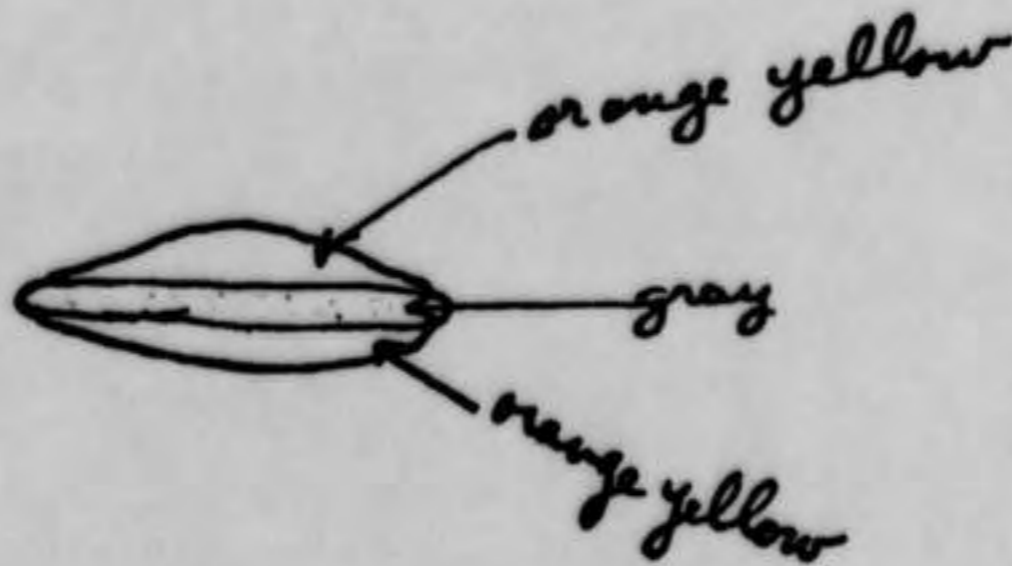
3.

1st View

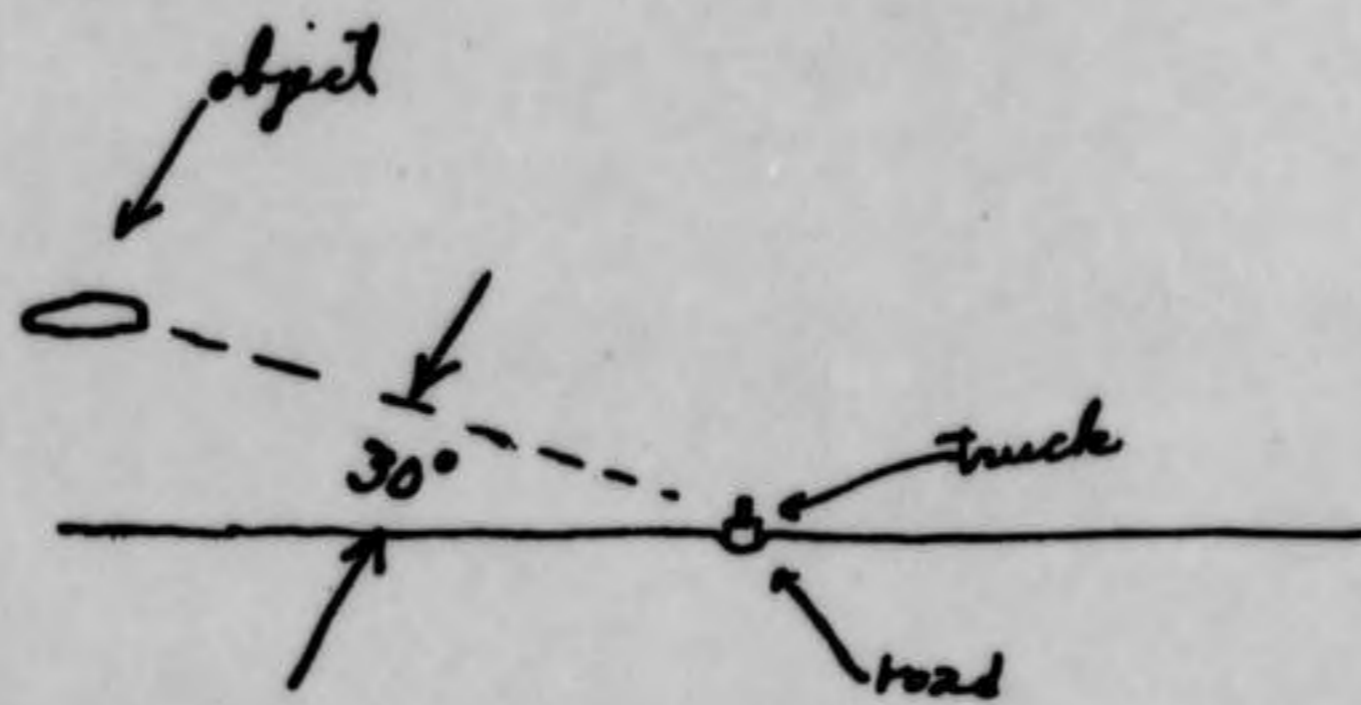


This object came from a south westerly direction.  
Probably  $15^\circ$  south of west.

2nd View

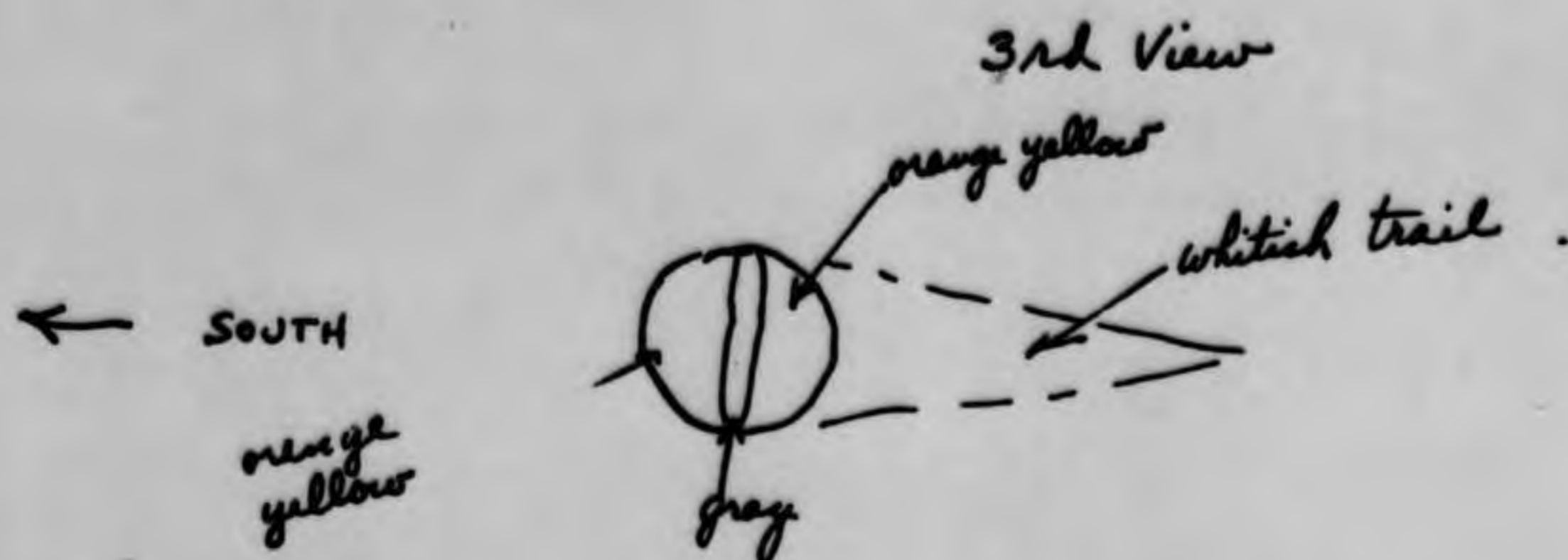


The angle of approach was probably about  $30^\circ$ ?



it came from a due ~~south~~ direction  
west

AMERADA PETROLEUM CORPORATION  
P. O. BOX 2040  
TULSA 2, OKLAHOMA



This time the object was headed due south.

At no time did the object seem to travel at a high rate of speed, all apparent movement was fairly slow and very smooth. At the time the observation was made it was raining fairly steady to slow. The hour or time of observation was near dusk, I did not have the lights on the Powerwagon.

There were no distinct edges on the object, the orange yellow was fuzzed at the edges and the same applies to the gray band in the middle.

at no time did the object seem to be spinning or rotating.

There is no doubt I was very excited at the time of observation, especially at the time of the second view, it actually seemed like it was going to hit me. After seeing the object disappear the last time it started to rain very, very, hard.

I have made the following, rather preceding, statements in the view that perhaps if this object was a guided missile? some location of object could be obtained for military purposes.

My idea is it may have been a tornado in the making, a lightning bolt, a comet, or if possible a so-called "flying saucer".

I do not desire no publicity, I have tried to present this observation in a scientific matter in that if such information is desired it may be obtained.

Whatever the object was I did see it plainly.

Excuse the typing errors.

~~James H. Tatum~~, U.S.A.R.  
16038519.

~~James H. Tatum~~  
Tatum, N.M.

7C Lt Col [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED AF 2636

COUNTRY Zone of Interior (U.S.)		REPORT NO. 509-79-4	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>			
SUBJECT Unidentified Airborne Object			
AREA REPORTED ON Tatum, New Mexico		FROM (Agency) Intelligence Officer, 509th Bomb Wing, M	
DATE OF REPORT 21 September 1950	DATE OF INFORMATION 17 September 1950	EVALUATION A-6	
PREPARED BY (Officer) ARAM S. TOOTELIAN, Lt Col., USAF		SOURCE [redacted] (Civilian) 4172	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. An unidentified airborne object, orange in color, and oval and round in shape, was observed by source near Tatum, New Mexico, on 17 September 1950, at approximately 1750 hours.
2. Observations were made while source was driving a truck to his duties. States that three distinct observations were made and that in each observation the position of the object had changed.
3. Report is based on personal letter from source to Wing Intelligence Officer of this Wing. Source states in letter that he, [redacted], is a member of the United States Army Reserves, Serial No. 16038519.
4. A few hours later on, the same date, an unidentified airborne object was observed from Walker Air Force Base by members of this command (See IR 509-79-3, dated 20 Sep 50).

ARAM S. TOOTELIAN  
Lt Col., USAF  
Wing Intelligence Officer

1 INCL.  
Subj Letter

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR  
  
HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH AIR FORCE, FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
DISTRIBUTION BY HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE: 3 cys USAF, 1 cy SAC, 1 cy 8th AF.

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

Encl. 2

[redacted]  
(CLASSIFICATION)  
UNCLASSIFIED

**AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT**

FROM (Agency) 509TH BOMB WING, M	REPORT NO. 509-79-4	PAGE 2	OF 3	PAGES
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1. Source.

All information contained in this report is based on a personal letter from the source, [redacted] a geologist at the Amerada State PA #1, a wildcat oil well being drilled in Section 22, Township 8 South, Range 32 East, Cheves County, New Mexico.

2. Observations by Source.

a. While he was driving a truck enroute to his duties, at the above site, the source states that he observed, "an orange red ball, wider in the center than its outer edges." He further stated, "The first time I saw it, it appeared in a vertical position, I would say it lasted ten seconds, it seemed to come forward and then, though it did not actually stop, it seemed to stop coming forward and receded."

b. After explaining that it was raining very hard at the time and that he thought that perhaps he had seen the sun coming back out the source continued, "a few seconds later it reappeared, this time much closer, (it seemed to stop raining) I would say maybe a mile or a mile and a half away, in a horizontal position. This time it lasted at least 15 or 20 seconds or it may have even been a minute. It seemed to head right toward me, I was looking West, my left window was open (I was driving a Dodge Powerwagon) and I could see it much better. It was larger than the largest plane I have ever seen, (a B-36 or B-29 is the largest I have seen). It came slowly in a gliding manner, getting closer and closer, I thought at first it might be a tornado or a lightning bolt. I thought I would stop but then decided to proceed as quickly as I could. It came down in a slow slide, then finally again without seeming to stop it headed back west, seemed to bank just a little, the south end going up and the north end down, then it receded and disappeared."

c. A few seconds after the second observation the source states that the object appeared again and it was headed South and that this time it appeared more as a round ball, but larger than before. It disappeared to the South and West. Source says that he was very excited and still driving as fast as he could, maybe ten miles an hour, as the roads were soft and filled with water.

d. Other observations made by the source were, "On my way to the rig after the last view of the object I thought I saw a grey hill like mass in the distance, looking West, which looked like some scattered grey objects coming down. There are no hills in the area. My best estimate would be that the hill was 200 feet high, it appeared to be a mile away." He continues, "After being at the rig probably ten minutes it seemed to get lighter outside and two apparent patches of light to the South appeared. They were probably two miles away on the horizon. Four small clouds appeared in the lighted area to the West and they slowly settled to the ground and disappeared. The rain seemed unnatural, I can't explain exactly what I mean, but I did see level clouds to the North and West and it appeared they were stationary and did not look like rain was coming from them, but still it was raining in that direction."

e. The source further stated that at no time did the object of his observation seem to travel at a high rate of speed. All apparent movement was fairly slow and very smooth. The object did not seem to be spinning or rotating. He stated that whatever the object was he could see it plainly as it was not dark enough to require the use of the lights on the truck he was driving.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 509TH BOMB WING, M	REPORT NO. 509-79-4	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
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### 3. Comments of preparing Officer.

a. Source, Mr. [REDACTED], Amerada Petroleum Corporation, Tatum, New Mexico, has not been interviewed. Neither has this office received any corroborative information on his observations. Further investigation is not contemplated.

b. The sources receptiveness to see objects may have been favorably conditioned by an article in the current issue of a nationally distributed magazine.

*Aram S. Tootelian*  
ARAM S. TOOTELIAN  
Lt Col., USAF  
Wing Intelligence Officer

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