[redacted]

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	12. CONCLUSIONS
14 June 1961	Bedford, Massachusetts	☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0300 GMT 0700Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☒ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian	☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 Sec.	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	9. COURSE SE
		☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Object viewed as flashing light with flashes of 1 sec each observed for 30 sec while traveling through 45 deg arc. Object appeared to be going away from observer. Viewed first at 360 deg az, disappeared at 045 deg az. Elevation during flight about 25 deg. Object faded due to distance.

11. COMMENTS

Flash rate of anticollision light is 60-100 per minute. This compares with the 1 sec interval of the flashing. This conclusion is supported by the angular velocity reported. At the reported 18° in 30 sec, an a/c at a distance of 10 nautical miles would have a speed of 384 knots. Since the witness reported that the elevation angle remained fairly constant it is fair to assume that flight path of a/c was normal.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Smithsonian Institution
Astrophysical Observatory
60 Garden St.
Cambridge, Mass.

June 22, 1961

Dr. [redacted]
Bedford, Mass.

Dear Dr. [redacted]

We have not been able to determine the nature of your recent observation, and are therefore forwarding your report to:

Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center
United States Air Force
(AFCIN-4E2x)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Any further correspondence regarding this matter should be sent to them.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Respectfully,

Barbara Kidder
Public Information

BK:k

June 16, 1961.

Report of Unidentified Object.

Observed and Reported by: Dr. [redacted] Bedford, Mass.

Site: Bedford, Mass. (presumably at above address).

Visibility: Excellent; stars bright.

Time: 1961 June 14, 07 02 U.T. ±3 minutes.

Azimuth: Travelled arc from about 360° to about 045°.

Altitude: About 25°.

Time Visible: About 30 seconds.

Size: About 1 cm. diameter at arm's length.

Brightness:)
) Similar to full moon at 20° to 25° altitude.
Color:)

Variability: Regular period of ±1 second; still visible at minima.

copy attached.

Original letter from which above information was obtained is on file at Moonwatch Headquarters, SAO.

A.B.G.

COPY

[redacted]
Bedford, Mass
June 14, 1961

Mr. Alex Geddes
SAO
60 Garden Street
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Geddes:

As you requested in our telephone conversation this date I am forwarding the following information concerning a sighting of a lighted object in the sky this morning:

Time: Between 3:00 and 3:05 AM

Place: Bedford, Mass

Direction: Low in the northeast sky, passing from north toward east; at maximum height in its arc it appeared to be about the height of two fingers held out at arms length, (we have a high horizon (tall trees 200-300 feet distant.)

Intensity: Roughly as bright (at its most intense) as a full moon when it has risen 1/4 of the distance

between horizon and points under conditions of good visibility. Color was roughly of the same quality. The brilliance was variable and appeared to have a regular period of ± 1 second. Light was still visible at the low point of intensity

length of observation: about 30 seconds, during which time it traversed the aperture of a 30 inch wide window placed 8 feet from the observer's eye.

Conditions at the time of sighting: visibility excellent; stars brightly visible.

I would not consider myself an experienced observer of aircraft, but rather an experienced observer. I have seen a number of artificial satellites in transit, including Sputnik I & II. The variability in brilliance of the carrier rocket associated with the ascent of these satellites resembled that seen.

this morning. I have also seen Echo on two occasions, when it was overhead, last fall. The brilliance of this transient object was less, but its apparent diameter greater (about 1 cm. at arms length.)

If I can furnish further information I shall be glad to cooperate.

I would be most interested in your opinion of the identity of this object.

Sincerely,

[redacted] M.D.

AEROSPACE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

28 JUN 1961

REPLY TO ATTN OF: AFCIN-4E/Major Friend

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting (Dr. [redacted]

TO: Hq USAF
SAFOI-3c (Major Coleman)
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference the attached copy of a letterto the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center from the Smithsonian Institute's Moonwatch Headquarters regarding the sighting of an unidentified flying object by Dr [redacted] of Bedford, Massachusetts. A copy of Dr. [redacted] letter to the Smithsonian Institute is also attached.

2. The object sighted by Dr. [redacted] was probably the anticollision light on an aircraft. By specification the flash rate on the present U. S. Air Force anticollision light is 60-100 flashes per minute. This flash rate compares favorably with the one-second period reported by the witness. Dr. [redacted] indicated that the object was still visible while at minima in its varying cycle. With as close a rate as one second and the indicated intensity the witness would not be able to tell if the light disappeared or not due to retinal image retention.

3. The conclusion that Dr. [redacted] probably saw an aircraft is supported by the angular velocity reported by him. At the reported rate of 18° in 30 seconds, an aircraft at a distance of 10 nautical miles would have a speed of approximately 384 knots. This speed was arrived at by assuming the flight path of the aircraft was at right angles to the angle bisector of its reported angular path. At a mean distance of 10 miles the angle could deviate as much as 45° without exceeding the normal operating speed of jet aircraft. Since the witness indicated in his report that the elevation angle remained fairly constant, it is fair to assume that the flight path of the aircraft was normal to his line of sight.

4. For your information the specification for the anticollision light presently in operational use by the U. S. Air Force is MIL-L-21652.

5. It is suggested that Dr. [redacted] Bedford, Massachusetts, and the Smithsonian Institute be advised of our findings.

PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

2 Atchs
1. Cy ltr fm Smithsonian Institute dtd 22 Jun 61.
2. Cy ltr fm Dr. [redacted] dtd 14 Jun 61.

6 July 1961

Dear Mr. [redacted]

Your letter of June 14th addressed to the Smithsonian Institution's Moonwatch Headquarters was forwarded to the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center and thence to this office.

The sighting reported by you was probably the anti-collision beacon on an aircraft. By the specification the flash rate on the present Air Force anti-collision beacon is 60-100 flashes per minute. This flash rate compares favorably with the one-second period reported by you. With a rate as close as one second and the indicated intensity, it would be difficult to tell if the light disappeared or not due to retinal image retention.

The conclusion we breach is also supported by the angular velocity reported. At the reported rate of 15° in 30 seconds, an aircraft at a distance of 10 nautical miles would have a speed of approximately 384 knots. This speed was arrived at by assuming the flight path of the aircraft was at right angle to the angle bisector of its reported angular path. At a mean distance of 10 miles the angle would deviate as much as 45° without exceeding the normal operating speed of jet aircraft. Since you reported that the elevation angle remained fairly constant, it is fair to assume that the flight path of the aircraft was normal to your line of sight.

I might mention here, too, that the Federal Aviation Agency through its divisions has authorized some jet airliners to "fly-test" an experimental anti-collision beacon consisting of two white lights of strobe intensity, mounted one above the other and flashing alternately. This light has been observed from over 50 miles distance, and at slant range visability it is quite an awesome sight appearing in various colors and size (prismatic affect through relatively dense atmosphere).

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.
Major, USAF
UFO Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Dr. [redacted]
Dedford, Massachusetts

CC: Smithsonian Institution