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1D-CBI 24-0-256

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) Reporting of Information on
Unconventional Aircraft
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

SYNOPSIS:

On 1 July 1952, ERWIN W. NELSON, 21 High Rock Terrace, Lynn, Massachusetts, reported that he, his wife, and a third person observed two (2) unidentified airborne objects between 0731 and 0734 hours EDT on 1 July 1952. No activity or condition developed that accounts for sighting.

DETAILS:

At 0850 hours, 1 July 1952, a telephone call was received from a person identifying himself as ERWIN NELSON, employee of General Electric Company, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts, reporting the observation of two (2) unidentified airborne objects between 0731 and 0734 hours, this date. On 1 July 1952, ERWIN W. NELSON was interviewed by Special Agent JULIUS B. POPPINGA, and furnished the following information:

a. Description of objects: Two (2) cigar-shaped objects, white in color, about 200 to 300 feet in length, six times as long as thick, having no aerodynamic features, producing no sound, leaving no trail or exhaust, proceeding on a straight course in a southwesterly direction at an unvarying altitude, and at a speed estimated by the observer as 500 miles per hour, or "slightly faster than conventional aircraft." The second object consistently remained about one (1) mile to the rear and slightly higher than the first. NELSON could not judge the altitude of the objects but estimated the angle of sight to be approximately 40 degrees above the horizontal, and advised they were at a distance of three (3) or four (4) miles. Objects were lost from sight behind a tower structure on hill bordering the point of observation.

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b. Objects were sighted by ERWIN NELSON at 0731 hours EDT, 1 July 1952, and were observed by him for three (3) minutes.

c. Sighting was by visual observation only, with no optical or electronic aids.

d. Observer sighted objects from open porch of house located on a hillside at 21 High Rock Terrace, Lynn, Massachusetts. View to the east and south is unimpaired, but trees and buildings on the uphill side of house almost completely obstruct the view to the north and west.

e. Identifying information on observer: ERWIN W. NELSON, 37 years of age, served two years as an administrative clerk in the Air Force during the War, and is presently employed as Assistant Buyer of jet engine parts for General Electric Company, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts. He claims no special technical knowledge or experience relative to the performance or identification of aircraft, but stated that he has often observed commercial airliners and jet-propelled military aircraft in the area, and believed the object described to be distinctly different. NELSON advised that he reported the incident "for what it is worth", and did not desire any "publicity or notoriety" because of it.

f. Weather conditions: NELSON described the sky to be clear toward the south and west with scattered clouds toward the northeast. He advised that he first noticed the objects described because they were moving in the opposite direction from that of clouds blowing out to sea. Weather conditions at 0730 hours EDT 1 July 1952 were reported by the U. S. Weather Department, Logan International Airport, Boston, Massachusetts, for the Boston area as follows: "Thin scattered clouds at 26,000 feet, northwest wind at 6 miles per hour, visibility 12 miles, temperature 60 degrees."

g. No activity or condition is known that might account for the sightings. It will be noted, however, that NELSON reported the appearance of what he believed to be two (2) jet aircraft shortly after the sighting of the unknown objects. NELSON said that he could not see these aircraft because of their high altitude, but noted that they left a clear vapor trail and were accompanied by the noise peculiar to jets. Their path was described as a southwesterly arc, above, behind, and moving toward the objects described. NELSON believes the jets were flying faster than the unidentified objects, but lost sight of both before they converged.

h. No physical evidence exists, and no interception or identification action was taken.

NELSON further advised that upon sighting the objects he called them to the attention of Mrs. ERWIN W. NELSON, and Miss CAROL PERKINS, who

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also resides at 21 High Rock Terrace, Lynn, Massachusetts. On 1 July 1952, these individuals were separately interviewed by Special Agent JULIUS B. POPPINGA. Descriptions offered by Mrs. NELSON and Miss PERKINS were identical to that given by ERWIN NELSON, relative to objects' number, shape, size, speed, color, absence of exhaust trail and sound, manner of flight, angle of elevation, and distance. Methods of observation and point of observation were also the same. However, the following differences were noted:

i. Formation: Mrs. NELSON described the objects as flying "parallel" or side by side and about one (1) mile apart. Miss PERKINS observed the objects to be very close together with the second slightly behind and just above the first.

j. Period of observation: Mrs. NELSON estimated the duration of the time during which she observed the objects to be approximately fifteen (15) minutes. Miss PERKINS stated that when her attention first was called to the objects by NELSON at 0730 hours, they were proceeding in a southwesterly direction. After two or three minutes, they were lost to her sight behind trees and buildings on the adjacent hill, but at approximately 0800 hours, after NELSON had left for work, she again sighted the two (2) objects proceeding in the opposite direction, or northeast. PERKINS stated she watched them for four or five minutes until they went out of sight in that direction. She did not see the objects change their direction or maneuver in any way. PERKINS advised that she called the attention of Mrs. NELSON to the objects again at 0800, but Mrs. NELSON did not verify this during the interview with her.

k. Identifying information on Mrs. NELSON and Miss PERKINS: Mrs. NELSON is a housewife, approximately 35 years of age, and advised that she has observed both jet and piston-driven aircraft in the area, but believed the objects sighted to be distinctly different. Miss PERKINS, 18 years of age, is a high-school graduate and presently employed as a salesgirl. She stated that her knowledge of, or interest in, aircraft is only "average", but that she knew of no aircraft to which the objects sighted could be compared.

l. Activity of other aircraft in the vicinity: Neither PERKINS nor Mrs. NELSON had the impression that the jet aircraft, also observed by them, had pursued the objects, but that they maneuvered in the area for approximately one (1) hour at a very great altitude.

ACTION

Two (2) copies of this report will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Attention: MCIS. No further action taken by this District.

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ROBERT S. JONES
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

cc: CG, AMC (dup)