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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND

Office of the Deputy Director of Intelligence

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FRT-200
ADM/CIN/OPS/AD
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350.09 (OTD/OPS/IS)

APR 787 US ARMY
21 October 1947

SUBJECT: Transmittal of ESI on Alleged "Flying Saucer"

D-198239

TO : Assistant Chief of Staff, A-3, U. S. Air Forces in Europe,
APO 633, U. S. Army;

1. Attached hereto is an ESI written at WRIGHT FIELD, OHIO, concerning the flying saucers recently sighted over the UNITED STATES.

2. For your information, the Air Materiel Command at WRIGHT FIELD is making a study of this subject and is constructing models to be tested in a wind tunnel. As a guide in constructing the models, descriptions from various persons who claimed to have sighted these objects were used. The Air Materiel Command is of the opinion that some sort of object, such as the flying saucer, did exist.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE:

1 Incl: a/s
TFL: FRANKFURT 7428
Lt. SKIDMORE

M/R - Inclosed ESI was given this office by Lt Col Seashore of the Air Materiel Command. ESI also transmitted to 970th CIC, ECIC and S-2 Berlin Command.

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122

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
ON 6 JUL 1994
BY CDR USAINSCOM F01/PO
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AIR INTELLIGENCE GUIDE
for
ALLEGED "FLYING SAUCER" TYPE AIRCRAFT

An alleged "Flying saucer" type aircraft or object in flight approximating the shape of a disc has been reported by many observers from widely scattered places, such as the United States, Alaska, Canada, Hungary, the Island of Guam, Japan, etc. This object has been reported by many competent observers. Sightings have been made from the ground as well as from the air.

Commonly reported features that are very significant and which may aid in the investigation are as follows:

- a. Relatively flat bottom with extremely light reflecting ability.
- b. Absence of sound except for an occasional roar when operating under super performance conditions.
- c. Extreme maneuverability and apparent ability to almost hover.
- d. A plan form approximating that of an oval or disc with a dome shape on the top surface.
- e. The absence of an exhaust trail except in a few instances when it was reported to have a bluish color like a Diesel exhaust which persisted for approximately one hour. Other reports indicated a brownish smoke trail that could be the results of a special catalyst or chemical agent for extra power.
- f. The ability to quickly disappear by high speed or by complete disintegration.
- g. The ability to suddenly appear without warning as if from an extremely high altitude.
- h. The size most reported approximated that of a C-54 or Constellation aircraft.
- i. The ability to group together very quickly in a tight formation when more than one aircraft are together.
- j. Evasive action ability indicates possibility of being manually operated, or possibly by electronic or remote control devices.
- k. Under certain power conditions, the craft seems to have the ability to cut a clear path through clouds - width estimated to be approximately one-half mile. Only one incident indicated this phenomenon.

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The first sightings in the U.S. were reported around the middle of May. The last reported sighting took place in Toronto, Canada, 14 September 1947. The greatest activity in the U.S. was during the last week of June and the first week of July.

This strange object or phenomenon may be considered, in view of certain observations, as a long-range aircraft capable of a high rate of climb, high cruising speed (possibly subsonic at all times) and highly maneuverable and capable of being flown in very tight formation. For the purpose of analysis and evaluation of the so-called "Flying Saucer" phenomenon, the object sighted is being assumed to be a manned aircraft, of Russian origin, and based on the perspective thinking and actual accomplishments of the Germans. There is also a possibility that the Horten Brothers perspective thinking may have inspired this type of aircraft particularly the "Parabola", which has a crescent plan form. Records show that a glider version only was built of this type aircraft. It is reported to have been built in Heiligenberg, Germany, but was destroyed by fire before having ever been flown. The Horten Brothers latest trend of perspective thinking was definitely toward aircraft configurations of low aspect ratio. The younger brother, Richar, stated that the "Parabola" configuration would have the least induced drag which is a very significant statement. The theory supporting this statement should be obtained.

The German High Command indicated a definite interest in the Horten type of flying wing and were about to embark on a rigorous campaign to develop such aircraft toward the end of the war. A Horten design known as the IX which was designated as the Go-8-223 and Go-F-60 (night fighter) was to be manufactured by the Gotha Plant. It is reported that a contract of fifty such aircraft was planned but only three or four were built. This plant is now in the hands of the Russians. A recent report indicates that the Russians are now planning to build a fleet of 1800 Horten VIII (six engine pusher) type flying wing aircraft. The wing span is 131 feet. The sweepback angle is 30 degrees. The Russian version is reported to be jet propelled. Answers to the following questions, therefore, are requested:

- a. What German scientist had a better than average knowledge of the Horten Brothers work and perspective thinking; where are those scientists now located, and what is their present activity? Contact and interrogate them.
- b. What Russian factories are building the Horten VIII design?
- c. Why are the Russians building 1800 of the Horten VIII design?
- d. What is their contemplated tactical purpose?
- e. What is the present activity of the Horten Brothers, Walter and Richar?

127

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- [REDACTED]
- f. What is known of the whereabouts of the entire Horten family, particularly the sister? All should be contacted and interrogated regarding any contemplated plans or perspective thinking of the Horten brothers and any interest shown by the Russians to develop their aircraft.
 - g. Are any efforts being made to develop the Horten "Parabola" or modify this configuration to approximate an oval or disc?
 - h. What is the Horten perspective thinking on internal controls or controls that are effective mainly by streams of air or gas originating from within the aircraft to supplant conventional external surface controls?

For any aircraft approximating that of an oval, disc or saucer, information regarding the following items is requested:

- a. Boundary layer control method by suction, blowing, or a combination of both.
- b. Special controls for effective maneuverability at very slow speeds or extremely high altitudes.
- c. Openings either in the leading edge top and bottom surfaces that are employed chiefly to accomplish boundary layer control or for the purpose of reducing the induced drag. Any openings in the leading edge should be reported and described as to shape, size, etc. This investigation is significant to justify a disc shape configuration for long-range application.
- d. Approximate airfoil shape in the center and near the tips.
- e. Front view and rear view shape.

Items of Construction

- a. Material whether metal, ferrous, non-ferrous, or non-metallic.
- b. Composite or sandwich construction utilizing various combinations of metals, plastics, and perhaps balsa wood.
- c. Unusual fabrication methods to achieve extreme light weight and structural stability particularly in connection with great capacity for fuel storage.

Items of Arrangement

- a. Special provisions such as retractable domes to provide unusual observation for the pilot or crew members.

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- b. Crew number and accomodation facilities.
- c. Pressurized cabin equipment.
- d. High altitude or high speed escape methods.
- e. Methods of pressurization or supercharging from auxilliary units or from the prime power plant.
- f. Provisions for towing especially with short fixed bar and for refueling in flight.
- g. Provisions for assisted take off application.
- h. Bombay provisions, such as dimensions, approximate location, and unusual features regarding the opening and closing of the doors.

Landing Gear

- a. Indicate type of landing gear whether conventional, tricycle, multiple wheel, etc.
- b. Retractable, and jettison features for hand gear.
- c. Provisions for takeoff from ice, snow, or water.
- d. Skid arrangements for either take-off or landing.

Power Plant Item

a. Information is needed regarding the propulsion system used in the aircraft. Possible types of engines that could be employed include:

- (1) Reciprocating (piston type) engine or gas turbine. Either or both of these could be used to drive propellers of conventional or special design, rotating vanes, ducted fans or compressors.
- (2) Jet propulsion engines including turbo jets, rockets, ramjets, pulse jets or a combination of all four.
- (3) Nuclear propulsion (atomic energy). Atomic energy engines would probably be unlike any familiar type of engine, although atomic energy might be employed in combination with any of the above types. Aircraft would be characterized by lack of fuel systems and fuel storage space.

The power plant would likely be an integral part of the aircraft and could possibly not be distinguished as an item separate from the aircraft.

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If jet propulsion is used, large air handling capacity, characterized by a large air inlet area and large exhaust nozzle should be evident. The size of entrance and exit areas would be of interest.

It is possible that the propulsive jet is governed or influenced for control of the aircraft. The presence of vanes or control surfaces in the exhaust or methods of changing the direction of the jet should be observed.

Information desired on the propulsion systems pertains to the following items:

- a. Type of power plant or power plants.
- b. General description.
- c. Rating (thrust, horsepower, or air flow).
- d. Type of fuel.
- e. Catalytic agents for super-performance or normal cruising power.

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