

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

24 October 1968

Subject: UFO Observation, Minot AFB, North Dakota, 24 October 1968

At about 1730 hours the FTD Duty Officer called Lt Marano and said that they had a pretty important UFO sighting from Minot AFB. I (Lt Marano) asked him what it was about and he said the only information he had was that the crew of a B-52 had sighted and photographed an UFO and that the Base Commander and Major General Nichols of the 15th Air Force were both interested. I got back to the office at about 1745 hours, called Col Quintanilla and told him of the sighting, then called Minot and talked to Lt Col Werlich, the UFO Investigator, 897-1850 ext 3020 or 2231.

I asked him if he wanted immediate reaction from our office and he said no, that he hadn't necessarily wanted us to call him back that night and that our Duty Officer was really more excited than he was. However, since it was such an unusual sighting he wanted to know if we could help him in any way.

I asked him the details of the sighting and he gave them.

At about 0300 hours local, a B-52 that was about 39 miles northwest of Minot AFB and was making practice penetrations sighted an unidentified blip on their radar. Initially the target traveled approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mile in 3 sec or at about 3,000 mi/hr. After passing from the right to the left of the plane it assumed a position off the left wing of the 52. The blip stayed off the left wing for approximately 20 miles at which point it broke off. Scope photographs were taken. When the target was close to the B-52 neither of the two transmitters in the B-52 would operate properly but when it broke off both returned to normal function.

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

At about this time a missile maintenance man called in and reported sighting a bright orangish-red object. The object was hovering at about 1000 ft or so, and had a sound similar to a jet engine. The observer had stopped his car, but he then started it up again. As he started to move the object followed him. Then accelerated and appeared to stop at about 6 - 8 miles away. The observer shortly afterward lost sight of it.

In response to the maintenance man's call the B-52, which had continued its penetration run, was vectored toward the visual which was about 10 mile northwest of the base. The B-52 confirmed having sighted a bright light of some type that appeared to be hovering just over or on the ground.

Fourteen other people in separate locations also reported sighting a similar object. Also, at this approximate time, security alarm for one of the sites was activated. This was an alarm for both the outer and inner ring. When guards arrived at the scene they found that the outer door was open and the combination lock on the inner door had been moved. The weather was generally mitty, the temperature was 28 - 29 deg F and the wind 5 - 10 knots.

He did not have all the information such as: Whether it had been painted by the radars at the control tower? If control tower personnel had sighted anything unusual? If he had computed the azimuth and elevation from the fourteen witnesses to determine if they were looking at the same object or if they could have been possibly looking at stellar bodies? He didn't know whether anyone had seen a physical object or if they had just seen lights. Also, Col Werlich did not have an exact time sequence for the events. Col Quintanilla told Col Werlich that without this information there wasn't too much we could do. Col Werlich agreed and said that he would gather the information.

## MEMO FOR THE RECORD 24 October 1968

Subject: UFO Observation, Minot AFB, North Dakota, 24 October 1968

At about 1730 hours the FTD Duty Officer called Lt Marano and said that they had a pretty important UFO sighting from Minot AFB. I (Lt Marano) asked him what it was about and he said the only information he had was that the crew of a B-52 had sighted and photographed an UFO and that the Base Commander and Major General Nichols of the 15th Air Force were both interested. I got back to the office about 1745 hours, called Col Quintanilla and told him of the sighting then called Minot and talked to Lt Col Werlich, the UFO investigator, 897-1850 ext 3020 or 2231.

I asked him if he wanted immediate reaction from our office and he said no, that he hadn't necessarily wanted us to call him back that night and that our Duty Officer was really more excited than he was. However, since it was such an unusual sighting he wanted to know if we could help him in any way.

I asked him the details of the sighting and he gave them.

At about 0300 hours local, a B-52 that was about 39 miles northwest of Minot AFB and was making practice penetrations sighted an unidentified blip on their radar. Initially the target traveled approximately 2½ mile in 3 sec or at about 3,000 mi/hr. After passing from the right to the left of the plane it assumed a position off the left wing of the 52. The blip stayed off the left wing for approximately 20 miles at which point it broke off. Scope photographs were taken. When the target was close to the B-52 neither of the two transmitters in the B-52 would operate properly but when it broke off both returned to normal function.

At about this time a missile maintenance man called in and reported sighting a bright orangish-red object. The object was hovering at about 1000 ft or so, and had a sound similar to a jet engine. The observer had stopped his car, but he started it up again. As he started to move the object followed him then accelerated and appeared to stop at about 6 – 8 miles away. The observer shortly afterward lost sight of it.

In response to the maintenance man's call the B-52, which had continued its penetration run, was vectored toward the visual which was about 10 mile northwest of the base. The B-52 confirmed having sighted a bright light of some type that appeared to be hovering just over or on the ground.

Fourteen other people in separate locations also reported sighting a similar object. Also, at this approximate time, security alarm for one of the sites was activated. This was an alarm for both the outer and inner ring. When guards arrived at the scene they found that the outer door was open and the combination lock on the inner door had been moved. The weather was generally misty, the temperature was 28 – 29 deg F and the wind 5 – 10 knots.

He did not have all the information such as: Whether it had been painted by the radars at the control point? If control tower personnel had sighted anything unusual? If he had computed the azimuth and elevation from the fourteen witnesses to determine if they were looking at the same object or if they could have been possibly looking at stellar bodies? He didn't know whether anyone had seen a physical object or if they had just seen lights. Also, Col Werlich did not have an exact time sequence for the events. Col Quintanilla told Col Werlich that without this information there wasn't too much we could do. Col Werlich agreed and said that he would gather the information.