

SPANISH AIR FORCE UFO FILES: THE SECRET'S END

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DEDICATION

This paper is respectfully dedicated to Lt. General Ramon Fernandez Sequeiros, Chief, Air Force Staff (JEMA), who was brave enough to recommend that UFO files become declassified. And to Lt. General Alfredo Chamorro Chapinal, Commander-in-Chief, Aerial Operative Command (MOA), for having displayed a most professional approach in the handling of the declassification process. To both, my personal gratitude on behalf of the ufological community at large.

ABSTRACT

Actual disclosure of Spain's Ministry of Defense UFO files started in October 1992. The author has played a significant role in this breakthrough. The present speech serves the purpose of relating the history behind that achievement. It will detail the Spanish Air Force's involvement in the UFO subject from 1968 to present-day, past and new investigation procedures, regulations raised over the years, press releases, sighting statistics, along with samples of case reports from pilots and other military personnel eye witnesses, at radar premises, etc.

Special coverage will be provided of the actual declassification process, steps and methodology, since its inception of its final materialization. The speaker has been fortunate enough not only to promote it but to follow it up very closely, so that I can talk firsthand from the perspective of an insider.

CAPSULE REPORTS

On **June 3, 1967**, an unexpected radar return was noticed by "Bolero" radar station at 16:26Z hours (Greenwich Mean Time) over the province of Caceres, in western Spain. The object appeared to be orbiting in the area and it was moving generally westward. Eleven minutes later, the radar base nicknamed "Matador" reported that a T-33 aircraft in the zone was watching a strange shining object. At 16:55Z, "Matador" communicated that two F-86F aircraft had been scrambled to intercept the

UFO. Radio interference was appreciated by the T-33 whilst the object was over its vertical. At 17:22Z the jet planes intercepted the object and described it as pyramidal in shape, with ascent and descent movements. A photograph was taken--a light dot at "two o'clock" within the view finder, which was lost in the background noise making it imperceptible. Command's letters, pilot-ground transcripts, radar trackings, and all the official documentation generated is now available.

September 17, 1968, Iberia flight 220 from Tenerife to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. At 21:45 hours, flying at 7,000 ft. and with a clear sky, the crew observed a luminous point apparently far away from them, which was rapidly approaching. Its size was growing until it stayed at a close distance to the left of the airliner. It was a round body of 20 cm. in diameter, which strongly illuminated the cockpit with a bluish color. It stood at that level with a zig-zag motion for some 45 seconds until it disappeared by returning in the direction from which it came.

October 13, 1968, La Linea (Cadiz), South of Spain. At 22:45 hours, while a sergeant and two soldiers were on duty in the Observation and Surveillance Unit, they saw a flying object appear over them in a northwest to southeast direction, at an approximate height of 3,000 ft. and at great speed. It crossed up to the horizon (Mediterranean Sea) in just 10 seconds. They could not figure out its shape because of the dark, however it was seen as three intense white lights in an equilateral triangle, one fixed in the nose and the other two exchanging their position by crossing each other.

On **November 4, 1968**, around 7:30 p.m., Iberia flight 249 from Barcelona to Alicante was crossing the Valencia province, Eastern part of Spain, by the Mediterranean Sea, when the pilot called the control tower to ask if the radar was operating: "We have a large light in sight on our position," the pilot said. It suddenly extinguished by seemingly dropping to sea level. It came up again and was positioned in front of the airplane. It was composed of a large central light with two minor lateral ones. The object was far beyond the radar limits and it could not be substantiated.

The above descriptions proceed from declassified reports belonging to the official UFO archives of the Spanish Air Force, and the documents presented are part of the case files. Since the autumn of 1992, those files are in the Library of the Air General Headquarters in Madrid for everybody to consult. In order to understand how the Spanish Ministry of Defense has adopted such an open attitude, the following history's chapter must be told.

HISTORY OF AIR FORCE INVOLVEMENT

Highlights of the history of the interface between the UFO problem and the Ministry of Air/Defense in Spain will be presented chronologi-

cally, and illustrated with the pertinent documents, once held secret and confidential.

On **March 14, 1968**, at 21:30 hours, Spantax airline flight IB/371-372 from Las Palmas in the Canary Islands to Villa Cisneros (now Morocco), was about to land when the crew saw a light apparently moving opposite the airplane. The control tower reported no traffic in the area and the controller did not see the light. One hour later, when the airplane took off on the return trip, many witnesses on the ground watched a light near the plane. The crew was then alerted and they could see a distant light, which was under observation during the 60-minute return flight. It had sporadic up and down movements. When they were about to land, the light could no longer be seen because of the cloud layers.

The local press collected the news but the incident was dramatically exaggerated. Consequently, the Ministry of Air was compelled to release a note to the media indicating that the sighting of a light took place but no alarm was created onboard, and the flight resulted as normal as ever. It was the first Air Force press release on UFOs in our country.

Moreover, an investigation was carried out by the Canary Air Zone. An officer interviewed all the witnesses and prepared a report which ended by noting the discrepancies observed in distance and color. "In summary, all saw the phenomenon but nobody is capable of providing a reasonable explanation, therefore it is impossible to determine its nature," the military report concluded.

Our analysis of all available data points to an astronomical explanation for the light sources. The rising of the star Arcturus in the initial sighting, a second-magnitude star in the following phase, and the vision of Arcturus again in the final part of the sequence, seem to form a coherent hypothesis for this curious event.

Except in two isolated reports in 1962 and 1967, 1968 was the year when a flood of UFO cases found their way to the Spanish Air Force headquarters. One in March, a few in May, several in September, then others in October and November. This situation just paralleled the general UFO wave that was shocking Spain at that time. We in the CEI (Centro De Estudios Interplanetarios) have accounted for nearly 400 cases in that single year.

On **May 15, 1968**, the EVA-4 radar location reported contact with an unidentified flying object at a height of 3,000 ft. Some aircraft of the 102 Squadron on an aerial exercise were directed to the UFO--this attempt failed. A scramble with photographic film was then ordered. At the same time, two other F-100 USAF planes were sent out on the same mission. Pilots could not take photos but they suggested that it might have been a balloon. On the same day, on the commercial flight from Madrid to Paris, a passenger on the DC-9 took some footage of the

object. The movie was delivered to the Air Defense Command, where it arrived safely. Unfortunately, although it was sent to the Ministry of Air's head office in Madrid, it did not arrive, or at least has not been found.

At 10:00 a.m. on May 17, 1968, pilots of two F-86 aircraft reported to EVA-1 radar station the sighting of a strange stationary, metallic-looking object over Lerida. EVA-1 detected it at 76,000 ft. moving upwards. Fifty-five minutes later, two F-104 Starfighters took off with cameras and were vectored towards the UFO. At 59,000 ft. they found the object staying then as high as 82,000 ft. Photographs could not be taken in those conditions. Radar continued to track the object until 6:00 p.m. The object was moving very slowly, both horizontally and vertically, and it was triangle-shaped.

For the two above-mentioned cases, the same explanation applies. Around mid May, multitudes saw flying objects over many villages and towns in Spain. Dynamic patterns were identical, shape and brilliance were constant too. These were the result of the launching of immense tetrahedral, stratospheric balloons from the CNES (Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales) (the French NASA), used for spatial research. We have even matched the sightings with the dates and hours of launching of the sounding balloons, as per information duly received from the CNES.

During the evening of September 5, 1968, thousands of Madrid's inhabitants were surprised to see a bright object at a high altitude over the capital. People crowded in the streets staring at the UFO. Bell-shaped or conical, photographs were taken and published the following day in the most influential newspaper of that time.

There was such a commotion that the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Air had to dispatch a press release explaining that the object had been radar-tracked the day before and that it was sighted by the pilots of one F-104 and two T-33s. On the 5th of September, radars of the Alert and Control Squadron detected it at 30,000 ft. moving at such a low rate of 15 km/hour. The official conclusion indicated that it had been a French "meteorological balloon for the study of the low mesosphere, a zone of great interest for future supersonic flights."

FIRST PRESS NOTICE

The previously displayed pure military sightings of pilots, radar operators, and ground-based personnel, were not completely solved at that time. To this we must add the general level of reports found in the media all over the country. Both effects combined, promoted the Ministry of Air's Press Office to submit a note to the newspapers, dated December 5, 1968.

In the note, for the first time ever, the Ministry of Air requested the citizens to report their UFO sightings to the nearest air authority, so that the information could be raised with the Air Force Staff, which

would investigate them. Additionally, it informed the people that an Early Warning Radar Network existed in operation, capable of detecting any object flying in the national air space. The note ended with the statement that "up to the present, objects tracked by the radar were meteo balloons or aircraft."

The publication of the press note started a series of transcendental developments. General Mariano Cuadra (a name to remember) Second Chief of the Air Force Staff, signed a note to the Chief of the Service indicating that the Air Regions were responsible for the handling of UFO reports, but if cases were directly reported to the Air Force Staff from the public, instructions were given as to what data should be asked, like day, place, time, height, direction, evolutions, speed, etc. The historical letter is now quite damaged by the passing of time.

CIRCULAR NUMBER 9266-CT ISSUED

The next logical step was to set up a directive or some rules and regulations, in order to establish how this subject should be tackled. Circular Number 9266-CT (C for Confidential) was internally issued on December 26, 1968, by the Chief, Air Force Staff, General Luis Navarro (probably inspired by General Cuadra). These norms represent the operating procedure for the official treatment of UFO business in the Spanish Air Force for 25 years. An informing *judge* would be appointed when anyone reported in writing that a UFO had been sighted. Questioning would cover observation conditions, meteo conditions, instruments used, noise, and object dynamics. Aeronautical checks would be done and witnesses would be notified if any explanation was found, "for their peace of mind." In connection with these rules, a questionnaire was prepared, a quite simple one for our standards.

The press release of December 1968 produced a large volume of incoming reports to the Air Force, both from military and civil sources. One case occurred on the evening of **December 7** near Villalon de Campos (Palencia), where one truck driver, four car drivers and a few more people saw how an orange light rose from ground level to the sky, disappearing three minutes later. Another report, depicted a UFO escorting, at low level, a car with two occupants, near Seville, on **December 11, 1968**. The UFO flight adapted to the terrain's profile, according to the testimony of the driver, a chemist by profession. Once he had left his wife at home, he went to town to report the event to the major. A party of villagers then went out to look for the object, which was seen again two hours later 3 km. away. The main witness reported the sighting in person to the Second Air Region the following day, in the company of the town's major.

On **February 25, 1969**, the crew of an Iberia airlines Caravelle en route from Palma in Majorca to Madrid, was apparently followed by an UFO from 21:19 to 21:38 GMT hours. The object gave off white and orange light of great intensity. With the apparent size of an orange, three luminous points on its surface sometimes gave it the shape of a

triangle. Most of the time the object did not change position; other times, it was seen receding and approaching, or descending almost to ground level and ascending. It was lost from sight by diminishing its luminosity.

The incident made headlines and it received heavy national news coverage. Consistent with the applicable norms, a judge was named to interview the eye witnesses and to evaluate the phenomenon. Forty-five days after the case, a note from the Ministry of Air was submitted to the media. A very precise astronomical report indicated that the planet Venus was the mistaken source of light, as it was in the same direction as the UFO, but it was missed by the observers. The termination of the sighting matched the planet's setting. A recent independent analysis of the occurrence, by engineer Manuel Borraz, confirmed the official report.

1974, like 1968, was another UFO wave year in Spain. UFO reporting increased by more than 300% over the prior year. Then, in the two first days of 1975, two important UFO events were experienced by groups of soldiers. On January 1, 1975, after the Christmas leave, four soldiers were returning from Santander by car to the Army Engineer Academy in Burgos. At 6:30 a.m., the driver noticed a "star" shining more brightly than the rest and mentioned this to his companions. Later on, they all saw a luminous object moving in a parabolic course across the sky and descending to the ground at high speed. They pulled up. An object shaped like a truncated cone, 2 m. tall and 3 m. wide, stood and irradiated bright white-yellow light. The light was extinguished but the dark soon became light again when four identical objects appeared. They were placed in a row, emitting jets of white light downwards. After 10 minutes of observation, the soldiers decided to continue, else they would be late back to their military destination.

The Army's Sixth General Captaincy released a more favorable press note with a full description of the event, as per the words of the percipients. Twenty-four hours later, the Burgos newspaper that carried the note released an editor's statement to say that the information previously published as official was just a private testimony without any official backing.

The Assistant to the Academy's Col. Director visited the place of the reported incident and gave interviews to magazines. In the area, a number of burnt spots were found, as well as a large recent burnt patch. Small scorched holes were discovered too.

A military judge appointed by the Air Force was commissioned to do the proper investigation. I believe the Lieutenant Colonel, charged with that responsibility, missed a good opportunity to research an outstanding example of an unusual phenomenon. The military informer concluded that the car's occupants were predisposed, tired and drowsy and that it was as simple case of shared suggestion. An opinion I do not share at all. Let me finish by calling the attention of the

American ufologists to the similarity of this case with the Langenburg, Saskatchewan, Canada, UFO landing experience of just four months before, September 1, 1974, investigated by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Ted Phillips.

At 11:00 p.m. on January 2, 1975, four soldiers, members of a military patrol at the Air Force Firing Range of Las Bardenas Reales, in Navarra, observed some lights at a distance of 3-4 km. They called the Sergeant on duty in the barracks, who then saw some lights in the northeast, reflecting luminous, yellow-reddish flashes on the left and white on the right, with a bright central part, rising slowly over the horizon. At 11:30 p.m., the Officer-in-Charge took binoculars and saw nothing strange, except a reddish stain which was becoming visible through the fog existing in the area--it was the Moon. With a Land Rover, the site was inspected for traces, but nothing was found.

The soldier's narrative contained more complex elements than the testimony of the Lieutenant Colonel, Commander in Chief of the Firing Range. It involved the sighting of lights moving at some 25 m. from the ground to the northwest--where the main tower and the patrol were--rounding it at 180°, speeding and taking height, and disappearing to the south. From the same source-area, an object was seen of a brilliant white color, which illuminated a radius of 100 m., giving off light jets. It was slowly flying towards the same tower, then it changed course and sped off moving towards the north.

The Third Air Region raised a press note to say that investigation did not show any proof of overfly and landing of any object in the firing range's premises. The case was officially explained as being produced by optical effects and reflections of the Moon and the stars on the ground fog that covered the place. Although much disputed, this explanation has been supported by other students, like engineer Juan Antonio Fernandez, who explains the sighting in terms of a mirage of the Moon on the fog banks caused by a temperature inversion. Final word will be given when the actual report is finally declassified and can be subjected to careful study.

This case created a big stir in Spain, especially in conjunction with the previous event. The cases, the official investigation that followed, and the two official notes released kept the Ministry of Air quite busy and concerned about UFOs on those days.

It was not surprising that the man who inspired the 1968 norms, General Mariano Cuadra, by then Minister of Air, would write on January 10, 1975, a four-page text entitled "Instructions for Information Regarding Alleged UFO Sightings." It was addressed to the Chief of the Air Force Staff. Supposedly to replace the prior procedures, it expanded and refined them. The new instructions contained a larger and more precise questionnaire for the inquiry to alleged eye witnesses, including elements for the selection of the proper officer to conduct the investigation, the analysis of the testimony's objectivity, the accuracy of the observer's location, a wide range of confusions and

misperceptions to be considered, some checks for identification, and an open possibility to disseminate results to the media.

Two typed, official versions of the text exist. Both are dated January 1975 (good old General's handwritten paper had been wrongly dated as January 1974), and for unknown reasons those rules were never distributed, perhaps because of its general resemblance to the 1968 document. In spite of this, many official writings used to refer also to the "1974" update" (i.e., 1975).

In October 1976, a journalist was given portions of a dozen UFO files from the official archives. Hardly five months after the delivery, a book was published with that information. No study or follow-up, just the transcript of the pages received plus unrestricted speculation. One would expect case analysis or something resembling investigation; reversely, only a case of commercial opportunism with tragical consequences for Spanish ufology. It was preceded and followed by newspaper/magazine articles, fascicles and by every possible form of market exploitations of the documents.

What was worse was that the public was led to believe that the Government had used this approach to inform people that UFOs existed, which was far from the truth. It had a perverse effect and it short circuited and precluded for 15 years further opportunities of cooperation with the military, who were shocked by the sensation-seeking treatment of the information, paired with the Air Force's apparent inability to cope with the resulting flood of report and interview requests. Even the Minister of Air stated in a letter that the book's content "could in no way be considered as having an official character."

The same fellow tried to interfere with the declassification process in effect in 1991, when he requested from the Chief of the Air Force Staff that the files should be (solely and secretly) provided to his publisher, in order to make a book out of them! Fortunately, this egoist attempt was rejected. Contrarily, the philosophy that Joan Plana and myself managed to initiate within the Air Force Staff was aimed at the UFO files becoming public domain in due time.

General Carlos de Castro Cavero was Head of the Canary Air Command in August 1975 when he single-handedly decided to release again the 1968 press note to local journals. But he was also a UFO fan. His next assignment was as Chief, Third Air Region, based in Zaragoza. In September, 1977, the Region's Public Relations Office sent a letter to the Civil Governors of the 16 provinces under its command, with an enclosure for press distribution. Again, the existence of the 1968 norms was recalled and a reference "to the patent interest of the Air Force to have knowledge of all news related to this subject (UFOs)" was made therein.

CEI INITIATES PROPOSAL

In December 1978, Pedro Redon, President of CEI (the Barcelona-based UFO center, founded in 1957, of which I am the Director of Research) submitted to the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, a letter on behalf of the center's scientific consultants. Invoking research interests, arguing that UFO archives were publicly available in the United States and that the French Government had created the GEPAN for the study of UFOs, Redon requested access to the official documents and offered the know-how, experience and resources of CEI and its large team of advisers to provide assistance of any sort to the Air Force.

In January 1979, the Air Military Secretariat emitted an Informative Note to the Chief, Air Force Staff: "Diffusion of UFO Information" was its subject heading. It reflected that His Majesty the King had personally handed the above letter to the head of the Staff. Secondly, it noted the high number of data requests received by the Air Force. Finally, it suggested that information already provided to the media was declassified and that the rest was reconsidered, "keeping as secret that which could affect national security." Based on that proposal, the Chief of the Air Staff proposed to declassify the official files in a Joint Chiefs of the Staffs meeting held on March 3, 1979.

Nevertheless, the resulting consensus was not to declassify but (matters related to UFOs) "to continue, according to present legislation, considered as classified matter." The terrible situation here was that, unless the current confidential level was set by the Chief of the Air Force only, UFOs acquired since then a higher bureaucracy level of reserve, one which was linked to the Law of Official Secrets of State. In practice, it meant that any possible declassification in the future should be agreed at the highest level of the Spanish Army, the Joint Chiefs of Staffs (JUJEM).

Deliberations of the JUJEM are secret and proceedings are not available, only final resolutions are known. However, we can affirm that the reasons to bury UFO documents from the public's eye were: 1) the adverse, negative impressions produced in the Air Force and in the Army by the sensationalized publication of the 12 reports by journalist Benitez in 1977, and 2) the unmanageable mass of requests of materials received from public and media.

For the benefit of foreign students, it should be stressed that since Franco died in 1975, Spain had been experimenting with a delicate transition from authoritarianism to democracy, and it created conflicts and confrontation within the Armed Forces and the Government. By coincidence, one day before the JUJEM's decision, the first full democratic elections in more than 40 years had taken place. In that political environment, it is not surprising that the military did not contemplate with extreme sympathy new ways to share information with the civilian population.

Since that day, every request submitted to the Air Force on UFOs has received a standard reply "UFOs are reserved matter and no information is available."

AERIAL PHENOMENON ATTRACTS ATTENTION

At 22:15 hours on July 12, 1983, a large-magnitude aerial phenomenon was displayed and could be seen from the center and East of Spain. It was a point source which gave out a big white-yellowish luminous trail with the shape of a giant comet. It crossed the sky moving in a spiral, completely noiseless. The sighting lasted for nearly 10 minutes. It was also sighted from several commercial aircraft whilst in flight.

One of the eye witnesses to this remarkable space oddity was Congressman Gabriel Elorriaga, who saw it from a Mediterranean town. On July 19, he addressed a question to the Government through the Congress of Deputies: "On the Intrusion in the National Air Space of an Unidentified Object Coming from the Mediterranean Sea and Observed Over Benicassim (Castellon)."

Initiated with the description of the incident, it included details of the sighting as seen from a military transport aircraft too. Four specific questions were posed to the Minister of Defense: official information available, reaction of our defensive system, reliability of the air space control system, and the existing foresights to face any aggression from the sea to the center of the territory.

The Secretary of the State for the Relationship with the Congress replied on September 29, 1983. The sighting was duly corroborated "from a formation of Phantom aircraft, the Torrejon de Ardoz control tower, two Iberia airplanes, and one USAF aircraft"; it was described in full detail, adding that radars did not establish contact with the object. Amazingly, two alternative explanations were put forward as to the nature of the phenomenon: (1) a meteorite, or (2) the reentry of a space object. The frequency of meteor showers during July and August closed the conclusion.

Why was it amazing? Because, being confirmed by the French Defense authorities, we know for sure that it was due to the experimental firing of an M-4 ballistic missile, launched by the French Navy from the submarine "Gymnote" while navigating near the coasts of Bretagne, in the Atlantic Ocean. The excellent visibility conditions made it possible that it was so well observed over vast distances in the two neighboring countries.

UFO QUESTION POSED TO THE GOVERNMENT

On March 26, 1985, Popular Group's Senator Juan Francisco Serrano Pino applied to the President of the Senate for a three-fold question to the Government:

- 1) Is there any investigation of UFOs done in Spain?
- 2) Is the subject of UFOs considered a State secret?
- 3) Which is the department responsible for this mission?

The Government response was published in the Official Bulletin of the Congress (Senate) in May 1985. The tone of the reply was euphemistic:

1) Standard procedures exist for the investigation and follow-up of UFOs in the Spanish air space.

2) The Air Force Staff promulgated in December 1968 some Norms which established the measures to be taken by the air authorities when receiving claims of UFO observations.

3) Article 31 of the Organic Law 6/1980, regulating the basic criteria of the National Defense establishes that the Air Force is charged with the control of the national air spaces; thus, the Ministry of Defense is responsible for the investigation of UFOs.

THE BALLESTER-OLMOS & PLANA MILITARY PROJECT

My personal long and winding road started when, in June 1984, I decided to write to the Minister of Defense. "Free access to administrative files of historical value is an asset in any democracy," I wrote. In consequence, I requested that the documentation related to UFOs in the Air Force be declassified and materials be available to students for investigation. Rapidly I received a reply from the Secretary of the Minister. He said that my letter was being sent to the Subsecretary of Defense. Yet the final response took one full year to arrive. "Your request has been reviewed by the Air Force Staff and by the Joint Chiefs of the Staffs, and it has been resolved to keep the present classification as reserved matter on the documents pertaining to the UFO subject."

By then, Spain had a Socialist government and new attitudes were expected from the Department of Defense of the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. But it seems there are things that change with difficulty.

In 1988, the author and Joan Plana, a specialist in UFOs and defense and a board member of CEI, joined forces to design a large-scale research project devoted to analyze the UFO problem and the Armed Forces. Our program was quite ambitious and had no time limit. It encompasses not only the Air Force but the Army, Navy, Civil Guard, Civil Aviation, and Police. One of the main by-products of this major project has been a collection of 300 UFO reports from all military sources. Of those cases compiled, roughly 50% have conventional

explanations. The remaining, unexplained (we do not mean necessarily unexplainable) cases are distributed as follows:

- o 48% refers to Air Force cases (personnel or facilities involved, or investigation conducted, or notification from other agencies was carried out).

- o 8% Army reports, i.e., in the most part, stories told by soldiers who were subject to UFO experiences whilst doing their military service.

- o 4% involves Navy war ships, submarines or merchant ships reporting UFO sightings to the Navy.

- o 25% reports to Civil Guard (Spanish rural police), which in some cases performed an on-the-spot inquiry, national or local police, or sightings from members of these agencies.

- o 15% of total cases consigns civil aviation involvement, airport control, or commercial airliners.

The above percentages have been calculated from categories that cannot be mutually exclusive (i.e. agencies are usually interrelated), yet these may convey some idea of the content of our two case catalogues. We have MILICAT, which stands for "open" reports, and PSEUDOCAT, which gathers together "negative" or explained reports.

One target of our research plan was the exhaustive study of the real, untold history of the relationship between the Spanish Armed Forces and the UFO phenomenon. To seek for information, hundreds of data-request letters were sent to all levels of the State's Administration, and specifically to every corner of the Air Force structure. Another goal was collecting reports by military personnel, analyzing the data, contacting the witnesses, consulting experts about them, looking for alternative explanations, in a word, documenting the events and upgrading the acquired information. But, above all, we had a very precise objective in mind: to try to convince the Air Force Staff that time had come to free the official documents, in summary, to attain that UFO matters be finally declassified, so that civilian investigators could see and study the military UFO records.

In May 1990 I changed my strategy. From letter writing I moved to the close encounter way. I made many visits to the Air Force General Headquarters building in Madrid, meeting with the Public Relations Office, Air Safety Section, and others. It was this Air Safety Section (nowadays Air Space Section), part of the Division of Operations, Air Force Staff, the repository of the UFO archives. Colonel Fernandez Rodas was the man in charge.

Having agreed on the right approach to follow, in February 1991 I provided a memorandum for the Chief of Staff. It explained the

historical and scientific nature of our research in progress and it formally requested the Air Force's assistance to our work, a sample of which was included as well for his perusal. In the following weeks I was told that I had the "Command's support." In May 1991, I presented a long report, "The UFO Phenomenon and the Air Force," a review of the grade of intervention of the Spanish Air Force in the UFO business from 1968 to 1990, highlighting the deterioration of its image because of the growing belief of deliberate concealment of proof. Finally it posed a work plan which would help to clarify the involvement of the Air Force in the UFO problem along the years, and requested that UFO files were downgraded for the consultation of students, along with a number of other requirements.

My memo was appended by 11 enclosures, trying to prove the seriousness of our inquiry and the validity of our arguments for the general access to the official UFO documents.

Now, the beginning of the end started at last! On May 22, 1991, one of the official texts related to UFOs that made history was prepared. From the Air Safety Section to the Chief of the Staff, an Informative Note was raised with this title: "The UFO Archives and Their Possible Declassification."

"An investigator of the UFO phenomenon, Mr. Ballester Olmos, the report says, belonging to a private organization attempting to explain the logics of these phenomena, has developed contacts with this General Headquarters, through the Public Relations Office, the Division of Logistics, and Air Safety; both personally and by mail. The interest of Mr. Ballester may be summarized as follows:

- a) The declassification of the UFO case files of the Air Force, and
- b) the reply to a questionnaire."

This official Note continued to say that there were 55 files of UFO reports, with a different level of investigation. An attachment included the first catalogue ever prepared of the UFO archives. Reports spanned from 1962 to 1988 and the content of files were described as "old." The last actual UFO investigation by the Air Force took place in 1980, and since 1988 cases are not even filed. "The content of the archives does not reveal any mystery, the memo finished, neither it removes any doubts to whom they have gone, probably because investigations were not performed by professionals or by students of the phenomenon. In consequence, it seems convenient that the JUJEM (Joint Chiefs of the Staffs) declassifies, or leaves as "limited release" the Air Safety archives. Available for whom justifies a legitimate interest in the UFO affair." ("UFO" in the original). Another attachment included replies to 27 questions I had previously posed.

This writing promoted a real chain reaction. In July 1991, the Cabinet of the Chief of the Air Staff wrote to me to say that "proper steps have been given to achieve that UFO materials are declassified." Words of encouragement were also passed on to us.

Another step forward was given during that summer. Following my insisting suggestion that prior to the declassification, all reports scattered in various regional air establishments should be grouped. In July 1991 the Air Force Staff submitted a letter to the Air Commands requesting that all available UFO information be sent to the General Headquarters at Madrid, for centralization purposes. This letter and the replies to it are filed within a cover page with this legend: "Consequence of requests by Mr. Ballester and the Informative Note." This managed to increase the number of official reports from 55 to 60.

In December 1991, the Cabinet of the Chief of the Air Staff proposed to the Minister of Defense its plan to declassify UFO reports. The updated list of 60 reports was therein included. It explained that since the Organic Law 4/87 of July 15, 1987, on military jurisdiction was in force, military judges couldn't have any competence to inquiry to civilian witnesses any more, thus it prevented the Air Force from further research. (Although this is truly an invalid argument, it is what was confessed to the Department of Defense.)

The new born 1992 year witnessed outstanding changes along the same lines. On January 15, actual documents and the related responsibility to handle all UFO matters were transferred to the Aerial Operative Command (MOA in Spanish's acronym), which placed it within the Intelligence Section. The MOA was instructed to analyze the information and to prepare the corresponding management procedures to the approval of the Air Staff's authority, including routines for classification and declassification of the UFO files. Commander-in-Chief of MOA is Lt. General Alfredo Chamorro Chapinal, a very prestigious military man who, whilst in his prior assignment, had already had the opportunity to show us a cooperative will.

On April 14, 1992, the Chief of the Air Force Staff attended a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of the Staffs (JUJEM). Lt. General Ramon Fernandez Sequeiros was armed with a long advisory's report prepared by the MOA intelligence. He was going to recommend that UFO files be declassified. The JUJEM resolved it by downgrading the classification level to "internal reserve," similar to Confidential. The virtuality of this historical decision was to transfer to the authority of the Air Force's Chief of the Staff the capacity to judge over the classification grade of the actual files, instead of the prior one which required consensus by the top Spanish Army's executive generals. Most importantly, it also implied the acceptance of the methodology to be followed by the Air Force in the future: every single case would be analyzed by intelligence officers in order to determine if its dissemination might cause any threat to national security; if not, its total declassifica-

tion would be proposed to the Chief of the Air Force Staff, for approval and public disclosure.

In the meantime, the MOA had prepared modern procedures to cope with the reporting and research of the UFO phenomenon in the future. IG-40-5 is the General Instruction concerned (an IG is akin to a finance manual in multinationals, a disposition to be fulfilled), entitled "Norms to Follow After the Notification of Sightings of Strange Phenomena in the National Air Space." It was distributed in June 1992 and it superseded all previous rules.

According to this regulation, any UFO case reported by a civilian or the police to the Air Force (or from within) will be delivered to the regional air authority and to the MOA headquarters (Torrejon de Ardoz AFB, Madrid). If the region considers that an investigation should be opened, an Informing Officer (from the Information Section) will be appointed to proceed with the inquiry. The MOA might also name an additional, specialized Investigating Officer (from the Intelligence Section) to jointly conduct the investigation. All the information will be classified as Confidential. The Intelligence Section of the MOA's staff will hold the custody of the files, and it will propose or not its declassification.

Attached to IG-40-5 is the text "Tasks of the Informing and Investigating Officers." A study of every possible origin for the reported phenomena will be developed, by compiling data on meteorology, aerospace activity, radar echoes, scramble missions, records of air-ground conversations of civil aviation and so forth, which are concurrent with the time of the unusual event. The possibility is laid for requesting to the public at large that information on UFO sightings be directly reported to the Air Force.

In order to measure the report's reliability, an alpha scale (from A to D) is designed, as well as a numerical scale (from 1 to 4) to determine the case's Quality of Information. This instruction also includes guidelines as to how to handle photographic material or even residues from UFOs that may have been found, and it dictates the format in which the Official Report is to be structured. A 16-page questionnaire is included in this "military ufologist's kit" (tongue-in-cheek), a most typical UFO sighting form which contemplates all possibilities, from lights-in-the-sky to landings and sighting of occupants.

In June 1992, in a letter to the author, Lt. General Chamorro acknowledged our personal efforts oriented to the declassification's achievement, qualifying them as "serious and objective." A most gratifying reward after so many years of dedication in the pursuing of an idea.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

"Another prime time was the publication of the article "UFOs and the Air Force," by Lt. Colonel Angel Bastida* (intelligence officer in the MOA's Staff), in the August-September issue of *Revista de Areronautica and Astronautica* (Journal of Aeronautics and Astronautics), the official publication of the Spanish Air Force. The present 66 files (the archives included some additional reports that had been furnished by me to the Air Force during the "intervention process," and some new cases), these were statistically reviewed in order to extract some informative clues. A summary of the results follows:

1) Location of the reports. The Mediterranean area, Madrid and the Canary Islands have most of the cases. A closer inspection of the geographical distribution map reveals that higher density of sightings appears to be related to the existence of Air Force bases or installations. The "notification in writing to the nearer Air authority" of the 1968 norms worked more frequently where the Air Force's presence was more visible.

2) MOA archives. The graph of number of cases per year of occurrence shows three significant peaks, in 1968-1971, 1974-1975, and 1979-1981. In his noted article, the MOA's intelligence officer proceeded to compare the 66-file statistical curve with a 3,500 UFO report catalogue released in my book *Los OVNIS y la Ciencia* (UFOs and Science), authored jointly with physicist Miguel Guasp and published in 1989. Basically, the military records match quite accurately the general trends of civilian UFO reporting in Spain along history.

3) Radar cases. No radar detection/no scramble cases scored 45, or 68% of the total. UFOs producing radar echoes amounted to 20, or 31% (in seven of these events, an aircraft was vectored to identify the unknown flying object). In one case, there was scramble action in the absence of prior radar detection.

EPILOGUE

As an epilogue, I should like to stress that the historical declassification of the air military UFO archives that has just started to take place in Spain has two distinctive features.

Firstly, it has been inspired or instigated by the direct, silent and painstaking efforts of a member of the ufological community. Behind-the-scenes prudent but hard work, dialogue, correspondence and so forth with officers of the Air Force's Staff gave shape to a convincing process which was based on reasonable, logical, down-to-earth and non-egoist grounds. The final achievement of the goal, of course, could not

* The Mutual UFO Network presented a complimentary copy of the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* to Lt. Col. Bastida, personally delivered by the author.

have been possible without the open-mindedness of the military and the Chief of the Air Force Staff. I don't see any reason why this approach cannot be successfully applied to other countries as well.

For me, as a non-military oriented person, it has been both a personally enriching and fruitful experience to get acquainted with the Air Force's structure, the people, their problems and their viewpoints, and an honor to be able to serve to ufology by modestly contributing to the opening of a long-time closed door. Established links, no doubt, will be most beneficial for the future.

Secondly, the internal methodology developed by the Spanish Air Force to declassify its UFO reports and to update its guidelines and technical procedures in this matter, is a model in which other countries should mirror.

Lack of time and space in the proceedings prevents me from covering other sides of the military universe: the Army, the Navy, Civil Guard and Police, and the interaction of these Armed Forces with the UFO phenomenon along the years. This is another quite exciting history still pending to be told. I hope to have further opportunities to offer this information to the U.S. UFO investigators, in order to reveal more of the many facets of this jigsaw puzzle.

Let us say to finish that presently, we receive assistance from the top levels of the investigative services of Civil Guard, the Staff of the Navy's Admiralty, Civil Aviation, or the Spanish Defense Intelligence. Fruitful contacts and liaison with those agencies have been established at the most senior level and results in the form of leads, materials, access to archives, or prospects for common cooperation are visible now.

Nevertheless, it is still premature to disclose our findings over and above what has just been said. In order not to jeopardize the progress under way, I cannot be more precise for the time being. No doubt, in a near future's communication I will be in a position to share with you further advancements in this interesting topic of the military-UFO interface.

APPENDIX

Rockets and Missiles

The contemporary history of the relationship between the UFO problem and the Air Force in Spain contains many examples of reports that were caused by rockets and missiles. However, even today, such a crystal clear explanation is unnoticed or unaccepted by some ill-informed ufologists. A very brief review of the most relevant cases will be in order.

A little past 6 p.m., on **February 23, 1971**, a luminous trail was observed from the south and center of France, northern Italy, and northern and eastern Spain. Crews from three different Iberia airplanes sighted a bright object leaving a conical trail cross the sky. From a fishing boat 25 miles off San Sebastian, in northern Spain, in the Atlantic Ocean, a fiery, silvery object fell down into the sea several hundred meters away. Labelled as UFO in principle, it was found to be a "Tybere" rocket that had been launched from the Centre d'Essais des Landes (Biscarrose, France), under the auspices of the ONERA. The combustion of the third stage of the rocket booster caused the aerial show. The operation, called "Electre," was aimed to study the disturbances in communications affecting the spatial capsules in the course of the atmospheric's re-entry (black-out radio).

In the evening of **June 12, 1974**, near 10 p.m., sighters from the south of France and northern and eastern Spain contemplated an outstanding phenomenon that pictured the sky in an amazingly colorful way. It lasted more than one hour. A luminous, white ball with a linear motion was seen to leave an intense yellow trail behind. Immediately, it took an erratic trajectory, followed by a ten-turn spiral. The ball then exploded, making the contrail bigger and bigger, until it was diluted in the air. It was known that it had been a military firing of a ballistic missile (MSBS) from the CEL base, which was destroyed during the test.

The Canary Islands, an archipelago located in front of the African western coasts, witnessed in the seventies a large number of spectacular sky wonders. Artificial in origin, but man-made, these events were seen by thousands of citizens and were photographed at pleasure. These were the most advanced products of the weapon technology at that time. Over 1,000 km. to the west stands a missile test range, a zone most appropriate for both the USSR and the USA Navies, where submarines were endowed with ballistic missiles.

Three are the most significant dates in the long rosary of similar cases: **June 22, 1976, November 19, 1976, and March 5, 1979**. On those dates, a common pattern occurred. It started with the vision of a luminous point coming from the depth of the western marine horizon. It raised in to space at great speed, emitting a cone-shaped yellowish contrail. Later on, some spiral and zig-zag color trails, semi-circular or even spherical in shape, were very well distinguished against a dark sky background. Those were in sight for long periods of time, until high altitude winds dissolved the pictorial phenomenon, after 20 to 40 minutes. The magnificent aerial displays could be observed from places distant hundreds of kilometers between. Some of the best official reports from the Spanish Air Force are dedicated to the research of those sightings. Unfortunately, lack of expertise by the military's informing judge and low priority in the investigation follow-up made the obvious missile explanation to be considered only as one of the various working hypotheses, which included the possibility of a spacecraft!



LT. GEN. MARIANO CUADRA MEDINA
Second Chief, Air Force Staff, 1968
Minister of Air, 1974-Dec 1975



LT. GEN. ALFREDO CHAMORRO CHAPINAL
Commander-in-Chief, Aerial Operative
Command (MOA)



LT. COL. ANGEL BASTIDA
Intelligence Officer, MOA

MANDO OPERATIVO AEREO

ESTADO MAYOR
SECCION DE INTELIGENCIA

AVISTAMIENTO DE FENOMENOS EXTRAÑOS

LUGAR: -VILLA CISNEROS
FECHA: -1968 / día 14 de Marzo
RESUMEN:

VILLA CISNEROS (SAHARA) TO
LAS PALMAS (CANARY ISLANDS)
FLIGHT OF MARCH 14, 1968
Cover Memorandum page.

- El Comandante y Segundo Piloto del vuelo SPANTAX IB/371-372 (Las Palmas-Villa Cisneros), cuando se dirigían a tomar tierra, observaron una luz a su altura y, aparentemente, realizando una maniobra de tráfico contraria a la suya.- A su demanda, la torre contesta no tener ningún tráfico (el controlador no ve la luz).- A los pocos segundos (10 estimados) la luz desapareció.- Una vez en tierra, los pilotos comentan el incidente.
- Al iniciar el vuelo de regreso a Las Palmas, poco después del despegue, se observa de nuevo la luz.- En esta ocasión, la observación es corroborada por gran número de testigos desde el suelo.
- La luz parece bastante lejana, por lo que continúan vuelo. Les acompañó durante casi todo el trayecto, con aparentes ascensos y descensos esporádicos.- Al iniciar el descenso se perdió de vista, debido a la existencia de una capa de estratos.
- La tripulación afirma no haber comunicado nada a la prensa, a la que acusan de sensacionalismo.

CONSIDERACIONES

- Existen discrepancias notables en cuanto a distancias (lógico tratándose de una luz de tamaño indeterminado), color (blanco por el Comandante, azulado el Segundo, rojizo desde la torre de control mudando a blanco al alejarse, y rojo desde el istmo), y tamaño (desde el de una luz de navegación mas potente de lo normal, hasta magnitud similar a la del planeta júpiter, pasando por oscilaciones en su brillantez).

ASPECTOS DESTACABLES: Observación realizada por personal muy cualificado y habituado a observar el espacio aéreo. La gran cantidad de testigos confirma la existencia de un fenómeno no habitual.

No se apreció forma en ningún momento, a pesar de realizarse observaciones a través de prismáticos. La magnitud de la luz observada fue relativamente escasa (prácticamente puntual).

El aspecto mas anormal del fenómeno lo constituye la ubicación (cerca de un aeropuerto) y el comportamiento (desaparición tras el aterrizaje y acompañamiento en el viaje de regreso). La observación del fenómeno desde el suelo descarta cualquier hipótesis sobre un posible reflejo en la cabina.

DESCLASIFICADO

Escrito: JEMA	Nº: 1275	Ref.: ESPA 10/1-4	Fecha: 25-09-92
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OBSERVACIONES: Expediente 680314

CONSIDERACIONES

- Se trata de dos observaciones diferentes, pero de características muy similares, coincidentes en fecha y hora.
- Tanto el comportamiento (trayectoria y velocidad) como las apreciaciones de los testigos, inducen a pensar que se trataba de globos estratosféricos.
- La hipótesis de "globo estratosférico" adquiere un considerable peso específico si se tiene en cuenta la campaña de lanzamiento de globos estratosféricos realizada por el CNES (Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales - FRANCIA).
- * La media anual de lanzamientos era, en los años 60, de 200 globos/año.
- * La forma era de TETRAEDRO REGULAR de gran tamaño.
- * Los lanzamientos que presumiblemente dieron origen a los avistamientos fueron realizados desde Aire-sur Adour:

<u>DIA/MES</u>	<u>HORA</u>	<u>VOL.GLOBO</u>
13/05	16:25	53.000 m3
14/05	14:35	15.000 m3
14/05	16:21	53.000 m3

ASPECTOS DESTACABLES: El hecho de que uno de ellos fuese detectado por el radar y el otro no, no debe considerarse diferenciador ni muy significativo.

Del 13 al 17 de Mayo de 1968 se registró una oleada de avistamientos sobre España, de características muy similares. En muchos casos la identificación de forma "piramidal", de "tetrápodo", de "seta", etc. coincide plenamente con la de los globos estratosféricos del CNES. También es uniforme la apreciación de brillo metálico y movilidad escasa o nula.- Tales parámetros, unidos a la coincidencia en tiempo con los lanzamientos indicados, avalan la hipótesis de que, en ambos casos, se trata de GLOBOS ESTRATOSFERICOS.

BARCELONA MAY 15, 1968
Concluding page of Cover Memorandum by Intelligence Officer.

PROPUESTA DE CLASIFICACION:


SIN CLASIFICAR

Torrejón, a 23 de Octubre de 1992

EL OFICIAL DE INTELIGENCIA DEL MOA



DESCLASIFICADO			
Escrito: SESPA (MA/SA)	Nº: 198	Ref.: 30/1.4	Fecha: 11-01-93
OBSERVACIONES: n.º expediente		680515	

	REGION AEREA PIRENAICA	ESCUADRON DE ALERTA Y CONTROL N.º 1 - OPERACIONES -
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S/RI. Núm. Fecha N/RI. Núm.

ASUNTO: [LERIDA MAY 17, 1968
Radar detection report from
Alert and Control Squadron No. 1
to Lt. General Chief of the Air
Defense Command.]

EXCMO. SR.

Tengo el honor de comunicar a V. E. que el pasado día 17, durante la misión "Bravo" nº 40 con el 102 Escuadrón, los pilotos informaron que tenían a la vista un objeto extraño de color metálico y posición estática.

Como existía buen contacto radar con el objeto y el equipo de altura detectaba su movimiento ascendente, se ordenó a los intercentadores su aproximación para identificarlo. Al aproximarse, la altura de los aviones era de 48.000 pies y la del objeto 76.200.

El informe de los pilotos coincide en señalar un objeto aparentemente metálico de dos cuerpos superpuestos, siendo fuselada la forma del inferior. Estos aviones se recuperaron con los mínimos de combustible establecidos.

Posteriormente se efectuó el "Scramble" de dos F-104 equipados con cámaras fotográficas, que fueron dirigidos hacia el objeto. Cuando informaron el contacto visual la altitud de los intercentadores era de 58.000 pies y la del objeto 81.000. El informe de los pilotos coincide con los de la formación anterior.

Las condiciones para efectuar fotografías eran muy deficientes debido a la gran diferencia de altitud, recuperándose con los mínimos de combustible establecidos.

El Equipo de alturas detectaba una señal de dos objetos muy próximos, perdiéndose el contacto radar a las 18:00 y 83.000 pies de altitud en la posición de EW-33.

Adjunto se remite el Registro de Traza correspondiente, en el que solamente se anotaron los desplazamientos sobre el terreno en las horas que ocurrieron.

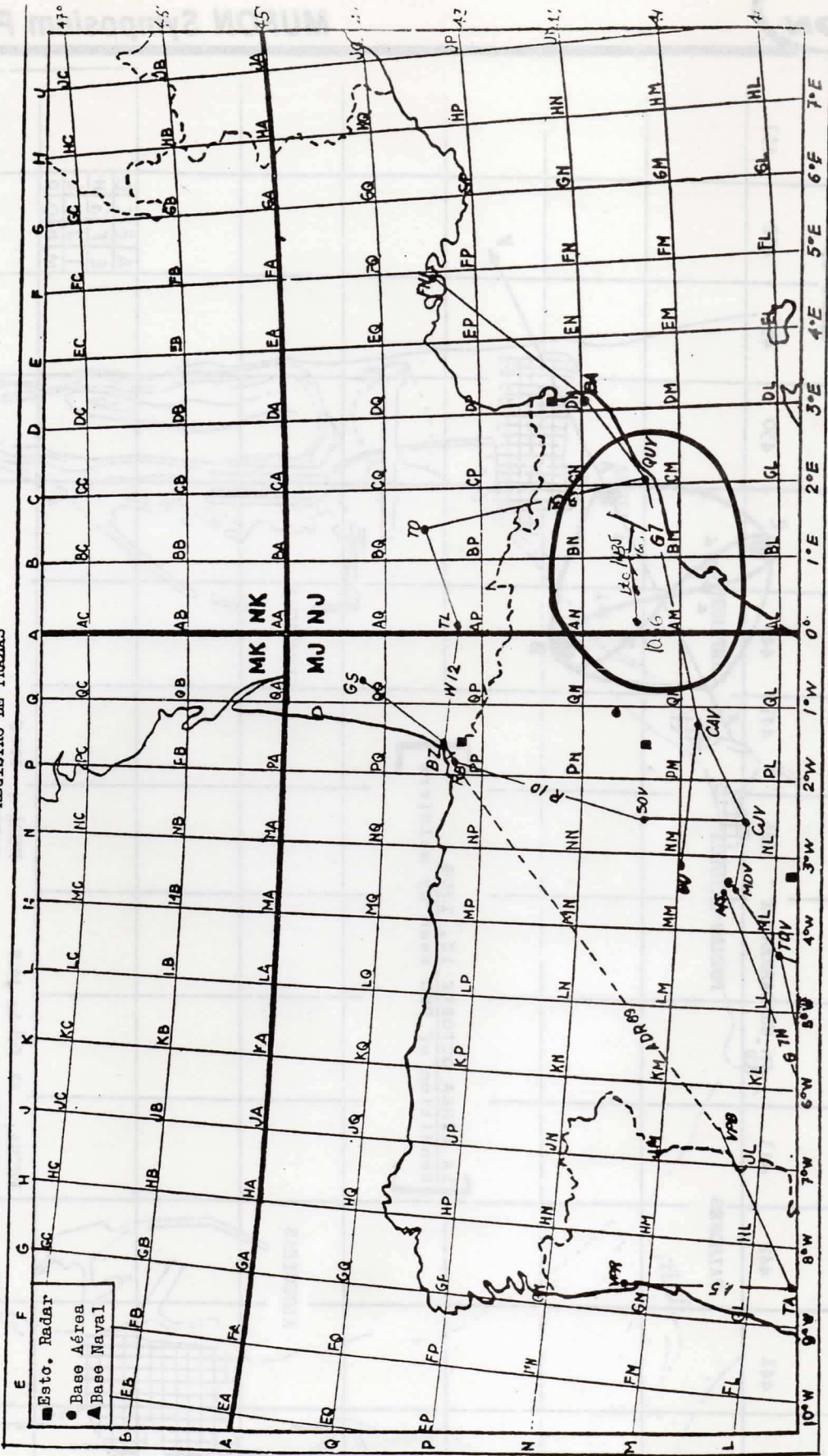
Fielos guarde a V. E. muchos años
Calataud, 20 de Mayo de 1.968
EL TTE. CORONEL JEFE ESCUADRON

EXCMO. SR. TTE. GENERAL JEFE DEL MANDO DE LA DEFENSA AEREA

LERIDA MAY 17, 1968
 Radar overlay (encircled)

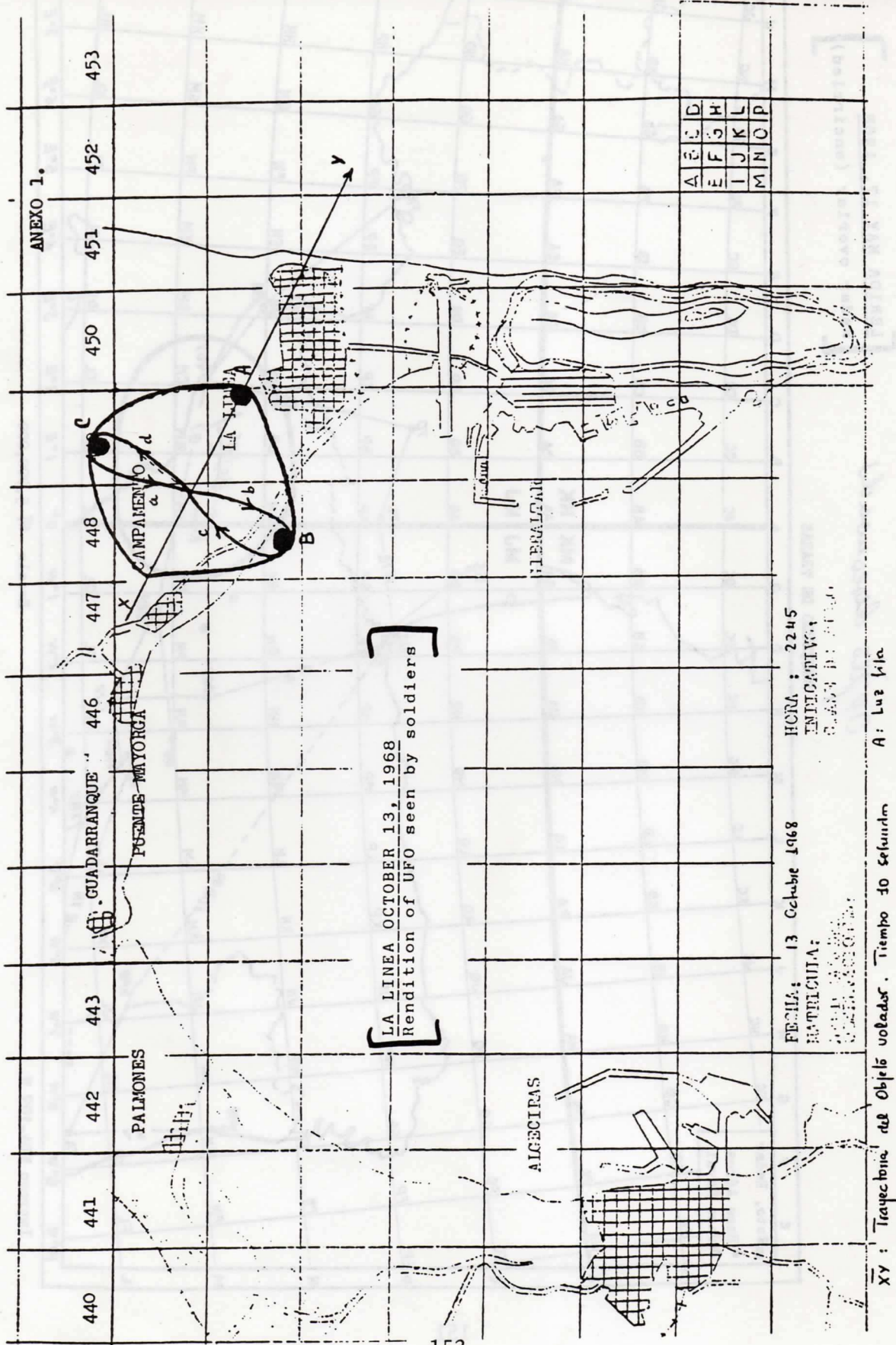
Op. It's desordenado

REGISTRO DE TRAZAS



Escala 1:1 5,000,000

Impreso MDA-109 N.



Copia de las comunicaciones registradas en cinta magnetofonica referentes a la posible observacion de un OVNI efectuada el dia 4 de Noviembre de 1968 por el avion Caravelle de IBERIA, vuelo 249 de Barcelona a Alicante.

<u>Hora</u>	<u>Estacion</u>	<u>Mensaje</u>
1823	IB 249	BARCELONA ¿TIENEN USTEDES CONTROL RADAR EN ESTA ZONA?
	A C C	EN PRUEBAS HAY UNA PANTALLA FUNCIONANDO
	IB 249	NOSOTROS ESTAMOS AHORA PROCEDIENDO A ALICANTE Y TENEMOS UNA LUZ MUY GRANDE AL ALCANCE DE NUESTRA POSICION - SE HA APAGADO DE REPENTE Y HA BAJADO MUY DEPRISA AL MAR - HA SUBIDO OTRA VEZ Y LA SEGUIMOS TENIENDO EN EL MORRO - ES UNA LUZ CENTRAL MUY GRANDE CON DOS LUCES LATERALES - LA ESTAMOS MIRANDO TODOS DESDE LA CABINA - A VER SI LA PUEDEN USTEDES LOCALIZAR EN LA PANTALLA - ESTA COMO UN OVNI
	A C C	249 RECIBIDO - EL ALCANCE DE ESTE RADAR ES SOLAMENTE DE 60 MILLAS - NO OBSTANTE REQUERIREMOS POR OTROS MEDIOS
	IB 249	DE ACUERDO
	ACC	249 - ¿ME QUIERE DECIR A QUE DISTANCIA ESTA USTED AHORA DEL VOR QUV?
	IB 249	BARCELONA - A 100 MILLAS JUSTAS DEL VOR - PENSAMOS QUE LO PERDEMOS - PARECE SER QUE ESTA ANTES DE VALENCIA - ESTA ENTRE VALENCIA Y SAGUNTO APROXIMADAMENTE
1829	A C C	IB 249 - ¿PODRIA PRECISAR LA ALTITUD EN QUE SE ENCONTRABA ESE OBJETO?
	IB 249	BARCELONA - 249 (ilegible) PORQUE NO SE VE PERFECTAMENTE - LO QUE SI PODEMOS DECIR ES QUE LO VEMOS CONSTANTEMENTE Y CONTINUAMOS VIENDO TRES LUCES - UN REFLECTOR MUY GRANDE Y REFLECTOR PEQUENITO - LE DIRE QUE SE APAGO DE REPENTE Y . . . (ilegible) . . . HACIA EL MAR - LO HEMOS VISTO MUY ABAJO Y AHORA HA SUBIDO OTRA VEZ Y CON LA LUZ FIJA PERO CON UN REFLECTOR MUY FUERTE
	A C C	RECIBIDO
	IB 249	(ilegible)
	A C C	249 REPITA
	IB 249	QUE ES CORRECTO - ESTA AHORA SOBRE LA VERTICAL DE VALENCIA APROXIMADAMENTE
	A C C	RECIBIDO
	IB 249	EN ESTE MOMENTO SE ACABA DE APAGAR LA LUZ Y SE HAN PARADO MUY POCO A POCO Y ME HAN PASADO MUY RAPIDAMENTE HACIA LA IZQUIERDA
	A C C	249 RECIBIDO - ENTIENDO HACIA EL INTERIOR DE LA PENINSULA
	IB 249	NEGATIVO - HACIA PALMA - HACIA LA IZQUIERDA MIA - SE HAN PARADO POCO A POCO Y SE HA DESPLAZADO HACIA LA IZQUIERDA

BARCELONA TO ALICANTE NOVEMBER 4, 1968 FLIGHT
 Transcript of pilot to control tower conversation on incident.



EL TENIENTE GENERAL JEFE
DE LA
SEGUNDA REGION AEREA
Y LA AVIACION TACTICA

Sevilla,
13
Diciembre
1.968

Excmo. Sr. D. Luis Navarro Garnica
Tte. General Jefe del Estado Mayor del Aire
Ministerio del Aire
M A D R I D

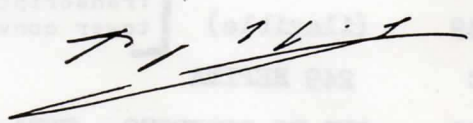
Mi querido amigo y compañero:

El Sr. D. _____, (Químico) se presentó en este E.M. a las 19'45 horas del día de ayer, en unión del Sr. Alcalde de El Garrobo para informar que el día 11 a las 21'00 horas aproximadamente, cuando marchaba en su coche hacia un cortijo situado en el término del pueblo citado, vió una luz a una distancia de 1 Km., que volaba en dirección NE-SW y a una altura de 50 a 100 mts. siguiendo sensiblemente las ondulaciones del terreno, hasta perderse de vista en la dirección indicada, al ver esa luz que cambiaba de tonalidad y apreciar que no era producida por avión ni helicóptero, ya que no hacia ningun ruido, acelerando el coche, pero no pudo poseer la velocidad de esta superior a la del coche, aunque no mucho más, no pudiendo tampoco apreciar la forma ni tamaño del objeto portador de la luz, por ser la noche oscura y la luz emitida - intensa.

Al llegar al cortijo, dejó a su mujer que la acompañaba, marchando al pueblo para dar cuenta al Alcalde de lo que habia visto, saliendo este acompañado de unos vecinos, para ver si observaban la luz, viendola esta vez a una distancia de 3 Kms. aproximadamente y a la misma altura siguiendo la dirección N-S y la hora de observación las 23'00 horas.

Todo ello te lo comunico con las mismas reservas con que te transmití otras informaciones parecidas de O.V.N.I. y con el fin de que tengas conocimiento y surta efecto donde proceda.

Recibe un fuerte abrazo de tu amigo y compañero.



Fdo.

P/S.- Al mismo tiempo damos cumplimiento a la nota insertada en la Prensa por nuestro Ministerio del Aire.

EL GARROBO DECEMBER 11, 1968
Letter from Lt. Gen. Chief of Second Air Region to the Chief of the Air Force Staff, describing case of UFO escorting the car of a citizen.

CIRCULAR

ESTADO MAYOR DEL AEREO
30 Sección
El Regimiento

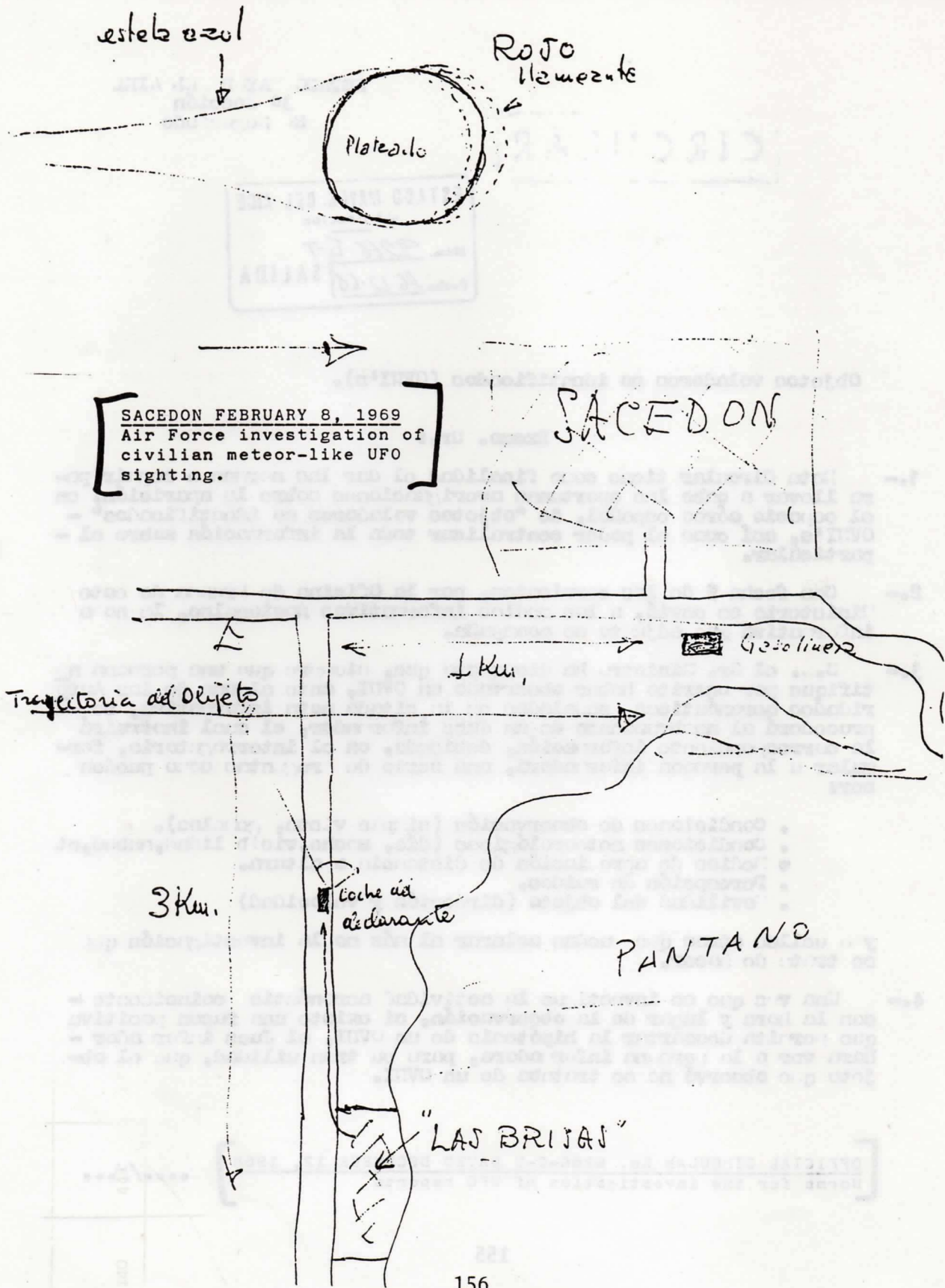
ESTADO MAYOR DEL AEREO
30 Sección
Núm. 9266-G-T
Fecha 26-12-68 SALIDA

Objetos voladores no identificados (OVNI's).

Excmo. Sr.:

- 1.- Esta Circular tiene como finalidad el dar las normas a seguir para llevar a cabo las oportunas averiguaciones sobre la aparición, en el espacio aéreo español, de "objetos voladores no identificados" - OVNI's, así como el poder controlar toda la información sobre el particular.
- 2.- Con fecha 5 de los corrientes, por la Oficina de Prensa de este Ministerio se envió, a los medios informativos nacionales, la nota informativa que adjunto se acompaña.
- 3.- Dado que el Sr. Ministro ha dispuesto que, siempre que una persona notifique por escrito haber observado un OVNI, ante alguna de las Autoridades aeronáuticas señaladas en la citada nota informativa, se proceda al nombramiento de un Juez informador, el cual instruirá la correspondiente información, debiendo, en el interrogatorio, formular a la persona informadora, una serie de preguntas como pueden ser:
 - Condiciones de observación (día, hora, viento, etc.).
 - Condiciones meteorológicas (día, noche, visibilidad, nubes, etc.).
 - Medios de apreciación de distancia o altura.
 - Percepción de ruidos.
 - Movilidad del objeto (dirección y velocidad)y a todas las otras que puedan aclarar al máximo la investigación que se trata de hacer.
- 4.- Una vez que se investigue la actividad aeronáutica coincidente con la hora y lugar de la observación, si existe una razón positiva que permita descartar la hipótesis de un OVNI, el Juez informador hará ver a la persona informadora, para su tranquilidad, que el objeto que observó no se trataba de un OVNI.

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR No. 9266-G-T DATED DECEMBER 12, 1968
Norms for the investigation of UFO reports



sibilidad:

Primero: De alguna conversación entre los ocupantes del vehículo que ya predispusiera en su ánimo a ver durante el viaje alguna cosa rara, es decir, sugestión.

Segundo: Que las horas en que viajaban, después de una jornada por parte de uno, de trabajo, y de otros de permanencia con sus familiares a causa de la festividad de Fin de año, ya que salieron de Torrelavega sobre las cuatro de la mañana, y algunos de ellos se incorporaron a esa localidad en coche desde Santander, pueda ser motivo de cansancio, ya que según manifestaron dos de ellos iban dormidos en el coche, el tercero somnoliento al lado del conductor y éste solamente despierto, precisamente el camarero, que como se ha indicado en las declaraciones anteriores, parecía tener cierto ascendiente sobre los demás, único que observó en un principio la caída en forma de parábola de una luz extraña, a partir de lo que comienza, al despertar a los demás, el motivo de esta Información.

Tercero: El que todos coincidan poco más o menos en las declaraciones, principalmente en el tamaño de la luz que vieron, parece indicar conversaciones continuadas entre ellos, lo que ha hecho que las declaraciones, tanto aparecidas en la Prensa como al Coronel de la Academia, cuya copia se adjunta, y posteriormente ante el Informador, sean prácticamente iguales, sin discernir exactamente la figura ni la forma, ni las dimensiones exactas ni a la altura a que dicen se encontraban detenidas las luces a que se han referido en sus manifestaciones.

Aeródromo Militar de Villafria, 15 de Enero de 1.975
EL TTE. CORONEL COMANDANTE MILITAR AEREO



QUINTANAORTUÑO JANUARY 1, 1975

Concluding page by Lt. Colonel appointed Informing Judge
for the investigation of the case of the four soldiers
from the Academy of Engineers of the Army.

X

INFORME QUE EMITE EL TENIENTE JEFE DEL POLIGONO DE TIRO DE LAS BARDENAS, SOBRE LOS HECHOS ACADUCIDOS EN LA NOCHE DEL DIA 2 DEL ACTUAL EN RELACION CON DOS OBJETOS NO IDENTIFICADOS.

Sobre las 23:30 Horas, fui avisado por el Suboficial de Servicio de que el personal de la Patrulla en Torre Principal habia llamado, comunicado que observaban unas luces dentro del Poligono y a una distancia de unos 3 ó 4 Kilos.

El Suboficial de Servicio cogió unos prismáticos, serian las 23:20 horas y vió que las luces provenian del NE, reflejando unos destellos luminosos, amarillento-rojizo, en la parte izquierda y blanco en la parte derecha, con una parte central en resplandor, viendo perfectamente su desplazamiento a la izquierda, al mismo tiempo que tomaba altura.

El Oficial que suscribe, minutos después de las 23:30 horas, no observó nada anormal, toda vez, que la mancha rojiza que se fué divisanado era la Luna, que se iba haciendo visible conforme la bruma, que existía en esa parte del Poligono, se disipaba.

Se efectuó un desplazamiento en Land-Rover a la Torre, no observando nada anormal, por lo que se pensó, que la bruma que ocultaba la Luna, habria sido la causa de Alarma de la Patrulla.

En el día de hoy, por la mañana, se recibió una llamada telefónica del Comte. de Puesto de la Guardia Civil de Arguedas, preguntando si por la noche habia caido algún avión, contestándole negativamente, y al preguntar de donde partía dicha noticia, nos comunicó que de la Comisaria de Policía de Tudela. Relacionando este hecho con lo acaecido a las 23:00 horas en las Torres a la Patrulla, se tomó declaración a los componentes de la expresada Patrulla, compuesta por el Cabo _____, Soldados _____ y _____ y

Los cuales, de una forma unánime manifestaron que, sobre las 23:00 Horas, observaron un objeto con luces rojas y destellantes en dirección al Blanco nº 1, situado al NE del Poligono, en un punto fijo e inmóvil y a una distancia de unos 4 Kilos. de la Torre Principal; a los cinco minutos aproximadamente, el objeto comenzó a elevarse y lo hizo a una altura de unos 25 metros del suelo, (en este momento la Patrulla avisó telefonicamente al Suboficial de Servicio, ya que antes pensaron sería algún tractor o coche) desplazándose en esta altura en dirección NW, lugar donde se encuentra ubicada la Torre Auxiliar, en este punto y muy lentamente, empezó a elevarse de nuevo, al mismo tiempo que se trasladaba en dirección a la Torre Principal (donde se hallaba la Patrulla) y dando un pequeño rodeo a esta, giró alrededor de la Torre unos 180°, y tomando gran velocidad y altura desapareció en dirección S.

A continuación y en el mismo lugar que el anterior, apareció otro objeto con luces blancas e amar, de una intensidad incalculable, que iluminó unos 100 metros de radioalrededor, viéndose con mucha claridad los Blancos, que eran iluminados por unos focos que salían del objeto. Este objeto se desplazaba muy lentamente en la misma dirección que el anterior, pero cuando llegó al punto de la Torre Auxiliar, cambió de rumbo a gran velocidad y desapareció en dirección N.

Se adjunta un croquis de los movimientos efectuados por dichos objetos a tenor de la declaración de la Patrulla.

Poligono de Tiro Las Bardenas, 3 de Enero 1.975
EL TENIENTE COMTE



LAS BARDENAS REALES AIR FORCE'S FIRING RANGE JANUARY 2, 1975
Report of the case by Commander of field.



S/Rt.ª

Núm.

Fecha

N/Rt.ª

Núm.

S. 1-7

ASUNTO: Objetos voladores no identificados (OVNI's)

Excmo. Señor

Esta circular tiene como finalidad el dar las normas a seguir para llevar a cabo las oportunas averiguaciones sobre la aparición, en el espacio aéreo español, de "objetos voladores no identificados" OVNI's, así como el poder centralizar toda la información sobre el particular.

- 1.- S.E. el Sr. Ministro ha dispuesto que cuando un Jefe de Base, Sector, Región o Zona Aérea, siempre bajo la responsabilidad de este último, tenga noticias de un incidente del asunto de referencia, destacará a un Oficial, que a juicio de su Jefe reúna condiciones para este tipo de misión. Cuando la noticia la reciba un Jefe de Base o Sector, al mismo tiempo que nombra el Oficial, lo comunicará al Jefe de su Región o Zona.
- 2.- El Oficial destacado quedará nombrado a la vez Informador del incidente, e instruirá la correspondiente información, interrogando al máximo detalle que sea posible al declarante, y caso de ser varios, a cada uno de ellos por separado, con el fin de comprobar si hay contradicciones.

Al efectuar el interrogatorio deberá tener presente:

- Condiciones de observación: si fué a simple vista, con prismáticos, etc.
- Descripción lo más exacta posible de lo que vió, discutiendo para llegar a un juicio positivo o a una impresión confusa que puede ser debida a que los momentos sean propicios para una situación de ambiente psicológico por las noticias publicadas en el país de apariciones de esta naturaleza.
- Percepción de ruidos y color de luces e intensidad.
- Posición exacta referida al punto de observación, y, caso de que el objeto estuviera en movimiento, su dirección, velocidad y altura, con referencia a carreteras, ferrocarriles o accidentes topográficos o urbanos relevantes.
- Condiciones meteorológicas: visibilidad, etc.
- Estado en general que le merece el declarante: físico, mental, etc.
- Cuantos detalles considere de interés como consecuencia del

GRÁFICAS VIRGEN DE LORRÑO

JANUARY 1975 UPDATED
NORMS BY LT. GEN.
MARIANO CUADRA,
MINISTER OF AIR

CONFIDENCIAL

 MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA	CUARTEL GENERAL DEL EJERCITO DEL AIRE Secretaría Militar del Aire
---	---

S.A.

Cañeras Viqueira de Loayza

S/Rl.º	Núm.	Fecha	N/Rl.º
			02-0
			Núm. 96-SMA.

ASUNTO:
NOTA PARA LA DIVISION DE OPERACIONES.

*S. A. 7.
R*

La Junta de Jefes de Estado Mayor en su reunión del 3 de marzo actual, acordó que los asuntos relacionados con OVNI,s continuen, de acuerdo con la legislación vigente, considerados como "materia clasificada".

Lo que comunico para conocimiento y cumplimiento de esa División.

Madrid, 26 de marzo de 1.979.

EL GENERAL SECRETARIO MILITAR DEL AIRE,



[Handwritten signature]

ESTADO MAYOR DEL AIRE
28 MAR. 1979
Núm. <i>23022A</i>
Sec. <i>E.A.</i>

CONFIDENCIAL

[On March 3, 1979, the UFO subject is declared "classified matter" by the Joint Chiefs of the Staff. The General Air Military Secretary communicates that decision to the Division of Operations, Air Force Staff.]

May 10, 1985. Government response to Senator Serrano Pino's questions on UFOs.

Núm. 157

PREGUNTAS ESCRITAS Y CONTESTACIONES DEL GOBIERNO

P. E. núm. 2.934

PRESIDENCIA DEL SENADO

En cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en el artículo 169 del Reglamento del Senado, se ordena la publicación en el BOLETÍN OFICIAL DE LAS CORTES GENERALES de la pregunta número 2.934, formulada por el Senador del Grupo Popular, don JUAN FRANCISCO SERRANO PINO, sobre Ovnis, seguida de la contestación remitida por el Gobierno.

El anuncio de la presentación de la referida pregunta fue publicado en el BOLETÍN OFICIAL DE LAS CORTES GENERALES, Senado, Serie I, número 142, de fecha 18 de abril de 1985.

Palacio del Senado, 13 de mayo de 1985.—El Presidente del Senado, José Federico de Carvajal Pérez.—El Secretario primero del Senado, José Luis Rodríguez Pardo.

Al Presidente del Senado

Juan Francisco Serrano Pino, Senador por Cáceres del Grupo Parlamentario Popular, al amparo de lo previsto en los artículos 160 y 169 del Reglamento de la Cámara, tiene el honor de presentar la siguiente pregunta al Gobierno, sobre Ovnis, para la que desca obtener respuesta por escrito.

Se desca conocer:

1. ¿Existe, por parte del Estado, control e investigación de los Ovnis detectados en el territorio nacional?
2. ¿El ítem Ovnis está considerado secreto de Estado?
3. ¿Qué departamento del Gobierno tiene esta misión?

Madrid, 26 de marzo de 1985.—Juan Francisco Serrano Pino.

Excmo. Sr.: En relación con la pregunta formulada por el Senador don Juan Francisco Serrano Pino, perteneciente al Grupo Parlamentario Popular, sobre Ovnis, tengo la honra de enviar a V. E. la contestación formulada por el Gobierno, cuyo contenido es el siguiente:

«1. Existen procedimientos normalizados para el seguimiento e investigación relativos a la posible aparición en el espacio aéreo español de "objetos voladores no identificados" (Ovnis).

El Estado Mayor del entonces Ministerio del Aire promulgó, ya en diciembre del 1968, unas Normas, que establecen los procedimientos a seguir y medidas a tomar, por parte de las Autoridades correspondientes del Ejército del Aire, en caso de que se tengan noticias de la posible aparición en nuestro espacio aéreo de un Ovni. Estas Normas fueron actualizadas, en enero de 1974, por el Ministerio del Aire y continúan en vigor.

2. Según Acuerdo de la Junta de Jefes de Estado Mayor, de fecha 3 de marzo de 1979, la información relativa a los asuntos relacionados con los Ovnis es considerada como "materia clasificada", de acuerdo con la legislación vigente.

3. El artículo 31 de la Ley Orgánica 6/1980, que regula los criterios básicos de la Defensa Nacional, establece, que: "El Ejército del Aire es responsable de ejercer el control del espacio aéreo de soberanía nacional...", por tanto, corresponde al Ministerio de Defensa la investigación y control de todo lo relacionado con los Ovnis.»

Lo que envío a V. E. a los efectos previstos en el artículo 169 del Reglamento de la Cámara.

Madrid, 10 de mayo de 1985.—El Secretario de Estado.



El Subsecretario de Defensa
703/899

Gustavo Suárez Porteira

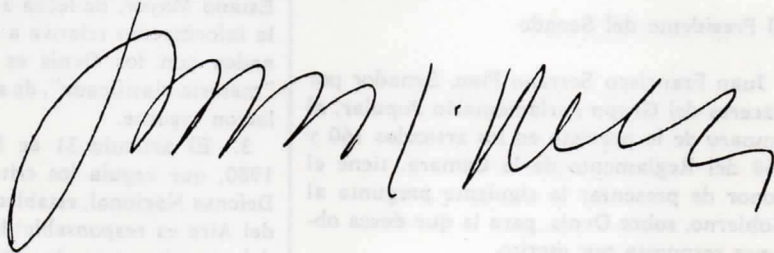
Madrid, 28 de mayo de 1985

Sr. D. Vicente Juan BALLESTER OLMOS
Guardia Civil, 9, D-16
46020 VALENCIA.

Estimado señor Ballester:

En relación con sus cartas del pasado 26 de junio de 1984 y 29 de abril último, le comunico que una vez estudiada su petición por el Estado Mayor del Aire y por la Junta de Jefes de Estado Mayor, se ha acordado mantener la actual clasificación como "materia reservada" de la documentación relativa al fenómeno OVNI.

Sintiendo de veras no poder darle mejores noticias, reciba un afectuoso saludo,



[UFO subject is confirmed to continue being "reserved matter" by the Joint Chiefs of the Staffs, following a request for declassification by V.J. Ballester Olmos during 1984 and 1985.]

EXPEDIENTES CASOS OVNI's

6 AGO 62	San Javier	Luz	inf	
17 MAY 57	Lérida	OVNI	inf	
3 JUN 67	Torrejón-Talavera	OVNI	INF.L	*
14 MAR 68	Canarias-Sahara	Luz	INF.L	
15 MAY 68	Diversos puntos Peninsula	Luz	inf	
6 SEP 68	Madrid y otros puntos	OVNI (sonda?)	inf	
17 SEP 68	Tenerife-Las Palmas	Luz	inf	
13 OCT 68	Algeciras	OVNI	inf	
4 NOV 68	Vuelo Valencia-Sagunto	Luces	inf	
6 NOV 68	Castellbilbal (Barcelona)	Circulo lumin.	--	
NOV.DIC 68	Puente de Almuhey (León)	Disco luminoso	inf	
DIC 68	Palenc.Madrid.Almeria.Vizcay	Varios	--	
19 DIC 68	Madrid	OVNI's	inf	*
24 ENE 69	Madrid	Luz parpad.	inf	
8 FEB 69	Sacedón (Guadalajara)	Bola roja	inf	
25 FEB 69	Sagunto (Valencia) vuelo	OVNI destell.	INF.M	*
2 ABR 69	Becerra (Lugo)	Nave	--	
13 MAY 69	BA de Reus	OVNI	INF.L	
26 SEP 69	Gerona	OVNI	INF.L	*
16 JUN 70	Burgos	OVNI	inf	
23 FEB 71	Varios puntos. Vuelos	Luces	INF.M	*
14 MAR 71	Majadahonda (Madrid)	OVNI	inf	
26 SEP 73	Valencia	OVNI luminoso	INF.L	*
20 MAR 74	Aznalcollar (Sevilla)	OVNI's	INF.M	*
24 NOV 74	Tenerife-Gran Canaria	Luces	INF.M	*
1 ENE 75	Burgos	OVNI	INF.L	*
2 ENE 75	Poligono Bardenas	OVNI	INF.L	*
10 ENE 75	Burgos	OVNI	INF.L	copia
14 ENE 75	BA Talavera	Ecos GCA	inf	*
23/24 MAR 75	Madrid	OVNI	INF.L	
3,4,5 AGO 75	Pozuelo (Madrid)	Peonza lum.	inf	
22 JUN 76	Gran Canaria	Luz	INF.E	*
19 NOV 76	Fuerteventura y G.Canaria	Efecto óptico	INF.E	*?
19 NOV 76	Aeropuerto de Málaga	Cúpula brill.	--	
ENE 77	BA Talavera la Real	Extraterr. ??	--	
13 FEB 77	Gallarta (Vizcaya)	Platillo.Seres	INF.E	
meses 78	Alcorcón (Madrid)	Luz móvil	--	fotos
4 JUL 78	Barcelona	OVNI	--	
24 OCT 78	Menorca	OVNI's	INF.L	
14 FEB 79	Andraitx (Mallorca)	Luz desde avión	--	
5 MAR 79	Gran Canaria	Luz	INF.E	diaposit.
13 MAR 79	Mediterráneo-Valencia	Extraña traza	inf	
11/12 NOV 79	Palma-Manises (Sóller)	Diversas luces	INF.E	
17 NOV 79	Sur-Este peninsular	Traza. Luces	INF.L fotocopia	
28 NOV 79	Madrid	Eco radar.Luces	INF.L fotocopia	
29-31 MAR 80	Zaragoza	Ecos y luces	INF.L	
22 MAY 80	Gran Canaria. Sur	OVNI luminoso	INF.M	
8 DIC 80	Atlántico altura Rif	Acc.aéreo?	--	
JUN 81	Valencia (carta)	OVNI's	--	
19 AGO 82	Blanes (Gerona)	Disco	--	
12 JUL 83	Benicasim (CS). Torrejón	OVNI luminoso	inf	
11 ENE 84	Villanubla	Sonda?	--	
12 FEB 85	Lanzarote	OVNI luminoso	--	
23 DIC 85	Atlántico (Barco)	Luces	--	
1 MAY 88	Burlada (Navarra)	OVNI	-	

CLAVES DE REFERENCIA

INF.E informe extenso
inf algún tratamiento

[First listing of the official UFO files (55). Included in the May 22, 1991 Informative Note from Flight Safety to the Air Force's Chief of the Staff.]

INF.L inf.breve

May 22, 1991 Informative Note by the Flight Safety Section
It reports V.J. Ballester Olmos' s efforts to change
the classification status of UFO matters. SEGUVU / DOP / EMA

NOTA INFORMATIVA

ASUNTO: EL ARCHIVO DEL TEMA OVNI Y SU POSIBLE DESCLASIFICACION

Un investigador del fenómeno OVNI, el Sr. Ballester Olmos, perteneciente a un grupo privado que trata, según manifiesta, de explicar la lógica de estos fenómenos, ha tenido diversos contactos con este Cuartel General, a través de la Oficina de Relaciones Públicas, de la División de Logística y de Seguridad de Vuelo. Unas veces personalmente y otras por correo.

El interés del Sr. Ballester, puede resumirse en los dos aspectos siguientes:

- a) La desclasificación del archivo de expedientes de casos OVNI que posee el EA, y
- b) La cumplimentación de un cuestionario de preguntas.

1. CON RELACION A a)

En este EMA -SEGUVU/DOP- hay archivados 55 expedientes de casos OVNI. Algunos han tenido una amplia (que no necesariamente profunda) investigación, otros no tanto, otros ninguna y algunos no son más que un parte o una leve referencia.

Los 55, con mención de su fecha, lugar, tipo de observación y clase de informe realizado, figuran en la relación del ANEXO 1. Constan desde el año 1962 hasta el de 1988, aunque realmente no se estudian en absoluto desde 1980. Como referencia de su volumen, el conjunto ocupa dos carpetas-caja de archivo.

Para estudiar la posible desclasificación de este material debe considerarse el origen de su clasificación y el carácter real de secreto o confidencial que hoy se considere debe tener.

La clasificación se remonta a 1968, cuando se difundieron por la Oficina de Prensa del Ministerio del Aire unas normas para el tratamiento del tema y se consideraba éste confidencial. En marzo de 1979 la JUJEM clasificó los asuntos OVNI como "materia reservada". Ver ANEXO 2.

Pero hoy:

- Lo archivado en SEGVU se ha quedado viejo. No se investiga desde 1980 y, como se ha señalado, ni siquiera se archivan casos desde 1988.
- La nueva legislación sobre competencia de la jurisdicción militar quita al EA de la responsabilidad de hacer esas investigaciones, salvo que se viera directamente involucrado o amenazado. Tal vez este argumento es el que se ha venido considerando para que las investigaciones se hayan interrumpido; aunque también, pero para continuar con ellas, cabría el argumento de su posible repercusión en la seguridad de vuelo e incluso en la nacional.
- El contenido de nuestro archivo no revela ningún misterio ni despeja dudas a quien las tenga, seguramente porque las investigaciones no están hechas por profesionales o estudiosos del fenómeno.

MOA UFO ARCHIVES
Geographical Distribution

(ARCHIVO MOA)

LOCALIZACION DE AVISTAMIENTOS

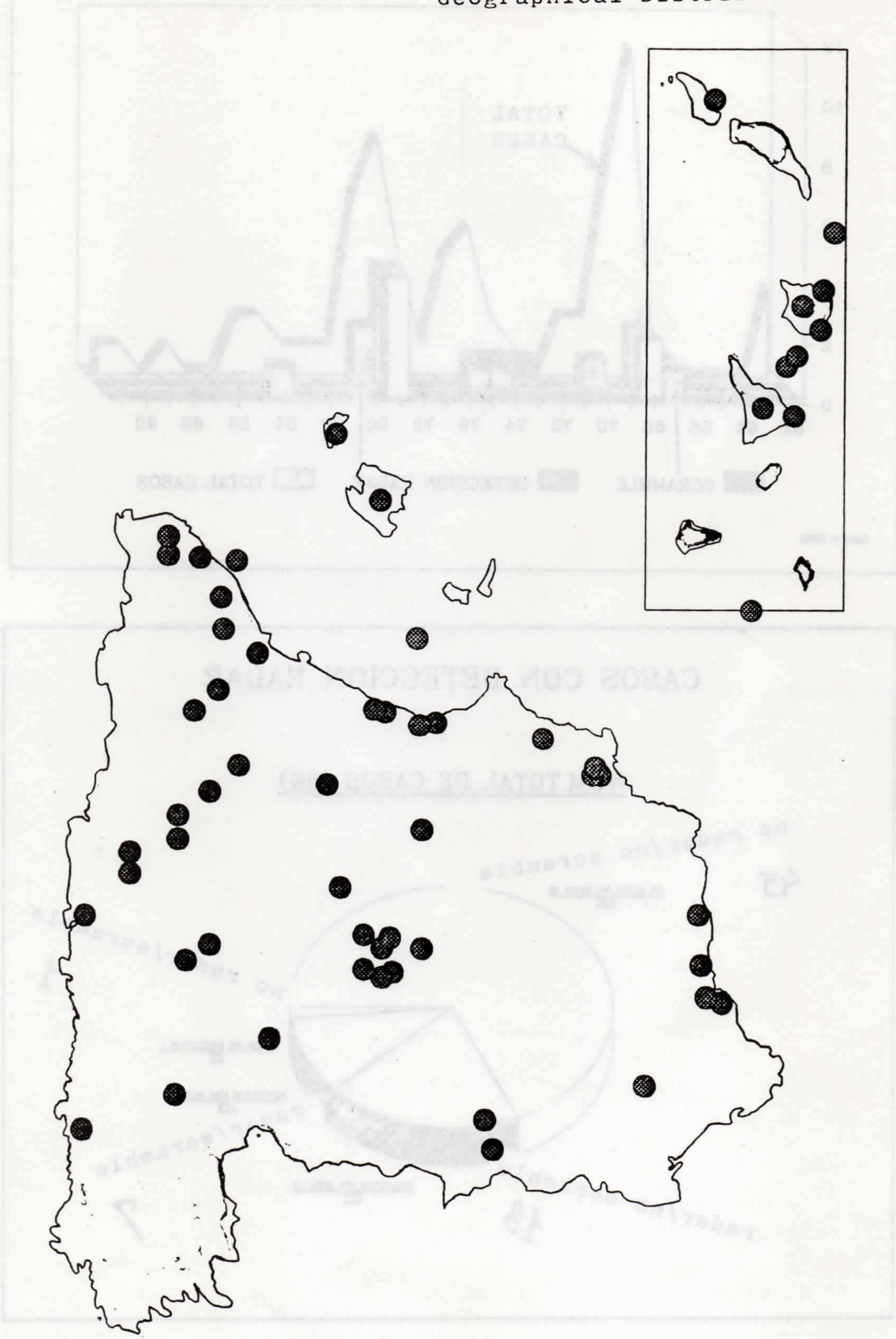
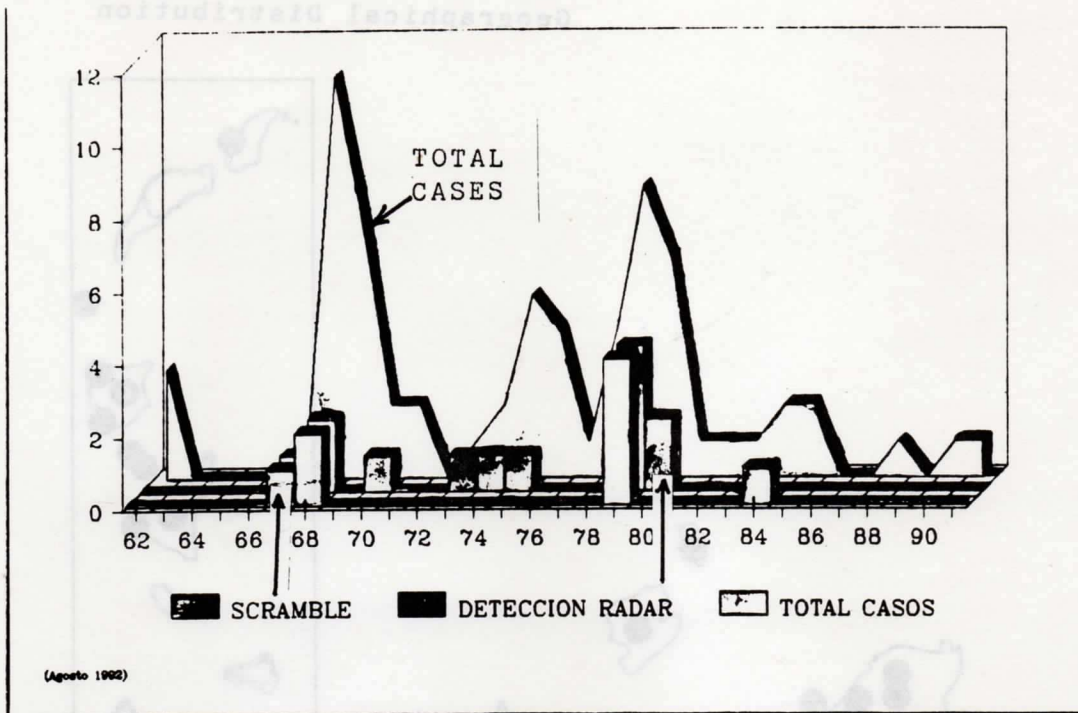
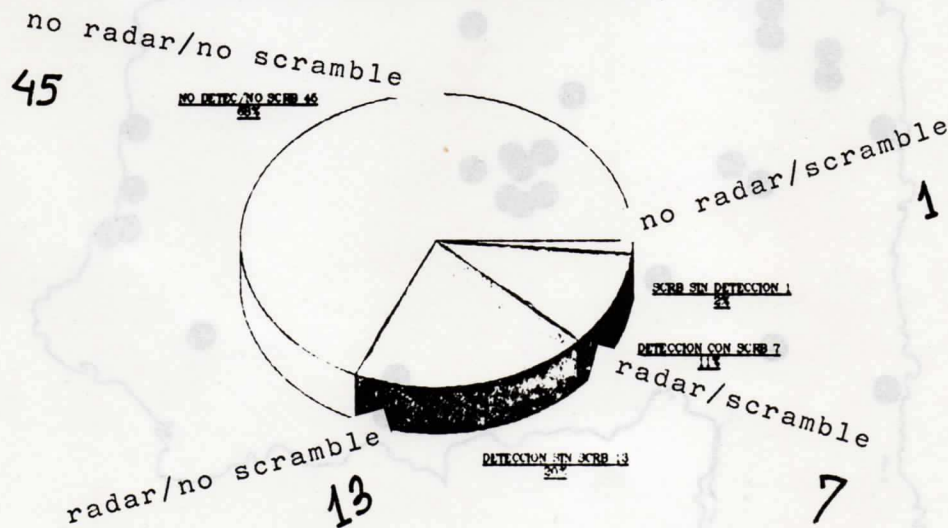


FIGURA 1



CASOS CON DETECCION RADAR

NUM.TOTAL DE CASOS (66)





Cuartel General del Ejército del Aire

Gabinete del

Jefe del E. M. Ejército del Aire

1.039

Madrid, 27 de julio de 1.991

SR. D. VICENTE-JUAN BALLESTER OLMOS
C/ Guardia Civil, 9, D-16
46020 - VALENCIA

Estimado Sr.:

Como Jefe del Gabinete del Jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército del Aire, paso a contestarle su carta de 28 de febrero de 1991, dirigida a la Oficina de Relaciones Públicas del Aire y subsiguientes aclaraciones y/o reiteraciones.

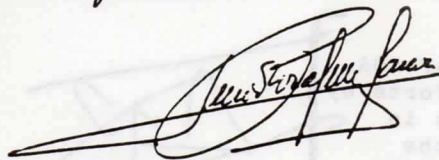
En primer lugar, y lamentablemente, tengo que comunicarle algo que ya conoce: la documentación que solicita está clasificada. Esto significa que hasta que los organismos autorizados no la desclasifiquen no se pueden facilitar a ninguna persona, por razonables y oportunos que sean los argumentos para solicitarla.

A este respecto, le informo que se han iniciado los pasos conducentes a lograr que esos materiales sean desclasificados, si bien no se puede prever cuanto se tardará en este proceso.

Por otro lado, el Ejército del Aire lleva algún tiempo sin estar directamente involucrado en este tema por aplicación de la normativa en vigor, por lo que la información que pudiera haber en nuestros archivos quizá no fuera demasiado actual, aunque presupongo que para vd. pudiera tener interés.

En consecuencia, le comunico que ante cualquier novedad que surgiera relativa a los aspectos comentados, nos pondríamos en contacto con vd., para ayudarle en lo posible en su interesante tema.

Un saludo muy cordial



- Coronel Julio Rocafull García -
Jefe del Gabinete del JEMA

[The Office to the Chief of the Staff (Air Force) writes to V.J. Ballester Olmos to inform that it has been taken the proper steps to achieve the declassification of UFO files.]



*El Comandante en Jefe
del
Mando Operativo Aereo*

Torrejón, 2 de Junio de 1.992

VICENTE J. BALLESTER OLMOS

Guardia Civil, 9 D-16
46020 - V A L E N C I A
VALENCIA - ESPAÑA

Distinguido investigador y conocido amigo:

Agradezco que se haya dirigido a mi en su atenta carta de 26 de Mayo, manifestando su interés en que tengamos una entrevista personal.

Estoy al corriente de sus gestiones orientadas al logro de la desclasificación del tema OVNI, así como de la seriedad y objetividad del CEI en su labor de seguimiento y análisis de los fenómenos aeroespaciales anómalos que se producen en España y Portugal.

En respuesta a sus inquietudes, le confirmo que en Enero de éste año el JEMA asignó al MOA la responsabilidad de gestionar y tramitar todos los asuntos referentes a OVNI, remitiéndole la documentación existente sobre el tema en el Estado mayor del Ejército del Aire, con indicación expresa de redactar y someter a su aprobación los procedimientos de gestión que considerase oportuno, incluyendo la normativa a seguir para la clasificación y desclasificación de expedientes.

Recientemente la JUJEM acordó descentralizar al Ejército del Aire la facultad de clasificación de todo lo referente al fenómeno OVNI como materia objeto de "reserva interna". Como consecuencia, se iniciará en breve el proceso de análisis individualizado de cada expediente para determinar si procede o no su desclasificación.

Aprovecho esta ocasión para saludarle muy cordialmente

[Lt. Gen. Chamorro,
Commander-in-Chief of MOA,
acknowledges the efforts by
V.J. Ballester Olmos in
the achievement of the
declassification of UFO
files.



- Alfredo Chamorro Chapinal -