## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE  16 Jan 61  3. DATE-TIME GROUP  Local 1800  GMT 170200Z  5. PHOTOS  CY No  7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECT	California ON  Ground-Rodar  Air-Intercept Radar  Civilian  9. COURSE	12. CONCLUSIONS   Was Balloon   Probably Balloon   Possibly Balloon   Possibly Balloon   Was Aircraft   Probably Aircraft   Possibly Aircraft   Possibly Aircraft   Probably Astronomical   Possibly Astronomical   Possibly Astronomical   Insufficient Data for Evaluation   Unknown   Unknown
3-4 Sec	One then many	Descending	iption of object is charac
no. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Robbasketball. Blueish white No definate formation. Of passing off port side obstanler pieces. Appeared descended and broke up it faded out.	e, like an electric abject seen by pilot; ject broke into seven 15°, 280°. Object	the earth's at	a meteor breaking up in

SHADARHE TO WITCHES SHIP PORTED BY THE PORT OF THE PROPERTY OF

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICA

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

23 JANSI 15 472 Tot. >3/17/72

31

ORIG. OR REFERS TO CLASSIFICATION ACCOUNTING TYPE MSG (Check) PRECEDENCE OF REFERENCE SYMBOL ROUTINE ACTION MULTI BOOK SINGLE 1381 UNCLAS AF INFO

FROM:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ATIC W-P AFB

TO:

SANTA ROSA ISLAND AFS, CALIF RJWZJB9

/UNCLAS/AFCIN-LE2x

1-712

669TH ACWRON, YOUR MSG 1381, DTD 17 JAN 61, RPTG THE SIGHTING OF A UFO. THE INFO RPTD IS VERY LIMITED IN NATURE, PRECLUDING A VALID CONCLUSION. REQ MORE DETAILED INFO BE RPTD IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 200-2, DTD 14 SEP 59.

| 18 | 345 TIME | 0845 | MONTH | YEAR | 1961

AFCIN-4E2x

TYPED NAME AND RESERVED OF THE MAJ ROBERT J. Friend

PHONE 69216

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFICATION

TYPED (of stamped) NAME AND TITLE

PHILIP G. EVANS Colorel, USAF

Deputy for Science and Components

DD, FORM 173

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

26 JAN 61 20 192 2619332 THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED. A. 1. ROUND 19 HUL -61 7. SHALL --------9. CLUECT LEEL IN PILOT OF PANILIN 23 PARELING OF THE POINT SIDE COULTY LACKE INTO CLUENAL CHALLES PIECES. CEULCY YOLLOWED EAST-A TOTAL TE -----

THE CENTER AND ENOME UP INTO MANY PILCES

4. THELERT WITH LLIGHT DE CENT 6. J TO 4 CECONDS C. 1. AIM-VISUAL 2. HORE 3. FJH, POINT MUGU, 2500, 060 EIGHEEL, 400 KTL, POINT MUGU NAC D. 1. APPROLIMATE 17/02002 - 2. DUCK E. 40 HILLS WEST OF SANTA ROSA ISLAND F. TROUT R L, LT COMMANDER, USN, AIR DEVELOPMENT 4, AIR TO AIR WEAPONS OFFICER, GOOD G. 1. CLEAR 2. NOT AVAILABLE PAGE THREE RUWZJEG 5 3. NOT AVAILABLE 4. UNLINITED 5. CLEAR A 124 1 5 3 11 I. MONE 11/01/19 \*\* \*\* \* \* \*\* 4 2 2 2 2 2 met

UPI A113N HC URGENT

LOS ANGELES, JAN. 16 (UPI) -- A GIANT BALL OF FIRE FLASHED ACROSS THE HORIZON IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TONIGHT, ALARMING RESIDENTS WHO SWAMPED POLICE SWITCHBOARDS WITH INQUIRIES.

THE CONTROL TOWER AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SAID IT RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS FROM PLANES IN THE AREA AS WELL

AS CALLS FROM MANY RESIDENTS.

A SPOKESMAN AT THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER
DESCRIBED THE FLASH AS "A HUGE BALL OF FIRE WHICH SEEMED TO SPLIT
INTO TWO PARTS. IT WAS GOING NORTH

DESCRIBED THE FLASH AS "A HUGE BALL OF FIRE WHICH SEEMED TO SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS. IT WAS GOING NORTHWEST.

"WE ASSUME IT WAS A METEOR, BUT A LOT OF CALLERS SAID IT LOOKED

LIKE A SATELLITE REENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE."

THE FLASH OF BRILLIANT CRANGE-RED FLAME WAS REPORTED FROM SANTA BARBARA, 110 MILES UP THE COAST, FROM PALMDALE, A DESERT CITY ABOUT 100 MILES NORTHEAST OF HERE, AND THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES AREA.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM ANY SOURCE AS TO WHAT THE

FIRE BALL WAS.

IT WAS THE FOURTH SUCH INCIDENT THAT HAS KEPT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS EDGY. FIRST WAS A SLIGHT EARTHQUAKE FRIDAY NIGHT. A SCNIC BOOM RATTLED THE AREA SATURDAY. AND HUGH 15-FOOT WAVES--SO FAR UNEXPLAINED--HAVE BEEN BATTERING THE SHORELINE.

"I HEARD A SWISHING SOUND!" SAID FONTANA POLICEMAN WILLIAM.
TENNEY. TENNEY, AT HOME AT THE TIME, SAID HE HUSTLED HIS CHILDREN INTO

THE HOUSE AFTER IT PASSED OVER.

POLICE IN FONTANA, A SUBURB 40 MILES EAST OF HERE, SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED RADIO REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS FROM AS FAR AWAY AS SAN DIEGO TO THE SOUTH AND BAKERSFIELD TO THE NORTH.

"ITOS A GIANT W

"IT WAS A GIANT WHITE BALL OF FLAME TRAILING A GOLD TAIL,"
SAID POLICEMAN TENNEY.

R634PPS..

TUPI A123N HC UPIR A122N HC URGENT IST LEAD FIREBALL (AVI 3N) LOS ANGELES, JAN. 16 (UPI) -- A GIANT BALL OF FIRE FLASHING ACROSS
THE HORIZON AT DUSK LIGHTED UP MUCH OF CALIFORNIA TONIGHT, ALARMING
THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS ALREADY EDGY BECAUSE OF RECENT UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA. REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS CAME FROM SAN LIEGO, ON THE MEXICO BORDER WHERE COAST GUARD PLANES WERE DISPATCHEL TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERIOUS FIREBALL, TO MARIN COUNTY NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO. METEOROLOGISTS AT LAS VEGAS, 333 MILES INLAND, ALSO SIGHTED IT.

JUST LAST LAST NIGHT ANOTHER TREMENDOUS FLASH OF LIGHT BRIGHTENED THE SKY IN SOUTHERN OREGON AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, LIGHTING EUREKA, CALIF., ALMOSTERKE LAYLIGHT. THE AIR FORCE AT VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE ON THE CENTRAL CALIFGENIA SEASIDE AND THE HIGH PRIORITY BALLISTIC MISSILE DIVISION SAID THERE WERE NO U.S. POCKET FIRINGS AT THE TIME THE STRANGE LIGHT WAS SEEN TON A SPARSNORY LERIENTES Y OVER CERUPST (5 P.M. EST). OLINES R3 NX WERE NO U.S. ROCKET FIRINGS AT THE TIME THE STRANGE LIGHT WAS SEEN TONICHT SHORTLY AFTER Y O'CLOCK PST (5 P.N. EST). APPARENTLY BRIGHTEST CVER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, IT WAS DESCRIBED AS A WIFRD BUT BRILLIANT BALL OF FLAME TRAILING MULTICOLORED GLOW. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FIFEBALL VARIEL AS TO WHERE IT WAS SIGHTED. "WE ASSUME IT WAS A METECR BREAKING UP," SALL A SPCKEMAN AT THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS TRAFFING CONTROL CENTER IN LOS ANGELES. "BUT IT LOOKED LIKE A SATELLITE REENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. AIR FORCE MAJ. IRV NEUWIRTH, A MEMBER OF THE BALLISTIC MISSILE.
LIVISION, SAID HE SAW THE TAIL END OF THE FIREBALL AS HE DROVE INTO HIS LRIVEWAY. BREAKING UP. BUT IT WAS BRIGHT -- ERICHTER THAN ANYTHING I'VE SEN." THE VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA SHERILF'S OFFICES WERE SWAMPED WITH CALLS -- AS WERE MOST AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT CHICES. CALLERS TO THOSE TWO OFFICES, HOWEVER, SAIL IT LOCKEL LIKE THE OBJECT FELL NEAR SAN WIS CHISPO-- 200 MILES NORTH OF LOS ANGELES. IN SAN LUIS OF ISPO, THOUGH, THE CHUFET WAS SEEN STILL HEADED. CUT TO SEE--A WHITE BALL OF FLAME SHOLERING OF REDUISH-CRANGE SPARKS.

HR/SH724PPS

CREAD 4TH PGH XXX AFTER 6 C'CLCCK ETC.)

(PICKUP 7TH PGH: A113N: IT WAS THE FOURTH)

HX 13

UPI A136N HC URGENT

2ND LEAD FIREBALL (A123N)

LOS ANGELES, JAN. 16 (UPI) -- A GIANT FIRE-TRAILING METEOR
FLASHED ACROSS THE HORIZON THROUGHOUT MOST OF CALIFORNIA TONIGHT,
ALARMING THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS ALREADY EDGY BECAUSE OF RECENT
UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA.

REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS CAME FROM SAN DIEGO, ON THE MEXICO BORDER, TO MARIN COUNTY, NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO--A SPAN OF ABOUT 633 MILES. IT ALSO WAS SIGHTED BY WEATHERMEN IN AN AIR PORT TOWER IN LAS

VEGAS, 300 MILES INLAND.

TOUCHED OFF BY THE THOUSANDS OF SIGHTINGS WERE WILD REPORTS OF AIR CRASHES, NUMEROUS FIRES STARTED BY EMBERS FROM THE METEORITE, AND THAT LEFENSE INSTALLATIONS HAD TRACKED THE HUGE FIREBALL INTO THE PACIFIC

CCEAN. ALL WERE FALSE.

THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA -- WHERE THE FIREBALL APPEARED MOST BRILLIANT -- SAID IT WAS COMMON FOR PERIODIC SHOWERS OF METEORS TO HIT THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, CAUSING THEM TO APPEAR QUITE BRIGHT. SUCH A CONDITION, A SPOKESMAN SAID, IS KNOWN AS DRACOID.

JUST LAST NIGHT A METEOR FLASHED ACROSS THE SKY IN SOUTHERN CREGON AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, LIGHTING UP EUREKA, CALIF., ALMOST

LIKE DAYLIGHT.

ACHECK WITH MILITARY AND DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS SHOWED THERE WAS NO ROCKET FIRINGS AT THE TIME THE METEOR WAS SIGHTED, ABOUT 6 O'CLOCK TONIGHT (9 P. M. EST), AND THERE WAS NO RADAR TRACKING

OF THE FIERY OBJECT

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FIREBALL VARIED AS TO WHERE THEY WERE SEEN, BUT MOST PEOPLE AGREED IT WAS RAPIDLY MOVING NORTHWEST--A GIANT BALL OF FIRE TRAILING A LONG MULTICOLORED TAIL. OBSERVERS IN SOME AREAS SAID IT LEFT AN EERIE BLUISH LIGHT AFTERGLOW.

AN AIR FORCE OFFICER, FAMILIAR WITH ROCKET LAUNCHINGS BOTH AT CALIFORNIA'S VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE AND CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA., DESCRIBED IT AS, "A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT --- AS BRIGHT AS I'VE EVER SEEN."

CPICKUP 7TH PGH: A123N: WE ASSUME IT)

R825PPS ..

UPI A52

DAY LEAD FIREBALL

EDITORS NOTE--WHEN A LARGE METEOR FLASHED ACROSS CALIFORNIA
LAST NIGHT, IT TOUCHED OFF A SERIES OF VILD--AND FALSE--REPORTS THAT
PROVIDE A CLASSIC STUDY IN THE BEGINNING OF PANIC. THE FOLLOWING
STORY IS A PROFILE OF THE INCIPIENT PANIC, HOW IT DEVELOPED AND HOW
IT FINALLY WAS RESOLVED.
BY DONALD L. NEFF

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

LOS ANGELES, JAN. 17 (UPI) -- IT BEGAN CALMLY ENOUGH: A MYSTERIOUS BRIGHT LIGHT WAS SEEN FLASHING ACROSS THE SKY TRAILING A GLOWING TAIL.

BEFORE IT ENDED, THERE WERE REPORTS THAT FIRES WERE RAGING THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA, THAT METAL DEBRIS AND SPARKS WERE RAINING FROM THE SKY AND THAT A MAN-MADE SATELLITE HAD PLUNGED TO EARTH.

ALL THE REPORTS WERE FALSE EXCEPT THE FIRST CNE. THERE HAD INDEED BEEN A BRIGHT FLASH. IT WAS CAUSED, ASTRONOMERS BELIEVE, BY A HUGE METEOR THAT BLAZED THROUGH THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, LEAVING A FIERY TRAIL THAT WAS SEEN IN MUCH OF CALIFORNIA AND AS FAR AS 30 MILES INLAND IN NEVADA.

IT WAS NEARLY AN HOUR BEFORE THE MYSTERIOUS FLASH COULD BE IDENTIFIED. DURING THAT TIME A RISING TIDE OF PANIC SEEMED TO CVERTAKE MANY GENERALLY RELIABLE OFFICIALS WHO SOON WERE REPEATING FANTASTIC

RUMORS .

UPI'S LOS ANGELES BUREAU FIRST GOT TIPPED ON THE FIREBALL SHORTLY AFTER 6 P. M. BY ITS PHOTO BUREAU MANAGER, RAY MARONEY, WHO SIGHTED THE FLASH WHILE AT HOME.

A SERIES OF CALLS TO POLICE, LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS AGENCY AND VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE BROUGHT
FORTH ENOUGH INFORMATION TO WARRANT AN URGENT STORY THAT AN APPARENT
HUGE METEOR HAD FLASHED ACROSS THE AREA.

CALIFORNIA TO BUREAUS IN LCS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO AND SACRAMENTO BEGAN TAKING ON AN ASPECT OF RUMOR AND PANIC.

OFFICIALS IN MONTERREY SAID NO FIRES WERE THERE, BUT THEY HEARD
"THAT FIRE TRUCKS ARE ROLLING ALL OVER LOS ANGELES." THERE WERE
NONE IN LOS ANGELES, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME FALSE ALARMS.
"IT AN AIR FORCE OFFICIAL FROM HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
THE CALIFORNIA DISASTER OFFICE IN SACRAMENTO HAD REPORTS OF FIRES IN
BAKERSFIELD AND SANTA BARBARA, BUT OFFICIALS IN THOSE CENTRAL CITIES
SAID THAT OUTSIDE OF NUMEROUS FALSE ALARMS THEY THOUGHT FIRES WERE
RAGING IN THE MODESTO AREA.

THE FIRE RUMORS HAD GONE FULL CIRCLE. THE CNLY INDICATION OF WHAT POSSIBLY STARTED THE RUMORS WAS SOME CONTROLLED BURNING OF WEEDS

AT THAT TIME BY OFFICIALS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY.

PASSERS-BY IN THE AREA APPARENTLY CONNECTED THE CONTROLLED FIRES WITH THE FIREBALL....

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UNDFFICIAL -- THAT IT WAS BELIEVED THE AIR FORCE TRACKING STATION AT OXNARD HAD TRACKED THE FIREBALL. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE FIREBALL FELL IN THE PACIFIC 10 MILES OFF SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND IN THE GENERAL SAN DIEGO AREA.

THREE TELEPHONE CALLS TO OXNARD AND CALLS TO THE TRACKING STATIONS AT POINT ARGUELLO AND POINT MUGU OF THE PACIFIC BALLISTIC MISSILE

RANGE ALL FAILED TO CONFIRM THE REPORT.

THEY ALSO FAILED TO CONFIRM REPORTS FROM WIDELY SCATTERED AREAS
THAT THE FIREBALL ACTUALLY WAS A MISSILE OR MAN-MADE SATELLITE BREAKING
UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

OTHER REPORTS -- ALL CHECKED OUT AND ALL PROVED FALSE -- WERE THAT THE FIREBALL SMASHED INTO THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS (WHICH ARE DENSELY POPULATED), THAT IT CRASHED INTO A VALLEY NEAR BORON AND THAT METAL PIECES FROM IT WERE FOUND.

THE REPORTS AGAIN PROVED TO BE FALSE, AND AS IN OTHER CASES APPARENT-LY GREW UP AS A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AT LEAST THREE SOURCES, IN THIS CASE THE LANCASTER SHERIFF'S STATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, EDWARDS AFB AND THE CIVIL DEFENSE WARNING SYSTEM.

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ALL TOLD, AN ESTIMATED 50 TELEPHONES WERE MADE TO THE UPI LOS ANGELES BUREAU DURING THE FIRST FRANTIC HOUR OF THE FIREBALL REPORT,

AND ABOUT 60 OUTGOING CALLS TO CHECK THE STORY WERE PLACED.

IT ENDED AS CALMLY AS IT BEGAN, WITH THE STORY REPORTING THAT A METEOR HAD FLASHED ACROSS THE SKY. THE STORY QUOTED A SPOKESMAN FROM MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SAYING SHOWERS OF METEORS WERE COMMON PERIODICALLY-THUS BACKING UP REPORTS OF BRIGHT METEOR SIGHTINGS SUNDAY IN CREGON AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND LATE MONDAY, IN HOLLAND.

THERE WAS NO FALSE REPORT OF RUMORS IN UPI'S STORY---BUT REPORTERS LEARNED AGAIN THE STANDARD OBJECT LESSON TO DOUBLE CHECK THEIR SOURCES.

AND THEY WERE LEFT WONDERING AT THE DISTORTION AND PLAIN FALSEHOODS

THAT SOMEHOW SEEM TO SPRING UP AT THE FIRST SIGNS OF PANIC.

BY DONALD L. NEFF

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

LOS ANGELES, JAN. 17 (UPI) -- A HUGE FIERY METEOR FLASHED ACROSS CALIFORNIA LAST NIGHT, TOUCHING OFF WIDESPREAD FEAR OF FIRES.

THE BRIGHT FLASH WAS SIGHTED FROM SAN DIEGO AT THE MEXICO BORDER TO NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 600 MILES, AND AS FAR AS 300 MILES INLAND IN NEVADA.

IT WAS THE SECOND BRIGHT FLASH SIGHTED ON THE WEST COAST IN TWO NIGHTS AND IT BROUGHT ABOUT A SERIES OF NEAR-PANICKY REPORTS THAT FIRES WERE RAGING IN MUCH OF CALIFORNIA, CAUSED BY FALLING EMBERS.

OTHER REPORTS INCLUDED FINDINGS OF METAL PIECES SUPPOSEDLY DEBRIS FROM THE FIREBALL AND THE BELIEF THAT IT WAS A MISSILE OR SATELLITE EREAKING UP IN THE SKY.

ALL WERE FALSE.

ASTRONOMERS AT MOUNT WILSON CESERVATORY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SAID THEY BELIEVED IT TO BE A METEOR. THEY SAID PERIODIC . SHOWERS OF METEORS WERE COMMON.

SOME HOURS AFTER THE FIREBALL FLASHED ACROSS CALIFORNIA ABOUT 6
P.M. PST, A SIMILAR BRIGHT FLASH WAS SIGHTED IN HOLLAND. IT ALSO WAS
BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN A METEOR BURNING UP IN THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE METECR IN CALIFORNIA AND THE RESULTANT SPREAD OF WILD RUMORS AND BEGINNINGS OF PANIC PROVIDED A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF HOW PANIC STARTS.

(PICKUP 4TH PGH: IT WAS)

LL541AES