

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 12 Feb 61	2. LOCATION Between Sterling City and Garden City, Texas		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical <i>VENUS</i> ☒ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>2145</u> GMT <u>13/0345Z</u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Observed 3 times 1 1/2 min ea time	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Green and white object size of baseball. No sound heard. Green oval-type light with a white light underneath, the green light occasionally changing to orange. Appeared, aprox 15-20° 270° azimuth; disappeared same position. Appeared fm W and dived toward ground off to right of observer, then climbed and disappeared to W. Observer estimated 6000-8000 ft on initial sighting with descent to 300-500 ft above ground, then disappearing at about 6000-8000 ft.		11. COMMENTS Objt of this sighting was probably the Planet Venus. Planet was low on horizon at time of sighting, atmospheric refraction probably responsible for apparent increase and decrease in elevation. Color changes associated with sighting were due to dispersion. On date of sighting the planet was very bright, having magnitude less than maximum mag. at about	

RECEIVED

16 FEB 61 10

ATIC

1961 FEB 16 01 31

ZCSQF483ZCWYB895

MM RJEDSQ

DE RJWFDS 29

ZNR

M 152240Z ZEX

FM WEBB AFB TEX

TO RJWFAL/ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJWFJG/819 ADIV DYESS AFB TEX

RJEDSQ/ATIC WPAFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF WASHDC

RJEZHQ/SECRETARY OF THE AF WASHDC

AF GRNC

BT

UNCLAS OP 105B. FOR AFCIN, HQ USAF. SAFIS, SECY OF THE AF. UFO. THE

FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15, AFR

200-2. A. DESCRIPTION. (1) N/A

(2) BASEBALL

(3) GREEN AND WHITE

(4) ONE (1)

(5) N/A

(6) NONE

(7) NONE

(8) NONE HEARD.

1961 FEB 16 12 43

ATIC

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(9) GREEN OVAL TYPE LIGHT WITH A WHITE LIGHT UNDERNEATH. THE GREEN LIGHT OCCASIONALLY CHANGING TO ORANGE.

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT.

(1) A SUBDUED LIGHT SHINING OUT OF A CLOUDY OR FOGGY CONDITION WHICH SUDDENLY BECAME A CLEAR, BRIGHT, WHITE LIGHT WITH THE GREEN ABOVE.

(2) APPROXIMATELY 15-20 DEGREES, 270 DEGREES AZIMUTH.

(3) SAME AS B(2).

(4) APPEARED FROM WEST AND DIVED TOWARD GROUND OFF TO RIGHT OF OBSERVER, THEN CLIMBED AND DISAPPEARED TO WEST. OBSERVER ESTIMATED 6000 TO 8000 FEET ON INITIAL SIGHTING OF OBJECT WITH THE DESCENT TO 300 TO 500 FEET ABOVE GROUND, THEN DISAPPEARING AT ABOUT 6000 TO 8000 FEET.

(5) INTO THE CLOUDS TO THE WEST.

(6) SIGHTED THREE (3) TIMES FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE HALF

(1 1/2) MINUTES EACH TIME OVER A FIFTEEN (15) MINUTE PERIOD.

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION.

(1) GROUND - VISUAL.

(2) NONE.

(3) N/A

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D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING.

(1) 0345Z TO 0400Z, 13 FEB 61.

(2) NIGHT

E. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS. RIDING IN A CAR ALONG THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN
STERLING CITY, TEXAS AND GARDEN CITY, TEXAS, SOUTH SOUTHEAST OF
WEBB AFB APPROXIMATELY TWENTY SEVEN (27) MILES.

F. OBSERVERS

(1) MR. [REDACTED] 42, [REDACTED]
MIDLAND, TEXAS, AUTO PARTS SALESMAN; RELIABILITY FAIR.

(2) MRS. [REDACTED] NOT CONTACTED.

(3) MR. & MRS. [REDACTED] AGE APPROXIMATELY 65,
STEPHENSVILLE, TEXAS; RELIABILITY GOOD.

G. WEATHER AND WINDS

(1) CLEAR IN AREA WITH SCATTERED CLOUDS TO WEST.

(2) U.S. WEATHER BUREAU, MIDLAND AIR TERMINAL:

WINDS SURFACE SOUTH AT 9K

6,000 FEET 260 DEGREES AT 30K

10,000 FEET 270 DEGREES AT 20K

16,000 FEET 250 DEGREES AT 30K

20,000 FEET 260 DEGREES AT 45K

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30,000 FEET 250 DEGREES AT 50K

(3) CEILING HIGH, THIN, BROKEN

(4) VISIBILITY FIFTEEN (15) MILES

(5) CLOUD COVER HIGH, THIN, BROKEN

(6) THUNDERSTORM - NONE.

(7) SLIGHT TEMPERATURE INVERSION POSSIBLE AT 200 TO 300 FEET
AT TIME OF SIGHTING.

H. EXTREMELY BRIGHT PLANET (VENUS) WAS VISIBLE AT TIME OF REPORT.

J. NO KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CONTROL AGENCIES OF TRAFFIC OR BALLOON RELEASES; HOWEVER, THERE ARE NUMEROUS UNSCHEDULED, UNCONTROLLED LIGHT PLANES KNOWN TO OPERATE IN THE AREA UNDER VFR CONDITIONS.

K. THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY MAJOR JACK H. CRAWFORD, AO664142, 3560TH PILOT TRAINING GROUP, WEBB AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS. MR. [REDACTED], WHO MADE THE INITIAL REPORT, AND MR. & MRS. [REDACTED] FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF MR. [REDACTED] WERE QUESTIONED REGARDING WHAT THEY SAW. ALL FOUR (4) PERSONS WHO SAW THE LIGHT WERE RIDING IN THE SAME CAR. THE SPEED OF THE CAR WAS NEVER BELOW 35 TO 40 M.P.H. AND MR. [REDACTED] STATED THEY ROLLED A WINDOW DOWN. HOWEVER, MR. & MRS. [REDACTED] STATED A WINDOW WAS NEVER

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LOWERED. THE ROAD ON WHICH THEY WERE DRIVING WAS ORIENTED GENERALLY EAST TO WEST; HOWEVER, THERE WERE TURNS AND DIPS IN THE ROAD. MR. [REDACTED] DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WAS SEEN WAS FAR MORE IMAGINATIVE AND COLORFUL THAN THE OLDER COUPLES DESCRIPTION. STATEMENTS MADE BY MR. [REDACTED] AS FACTUAL WERE FOUND TO BE CONTRADICTORY AND IN ONE CASE FALSE. A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WAS MADE INCLUDING THE MIDLAND U.S. WEATHER BUREAU, THE MIDLAND FLIGHT SERVICE STATION, EL PASO FLIGHT SERVICE CENTER, THE 683RD AC&W SQUADRON, WEBB AFB, DYESS AFB, HOWARD COUNTY AIRPORT, BIG SPRING TEXAS AND MIDLAND AIR TERMINAL. FLIGHT PLANS, UNUSUAL RADAR PLOTS AND ANY UNUSUAL AIR ACTIVITY WAS CHECKED WITH THE ABOVE AGENCIES. THE ONLY ITEM THAT MIGHT APPEAR A POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE THE NUMEROUS CIVILIAN TYPE AIRCRAFT WHICH FLY

THROUGHOUT THIS AREA OF WEST TEXAS ON VFR UNCONTROLLED, UNFILED
FLIGHT PLANS.

THE MOST PROBABLE SOLUTION TO THIS SIGHTING WOULD BE THE PLANET
VENUS WHICH HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY BRILLIANT. THE MOVEMENT OF
THE AUTOMOBILE COULD ACCOUNT FOR THE APPARENT MOVEMENT OF THE
LIGHT AND THE THIN CLOUD LAYER COULD ACCOUNT FOR THE APPEARANCE
AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THE LIGHT.

BT

15/2243Z FEB RJWFDS

NNNN