

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

1 November 1968

Subj: Telephone conversation of 31 Oct 68, Col Werlich - Lt Marano

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The descriptions of this will take care of these sightings also. The courses were quite varied over a couple of hours and the aircraft took many courses. It will be interesting to cross check its path with the RAFCON versus the ground observers. Most of the original sightings were of the aircraft.

The one we (Lt Marano) are mainly interested is the one that cannot be identified. The one of radar and the aircraft correlated pretty well. Col Werlich said Lt Marano should get a section map of the area. Base Ops at Wright-Patterson has hundreds of the sectional maps of the Minot area.

Look on map, half way down the runway, TACCAN, 320 radius, 16 nautical miles. This is where aircraft saw the object. There's farm fields there. There is nothing there that would produce this, type of light. The same for O'Conner and Nicely from November 7 which is near Greno. I have gone over that area with a chopper. This weekend I would like to go down with a geiger counter and go down to the OSCAR 7 break-in. I (Col Werlich)

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think you will find that the most information comes from Airman O'Conner and Isley, and an aircraft instructor. Much of their discussion and description incorporates the activity of the L-52. It was only at the end that I was unable to pin point the fact that they did observe a light source and the B-52. You can see the lights of the base for at least 50 miles away. I (Col W) asked if they saw the B-52 come towards the object. We know the 52 got real close to it. Did they see the object on the ground? (Lt M asked). They were able to see a light source while the 52 got in real close then it disappeared.

Lt Marano asked if it was going with the wind and explained how we have had trouble with hot air balloons and he gave the description, duration, etc.

Col Werlican informed Lt Marano that if he was familiar with the geography he would see why this wouldn't be possible. There must be four or five farm houses within a ten miles radius and Grano with six to ten small dwellings and the area is deserted at this time of the morning. I doubt that there would be any activity like this. The sighting was about eleven miles from November 7 site. This is a sensitive subject. Anybody that could unlock the padlock wouldn't be a prankster from the farm areas. There are keys for these padlocks and it's hard to

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Judge how many keys have been made. It looks like a Navy hatch and underneath is the combination lock. Pranksters just couldn't go and open it. The person, if it was a person, would have to know how to open it. We have had about three occurrences of this in the last two or three years doing this. All three of these cases were traced back to AP's. Guys who had been in the service on these areas. It is not a serious offense. 99 chances out of 100, that if a person, a human being, accomplished this thing then it had to be somebody who had a key to the padlock. Lt Marano told Col Werlich that we have no evidence though that the UFO events did this. Col Werlich agreed but said that a Lieutenant examined the area the next day and could find no evidence of cars, tire tracks, footprints, etc. Col Werlich said he didn't know if an examination investigation was going on or not but felt they probably were looking into it. Lt Marano asked him to get the results of their investigation. Col Werlich said he was trying to take a positive approach towards this investigation. Almost 80 per cent were looking at the B-52. If you would take a look at an aircraft at 20,000 ft, then you wouldn't see much but I'm am to place logic in that it was there and what they saw was there. There is enough there that it is worth looking at. Nobody can definitely say that these people definitely saw the aircraft, but within reason they probably saw it. Lt Marano told Col Werlich that SAC was giving us trouble because they wanted to know what we are

doing. Thursday afternoon I (Col Werlich) called, with the personal opinion that we needed technical assistance at that time and that is what we requested and we didn't get it and we have tried to do what we could. Gen Hollingsworth is interested.

Anyway, I'm sending the RAPCON TAPES, PHOTOS, and an overlay, showing a movement of the aircraft, description of the aircraft movement prior to VFR. Aircraft was going through maneuvers and it would be most impossible to track it perfectly cause he was doing steep turns, "S" turns, etc. Now time and duration of the sighting was in my message. Speed of the B-52 was in the TWX. I only stated one radar in the message because there was only one radar set. The ECM equipment hadn't been used. RAPCON was painting, IFF equipment was operating in the airplane. It's a fairly good size blip. Every time it sweeps it shows the blip. The object would have been covered by the blip. There is a Sage site to the south. They do not remember having any unidentified paints. The only one I have is the one on the plane. The unusual part is the B-52 was in the middle of a sentence and the voice just quit transmitting right in the middle of the word. Because we had an accident a couple of weeks ago we were quite interested. Ground control asked them if they had any trouble to give Moday Squawk. The airplane changed both UHF and neither would transmit but they could receive, and each time to show that they could receive they hit the ident squawk which would last for thirty seconds each time.

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There was quite a bit of this. The navigator was the paint disappear as fast as it appeared. My personal opinion is that it couldn't be a malfunction because they transmitted before and afterwards. The aircraft was not checked out afterwards because the transmission was working. I don't know if the heavy haze would have been enough to blank out the transmission. Lt Marano explained that we do not have a good time sequence. Col Werlich said he tried to start with the first things first in his TWX. The most important things are the AF Forms 117 and the transcription with RAPCON. Lt Marano then explained about the many astronomical bodies that were over the area at the time and when there is quite an inversion they are magnified even greater. Col Werlich said some of the observers could see stars and others couldn't. We had a Ragged Ann type of cover. So many layers of haze, quite a layer of haze. Col Werlich then put Sgt Dickson from the weather office on the telephone. Sgt Dickson was sending us complete weather data, however, he said we should be able to obtain the weather from the base weather office at Wright-Patterson since they get it as it comes off the wires. The weather data Sgt Dickson used was obtained from Glasgow.

The following data was given:

2000 ft alt	temperature	+4° cent	Dew point	-3½° cent
3200	"	+10.5°	"	-2½°
5000	"	+9°	"	0°
8500	"	+1°	"	-5°
11,500	"	"	"	-8°

There was a pretty good temperature inversion.

Col Werlich said he would send an overlay for the 200 series map chart which is used by the bomb people in the targetting section and the people over at W-P should have the master chart. The chart is classified so to save time, signatures, etc. Col Werlich is just sending the overlay so that we can put it over the chart that the Bomb people here. See the Bomb Nav targetting people for the 200 series chart.

Gen Hollingsworth has been given all the information that Col Werlich obtained. Col Werlich said that Gen Hollingsworth was briefing Gen Compton and this briefing was probably going on at the time that Col Werlich was speaking with Lt Marano (time was approx 2 pm, EST, 31 Oct). Col Werlich said that you had to realize that there is only one person looking at the radar sent. He didn't take scope photos at first until the pilot said why don't you take some photos. This was towards the end. They had it visually all the way down. Each scope photos is three seconds. There is nothing of value in the conversation. The blip changes shape, round, rectangular, etc. Col Werlich said he would be flying tomorrow and Monday. Col Werlich said he had done the initial investigation in accordance with the regulation and I'm at the limit of my capabilities. Col Werlich I can send supplemental data and will if we make our desires known and inform what specific information we need. Col Werlich said we were hoping for technical assistance

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