HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: FDX

SUBJECT: Extract from OD report dated 27 Apr 64

TO: FDE (Capt McNeill)

1. The following, extracted from Maj Weaver's OD Report dated 27 Apr 64, is quoted for your information:

"AFSC Command Post called at 1645 relaying a UFO report as follows: At approximately 0130 local time near Espanola, N.M. on 26 April a Ranger's son observed an object emitting flames and noise. His father sent him back to bed. The next morning the Ranger and his son investigated the area near where the object was sighted. The grass was burned and still smoldering and there were footprints in the vacinity. They notified the state police and Kirtland AFB. The prints were similar to those reported on the 25th April at Socorran, N.M. Personnel from Kirtland are at the site now."

JOHN C. McNEILL
Major, USAF
Administrative Officer

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

14 May, 1964

Mr. George W. Earley
President, NICAP Connecticut Affiliate
9 Hiram Lane
Bloomfield, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Earley:

Thank you for your letter of May 10th and for the NICAP report. I have heard nothing more about the Socorro sighting either, and the samples have not yet been analyzed. Apparently the Pentagon is waiting for more information before saying anything official.

In answer to your specific questions relative to the Socorro sighting:

(1) Yes, Zamora did say that from a distance he thought that he saw two people in white coveralls. He did not see "them" close up.

(2) Zamora was so scared when he saw the object rise up that it could have had twenty legs and he wouldn't have known it! At any rate, he said nothing about what happened to the legs when the object flew away.

(3) Of course I would be most unhappy if the USAF either ignored or derided my findings, but I would not make public such a conclusion as you mentioned unless I had "evidence I could present in court."

Thanks again for your letter. I look foward to seeing the full NYCAP report. ← NOTE

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:ckd

chance of it having been a fixed-wing aircraft. When asked if the Air Force was, therefore, still considering that it might have been a rotary-wing craft (e.g., a helicopter), he said this was still being investigated, but was unable to explain how any known machine could have taken off silently. At last report, the case was still "being investigated."

About 36 hours later, at 12:30 a.m., April 26, there was a reported UFO landing near La Madera, N. Mex., about 100 miles north of Socorro. Orlando Gallegos saw an object resembling a "butane tank," about as long as a telephone pole, about as big around as an automobile and about 14 feet high. The case was investigated by the New Mexico State Police, who confirmed the details to NICAP.

Gallegos told the State Police that the object, estimated to be some 300 feet from his home, seemed to be spewing bluish-white flames from its sides. He thought it was stationary, and said he had watched it for about one minute. Gallegos said the flames suddenly went out, he heard no noise and he saw nothing more of it.

Police Capt. Martin E. Vigil arrived on the scene at 7:30 p.m. that day and talked with Officer Albert Vega, whom he had detailed to stand by until his arrival. "At that time (7:30), the ground was still smoldering and badly scorched," he wrote NICAP. "Officer Vega advised that he had observed four depressions on the ground, one of which was quite clear, the others having been obliterated due to windy weather conditions. Officer Vega stated that this depression was approximately eight-by-twelve inches in size, about three or four inches deep, and sort of 'V' shaped at the bottom." (Note similarity to markings at Socorro.)

"There were also numerous oval shaped, or 'cat-paw-like' markings around the scorched area. These were approximately three and one-half inches in diameter," he added. (Again, note similarity.)

"Upon arrival at the scene, I personally interviewed Mr. Gallegos about his story. He insisted that he had observed this object, and that the reason he had not reported it sooner, was that when he had told his family, they had laughed about it, and that he had figured everyone else would do the same. Mr. Gallegos . . . is obviously not the type of person that would make up such a story."

Dr. Hynek, upon his arrival in Socorro, indicated an interest in the La Madera sighting, but returned to Northwestern University without having looked into it. The Air Force later explained the report as a rubbish fire. The only Air Force representative known to have investigated the report was Maj. Connors, of Kirtland AFB.

Three days later, at about 9:30 p.m. on April 29, an egg-shaped object reportedly landed about 200 feet from a group of children in Canyon Ferry, Montana. The NICAP investigation has turned up conflicting information on the validity of the sighting, some of it backing up the Air Force conclusion of "a hoax . . . a child's prank."

According to newspaper reports, the object was first sighted by Linda Davis, 11, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Davis, who called her brother Tom, 15. They said they saw an egg-shaped object about the size of a car and glowing bright white. It lifted off the ground and sped south across the Canyon Ferry reservoir with a whirring sound (see "UFO Evidence", pg.98), disappearing in 30 seconds.

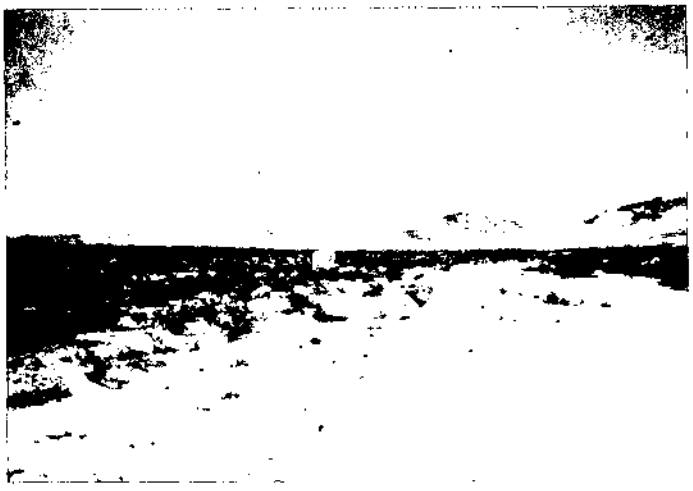
Sheriff Dave Middlemas sent two deputies to investigate. He later told the Helena, Mont. Independent Record, "They reported that there were four indentations in the earth about 13 feet apart in a square pattern. Each hole is from six to eight inches in diameter and they are tapered toward the bottom as though made by a cone-shaped object. Each of the holes is from six to eight inches deep. Slightly off center and between the four holes is a scorched area about four feet in diameter indicating that extreme heat had been present in that area."

A smell like diesel fuel was reported around the holes.

The next day, a group of Air Force men from Malmstrom AFB took over the investigation from the Sheriff's Department. Its official spokesman, Col. H. L. Newfeld, told newsmen, "I'm not sure we will make a positive statement about this anytime."

On May 6, the Air Force labeled the case a hoax. This was immediately challenged by parents of several of the children and by others closely connected with the case. Said parent Harold Rust, "The Air Force questioned them separately and in a group for three and a half hours and never shook the story of any one of them."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Air Force UFO consultant, photographs area east-northeast of landing site. Officer Zamora, in background, is reconstructing southwest UFO imprint. (Photo by Ray Stanford).



Shiny building in center is dynamite shack west-northwest of Socorro, N.M. landing site, which UFO just missed as it departed. In original photo, the Perlite mine is barely discernible to the left of the shack about 3 miles distant. (Photo by Ray Stanford).

A NICAP member spoke with two of the parents, getting a firm denial of any hoax from one, and a statement that he believed it was a hoax from the other. In an editorial on May 12, the Missoula, Mont., Sentinel said that no one seemed to know where the Air Force got the idea the case was a hoax, and suggested the explanation — rather than the sighting — was a fabrication.

About a week after the Montana sighting, a report came from a farmer near Comstock, Minn., of an object shaped like "a child's top." Alfred Ernst said he saw the object at about 8:30 a.m., May 5 while at an estimated 500 yards distance. Shortly after he spotted the shiny, luminous oval, it rose straight up and disappeared into the overcast sky in a few seconds.

With his brother, Ernst quickly went to the spot and found a crater-like depression, about three feet in diameter and six inches deep at the center. In the middle they saw a small, round indentation, about 2-1/2 inches in diameter and as deep. A series of 1-1/2-inch diameter holes formed an "X" with the larger at its intersection.

Around the edge of the crater, the earth seemed to be burned, and the crater's perimeter was outlined with a whitish substance. Soil samples were obtained by members of the Minneapolis NICAP Subcommittee. Dewey Berquist, weatherman for WDAY-TV, Fargo, N. Dak., also submitted a report on the incident to NICAP with a second soil sample. Mr. Ernst was stated to be a reliable person. Mr. Berquist, who submitted photographs of the landing site, theorized that the object may have been ball lightning.

September 15, 1964

AIR MAIL

Ray Stanford
c/o Dr. William A. McGarey
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.,
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Ray:

A quick note to enclose the Socorro analysis report--identification of agency to be kept off-the-record as previously agreed. The sample referred to in the first paragraph is one that Wilbur Smith left with us.

The new landing case, Sept. 4, Glassboro, N.J., may turn out to be even better than Socorro. The weakest part so far is eye--witness reports, though we are supposed to have one in hand and two more possibles. So far I have only telephone reports on it. The markings--central holes surrounded by triangular holes--were reportedly very impressive and the samples are said to be several as large as the end of your finger.

I'm catching hell from some California sources for accepting any data from you or believing anything you say re: Socorro. Apparently you have a bad reputation there among serious UFO people. I am trying to remedy that somewhat.

Will let you know of any clarification of the Socorro analysis.

Sincerely,

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h

Your brother Rex stopped in the other day and we chatted for a few minutes. He's on the way to London. R.H.

Thomas P. Sciacca, Jr., AST
Spacecraft Systems Branch
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771

Dear Mr. Sciacca:

Thank you for the acknowledgment of the Smith (Canadian) metal sample and for the details on the results of the Socorro, N.M., sample analysis. Your report does clear up most of my confusions, and I appreciate the time and effort you have put in on this.

There is no need to reply on this point--I will discuss it with you or Dr. Frankel at some later date--but I am now uncertain whether you feel (a) that the material we all observed visually on the rock was in fact "pseudometallic" and that it was positively identified as Silica and silicates; (b) the sample was too small and the possibility remains that only the materials in the rock were detected by your tests.
I do understand that the identification of Iron and Zinc was a tentative conclusion later discarded.

Frankly I doubt that the Canadian sample will turn up anything unusual, but Dr. Frankel expressed a strong interest in analyzing it so I was glad to oblige.
We have a new UFO landing case (September 4) and samples of something supposedly resembling "molten metal" found at the site are on the way to us. This time we may have both a good story and sizeable samples. If so, I will be in touch with you again shortly.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h
cc: Ray Stanford

June 25, 1964

AIR MAIL

Ray Stanford
c/o Dr. William A. McGarey
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.,
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Ray:

I received your letter of June 24. I will definitely be here on July 24 & 25, and Walt Webb will also be here that week on vacation. My plans for early August are more uncertain, though I probably will also be here then.

I have some important news regarding analysis of the Socorro sample. Last week at his invitation I visitied a scientist at Goddard Space Flight Center. His job is to know materials of all types, and includes analysis of materials. He expressed himself as a former UFO "believer" who is more skeptical recently, but the fact that he approached us indicates continuing interest.

He stated he had done analysis of alleged UFO artifacts for the government, but that nothing unexplainable had turned up yet. He offered to analyze any materials for us on an unofficial basis (because he could not justify the use of the expensive equipment), unless something definitely and significantly different turned up. In that case, he would publicize it and carry it to the top. He is very strongly against suppression of information.

He gave me a tour of his laboratories, which include an electron-microscope, UV & IR spectrometers, XRay diffraction equipment and all kinds of special optical and photographic equipment. Apparently there is nothing that he could not analyze quite thoroughly with what he has at his disposal.

This man impressed me very highly as to his honesty and integrity, I feel absolutely certain that he would do a thorough job on the Socorro sample (we would have free access to all the results), and if it turned out to be strange in any way he would frankly admit it and do something about it. We chatted about UFOs in general and physical evidence in particular for over an hour, and he admitted having one

artifact which puzzled him considerably at first. He thought he was on to something important, but finally was able to identify at as some new alloy first produced about 1957 or 1958. However, there is a catch to the story. The sample came about third-hand from some prospector and none of his story is documented. The sample was first in hand well after the date of production. But according to the unverified story it was first obtained by the prospector at the site of a UFO landing in the late 1940's! Too bad the story is so indirect and unverified.

I did not mention the Socorro sample to him for the simple reason that, in addition to NICAP Adviser Frank Rawlinson, another party was present whom I would not trust this information to. He is a NASA engineer who is interested in UFOs, but he is associated with a local ga-ga group which I wouldn't want to have involved in this.

If you would like for me to arrange an appointment with the NASA scientist, let me know as soon as your plans are definite.

The UFO Evidence Report has been on the presses for close to a week. That means another week or two before we have bound copies, if they hold to their original estimate. Work is going slowly on the UFO Investigator because I haven't had much time to devote to it yet. There is still time for the photographs if they prove feasible. We are getting new information practically every day on the various landing cases. It should make a powerful issue of the bulletin to accompany the Report.

Sincerely,

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h

May 8, 1964

Ray D. Stanford
c/o Dr. William A. McGarey
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.,
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Dear Ray:

Your letter of May 5 was received yesterday. We now have reports of two more landings (making a total of five). The last two we have learned about occurred in western Minnesota and southeastern New York State. Both are being investigated by NICAP people.

If you can persuade competent local scientists to analyze the ~~xxxxx~~ remaining metal samples, and have assurance that a public report would be available, that would probably be the best arrangement. I'm not sure what equipment would be available to the Smithsonian people. Perhaps it would be best for you to communicate directly with Walter Webb about that in case the local analyses do not work out. His address is 18 Shepard Street, Cambridge 38, Mass.

A few questions about Socorro. You originally intended to take Geiger counter readings. Your report doesn't mention anything on that.

Were you able to verify any FBI participation in the investigation? Zamora told us the local agent was on the site the night it happened.

Can you send us photographic prints suitable for use in the UFO Investigator report which we will write on all this? The landing site, Zamora himself, etc?

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h

Stanford, Ray

May 19, 1964

Ray Stanford
c/o Dr. William A. McGarey
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.,
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Dear Ray:

Thanks for your tape letter explaining your current attitudes toward the UFO subject, contactees, etc. I am glad to know that you are more objective and scientific in your outlook now.

In regard to the information you have about Fry, Adamski and the others, we would like to have a full report on your data which you say disproves their claims. There is no reason to think it would be destructive to expose hoaxes--on the contrary, I cannot think of anything more constructive in seeking truth than to weed out error and falsehood.

We fully expect every opportunist and con-man to try to ride our coattails when we release the UFO Evidence Report, and it would be very helpful indeed to have information which we could release simultaneously disowning any proven fakes. These people have done incalculable harm to our cause, and have set back scientific investigation of UFOs by many years. We know this from long and bitter experience in observing the effects of contactee claims on Congress, the press, and many citizens who are confused by the claims.

I have no hesitation in calling Williamson a complete fraud, based on information we already have on file regarding his false claims about his educational background. But we would be glad to have any additional information about him too. We have some derogatory information about Adamski, enough to cause a presumption of "guilt," but could use more. We do not have strong evidence against Fry, but ample grounds for suspicion.

It looks as if the next UFO Investigator will not be published until about the second week of June at the earliest. Between now and then we should work out what to report about your photographs, and samples from Socorro. We do not wish to be accused of "suppressing" evidence (as was falsely claimed in the Joe Simonton "pancake" incident), so will have to report as much as possible. Sincerely, dlg

Socorro, N.M.

RECEIVED MAY 7 1964

Ray D. Stanford
c/o Wm. A. McGarey, M.D.
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
Phone: WH6-4353

Mr. Richard H. Hall, Asst. Dir.,
N.I.C.A.P.
1536 Connecticutt Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

May 5, 1964

Dear Mr. Hall:

After informing you Sunday of the metallic traces left--it is believed--by the Zamora-Soccoro-UFO on a stone in my possession, your telegram instructing me to forward the stone (and tiny metal traces thereon) to Walter Webb in Cambridge was received Monday.

Actually, it may be helpful if I explain why as of today (Wednesday) the stone and metal traces have not been forwarded to Webb: Sunday afternoon Dr. Wm. A. McGarey (M.D.) asked me to hand him the stone. When I did so, he grasped it OVER THE METAL SAMPLE and in the process of so doing knocked to the ground over 75% of the metal and slivers we had needed for analysis. They were so tiny that even a "dragging" the ground with a plastic-covered magnetic failed to uncover them. This leaves us with tiny traces of metal most tightly ground into the stone for analysis--and that is VERY LITTLE. These consist of tiny pin-points of very shiny metal of unknown (of course) type clinging to the stone's surface in a very limited area, where the UFO "foot" scraped it as it sank into the earth.

It is imperative that we use the MOST CAUTION POSSIBLE in studying the remaining samples. I am told that it is IMPOSSIBLE to "look at" metal through an electron microscope, but that a "plastic impression" need be taken and THAT examined for crystalline or structural factors with the electron microscope. I have opportunity next week to discuss this with an expert at Arizona State University (he is on vacation right now) and he should clarify whether the required "plastic impressions" can be properly made with such tiny points of metal. If so, I am inclined to think an intitial study of one or two of the tiny metal grains should be conducted here if sufficient statement and photos (from the electronic instrument) for documentation can be arranged. It is hoped we might find an expert in metals to cooperate. I am working toward this preliminary evaluation with Mr. Earl Robbins, an instructor in the Electronics Engineering division of A.S.U.

If, however, you know of a source to use one of the two or three NEW types of electronic instruments (I forget what they call them--but a "photo" showing metallic <u>atom patterns</u> was shown on <u>Scientific American</u> front around threeyears ago made with such instrument) that would be far better than an electron microscope (because of the limitations discussed earlier) I would like to use THAT source of analysis. <u>THIS EVIDENCE MAY BE VERY VALUABLE</u>--moreso than we know--and the BEST must be made of the tiny amount of metal left.

If Webb has access to cooperation of a good metallurgist (sp?) and availability of a GOOD electron microscope (but especially if he has access to one of the BETTER instruments mentioned earlier), I am enthusiastic of working with him toward an analysis--since he is on the NICAP scientific and technical panel, but whoever conducts the research, NICAP will have first access to the DOCUMENTED results.

So, here is what I think should be done: First I should see what can be done at the local (ASU) university, using the instruments there and what of DOCUMENTATION can be had. I would report this to you BEFORE any tests were made. Then, later in the Summer I may be willing to ~~personall~~ personally transport the stone and remaining metal fragments to Cambridge (or wherever else necessary for NICAP use) and oversee an analysis there. Why is it necessary for ME to oversee it? I have PERSONAL concern that this tiny, tiny amount of metal be used PROPERLY--BY SOMEONE WHO REALLY WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IT IS. There is so little of it that ALL could be lost by a careless technician when tests are attempted. I want to be there to see that all is not needlessly lost--even as I so foolishly lost 75% of the metal Sunday--that no further mistakes occur. Do you see my reasoning?

Whatever, I am determined that my cooperation with NICAP is very important and I will go out of my way to help and cooperate in all ways that seem prudent and likely of results.

As to the stone with metal traces, I have COLOR PHOTOS (slides) of the stone (with only a small part of its mass above the ground surface) in position beside the UFO leg imprint. Then I have photos made just after I REMOVED the stone, showing the hole and fresh ground where I took it. THE PHOTOS ALSO SHOW --while stone is still in its original position in the ground--THE PLACE OR CORNER OF THE STONE SCARRED BY THE UFO FOOT AS IT SMASHED INTO THE EARTH. These will also be of help to us in documentation. I also have photos of Hynek, Zamora and Chavez at the site of the landing. You will remember it was on this occassion that Zamora said to me "Look here--the (UFO) foot must have hit this stone, it's been scraped here where the imprint was." (Hynek either did not hear Zamora say this--although he was standing nearby--or he ignored it for some reason and walked ~~walked~~ back up the hill to place his samples--in vials I had provided him--in the police car.) As I related on the phone, I had the forethought not to express any interest in this to Zamora (fearing Hynek would notice) except to utter an "Where did you see the overalled figures standing?" in order to change the subject and divert Zamora's attention. (Instantly I conceived of the plan to come back in the afternoon when Hynek and the officers were gone and remove the stone. Ever since my first visit to the UFO landing site earlier that morning I had felt there must be some slight metallic traces somewhere, and when Zamora pointed out the stone, I felt almost CERTAIN this was WHERE!)

Later that afternoon as I removed the stone from the earth, sightseers approached, and not wishing to indicate special significance to the stone they had just seen me remove, I quickly took it up the hill to my car. In the cloudy afternoon I did not have chance or light to notice the shiny metal rubbed and clinging to the surface of the stone just beside where the UFO foot had knocked the corner off it. So with the stone wrapped up in paper alongwith other samples, it was not until Sunday (just before I called you about it) that I became

aware of the important evidence in my hands. Needless to say, the realization was a shocking one and I was left in a quandry as how to handle the evidence.

Later in the afternoon when we carelessly LOST 75% of that precious metallic evidence I was in an even greater state of shock, but now I have regained composure enough to think that even the tiny evidence that remains is enough for valuable study with PROPER instruments.

So, here is the story of how I found the metallic evidence. I felt it was of value to both you and me to get it set down in writing.

I feel it is better to get the metal substance from the stone analyzed as soon as possible, but we must proceed with due precautions. Let me know WHAT TYPE INSTRUMENTS and WHAT TYPE COOPERATION Webb has available at Cambridge--or have HIM tell me this. You see, we do not know WHAT metal or ALLOY is involved in the UFO "foot" and sample we have, but I am SURE it is METAL because of its metallic (shiny) appearance and because the "slivers" (now lost) were "rolled up" as metal slivers have a way of doing. Anyhow, although it seems unlikely to me that a UFO would have a "foot" of metal that would readily oxidize or corrode (and my sample is still shiny and shows no sign of doingso) we are best to make the studies before there is a chance (if possible) of much of that occurring. So I hope you or Webb communicate with me SOON on this matter.

As to the color slides I took last Thursday morning, these have been processed. Three shots were taken, although only TWO show the UFO. These are not of sufficiently impressive nature to release to the press, but they DO show the UFO with coulds around it and show the elongated shape as being tilted relative to its line of flight (I do not recall noticing this during the sighting!) and vaguely show the DOUBLE object with the one in back being lighter and BLUER--as I DID see clearly thought the polaroid glasses. Slightly contrary to what I THOUGHT I saw with the naked eye, the object looks more like this on the film:

I do not know what the object(s) was, but it was unlike anything I have ever seen before. IF Mr. Rankow is interested I will send him one of the original slides for analysis, provided he keeps it in good condition and returns same. The same strange TILT (as illustrated) is evident if both UFO photos.

Let me hear soon from you (or Mr. Webb).

Respectfully,

Ray D. Stanford

P.S.: Did you receive my TAPED report?

5401 E. LAFAYETTE BLVD
PHOENIX, ARIZ, 85018
WH6-4353

4-29-64

Dear Mr. Hall, NICAP:

The enclosed article (account) is -- by all it can claim -- VERY accurate. (The editor is meticulous & unpressuring.)

Guess you've seen AP release on Hynek being here. It was with Jaime & Janine Vallee on site 7th morning for photos, samplings, discussions, questions, etc. (Hynek had forgotten containers for needed samples & he gave him all he needed of small plastic vials I had brought for that purpose. He said "you'd come a lot better equipped than me." !) Tape recorded part of my talk with him & took photo (from behind) of him photographing the site. Will send full report, etc. later in Phoenix. Will leave Hynek for Phoenix.

(Over)

Evening Albuquerque Tribune shows front page "UFO photos" supposedly taken in 63 near Socorro, contributed for UPI use by "Associated F.S. Clubs of America" — Gobs Grunge again? When will the QUACKS stop trying to cash in on the genuine thing!

Have other clippings but will send copies of these later. One enclosed is most comprehensive, accurate & interesting.

MY PHONE:
WHG-4353,
PHOENIX

12 NOON, M.S.T.
5-3-64

RECEIVED MAY 5 1964
Lapa Phoenix MD

DEAR MR HALL,

ENCL REPORT TO NICAP ON MY INVESTIG. OF ZAMORA-SOCCORO CASE.

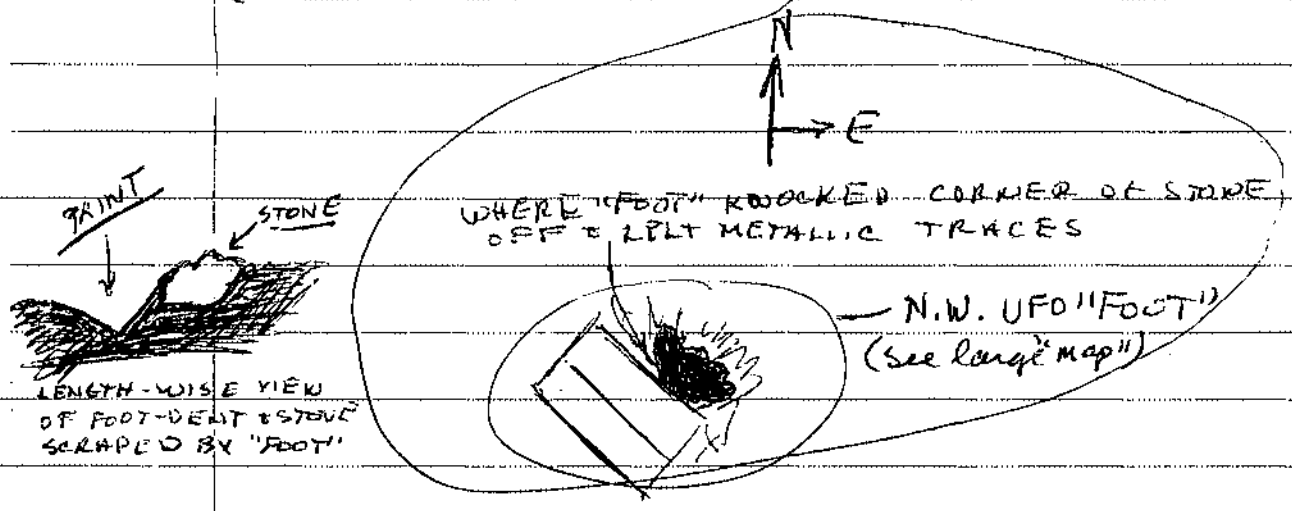
I ADVISE NOT LETTING OUT THE REAL (AS TOLD IN TAPE BY MIKE MARTINEZ) DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOL ON UFO, SO IF PERSON(S) CLAIM UFO "CONTACT" WITH "A" OR "A" ON SIDE WE CAN SUSPECT A HOAX, WHILE ANYONE GIVING THE REAL (& UNPUBLISHED) DESCRIPTION WOULD TEND TO AUTHENTICATE HIMSELF. DO YOU SEE MY REASONING?

METAL TRACES ON ROCK (AS MENTIONED ON PHONE TODAY) ARE VERY MINUTE, BUT SUFFICIENT FOR ELECTRON MICROSCOPE ANALYSIS & MAY GIVE US THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE WE'VE BEEN WANTING.

Walter Shrode (Sp?)

2 - HALL — Heard metal "slamming", then ran toward to see it.

DIAGRAM OF STONE - UFO LEG POSITION, (AS STATED BY ZAMORA):



WILL KEEP THIS DISCOVERY [redacted] TO MYSELF + CLOSEST FRIENDS & AWAIT ADVISE ON HOW METAL CAN BE SAFELY EXAMINED + RESULTS AVAILABLE TO NICAP. & MYSELF.

Respectfully,

[redacted]

P.S.: IF JUST occurs TO ME MY NICAP MEMBERSHIP FEE IS DUE, WILL POST TOMORROW WHEN M.O. AVAILABLE FROM P.O. -

(Please change my address in your files to Phoenix. THANKS!) - [redacted]

May 5, 1964

AIR MAIL

Ray Stanford
c/o Dr. William A. McGarey
5401 East Lafayette Blvd.,
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Ray:

With your permission, we can drop the formality. This will have to be a quick letter since I am swamped with work, and typing this at the office at 9:00 p.m.

I discussed your offered sample of the metal traces with advisers here, Lex Mebane in N.Y., and Walt Webb in Cambridge, Mass. Because the sample is slight, we arrived at the consensus that Walt should handle it. He has friends at Smithsonian who analyze meteorites and fallen objects, I believe, who he thinks would be glad to analyze this. He can personally supervise it. How long it would take is uncertain, but because of the unusual interest in the case he thinks they might give it priority.

There have been many developments, but I don't have time to go into all of them now. One is strong interest on the part of an Abilene, Texas, TV station which is supposed to start a series on UFOs this week. This guy really did his homework--and among other things came up with your book "Look Up!" I was embarassed when he asked me if we accepted the alleged contact of one of our own "investigators." have scanned it and

I have not read your book, but am aware of its general contents and approach to the subject--which I do not accept. It has been my feeling that it represents an earlier stage of your intellectual development, and that you might even repudiate this approach to the subject now, judging by your comments. At any rate, please be frank with me and tell me your past and present views and attitudes*, either for the record (if needed) or in confidence. Also, I am not clear on your educational background and training.

Ask re Geiger's FBI file
Pix of Zamora, Hynek & myself?

Your taped report arrived, and I found it extremely thorough and intelligently done. We are grateful to you for this job. By the way, I offer you the real red marking on the UFO obtained from Zamora on the telephone.

Sincerely, Richard Hall

* What is your current opinion of . . . Williamson

May 27, 1964

Senator Clinton P. Anderson
Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Anderson:

No doubt you are aware of the April 24 report by Officer Lonnie Zamora who saw an unidentified flying object take off from the ground near Socorro, N.M. The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in obtaining confirmation of a second UFO landing report in New Mexico.

According to newswire stories, a UFO was observed on the ground near La Madera about 12:30 a.m. April 26 by Mr. Orlando Gallegos. The reports stated that this object left indentations and scorch-marks similar to those found at Socorro.

Since the incident was investigated by state police Captain Martin Vigil, we would like to obtain a statement on the results of his investigation. Your assistance in this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
Acting Director

RH:h

RECEIVED JUN 25 1964

Ray Stanford
c/o Wm. A. McGarey, M.D.
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
Phone: 946-4353

June 24, 1964

Richard Hall,
N.I.C.A.P.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Dick,

Thanks for your tape letter of recent date. Sorry of this belated reply, but I've been busy night and day lately.

Right now I am seeking access to equipment for taking magnified views in photographs of the Soccoro UFO-metal rock. I should know within a day or two whether or not this will be possible at reasonable cost. If so, I will have it done and send appropriate photos to you immediately for inclusion in the UFO INVESTIGATOR--if it is not too late.

Did you see Coral Lorenzen's FATE coverage of the case--just now coming out on the newstand.

From July 26 through at least August 23 I will be in Virginia. During the first two weeks I will be a counselor for a young peoples' Summer camp in Southwestern Virginia. Hence, I will either be coming to Washington, D.C., on the 24th or 25th of July or else it will be about two weeks later, around the 9th or 10th of August.

At such time I should hope to find chance to talk with you and discuss many things of--I am sure--mutual interest. The Soccoro rock with UFO metal on it will accompany me, of course. Let me know if you will be there on the times I have suggested. I will be leaving Phoenix--via Texas--on July 15 or earlier and will communicate to you my specific intentions (relative to the Washington D.C. visit) sometime between July 12 and July 22.

How are the EVIDENCE REPORT and coming UFO INVESTIGATOR coming? See you soon.

Very Cordially,

Ray Stanford

RECEIVED JUN 29 1964

Ray Stanford
c/o Wm. A. McGarey, M.D.
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
WH6-4353

June 26, 1964

Mr. Richard Hall
N.I.C.A.P.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Dick,

By now you should have received my letter of two days past.

Subsequently I have taken some rather good surface close-up photos of the Soccoro rock showing metallic fragments from the UFO. While these do not show individual fragments highly magnified as would have been the case with microscopic photography, they DO SHOW with a reasonable clarity the metallic fragment grouping (s) on the rock's surface.

Each photo shows a size-60 white cotton thread stretched across the stone's surface beside the metallic particles for size comparison (thread was also helpful in focusing).

Tomorrow (Saturday) some good black-and-white prints will be ready. These will be posted immediately to you Air Mail and should arrive Monday or Tuesday. They should be of sufficient quality for inclusion in The UFO Investigator, if that seems appropriate at this time.

Let me hear from you after receiving the photos.

Best Regards,

Ray Stanford

JUL 27 1965

Dear Mr. Webb:

This is in reply to your letter concerning the Socorro UFO incident. This case is still open, and our investigation is continuing.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. SPAULDING
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

Mr. Walter N. Webb
18 Shepard Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Copy to Sam Gordon ✓

NEW MEXICO UFO SIGHTINGS

April 29: A NICAP investigator (Ray Stanford, Phoenix, Arizona) was at the landing site,along with the Air Force scientist Dr. J.A. Hynek, and has gathered samples and other evidence for NICAP. He is making tests with a Geiger counter.

Previously (Apr. 28) NICAP had interviewed Officer Lonnie Zamora by telephone, and confirmed the main points of his report. He was attracted by a roaring noise like an explosion, investigated and saw the silvery egg-shaped object on the ground from a distance of about 150 yards. Nearby was something that looked like"a pair of white coveralls." On the side of the UFO was some "red lettering" which he said "made no sense" to him. He made a drawing of the lettering, which was turned over to Capt. Richard Holder, Army officer at White sands Missile Range.

On April 27 NICAP phoned Mrs. Coral Lorenzen in Tucson, Arizona. She is Director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), and had been at the landing site Sunday, April 26. She stated she was convinced, after examining the site and interviewing Zamora, that an alien vehicle had landed there. She obtained soil samples for analysis.

Also on April 27 NICAP contacted the manager of radio station KSRC in Socorro, N.M. (Walter Schrow--Sp?). He is completely convinced something landed there. He added one detail: when the UFO took off with a roar, it emitted colored flames. /Indentations and scorch marks were subsequently found where the object was resting/.

NICAP Comments: The physical evidence in this case, reported by a witness of admitted reliability, proves that a real vehicle was there. Since the object was observed taking off under power, it must have

Obviously the American public has not been given the facts about UFOs.

Whenever a reliable UFO sighting attracts public attention, the Air Force issues a shower of statistics. Percentages don't prove anything at all. The question is: What was this object which scorched and marked the ground? Hallucinations or myths do not leave physical evidence.

We are completing a detailed documentary report this month which will show that hundreds of similar reports by equally reliable witnesses have been played down by official investigators. The public is being misled about UFOs.

Richard Hall

STANFORD TO N.I.C.A.P.

Photographs and metallic samples-report of the Soccoro UFO Incident

June 27, 1964

RECEIVED JUN 30 1964

Ends

Ray Stanford
c/o Wm. A. McGarey, M.D.
5401 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
Phone: 946-4353

June 29, 1964

Mr. Richard Hall,
N.I.C.A.P.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Dick,

By now it is hoped you have received my mailing to you (of yesterday) which included four photos of the U.F.O. metal on the rock and an explanatory text.

Since it has occurred to me you might use a better illustration of the U.F.O. foot in relation to the metal-bearing rock and its removal from the U.F.O. landing site, I have prepared two small photos with appropriate explanatory markings and notes.

The dashed (broken) outline in each photo serves as a general representation of the original U.F.O. "foot" indentation. In the closer photo, while the rock is shown by a general outline and parallel lines, the part chipped by the U.F.O. "foot" is shown as solid black. (Stones in circle around "footprint" were placed by policemen to protect each indentation.)

It is possible that the enclosed two photos could be of use to you in The UFO Investigator or elsewhere.

I anticipate hearing soon from you. It looks like I may be in your city Saturday, July 25, with hopes of talking with you then. If it looks like that time will be unsuitable to you, let me know and the time for my visit could be changed a bit.

Sincerely,

Ray Stanford

STANFORD TO N.I.C.A.P.: Report and photographs of metallic samples taken from Soccoro UFO-landing site on Wednesday, April 29, 1964.

Elsewhere you have been given an account of my getting the stone with metallic traces from the Soccoro UFO-landing site. In this report, therefore, I will attempt to explain the photographs enclosed herewith.

In studying the enclosed photographs, it is advised that they be arranged so that the smallest photo (3) is at the bottom, followed above by photos (1), (2_1), and (2_2) respectively upward--as these show continually higher enlargement. (Photo identification numbers are circled at the lower right bottom of each photo margin.)

The dark arrows shown in each photo are those that I have painted (with acrylic resin paint) onto the surface of the stone to help prevent accidentally knocking off some metallic particles as, unfortunately, has happened in the past.

The white line across each photo is a size "60" cotton thread. In photo (3) it is represented at about 1.75 diameters magnification, or less than twice the actual size. Because of the photographic lens attachments and the lens opening used to produce these photos, the depth of field (focus) was very limited. For example, in photo (3) the metallic fragment clearly recorded in photo (1) is almost entirely out of focus because of the curvature or angular declination of the stone surface away from the focused area--the reference here is to the metallic particle labeled "A" in photo (1).

In each of the four enclosed photos we can clearly discern the former above-ground and below-ground levels of the rock. In photo (2_2) this line is clearly seen to pass directly through the shiny metallic particle (from UFO landing gear or "foot") labeled "e". In photo (3) I have indicated the path of this surface line with a broken (dashed) line in india ink. Officer Lonnie Zamora pointed out that the rock (see photos EARLIER mailed you) was right on the north edge of the UFO landing gear imprint and that it appears a small tip of the rock was actually knocked off by the UFO "foot". The place where the tip of the rock formerly was (until removed by pressure from the weight and force of the UFO landing) is partially discernable--although a bit out-of-focus--in photos (2_1) and (2_2) as the white-appearing areas to the upper right.

From the above observations as well as from examination of the position and orientation of the rock to the original UFO-"foot" imprint, we can readily deduce that the northerly orientated side of the northwesterly orientated UFO leg struck the rock at an above-the-ground level first. Secondly, the tip of the rock gave way to the impact at a point of structural weakness caused by "minerialization lesion". As the UFO landing gear pressed further downward, it first struck the rock with sufficient impact as to leave metallic particles on the main body of the stone at point "a" (on the photo (2_2).) Then as the metallic "foot" moved downward it compressed the <u>former</u> ground or soil surface level (as shown in the photos) to a point well below the original, leaving additional metallic traces ("f" through "v" in photo (2_2)) as it did. Hence, the direction of applied force was

that as illustrated by the large arrow marked "FORCE" in photos (3) and (1).

Considering the former position of the rock in the ground, it can readily be demonstrated that in good likelihood the UFO "foot" descended upon the stone from a rather vertical direction. This would seem to confirm the account attributed to Zamora by Mrs. Coral Lorenzen in her recent magazine article (FATE, Vol. 17--No.8, issue 173, August, 1964) on page 30 wherein the officer reportedly saw a "blue flame" described therein as "coming down" (vertically--it would appear) in the general direction of the dynamite shack.

Through examination of the metallic traces left on the stone by the UFO "foot" we see further confirmation of the vertical descent in the orientation across the rock's surface of certain metallic particles. In photo (1) we see the metallic particle labeled "A". Note that this particle is orientated with its longitudinal axis perpendicular to the direction of movement of the UFO leg as deduced by the former observations. The same particle or sliver orientation was also evident in other metallic slivers now lost by careless handling (by another person), the major of which was formerly located in the region of point "B" (in photo (1)) or point "p" (in photo(2_2)). This sliver orientation confirms the vertical descent hypothesis so surely it would now seem we can reasonably accept its accuracy.

Now we are confronted with the question, "Of what metal was the UFO landing gear composed?" Certainly this is a valid and important question, for if we were to assume the UFO to have been built outside this planet we might gain considerable support for our hypothesis if analysis of metallic samplings should demonstrate same to be of elements, or perhaps alloy(s) rare or even unknown to this planet. In any case, a competent and thorough analysis of the metallic samplings seem imperative if we are to seek a greater understanding of the Soccoro incident.

This writer plans after a complete investigation (to the extent of his ability) of analysis procedures and possibilities to have exhaustive tests made of the small quantity of metallic evidence available. It is, however, beyond the scope of this report to discuss the possible techniques that might be used in the analysis.

At this point we have only visual observations that give us some ideas about the metallic samplings: In the approximate eight weeks since the rock with metallic tracings was found, the brilliance (metallic luster) and coloration of the samples remains unchanged--despite exposure to great humidity variations and even (before discovered) to desert soil and dust. Samples are rather brilliant and shiny, and it appears the metal or alloy involved is NOT aluminum or magnesium. A considerably harder and more silvery metal seems involved. (This is not to imply, however, that aluminum or magnesium may be found totally abscent in an alloy if tests render qualitative results.)

In conclusion, it is regretted that the quantity of metallic substance on the stone is so very meager. Yet, little more can be expected considering the precarious nature of this and other reported UFO experiences.

Really, very little can be said (that has not been said already) about the Zamora-Soccoro UFO incident except to grant that it is the most evidential case (involving a reported UFO landing) encountered in this writer's experience. It would seem from the rock and its metallic evidence that we can safely say that some unusual object with a landing gear comprised at least in part of metal and of considerable weight landed and later took off at the designated place and time.

Yet, when the metallic evidence is finally tested to determine its elemental or molecular nature, we may them have a more concrete clue as to its possible origin--at least in a general sense.

(X)

Ray Stanford,
June 27, 1964

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-8434
CABLE ADDRESS: SKYLIGHT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

April 27, 1964

PRESS RELEASE

The egg-shaped unidentified flying object (UFO) observed on the ground near White Sands, N.M., Friday night proves that the "flying saucer" mystery is a continuing one, a Washington research organization said today.

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) said its personnel in the field were investigating this latest report because it came from reputable witnesses. NICAP said it had information that both civilian police and military officers from White Sands observed the UFO.

Egg-shaped objects on or near the ground were also reported in Texas, New Mexico and elsewhere during the first week of November 1957, the Committee said.

"There have been hundreds of similar reports of disc-shaped and elliptical objects since 1947," NICAP said, "but most of them have not been publicized and are not generally known."

The private Washington agency said it would soon release a documentary report containing 90 similar cases selected from over 3000 in their files.

"There is good evidence that many of these objects are intelligently guided," NICAP said. "The White Sands report describes a metallic object with apparent 'landing gear' which took off from the ground and left physical markings. This would seem to be a real device under someone's guidance."

The Committee said the documentary report would be the first that American public has ever been given all the facts of such serious reports from responsible witnesses.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C

Copies to Post ✓ Reuters ✓
News ✓ NBC ✓
Star ✓
UPI ✓
AP ✓

NO. 7-9464 April 29, 1964 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American public is not being given the facts about unidentified flying objects (UFOs), a Washington research organization said today. The statement followed the sighting of an egg-shaped object on the ground near White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Friday night by a police officer who is described as "completely reliable."

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a privately supported agency now completing a summary report of its seven year investigation of UFOs said, "The physical evidence in this case proves that a real unidentified craft was there."

Officer Lonnie Zamora of the Socorro, N.M., police department reported the object made a roaring noise and stirred up a cloud of dust as it took off. Stilt-like "legs" which he saw on the UFO left four impressions on the ground. The markings and scorched foliage were verified by Army officers from White Sands and a local FBI agent who went to the scene immediately. NICAP said one of its members was on the scene and would take Geiger counter readings and collect physical samples if possible. (Military authorities previously reported that they had detected no radioactivity in the area). Officer Zamora, contacted by telephone, told NICAP that he saw red lettering on the side of the UFO which "made no sense." A drawing of the markings was turned over to Capt. Richard Holder, an Army officer at White Sands.

A NICAP spokesman, Acting Director Richard Hall said, "Our documentary report will show that hundreds of substantial reports by equally reliable witnesses have been played down by official investigators, and the public has been seriously misled. UFOs are unquestionably real, and the public ought to be told all the facts."

UFO REPORT

24 April 1964

I, Richard T. Holder, Captain, USA, 095042, Up-Range Commander, was notified by 1/Lt Hicks, Executive Officer, Co C, USAG, that he had just been notified by Mr. D. Arthur B yrnes, Jr., Dredintials No. 3617, Federal Bureau of Investigation, of a reported UFO in the area. Lt. Hicks said that Mr. Byrnes would like for me to contact him at the State Police Office, Socorro, if possible. I tried to call, unsuccessfully, then started dressing. While dressing, approximately 3 minutes later, Mr. Byrnes called me, informed me of the UFO report. I stated that I would be at the office (State Police) in about 5 minutes. When I arrived Mr. Byrnes introduced himself, we each examined the others credentials and found them satisfactory. Officer Lonnie Zamora, Socorro Police Department, was present, and was introduced by Mr. Byrnes as the witness (only witness initially) to the UFO. We both then interviewed Officer Zamora, and this is substantially represented in entirety by the enclosed statements. We then departed for the scene of the reported landing of the UFO. En route (Mr. Byrnes and I went by the same vehicle) we stopped by the residence of Sgt. Castle, NCOIC SRC N.P., who then accompanied us to the site and assisted in taking the enclosed measurements and observations. Present when we arrived were Officer Zamora, Officers Melvin Eatsaff, Bill Pyland, all of the Socorro Police Department, who assisted in making the measurements. When we had completed examination of the area, Mr. Byrnes, Officer Zamora, and I returned to the State Police Office as Socorro, then completed these reports. Upon arrival at the office location in the Socorro County Building, we were informed by Nep Lopez, Sheriff's Office radio operator, that approximately three reports had been called in by telephone of a blue flame of light in the area. Initial sighting was made by Officer Zamora at approximately 1750— I was notified by Lt. Hicks at approximately 1910. These reports were not entered on the dispatcher's log so no time on these reports is available — the dispatcher indicated that the times were roughly similar. Reports were completed at approximately 0100 25 April. I requested that I be notified in the event of a similar occurance or report.

Richard T. Holder
Captain Ord/C

NOTE By Request of the FBI, please do not refer to the FBI as participating in any fashion — use of local law enforcement authorities is acceptable.

(There follows Zamora's interview)

Socorro, NM; April 24, 1964

Lonnie Zamora, 606 Reservoir St., Socorro, NM, 835-1134, Officer Socorro PL about 5 years, office phone 835-6941, now on 2:00 PM to 10:PM shift.

About 5:45 PM 4/24/64 while in Socorro 2 Police Car (64 Pontiac White) started to chase a car due south from west side of Court House. Car was apparently speeding and was about 3 blocks in front. At point on Old Rodeo Street(extension of Park St.,n south)near George Morillo residence(about 1/2 mile south of Spring Street) the chased car was going straight ahead toward rodeo grounds. Car chased was a new black Chevrolet (it might have been Floyd Reynolds boy Vivian about 17). Chased car still about 3 blocks ahead. Lonnie alone.

At this time heard a roar and saw a flame in the sky to the southwest some distance away — possibly 1/2 mile or a mile. Came to mind that a dynamite shack in that area had blown up, decided to leave ~~xxxxxxxx~~ chased car go.

Flame was bluish and sort of orange, too. Could not tell size of flame. Sort of motionless flame, slowly descending. Was still driving car and could not pay too much attention to the flame. It was a narrow type of flame. It was like a "stream down" — a funnel type - narrower at top than at bottom . Flame possibly 3 degrees or so in width — not wide.

Flame about t wice as wide at bottom as top, and about four times as high as top

was wide. Did not notice any object at top, did not note if top of flame was level. Sun was to west and did not help vision. Had green sunglasses over perscription (sic) glasses. Could not see bottom of flame because it was behind the hill.

No smoke noted. Noted some "commotion" at bottom — dust? Possibly from windy day - wind was blowing hard. Clear sunny sky otherwise — just a few clouds scattered over area.

Noise was a roar, not a blast. Not like a jet. Changed from high frequency to low frequency and then stopped. Roar lasted possibly ten seconds — was going towards it at that time on the rough gravel road. Saw flame about as long as heard the sound. Flame same color as best as recall. Sound distinctly from high to low until disappeared. Windows both were down. No other spectators noted — no traffic except the car in front — and car in front might have heard it but possibly did not see it because car in front was too close to hill in front, to see flame.

After the roar and flame, did not note anything, while going up the somewhat steep rough hill — had to back up and try again, two more times. Got up about half-way first time, wheels started skidding, roar still going on, had to back down and try again before made the hill. Hill about 60' long, fairly steep and with loose gravel and rock. While beginning third time, noise and flame not noted.

After got to top, traveled slowly on the gravel road westwardly. Noted nothing for awhile .. for possibly 10 or 15 seconds, went slow, looking around for the shack — did not recall exactly where the dynamite shack was.

Suddenly noted a shiny type object to south about 150 to 200 yards. It was off the road. At first glance, stopped. It looked, at first, like a car turned upside down. Thought some kids might have turned over. Saw two people in white coveralls very close to object. One of these persons seemed to turn and look straight at my car and seemed startled — seemed to quickly jump somewhat.

At this time I started moving my car towards them quickly, with idea to help. Had stopped about only a couple of seconds. Object was like aluminum— it was whitish against the mesa background, but not chrome. Seemed like (oval, long axis vertical) in shape and I at first glance took it to be an overturned white car. Car appeared turned up like standing on radiator or on trunk, at this first glance.

The only time I saw these two persons was when I had stopped, for possibly two seconds or so, to glance at the object. I don't recall noting any particular shape or possibly any hats, or headgear. Those persons appeared normal in shape — but possibly they were small adults or large kids.

Then paid attention to road while drove toward scene. Radio'd to sheriff's office "Socorro 2 to Socorro, possible 10-44 (accident). I'll be 10-6 (busy) out of the car, checking the car down in the arroyo."

Stopped car, was still talking on radio, started to get out, mike fell down, reached back to pick up mike, then replaced radio mike in slot, got out of car and started to go down to where knew the object (car) was.

Hardly turned around from car, when heard roar (x was not exactly a blast), very loud roar — at that close was real loud. Not like a jet — knows what jets sound like. Started low frequency quickly, then roar rose in frequency (higher tone) and in loudness - - from loud to very loud. At same time as roar saw flame. Flame was under object. Object was starting to go straight up — slowly up. Object slowly rose straight up. Flame was light blue and at bottom was sort of orange color.

From this angle, saw what might be the side of object(not end, as first noted). Difficult to describe flame. Thought, from roar, it might blow up. Flame might have come from underside of object, at middle, possibly a four feet area — very rough guess. Cannot describe flame farther except blue and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ orange. No smoke, except dust in immediate area.

As soon as saw flame and heard roar, turned away, ran away from object but did turn head toward object. Dumped leg on car — back fender area. Car facing southwest.

Object was (oval with long axis horizontal) in shape. It was smooth — no windows or doors. As roar started, it was still on or near ground. Noted red lettering ~~xxxxx~~ of some type, like (see later diagram of insignia). Insignia about 2½' high and 2' wide, guess. Was in middle of object, like (shows insignia centered in object oval). Object still like aluminum - white.

After fell by car and glasses fell off, kept running to north, with car between me and object. Glanced back couple of times. Noted object to rise to about level of car, about 20 to 25 feet guess — took I guess about six seconds when object started to rise and I glanced back. I guess I ran about halfway to where I ducked down — about fifty feet from the car ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is where I ducked down, just over the edge of hill. I guess I had run about 25 feet when I glanced back and saw the object about level with the car and it appeared directly over the place where it rose from.

I was still running and I jumped just over the hill — I stopped because I did not hear the roar. I was scared of the roar, and I had planned to continue running down the hill. I turned around toward the object and at same time put my head toward ground, covering my face with my arms. Being that there was no roar, I looked up, and I saw the object going away from me, in a southwest direction. When the roar stopped, heard a sharp tone whine from high tone to low tone. At end of roar was this whine and the whine lasted maybe a second. Then there was complete silence about the object. That's when I lifted up my head and saw object going away from me. It did not come any closer to me. It appeared to go in straight line and end at same height — possibly 10 to 15 feet from the ground, and it cleared the dynamite shack by about three feet. Shack about eight feet high. Object was travelling very fast. It seemed to rise up, and take off immediately across country. I ran back to my car and as I ran back I kept an eye on the object. I picked up my glasses (I left the sun glasses on the ground), got into the car, and radioed to Nep Lopez, radio operator, to "look out the window, to see if you could see an object." He asked what is it? I answered "It looks like a balloon." I don't know if he saw it. If Nep looked out his window, which faces north, he couldn't have seen it. I did not tell him at the moment which window to look out of.

As I was calling Nep, I could still see the object. The object seemed to lift up slowly, and to "get small" in the distance very fast. It seemed to just clear the Box Canyon or Six Mile Canyon mountain. It disappeared as it went over the mountains It had no flame whatsoever as it was travelling over the ground, and made no smoke or noise.

Feeling in good health. Last drink — two or three beers — was over a month ago. Noted no odors. Noted no sounds other than described. Gave directions to Nep Lopez at radio and to Sergeant M S Chavez to get there. Went down to where object was (had been), and I noted the brush was burning in several places. At that time I heard Sgt Chavez (NM State Police at Socorro) calling me on radio for ~~xxxxxxxx~~ my location, and I returned to my car, told him he was looking at me. Then Sgt. Chavez came up, asked me what the trouble was, because I was sweating and he told me I was

white, very pale. I asked the Sgt. to see what I saw, and that was the burning brush. Then Sgt. Chavez and I went to the spot, and Sgt. Chavez pointed out the tracks.

When I first saw the object (when I thought it might be a car) I saw what appeared to be two legs of some type from the object to the ground. At the time, I didn't pay much attention to what it was — I thought it was an accident — I saw the two persons. I didn't pay attention to the two "legs". The two "legs" were at the bottom of the object, slanted outwards to the ground. The object might have been about three and a half feet from the ground at that time. I just glanced at it.

Can't tell how long saw object second time (the "close" time), possibly 20 seconds — just a guess — from time got out of car, glanced at object, ran from object, jumped over edge of hill, then got back to car and radio as object xxxxxx disappeared.

As my mike fell as I got out of the car, at scene area, I heard about two or three loud "thumps", like someone possibly hammering or shutting a door or doors hard. These "thumps" were possibly a second or less apart. This was just before the roar. The persons were not seen when I got up to the scene area.

Just before Sgt. Chavez got to scene, I got my pen and drew a picture of the insignia on the object.

End of narrative.

Distances from object

First sighting of flame approx 3/4 mile
First sighting of object with people (2) by object - 0.15 miles
2nd sighting of object where insignia observed - 103 feet.
Object started to depart or lift off surface
3rd sighting of object; object left surface, object departing - approx 200 feet.

Followed by diagram showing two footprints; indentations 1/2 to 2 inches in soft sand.

(Layout of marks - reproduced to scale on basis of sketches given and distances between marks indicated). Comments on page: Examination charred areas 1,2,3,4, indicated that: 1 and 2 had heat applied in a straight or almost straight down direction- #3 &4 had heat applied in the vectors indicated (approx) - this was determined (estimated) by examination of grass-roots and bushes in the area.

Note: no other indications of a blast - i.e., a thrust force - were noted - no other charring, indentations or area disturbances were noted!

First view of the Object - from approximately 0.15 miles, looking down on it:

APRIL 24, 1964/ SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO

FIRST REPORT (April 26) AND NICAP ACTIONS

1st report: Frank Rawlinson phoned RH Sunday afternoon (April 26). Had heard newscast on WAVA. Don Berliner phoned WAVA & obtained verification with few more details. RH phoned Lorenzen's; they were reported to be at the scene.

UPI story moved at 3:08 p.m. Sunday:

Friday night (April 24) around dusk a policeman in Socorro, N.M. saw (apparently at close range) a spherical object on the ground. It had four stilt-like projections on bottom, and was shiny, silvery. Object appeared to be the height of a car. The object took off suddenly and [redacted] disappeared. Investigators (including some from nearby White Sands) said it was none of their equipment. Four impressions were found in the ground, [redacted] plus scorch marks. (UPI man said it "burned a bush away.")

Don Herbert (WTOP) phoned Monday, April 27: Object was egg-shaped. This verified by Sveilis of UPI who also phoned Monday morning.

Member John Ferguson (Prescott) wired Sunday offering recording of interview with local officials.

RH wired reply Monday morning asking recording be sent air mail.

Don Berliner talked to Sveilis; story on wires today (Mon., April 27).

Officer panicked and ran from UFO. Said he would again if he saw another one.

APRIL 27, 1964: PHONED CORAL LORENZEN IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

She is convinced that an "alien ship landed at Secorro." There have been about 8 sightings since Friday night in the general area (incl. one near Santa Fe). One sighting "early yesterday morning [Sunday, April 26]." There was a second witness to Zamora sighting who arrived at end of sighting and saw smoke rising from the ground where the UFO had been.

Coral has soil samples, photographs of area, interviews with the two witnesses as well as military personnel, some of the latter in confidence.

RH

APRIL 27, 1964: ROY TURNER (BALTIMORE) PHONED ME AT HOME, LATE EVENING.

Roy phoned the manager of KSRC, Socorro [505-835-1290] and was given this information: Zamora was chasing a speeding car, lost it, and was turning around when he saw object in gulley off the road. Thought it was an overturned car, so started to investigate. Then saw two figures in whitish "coveralls." The object took off with a roar emitting colored "flames", skimmed along the ground, then rose abruptly and climbed rapidly out of sight.

The markings left were spaced about 14 feet apart.

RH

APRIL 28, 1964

Don Berliner phoned Lonnie Zamora, obtained following data:

Roaring noise first attracted attention. Thought might be dynamite shack which police check periodically. Saw what looked like pair of coveralls on ground near UFO (from about 150 yards). Saw no figures; "They must have seen me." Red lettering on side of UFO which made no sense to him. A drawing of the lettering was turned over to Capt. Richard Holder, USA; White Sands Missile Range. FBI went to scene with him that night (Friday).

UFO was egg-shaped. He saw two "legs" on "this side;" they later found four imprints. When on ground, after he spotted it, UFO made roaring noise and raised cloud of dust which obscured it. He ran away. Noise stopped, he turned and looked up. UFO scooted over dynamite shack few feet above it, moved away and disappeared over horizon (mountainous or hilly area).

APRIL 28, 1964

Ray Stanford phoned from Phoenix. Said story was reported in papers there and in Corpus Christi. There have been 12-14 recent sightings in Phoenix area, including one "three or four weeks ago" by members of the family of the doctor he lives with. He was planning field trip to Socorro with Geiger; will collect any samples, take careful readings, talk to local radio station manager. RH authorized him to say he was member investigating on our behalf.

11/4/64

THE UFO LANDING AT SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO - APRIL 24, 1964

INTRODUCTION

The year 1964 will be remembered by UFO researchers for several reasons. It was the year of one of the most sustained sighting waves in history (at least in this country), a wave triggered by the most convincing UFO landing case ever to occur in the United States. The Socorro incident, which received widespread publicity in newspapers across the nation, rekindled interest in the "flying saucer" subject. In the midst of the sighting activity, NICAP--the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena--published its long-awaited 184-page document, THE UFO EVIDENCE, perhaps the most comprehensive book yet written on the problem. Copies of this report were distributed to every member of Congress and to the press. But 1964 will probably be most remembered as the year of the Socorro landing.

Short of actual capture of the object or its occupants, a photographic record, or additional witnesses (the only other witness is an unnamed motorist), the observation at Socorro satisfied enough requirements to make it one of the best authenticated UFO sightings on record. It involves a highly reliable witness, a policeman, who approached within 100 feet of a UFO while it was on the ground. It involves occupants seen standing near the object. It involves an unknown insignia or marking seen on the object. Moreover, the witness saw the UFO land and take off, both times accompanied by noise and a flame-like exhaust. There was physical evidence of the landing: landing-gear imprints in the soil and scorched bushes, grass, and earth. Finally, the case involves a thorough investigation by the Army, Air Force, police, FBI, and civilian UFO investigators. Every conventional explanation has been ruled out (including secret aircraft) and, at last report, the official Air Force inquiry was still open.

After the patrolman's sighting, similar objects were reported elsewhere in New Mexico and in other states, descending to earth or taking off with a roar and leaving similar imprints and scorch marks on the ground. (A few of these subsequent reports were hoaxes.) Characteristics that distinguished the 1964 sighting wave or "flap" from others in the past were the great number of reported landings, the physical traces left behind, and the loud noises associated with many of the landings. Landing incidents were especially frequent in late April and May. EM (electromagnetic) cases began appearing in June, a feature typical of most UFO flaps where close encounters occur; in June, when approached by strange flying objects, an automobile engine lost power, house lights and television sets went out, and tingling

or burning sensations were felt in the bodies of witnesses. Cars were paced by UFOs; odors were reported in at least two cases; and occupants were reported three times although Socorro is the only verified case involving beings. (The other two, Newark Valley and Conklin, N.Y., must remain in doubt. On Nov. 8, 1964, the writer visited both places in the Binghamton area and interviewed the witnesses. A separate case report will be drawn up later.)

One of the June sightings was a UFO investigator's delight! NICAP's UFO Investigator, July-August 1964, reported that on June 29 near Lavonia, Georgia, a spinning, hissing UFO hovered over a car, causing the engine to lose power and blistering the paint with a falling substance of some sort (the blistered areas registered abnormal radioactivity). The driver also felt a burning sensation on his arms. A strong odor filled the air.

The following report is believed to be a fairly complete résumé of what happened at Socorro, New Mexico, on the late afternoon of April 24, 1964. For the most part, the account presented here has been drawn from these sources:

APRO Bulletin, May 1964 (newsletter of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Tucson, Ariz.).
Lorenzen, C. "UFO Lands in New Mexico," Fate (Aug. 1964).
Lorenzen, C. "UFO Lands at Air Force Base," Fate (Oct. 1964).
Socorro (N.M.) El Defensor-Chieftain, April 28, 1964.
New Haven (Conn.) Register, May 1, 1964.
USAF fact sheet on the sighting released June 8, 1964.
USAF map of the sighting route mailed to me September 14, 1964.
UFO Investigator, July-August 1964.

Mrs. Lorenzen's articles in Fate and the APRO Bulletin resulted from two trips she and her husband made to Socorro. She is Director of APRO. Much of NICAP's account was obtained from member Ray Stanford, who also visited the site at Socorro. When I was in Washington this summer (July), I discussed the case with him and with Richard Hall, Acting Director of NICAP.

A U.S. Geological Survey topographic map (Socorro, N.M., Quadrangle, 7.5' series) was of great assistance in determining the sighting route, the UFO landing site, and the UFO's flight path. In order to clear up contradictory published estimates regarding patrolman Zamora's distance from the UFO, I wrote the Project Blue Book information officer, Maj. Maston Jacks, August 22 and received (on Sept. 16) official distance figures and a diagram of the sighting area. These measurements were carefully plotted on the topographic map.

I wrote the witness April 27, enclosing a UFO questionnaire, but did not receive a reply. This was not unexpected since the witness was hounded for days by press and radio interviewers, telephone-callers, and letter-writers from all over the United States.

THE SIGHTING

The town of Socorro (pop. 5300), the home of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, is located in west-central New Mexico 70 miles south of Albuquerque at the junction of U.S. 85 and 60. The UFO landing itself took place in the desert scrubland about 1½ miles south-southwest of the town's center between U.S. 85 and 60 (precise location of landing site as measured on topographic map, 34° 2.4'N, 106° 54'W). The spot is about 17 miles from the northwest corner of Holloman-White Sands Missile Range and about 38 miles northwest of Trinity Site, where the world's first atomic bomb was exploded.

It was late Friday afternoon, April 24, 1964. At 5:50 p.m. MST, an hour before sunset, Socorro policeman Lonnie Zamora was pursuing a speeding car south on South Park Street. As he passed a church, he suddenly heard a roaring sound like an explosion and out of the corner of his eye, to his right (southwest), he saw a brilliant, cone-shaped blue flame (with an orange tip, according to the USAF) descend out of sight behind the hills. The flame was approximately four times as long as it was wide at its broadest point. Just after the flame disappeared from view, the roaring sound stopped and a whining noise was heard which rapidly decreased in pitch to inaudibility. Knowing there was a dynamite storage shack in that area and fearing it had blown up or that someone was "fooling around" the shack, patrolman Zamora radioed headquarters and abandoned the chase of the speeding car to investigate.

Zamora turned off Park Street down a little-used 1½-mile-long dirt road that led past the dynamite shack and eventually joined U.S. 60. The patrol car skidded going up the first hill and after three attempts finally made it to the top. As the car began descending the slope of the hill, officer Zamora looked across one gully and up into another, and there, about 800 feet ahead of him, he glimpsed what he thought was an overturned car standing on end with two of its occupants outside. The object was white, metallic, oblong, and had two leg-like protrusions angling out from beneath it. (At this point, the witness had a three-quarter view of the oval-shaped object.) The two figures were short, like "young boys" or "small adults," dressed in what looked like mechanics' "white coveralls." They were standing close to the object, with their backs to the witness, giving the impression they were "doing something to the object." The figure farther away turned and looked in Zamora's direction, apparently startled by the car's approach. The patrolman reported seeing no details such as facial features, hands, or feet and assumed the figures were completely covered by their suits. Regarding their height, the witness indicated they were one-third the length of the object or the same height as the bottom of the craft, which, in both cases, would make the figures roughly 4 or 4½ feet tall.

The witness put out a radio call for assistance, asking Sgt. M. Samuel Chavez of the New Mexico State Police to come to the area. Zamora still assumed he had driven upon a possible auto accident. As he drove on toward the grade leading up a second hill, he lost sight of the object.

Just as he pulled off the road at the top of the hill and came to a stop, Zamora said he heard two metallic "bangs" that sounded like doors slamming shut. He was now almost opposite the UFO and looking down on it nearly broadside in the gully. The dynamite shack was some 80 to 100 yards west of the object. Being only about 100 feet from the craft this time, the witness got a good close look at it. It was elongated, about the length of a car, perhaps 12 to 15 feet long, approximately 4 feet thick, and was supported on "girderlike" legs or stilts (estimates vary from "about 2½" to 4½ feet in length for the legs, the latter figure appearing more likely to this writer although this is an <u>average</u> figure as the legs were apparently adjustable). The two creatures were gone.

The patrolman radioed in that he was leaving the car to investigate. Then he got out of the car and started toward the UFO. He had taken only about three steps when he heard a very loud roar and saw smoke and blue flame coming from the bottom of the object. A little (but not much) dust was kicked up around the UFO. What happened next differs somewhat from one account to the other. I believe the following description is probably nearest the truth. Thinking the thing was going to explode, Zamora turned and ran about 100 feet to the other side of the hill away from the object, bumping his leg on the car and losing his sunglasses on the way. Thoroughly frightened, the patrolman crouched down, shielding his face with his arm. When he heard the roar diminishing, he looked up and saw that the object had risen between 10 and 20 feet (estimates vary) above the floor of the gully. He noticed the "indescribably brilliant blue" cone-shaped flame again (with an orange tip). Then the flame shrank to nothing and the roar stopped, leaving a whining sound which dropped rapidly from a high to low pitch, fading out completely. Zamora remarked later: "It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop."

At this time, according to the Air Force account, Zamora noticed what appeared to be a red insignia or design on the side of the UFO about 2½ feet high (this is the later AF figure; "1 to 1½ feet" is given in earlier AF fact sheet) and shaped like a crescent over a horizontal line, with an inverted "V" over a vertical line in the center. He did not believe the markings were English, and he noticed no numerals as exist on known aircraft. (Coral Lorenzen suggests the markings could be the entrance to the craft, noting they resemble the outline of double doors. Two "bangs" like doors closing were heard earlier.)

As Zamora watched in utter amazement, the UFO flew silently away, just clearing the dynamite shack (by about three feet, ac-

cording to the USAF) and maintaining a low altitude above the scrubland for two to three miles on a southwest heading. Then it ascended rapidly over a perlite mine and disappeared into the distance in the direction of Black Mountain and Six-mile Canyon. Before it faded from sight, the policeman ran to the car and called headquarters, asking if anyone there could see an object in the sky to the southwest. The answer was negative.

Within about three minutes after the UFO departed, Sgt. Chavez arrived at the scene in response to the radio call. Chavez reported that Zamora appeared to be very upset. "Do I look strange?" the witness asked. The state patrolman replied: "Lonnie, you look like you've seen the devil." Zamora said: "Well, maybe I have."

After discussing the sighting, both men went down into the gully and found apparent physical traces left by the strange object or craft. The officers discovered that greasewood bushes, several clumps of grass, and the ground were scorched at the landing site. They were still hot and smoking. Only the sides of the plants facing in toward the center of the site were burned, suggesting an intense heat source emanating from the center (as if from a very hot flame or exhaust). Green greasewood does not burn easily. Branches were also broken on one of the bushes.

Besides the charred evidence of the UFO's propulsion, indentations were found in the soil where the object apparently landed on its leg-supports. There were four rectangular depressions spaced in a lop-sided square pattern from 9 to 15 feet on a side. Each hole measured about 12 inches long, 6 inches wide (width figures vary in the accounts from 3-4 inches to 8 inches), 3 to 4 inches deep, and each was wedge-shaped in cross-section. (Ray Stanford said he found a fifth partial marking indicating to him one leg had moved from one position to another at the moment of touchdown.) From the irregular spacing of the depressions, it can be theorized the legs had adjustable lengths to compensate for the terrain underneath. Further examination of the markings and the mounding of the soil around them indicated they did not appear to be made by an object striking the ground with great force, but instead by an object settling to earth slowly, under control, and not moving after touching the ground.

Two (the Lorenzen accounts claim four) round depressions about 4½ inches in diameter and 3 inches deep were also discovered at the site. They reminded cattle inspector Robert White (see below) of a shoe heel and yet they did not appear to be footprints or any known animal tracks. (Mrs. Lorenzen speculates they could have been made by the circular, broad supports of a ladder placed on the ground. Two sets of prints would suggest the ladder was placed once then shifted to a better position.)

Following the arrival of Sgt. Chavez at the scene, others who heard the radio calls drove up. They were deputy sheriff James Luckie, state patrolman Ted Jordan, and cattle inspector Robert

White of Socorro. Luckie reported the bushes and grass clumps were still hot when he arrived. White, who pulled up less than half an hour after the others, saw the four rectangular prints and the two circular ones and said they were fresh.

THE INVESTIGATION

After examining the UFO landing site, Chavez and Zamora drove back to town where Chavez notified Army Capt. Richard T. Holder, in charge of Stallion Site (the up-range station of White Sands Missile Range), and an FBI agent, both in Socorro at the time. That same evening Holder and the FBI man went out to the site, took measurements and photos, and piled rocks around the depressions to help preserve them. Zamora and Chavez were questioned. Chavez also searched Zamora's car for anything that could have been used to make the indentations in the soil or start a fire. He found nothing.

Capt. Holder made the following statement the next day (printed in the El Defensor-Chieftain, Apr. 28): "I was contacted on the evening of April 24 by local authorities and asked to provide assistance in identifying a reported UFO. After being appraised of the situation, I attempted to determine whether White Sands Missile Range or Holloman Air Force Base had anything that might produce the conditions described. Neither White Sands Missile Range nor Holloman had an object that would compare to the object described. There was no known firing mission in progress at the time of the occurrence that would produce the conditions reported."

It was on Saturday morning that UPI broke the story. Unfortunately authorities did not rope off the landing site, and Sgt. Chavez estimated 3000 of the curious tramped through the area Saturday and Sunday, wiping out much of the markings.

Two Air Force investigators arrived in Socorro on Sunday the 26th along with two civilian UFO investigators, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen of Tucson, Arizona, representing the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). The Air Force officials were Maj. William R. Connor(s?) from the Public Information Office at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, and T/Sgt. David Moody from the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. Both groups of investigators carried out extensive interviews and took soil samples and measurements at the site. In addition, the Air Force men went over the spot with a Geiger counter and found no above-normal radiation present. (Later Sgt. Moody reported: "There were no unidentified tracks on radar in the area, including sets as far south as El Paso, during the entire period." Maj. Connor confirmed there were no unidentified radar targets in the area between April 24 and 28.)

About this time, on Sunday, a Socorro gas station manager

Opal Grinder (Opa Grinders, according to Mrs. Lorenzen) came forth with a supporting sighting which was printed in the El Defensor-Chieftain (Socorro), April 28. The Lorenzens also interviewed Grinder, manager of Whiting Brothers' Service Station on U.S. 85 at the north edge of town. Just before 6 p.m. April 24, Grinder said an unidentified motorist pulled into the station for gas and remarked that "aircraft sure fly low around here." Grinder replied: "How's that?" The driver said: "A funny-looking thing almost took me off the road south of Socorro" as he drove north on U.S. 85. He said the craft had flown over his car (heading in the direction of the gully). Moreover, he reported seeing a police car (Zamora) traveling up the dirt road at high speed, and as he drove into town, he saw another patrol car (Chavez), its red light on, headed toward the same area at high speed. Grinder informed the man that there were many helicopters in the vicinity since Socorro is near the missile range. To that, the motorist replied: "It was the damnedest-looking helicopter" he had ever seen. The gas station manager claimed he did not know of the Zamora sighting at the time and did not attach any importance to the traveler's remarks. The Lorenzens commented: "It has the ring of truth and after one speaks to Grinder one realizes that it is." [illegible hearsay--R.H.]

At the Air Force's request, Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University, and chief scientific consultant to Project Blue Book (the USAF UFO project at ATIC), appeared in Socorro on Wednesday the 29th. He questioned Zamora, Chavez, White, and others, discussed the case with an FBI agent (in Albuquerque), and took photos and samples at the landing site. Ray Stanford of Phoenix, Arizona, representing the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), was at the site the same time as Hynek. In one of the indentations, Zamora and Stanford found what was thought, at the time, to be a rock chipped by one of the landing-gear footpads, leaving "metallic traces" on the sample. (Results of the analysis are discussed later in this report.)

Since Dr. Hynek was the highest-ranking scientist involved in the Socorro case and one of the nation's top astronomers, I am including his statements to the press in full. I am well acquainted with Dr. Hynek and his work because he happened to be my boss when I was a member of Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Satellite Tracking Program.

The astronomer was greatly impressed by Zamora and his sighting. He said the sighting was "unique" among the UFO cases he had investigated, explaining that he was unable to find any inconsistencies in the story and had no explanation for what Zamora witnessed. In his own words, he had investigated many UFO sightings but "this is one of the clearest--no that's not the right word--just say it is one of the soundest, best substantiated reports as far as it goes. Usually one finds many contradictions or omissions in these reports. But Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly told without any intent to perpetrate a hoax. The story of course was

told by a man who obviously was frightened by what he did see. He certainly must have seen something."

Dr. Hynek expressed concern over the lack of any radar contact: "One thing bothers me about that unidentified flying object--it wasn't picked up by radar, and that area is infested with radar... This is the outstanding discrepancy in what otherwise is a very solid tale. I found nothing that tends to discredit Zamora. This discrepancy concerns me." (The missile range radar net was closed down by 5 p.m. since no further missions were being conducted that day. Even if the radar had been operating, it is doubtful it would have been able to pick up such a low target. Stated Sgt. Moody of ATIC: "The object was at no time reported to be at an altitude of over 20 feet and would be lost in the ground clutter.")

Hynek was also puzzled by the lack of thrust disturbance at the landing site: "It's been bothering me that Mr. Zamora didn't see a great cloud of dust like this would have kicked up." (A conventional chemical rocket engine would have dug out a sizeable crater and a large quantity of dust. But if the object were extra-terrestrial in origin, it most likely used a power source completely unknown to us.)

Continued the astronomer-investigator: "It's a real pity, but no one's fault, that other witnesses did not see the object land or take off. A movie of this would have been priceless. I feel in my own mind that a hoax is ruled out but I should like very much to find a natural explanation, and I ask readers to let me know if any geophysical prospecting or experimentation had been going on in this area." Commenting on the spaceship hypothesis, he said: "As an astronomer, I am only too well aware of the huge distances in space that to me would make it most unlikely that this was a visitation from elsewhere."

After completing his investigation at Socorro, Dr. Hynek stated: "I am more puzzled now than I was when I arrived here."

The following day, Thursday the 30th, the Air Force admitted its initial investigation had failed to explain the Socorro UFO. The statement given to the press appeared to minimize the sighting by emphasizing the lack of radar contact, photographs, or additional witnesses.

The same day Dr. Hynek spoke to Choate students at Wallingford, Connecticut, summarizing the New Mexico case and saying: "We haven't decided what the sighting was in Socorro. It is still under investigation. I would like to see the Air Force begin a full scale investigation of the sighting, but they haven't allocated the funds so far."

Not until June 8, more than six weeks after the sighting, did the USAF issue a carefully worded official report or "fact sheet" on the case. The two-page report was rather vague on certain im-

portant points. The two figures standing near the UFO were described in the following manner: "...he saw one or two figures in coveralls whom he assumed to be occupants of the object." The description given on the USAF map of the sighting route, released at a later date, was even more misleading: "Saw two things described as coveralls." (A UPI story Apr. 27 stated that Zamora said he saw "a pair of white coveralls near the saucer, but could not tell if anything or anyone was in them"! The Lorenzens discovered the FBI man in Socorro had cautioned Zamora not to talk about the "little men" to newsmen. Later Zamora changed his story from "little men" to "a pair of white coveralls." But when the Lorenzens pressed him on this point, Zamora admitted his first description had been correct. Concerning this, the Lorenzens said: "This was the only incident during the whole investigation which indicated in any way that there was an attempt at censorship.")

Another piece of understatement in the fact sheet pertained to the all-important physical evidence of the UFO landing confirmed by Chavez and others. The official report read: "...there were some slight depressions in the ground and apparently burned brush in the area where Mr. Zamora had reported seeing the object. The brush was cold to the touch." Regarding the latter statement, at least three persons--Chavez, deputy sheriff Luckie, and Zamora--testified that the bushes and grass were still hot when they examined the site.

The fact sheet also said Zamora was chasing the speeding car "north on U.S. 85," which is both the wrong direction and the wrong road. Although the Air Force map mailed to me in September showed the patrol car traveling south on Park Street, which is correct, the accompanying letter (from the Pentagon UFO officer, Maj. Jacks) still insisted Zamora was "chasing a car on U.S. 85, not Park Street." (I questioned Maj. Jacks specifically on this point.)

Finally, the Air Force concluded the report by summarizing its findings: "no other witnesses...could be located; there were no unidentified helicopters or aircraft in the area; observers at radar installations had observed no unusual or unidentified blips; there was no unusual meteorological activity, no thunderstorms (weather was windy but clear); analysis of the soil samples disclosed no foreign material or radiation above normal; the burned brush showed no chemicals which would indicate a type of propellant;" and "there was no evidence presented that the object was extraterrestrial in origin or represented a threat to the security of the United States." The report then acknowledged that "the Air Force is continuing its investigation and the case is still open."

SUPPORTING TESTIMONY & ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS

Everyone involved in the Socorro investigation--those who knew the witness and those who interviewed him--agreed unanimously about patrolman Zamora's sincerity and reliability. A hoax was ruled out by all concerned. Both the Socorro police chief Polo Pineda and Sgt.

Chavez of the state police testified to the competence, honesty, and integrity of Zamora. They said he was a conscientious and sober officer not given to hallucinations. Chavez, who had served with the state police for 15 years, knew Zamora well and told the Lorenzens he was convinced the witness saw what he claimed he saw. "Lonnie is not a man to be easily frightened, " Chavez told the APRO couple. "That thing must have made an impression on him to scare him like it did."

After hearing Zamora's story and seeing the landing site, deputy sheriff James Luckie (who arrived at the UFO site behind Chavez) said "it's something out of the ordinary, something very few have ever seen."

Capt. Holder, the first military investigator to speak to Zamora, called the patrolman a "very reliable witness."

Dr. Hynek, it will be recalled, discovered no contradictions in the officer's story and "found nothing that tends to discredit Zamora...Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly told without any intent to perpetrate a hoax. The story of course was told by a man who obviously was frightened by what he did see. He certainly must have seen something."

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen were equally impressed: "Zamora is an exceptionally good witness--not only because he is a trained policeman and therefore a trained observer, but because he is a matter-of-fact, serious, unemotional individual not given to flights of fancy--a practical man."

Fireball and meteorite expert Dr. Lincoln LaPaz of the Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, stated: "...I do want to say that I have had contacts with Mr. Zamora for 16 years in my work and he is a thoroughly dependable observer."

In addition to the affirmations of friends, superiors, and investigators regarding the witness's character, physical evidence at the landing site provided further support for Zamora's experience. The indentations and scorched ground and bushes indicated an object had settled to earth on four landing-supports and then had taken off again. The policeman's car was searched for any implements that could have made the imprints in the ground, but nothing was found.

The NICAP man on the scene, Ray Stanford of Phoenix, picked up a rock in one of the indentations that looked as if it had metallic particles, possibly scraped off the landing-gear footpad. I happened to be in Washington when Mr. Stanford arrived at the NICAP office with the rock. We examined the sample then took it to a prominent government center for analysis. The miniscule size of the particles made proper testing difficult, but eventually the "scrapings" were identified as of granitic origin. After studying the particles myself under magnification at the laboratory, I must admit I did not have much hope that anything convincing would be revealed by the tests.

Furnishing additional confirmation of the Zamora story was the sighting by the unidentified motorist who stopped at Opal Grinder's gas station (see page 7). Although the driver's name is unknown, it appears Grinder's account may be true and if it is, then at least one other witness saw Zamora's UFO just before it landed in the gully. The motorist, according to Grinder, said he saw two patrol cars (Zamora's and Chavez's) heading toward the scene after the UFO had flown over his own car.

Only a quarter mile southeast of the landing site was a drive-in theater and three-quarters of a mile to the south, the runway of Socorro Municipal Airport. Unfortunately, the theater was unoccupied at the time of the sighting, and apparently there was no aircraft activity at the airport.

Zamora's experience was the first of a series of UFO sightings that spread throughout New Mexico into other states. Indirectly, these cases helped support Zamora's story. Although some were probable hoaxes or misidentified objects, a sizeable number appeared to be bona fide UFOs similar in shape to the Socorro object, landing or lifting off with a loud noise and leaving indentations and charred areas on the ground.

What follows is a brief summary of sighting activity in April and May, the account being confined to the region around Socorro--that is, to the state of New Mexico. All questionable cases have been eliminated. (The only case this writer has been able to find prior to Zamora's was the Gary Wilcox incident at Newark Valley, New York. Wilcox claims that on the morning of April 24 he conversed for about two hours with two small beings in spacesuits standing by a hovering UFO. The case was not publicized until two weeks after it allegedly occurred. After visiting the Wilcox farm in November and questioning the witness myself, I find I still must agree with NICAP's opinion: "The story is so sensational that it must be viewed with skepticism and investigated meticulously before any credence is given to it.")

Skip to 13

The first New Mexico UFO report after Zamora's occurred about 80 miles southeast of Socorro. On the morning of April 25 J.D. Hatch of Roswell, driving on U.S. 70 between Mescalero and Tularosa, reported he saw a bright oval object descend from the sky and apparently land on the other side of Round Mountain east of Tularosa. (Fate, Aug. 1964)

That night, upstate in Rio Arriba County, two sightings took place within two hours of each other. About 10:30 p.m. two unidentified motorists driving from Abiquiu to Espanola on U.S. 84 said they saw a strange flying object, definitely not an airplane, come straight toward their car then veer away. All they could see, they told state police, was a jet stream of blue flame. (Albuquerque Tribune, Apr. 27, 1964)

Two hours later (about 12:30 a.m. on the 26th) and some 20 miles to the north of U.S. 84, Orlando Gallegos of Santa Fe, visiting his father's home just north of La Madera (about 170 miles north of Socorro), said he saw a metallic object on the ground resembling a butane tank as long as a telephone pole, about as big around as an automobile, and about 14 feet high. A ring of bluish flame spurted from numerous holes around its side. Then the flame died out. The object emitted no noise. Gallegos said after telling his family what he had seen, he returned twice to view the object which was resting in a dry river bed. It was still there when he left but gone at daylight.

When the state police arrived on the evening of the 26th, they found the ground scorched and still smoldering nearly 20 hours after the sighting. They also examined four depressions 8 to 12 feet apart, each print 12x8 inches in dimension, 3 to 4 inches deep, and wedge- or V-shaped in cross-section. There were also at least a dozen markings resembling "paw prints like a mountain lion's," each approximately 3½ inches in diameter. The similarities between the Gallegos and Zamora UFO, the markings left on the ground, and even the type of terrain are striking.

After interviewing the witness and checking the site, State Police Capt. Martin Vigil said: "There was definitely something there...Mr. Gallegos is obviously not the type of person that would make up such a story."

It is interesting to note the Air Force did not believe the La Madera sighting was a hoax but instead explained it as a fire in a dump. This answer does not take into account the whereabouts of the elongated object observed or the imprints found afterward, markings that strongly resembled those at Socorro. It is a pity Dr. Hynek was unable to investigate this case because the official explanation, if any, might have been quite different. Hynek was interested in the Gallegos incident but said he did not have the time to visit the area. The only Air Force representative known to have investigated the case was Maj. Connor of Kirtland Air Force Base. (UFO Investigator, July-Aug. 1964; Fate, Aug. 1964; Albuquerque Tribune, Apr. 27 & 30, 1964)

The scene next shifted to south of Socorro. About 10:30 p.m. on the 26th Albuquerque motorist George Mitropolis (or Mitropoulis) was driving north from El Paso on U.S. 85, and about a mile south of the junction with New Mexico 90 he saw a "silver-looking object go up over a mountain and down" out of sight near Caballo Reservoir. The UFO looked like "an upside down bathtub" about 30 feet in diameter, glowed all over, and had a glow underneath like exhaust flames. The object seemed to be about a quarter mile to the east. Mitropolis stopped his car and after the UFO had gone behind the mountain, he could still hear its noise, a sound like muffled jet aircraft. The driver reported his sighting to police in Truth or Consequences and Socorro. (Fate, Aug. 1964; Oakland, Cal., Tribune, Apr. 27, 1964)

On April 28 at 5:30 p.m. two more Albuquerque citizens, Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Green, were driving north on U.S. 85 17 miles north of

Socorro when they observed two egg-shaped objects about half the size of jet aircraft moving across the sky and reflecting the sunlight. Mrs. Green ducked beneath the dashboard after seeing the objects. Mr. Green watched them for perhaps two minutes before they disappeared over the eastern horizon. "I wasn't going to report it because I didn't want to believe my eyes," Green said. (Albuquerque Tribune, Apr. 29, 1964)

Through informants she calls "reliable," Coral Lorenzen learned of several dramatic UFO sightings at White Sands Missile Range during this same period. In April, before the Zamora affair, unidentified lights were reportedly seen on the range. Then on April 30, east of San Antonio (N.M.) near Stallion Site, a B-57 pilot radioed that he had seen a white egg-shaped object land on the desert. The object also was tracked by radar and an automatic recording of its track was obtained. This report came from two informants, one of whom had monitored the range radio communications that day.

One of Mrs. Lorenzen's sources related the experience of a guard who came upon a UFO on the range at night in April or May. According to the informant, the guard was surprised and frightened and emptied his gun at the object. As he fled the scene, the UFO apparently followed. When the hysterical man reached base headquarters, he had "flipped his lid" and required sedation and hospitalization.

On May 15 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. radar at Stallion Site tracked two UFOs over the range north of the station. The objects flew side-by-side, maneuvered up and down, separated, and rejoined each other. They flew at low altitude. A trained radar operator saw them visually, describing them as brown and football-shaped. During this time a tracking signal was sent from the station to the objects; one or both of the UFOs responded alternately with a standard FAA recognition code! And yet the objects were completely unidentified.

Finally, on May 22 a White Sands radar station tracked a UFO at a very slow 25 miles per hour within 3700 yards (2.1 miles) of the station. A second track of a UFO was obtained the same day. Holloman Air Force Base later confirmed to the press that a Holloman radar unit had twice tracked UFOs on the range on that date. The news release suggested some natural phenomenon such as a dust-storm probably was responsible. It said the reports were being investigated.

CONCLUSIONS

As of this writing, the UFO seen by patrolman Lonnie Zamora at Socorro, New Mexico, is still officially unexplained. The Air Force says its investigation is still open. This is an extraordi-

nary admission by the Pentagon that our nation's Air Force, assigned the task of defending our air space and rapidly identifying any violators of that space, is unable to identify a maneuverable craft that landed and took off within the continental borders of the United States, a craft that was observed from a distance of only 100 feet. It is inconceivable to this writer that the U.S. Air Force could allow such an unlikely event to happen. I prefer instead to think the Pentagon knows full well what the object at Socorro was.

Since a hoax was ruled out almost immediately and since the object could not be explained as any known device or natural phenomenon, we are left with just two possible answers: (1) a secret U.S. or Soviet aircraft, or (2) an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

Let us examine the first possibility. Zamora said he did not know what the object was and did not care to speculate. He at first thought it was a classified military aircraft until Capt. Holder announced "neither White Sands Missile Range nor Holloman had an object that would compare to the object described."

In spite of Holder's statement, Dr. Lincoln LaPaz of the University of New Mexico (whose field is meteoritics, not aviation) told the press Zamora's UFO was probably a new secret V/STOL (vertical or short takeoff and landing aircraft). LaPaz based his assumption on a picture several years old that he saw in a Navy journal. Actually, if one reads the pamphlet written by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA Facts, Vol. II, No. 3 on "V/STOL Aircraft," it can be seen at once we are a long way off from producing such a craft with the propulsion utilized by the UFO at Socorro. Using thrust principles known to us (rocket or jet engines), the object seen by Zamora would have blasted a crater in the gully and raised a terrific dust cloud and yet the witness noticed very little turbulence below the UFO.

The only U.S. spacecraft the UFO resembled in even a remote way was Project Apollo's LEM--the Lunar Excursion Module that someday will land two astronauts on the moon. LEM, however, is still only a mockup model at the Grumman plant on Long Island. According to a NASA official, static test stands for LEM were under construction at White Sands, but they would not be finished until late summer or early fall of 1964. After being shown a photograph of LEM, Zamora said it wasn't what he saw. He pointed out that LEM was not oval or elongated and the lunar craft had round footpads, not rectangular ones.

Although the Soviet Union is ahead of the United States in manned spaceflight, it too has no craft as far as we know that could behave in the manner of the Socorro object. The UFO's exhaust and flight path indicated a very advanced power source. And neither the U.S. or U.S.S.R. has as yet a space capsule that can drop out of orbit, land, and then blast off into orbit again. It would be virtually impossible for a Russian aircraft to penetrate our air defense network without being detected and identified.

And yet UFOs seem to come and go at will, violating the air spaces of both America and Russia and easily outperforming any jets scrambled to intercept them.

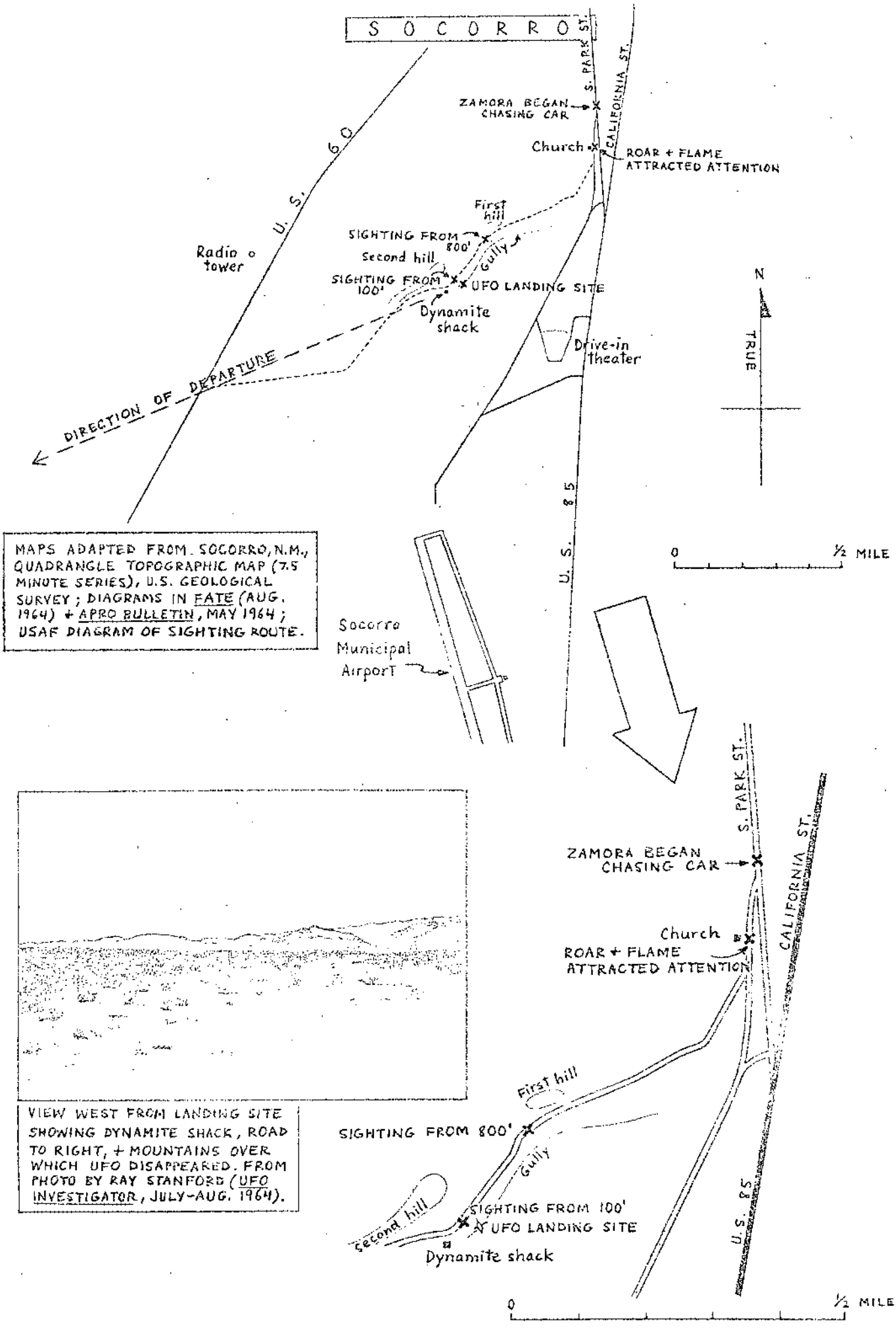
To this investigator, the second alternative seems the best choice, especially in the light of available data that has been accumulating steadily for the past 17 years. If studied against the background of this mounting evidence, the Socorro UFO fits the pattern of a visitation from space (despite official pronouncements to the contrary). It represents a vehicle of revolutionary concept and design, far beyond anything any nation on earth has or will have for some time to come--a craft that maneuvered slowly to a landing upon extendable leg-supports (just as our LEM will do some day on the moon) and then took off in haste after being discovered by patrolman Zamora.

The blue glow of the Socorro object's exhaust has been compared to the color of a plasma or ion beam which uses a small amount of fuel exhausted at high speed to provide thrust. However, these propulsion systems, still largely in the experimental stage (on our planet), are too weak to lift a ship off the earth's surface under the influence of gravity. Such a ship can work effectively only in space. And yet Zamora's UFO appeared to use its exhaust both for braking and as a booster. In the cruise mode another drive, the primary means of propulsion, was employed. This all adds up to a highly advanced technology utilizing methods of travel presently unknown to us.

Walter N. Webb

Walter N. Webb
NICAP Adviser
11/4/64

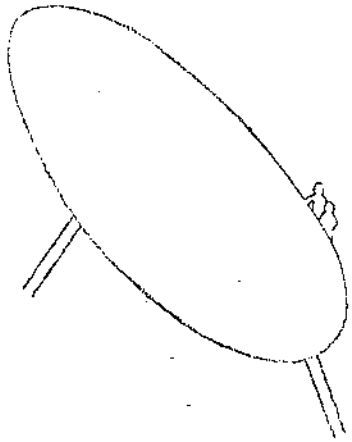
(SKETCHES NEXT PAGES)



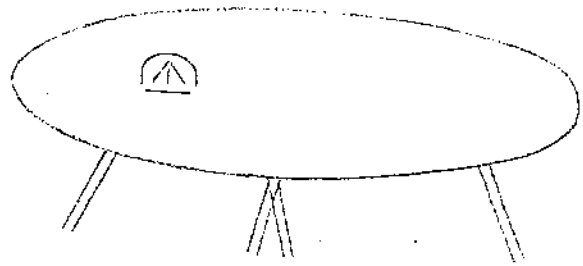
MAPS ADAPTED FROM SOCORRO, N.M., QUADRANGLE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (7.5 MINUTE SERIES), U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY; DIAGRAMS IN FATE (AUG. 1964) + APRO BULLETIN, MAY 1964; USAF DIAGRAM OF SIGHTING ROUTE.

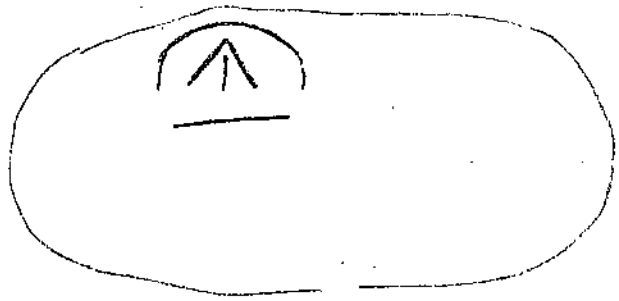
VIEW WEST FROM LANDING SITE SHOWING DYNAMITE SHACK, ROAD TO RIGHT, + MOUNTAINS OVER WHICH UFO DISAPPEARED. FROM PHOTO BY RAY STANFORD (UFO INVESTIGATOR, JULY-AUG. 1964).

OBJECT FROM 800 FEET (ADAPTED FROM APRO BULLETIN, MAY 1964).

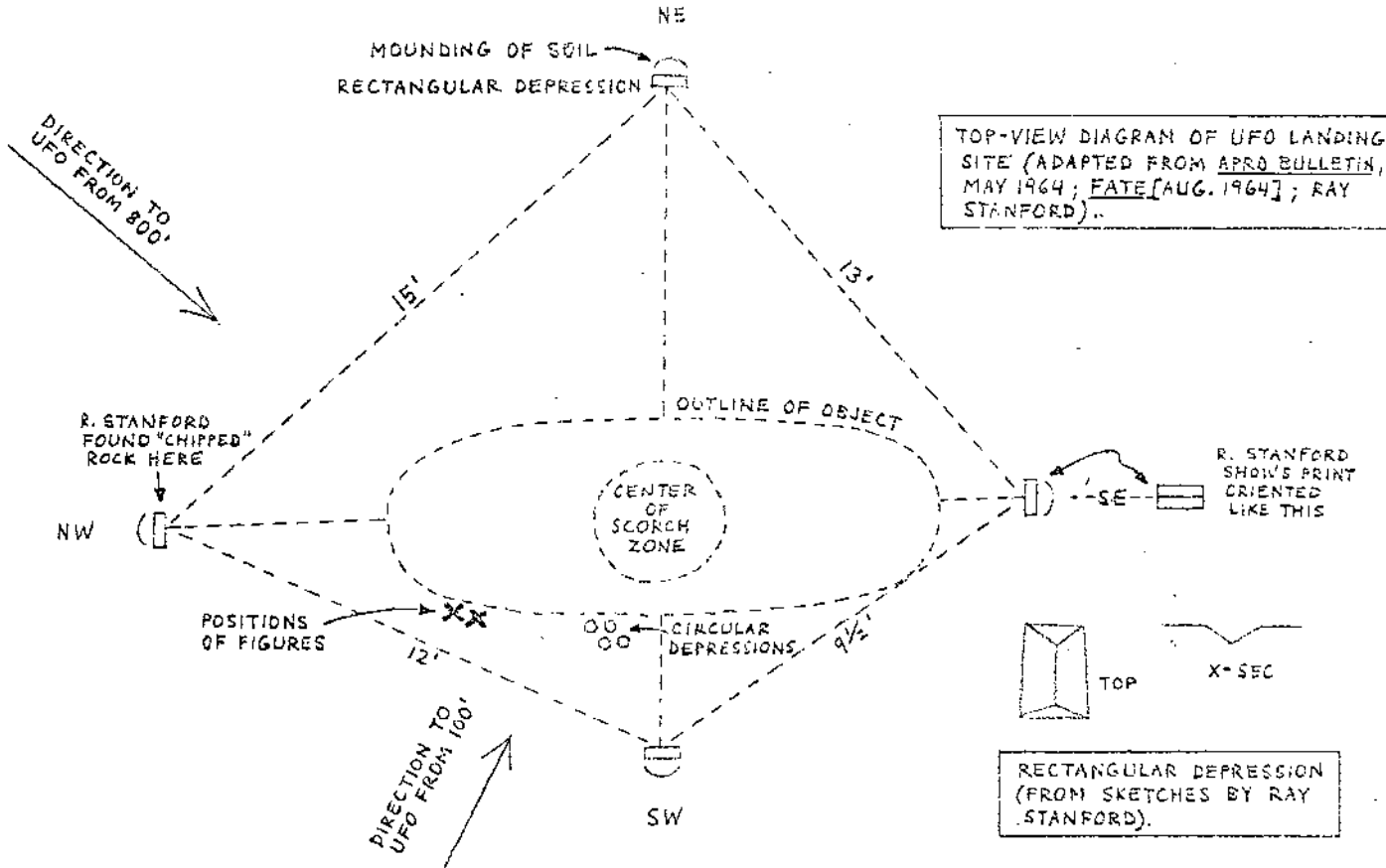


OBJECT FROM 100 FEET (ADAPTED FROM APRO BULLETIN, MAY 1964).





ZAMORA'S SKETCH OF OBJECT SHOWING "INSIGNIA" (FROM UFO INVESTIGATOR, JULY-AUG. 1964).



TOP-VIEW DIAGRAM OF UFO LANDING SITE (ADAPTED FROM APRO BULLETIN, MAY 1964; FATE [AUG. 1964]; RAY STANFORD).

RECTANGULAR DEPRESSION (FROM SKETCHES BY RAY STANFORD).

Physical Evidence
LANDING REPORTS

Physical evidence of the UFO seen at close range by New Mexico policeman Lonnie Zamora is in the possession of NICAP and plans are underway to have it analyzed by a high-ranking metallurgist in the laboratories of a Government scientific agency in the Washington area.

Metal scrapings, reportedly left by one of the landing gears of the object, were taken from the scene by Ray Stanford, Phoenix, Ariz., a NICAP member authorized to investigate this case. During questioning at the scene, Ptm. Zamora pointed out a rock which he said had been struck by part of the object, leaving traces of metal. Stanford took the rock while Air Force investigators were busy in another part of the site. Other hitherto little known information given to NICAP includes the statement that Zamora heard what sounded to him like a door slamming, between the time he saw two small figures near the UFO and his closest approach, at which time the figures could no longer be seen.

Intensive on-the-spot investigations by NICAP and the Air Force have resulted in one basic agreement: That the object seen by a highly reliable witness cannot be explained as any known device or phenomenon. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief civilian consultant to the Air Force's Project Bluebook, told the Associated Press after completing his investigation at Socorro, "I am more puzzled now than I was when I arrived here."

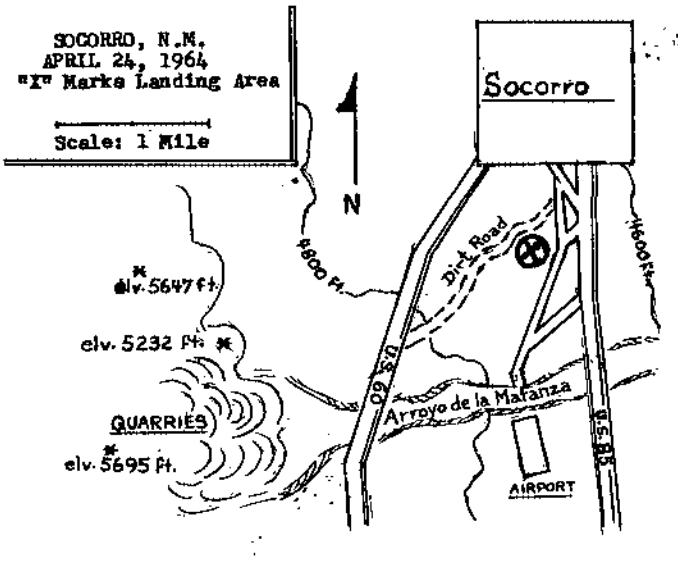
The well-publicized incident began shortly before 6 p.m. MST, April 24, when Ptm. Zamora heard what he though was an explosion, as he was chasing a speeding car about a mile south of Socorro. Thinking it might be a dynamite shack blowing up, he abandoned the chase and hurried to investigate. When he first saw the object, from some 150 yards, he thought it might be an overturned car, but quickly realized the smooth, metallic, oval device with stilt-like landing gears was something unusual.

As he drove toward it, he could see two small figures (later estimated to be about 4-1/2 feet tall) dressed in "white coveralls" standing close to the object. He said both had their backs to him, but that the one farther away turned around and looked right at him. Zamora reported seeing no details (hands, feet, face, etc.) of the figures and assumed they were completely covered by the suits. He said they were the same height as the bottom of the craft which just cleared a bush, measured at 4-1/2 feet.

No details were visible on the machine, but the officer reported seeing what looked like red markings on the side, 1 — 1-1/2 feet high. (See drawing).

Zamora drove to within about 100 feet, got out and proceeded on foot. When he was about 50 feet from it, the UFO began to roar and spew flame and smoke from its underside. Thinking it was about to blow up, the scared patrolman ran back toward his car. The roaring suddenly stopped and he looked up to see it take off. He later said, "it was so quiet you could hear a pin drop."

Northwest UFO imprint, Socorro, N.M. Arrow shows rock apparently scraped by leg of object. Metal traces found on rock now under analysis. (Photo by Ray Stanford).



The machine rose to about 10 feet and flew down the draw, clearing the 8-foot dynamite shack by about 2 feet. After skimming along for two or three miles, it rose up over a perlite mill and climbed away into the sky.

When Zamora first thought he saw an overturned car, he put out a radio call for assistance. The first person to answer his call was State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez, who arrived shortly after the UFO took off. The two officers then proceeded to the landing site.

They found five rectangular depressions in the ground, grouped around the area where the egg-shaped object was, and in the right locations to have been made by the landing gear, according to Zamora. Each was about 12" long, 3/4" wide and several inches deep, with a wedge-shaped cross-section. Two other depressions — smaller, shallower and rounded — were found near what was the far side of the object, as seen by Zamora.

The officers also saw bushes (snakewood and greasewood) and clumps of grass which appeared to have been seared by a flame. The ground, too, looked as if it had been scorched. Much of the marking, unfortunately, was obliterated by the hundreds of curiosity seekers who flocked to the scene.

The first official investigators arrived: Capt. Richard Holder, White Sands Missile Range, that evening; Maj. William Connor, of Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, N. Mex., and T/Sgt. David Moody of Project Bluebook, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio on April 26. They took soil samples and checked the area for radiation with a Geiger Counter. On Apr. 29, Dr. Hynek arrived and spent a day-and-a-half interviewing witnesses, photographing the landing site and checking possible explanations.

Not until June 8 did the Air Force have an official statement. A two-page summary of the case covered the main points and concluded by saying it was unexplained but still open.

NICAP-Member Stanford was in Socorro while Dr. Hynek was investigating and was with him at the landing scene. There, Stanford took detailed measurements of the reconstructed markings, photographed the area and took the metal scrapings, supposedly from the UFO's landing gear. He sent extensive written and taped reports to NICAP Headquarters, which have been incorporated in this article.

The seriousness with which the Air Force took the Socorro sighting is indicated by some of the remarks attributed to Dr. Hynek by local newspapers and the wire services. ". . . it is one of the soundest, best substantiated reports as far as it goes. Usually one finds many contradictions or omissions in these reports, but Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly without any intent to perpetrate a hoax. The story, of course, was told by a man who obviously was frightened badly by what he did see. He certainly must have seen something."

While the June 8 statement of the Air Force did not specifically rule out any possible explanations, Maj. Maston Jacks, Project Bluebook Pentagon spokesman, said the facts eliminated any

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SF-1201 (4-60)

1964 APR 25 PM

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LT = International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

RBA054 OA046 LB133
L PFA105 PD PQ PRESCOTT ARIZ 26 1106A MST
NICAP
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE NORTHWEST WAEHDC
SHALL I SEND RECORDING OF SOCCORO NEW MEXICO UFO? INTERVIEW
WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS
JOHN FERGUSON, 939 JAUNITA TERRACE, PRESCOTT ARIZ

New Member 4/64

UFO 939
(21). (REPLY)
4/27/64 JOHN FERGUSON
WIRE JUST RECEIVED THANKS SEND RECORDING AIR MAIL WILL REIMBURSE

RICHARD HALL
NICAP

[redacted]

QUOTES FROM J. ALLEN HYNEK

"I would like to see the Air Force begin a full-scale investigation of the sighting, but they haven't allocated the funds so far." Apr. 30 talk to students in Wallingford, Conn.; New Haven Register, 5/1/64. Ref. to Socorro case.

When asked if he thought the craft was from outer space, Dr. Hynek said, "You know about as much about it as I do." KSRC interview quoted in Albuquerque Tribune, 4/29/64. Ref. Socorro ease.

Dr. Hynek, heading home from Albuquerque, said he was "more puzzled now than when I arrived." wire services story in Rocky Mountain News, 5/1/64. Ref. Socorro.

"It has created quite a stir in the Pentagon." UPI wire copy 4/30/64 or earlier. Hynek explanation of his trip to Socorro.

"I was hoping to find when I arrived here that Mr. Zamora had seen some sort of geophysical experiment, but that explanation was ruled out by the speed at which this is supposed to have taken off, which is certainly better than 100 miles per hour." Raton Daily Range, N. Mex., AP story, 4/30/64.

"Nobody in the world would like to believe in flying saucers more than I, as an astronomer." Talk to junior science and humanities symposium in Baltimore, 5/4/64. Balt. Sun, 5/5/64.

"...it is oneof the soundest, best substantiated reports as far as it goes." "Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly without any intent to perpetuate (sic) a hoax. The story of course was told by a man who obviously was frightened badly by what he did see. He certainly must have seen something." AP in Salt Lake Tribune, 4/30/64.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
GREENBELT, MARYLAND

FILE 3875

623.8(64)-40/TS/cmd

SEP 1 1 1964

RECEIVED SEP 1 2 1964

Mr. R. Hall
National Investigation Committee
on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

We have received the metallic sample and the interesting accompanying background information. The analytical work has begun and a definitive characterization of the material in question will be forthcoming.

The last specimen presented quite a problem in our efforts to evaluate the elemental constitution of the observed pseudometallic scrapings; nevertheless, our investigation has been concluded with the identification of Silica (S_1O_2) and other complex silicate minerals in the specimen in question.

The specific questions set forth in your letter to Dr. Frankel on September 1, 1964 indicate that there is confusion concerning our findings. I will discuss the following in order to clarify these points.

1. An approximation on the amount of sample needed for a particular analysis is always tentative. This is partly due to the elemental types present and their respective crystalline forms. As a result of our initial analytical efforts it was rapidly ascertained that the amount of sample on hand was rather marginal and definitely inadequate for many of our identification procedures.

2. In this type of rock silica, feldspar, mica, and a host of other granitoid materials are dominant. In many cases, impure silica, certain types of micas, and other minerals under a weathering environment display a submetallic luster when viewed with reflected light. The size of the specimen also lent itself to an erroneous assumption which was amended under a detailed mineralogical examination.

3. In the analysis of a specimen of unknown elemental constitution, there is a number of proposed possibilities in their identification. This is often dependent on the analytical tool used and the type, size, and condition of the specimen. These possibilities are extremely tentative and in the final analysis many are eliminated. Iron and Zinc were two such possibilities that were discounted early in the investigation.

The gross sample is composed of granitoid minerals, e.g., silica, micas, and other complex silicates. The X-ray diffraction analysis substantiates the presence of these minerals which are often dark and often submetallic in luster.

I hope I have cleared the air concerning the Socorro specimen. If not, please feel free to contact me for any additional information and assistance I may render.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Sciacca, Jr., AST
Spacecraft Systems Branch

USAF Release on Socorro (First available 6-8-64)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORT
SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO, 24 APRIL 1964

On April 24, 1964, a Socorro, New Mexico policeman, Mr. Lonnie Zamora, reported sighting an object about a mile south of the town at approximately 5:45 p.m., in an unpopulated area full of hills and gullies and covered with sagebrush. Following is a summary of his report to Air Force investigators:

Mr. Zamora reported that while chasing a speeding car north on U.S. 85, he heard a roar and saw flames in an area where a dynamite shack was known to be located. He abandoned chase of the auto and proceeded to where he believed an explosion had occurred. After traveling a little-used road and experiencing considerable difficulty in trying to drive his car up a gravel-covered hill, he said he then observed what he thought was an overturned car standing on end. At this point he was about 800 ft. distant from the object and his car was at the crest of a hill with the object ahead of him in a gully. He reported that during this first glance he saw one or two figures in coveralls whom he assumed to be occupants of the object. This is the only time he saw these figures; he did not see them again. After radioing to Police Headquarters at Socorro that he was proceeding to investigate what he believed to be an auto accident, he drove to a point about 150 ft. from the gully where the object rested and stopped the car to proceed on foot. He said the object was white, egg or oval-shaped and apparently supported on girderlike legs. He said he heard a roar and saw smoke and flame coming from the bottom of the object. At this point, Mr. Zamora believed that the object was about to explode and he became frightened, turned, and ran back to shield himself behind the police car, bumping his leg and losing his glasses* on the way. He said that he crouched down, shielding his eyes with his arm while the noise continued for another 10 seconds. At this time the noise stopped and he glanced up. He reported that the object had risen to a point about 15-20 ft. above the ground and the flame and smoke had ceased. At this point, he reported, he noted a design on the object which he described as markings in red about 1 to 1 1/2 ft. in height, shaped like a crescent with a vertical arrow and horizontal line underneath. He stated that the object remained stationary for several seconds and then flew off in a southerly direction following the contour of the gully.

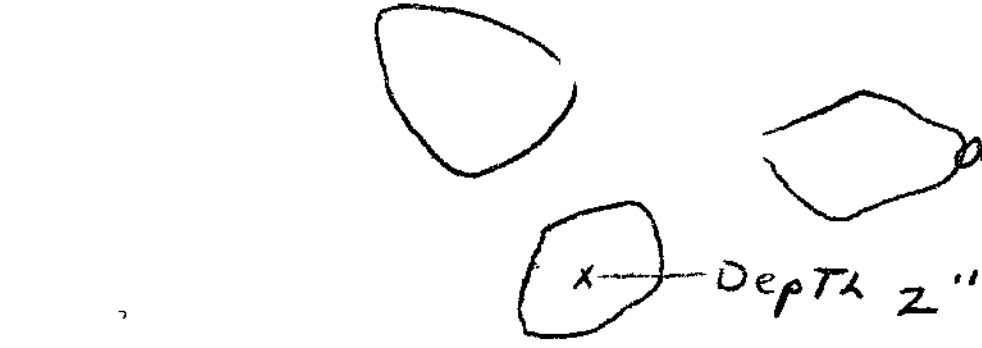
*sun-glasses

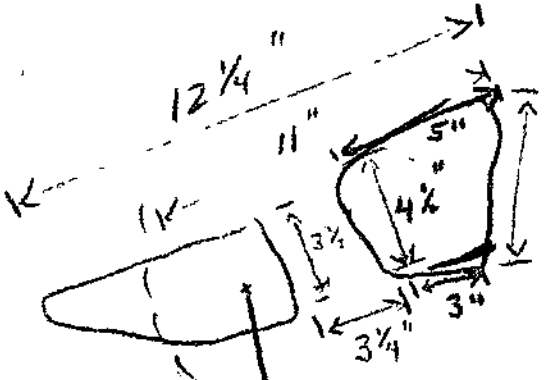
FOOTPRINTS.

- IN SOFT SAND

NOTE: 1 SET OF PRINTS IN AREA OF # 4 INDENTATION

NOTED - POSSIBLY MORE. OUTLINES DESTROYED BY PERSONNEL IN AREA.

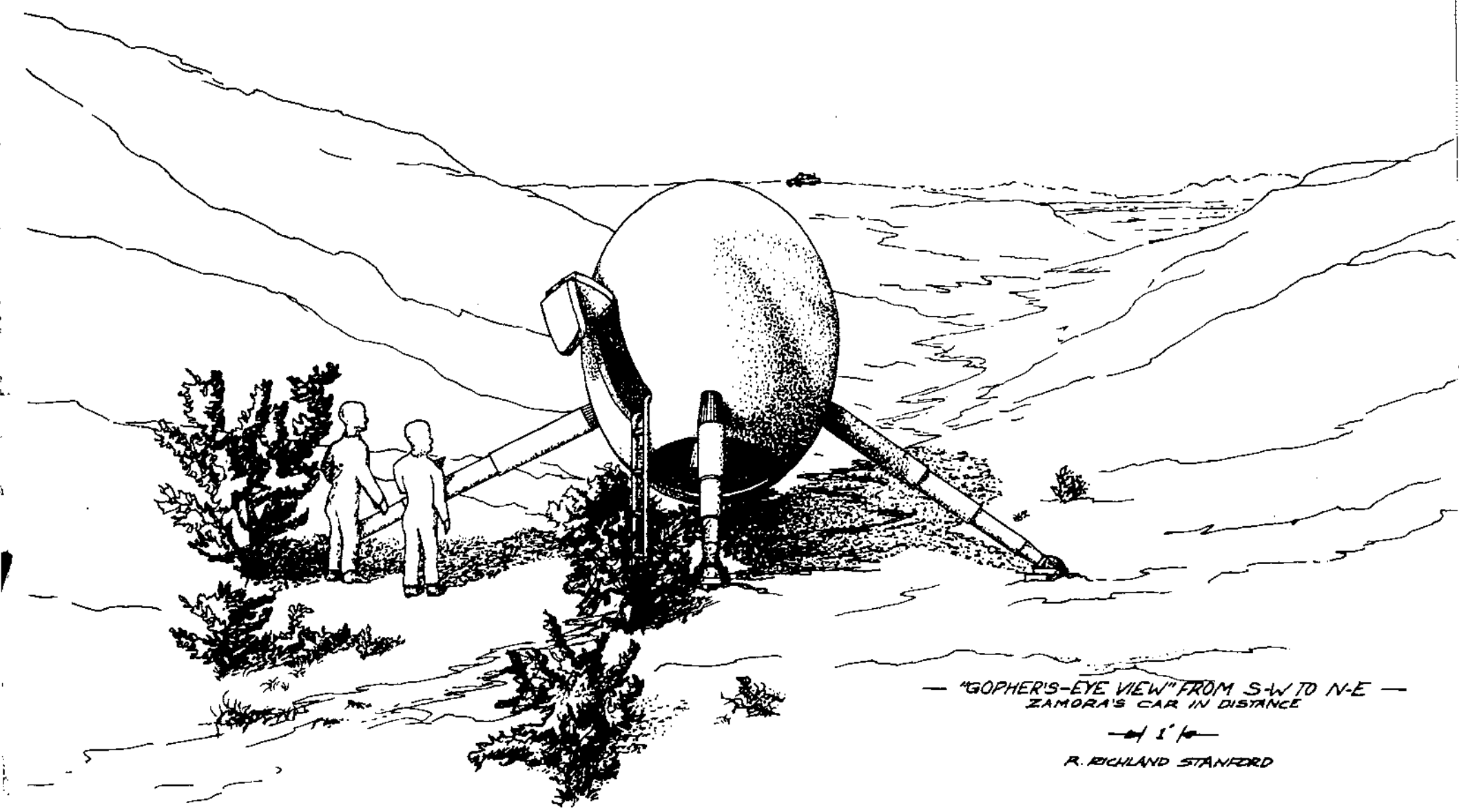




POSSIBLE END OF PRINT. UNDETERMINED DUE TO TYPE OF SOIL

35 mm

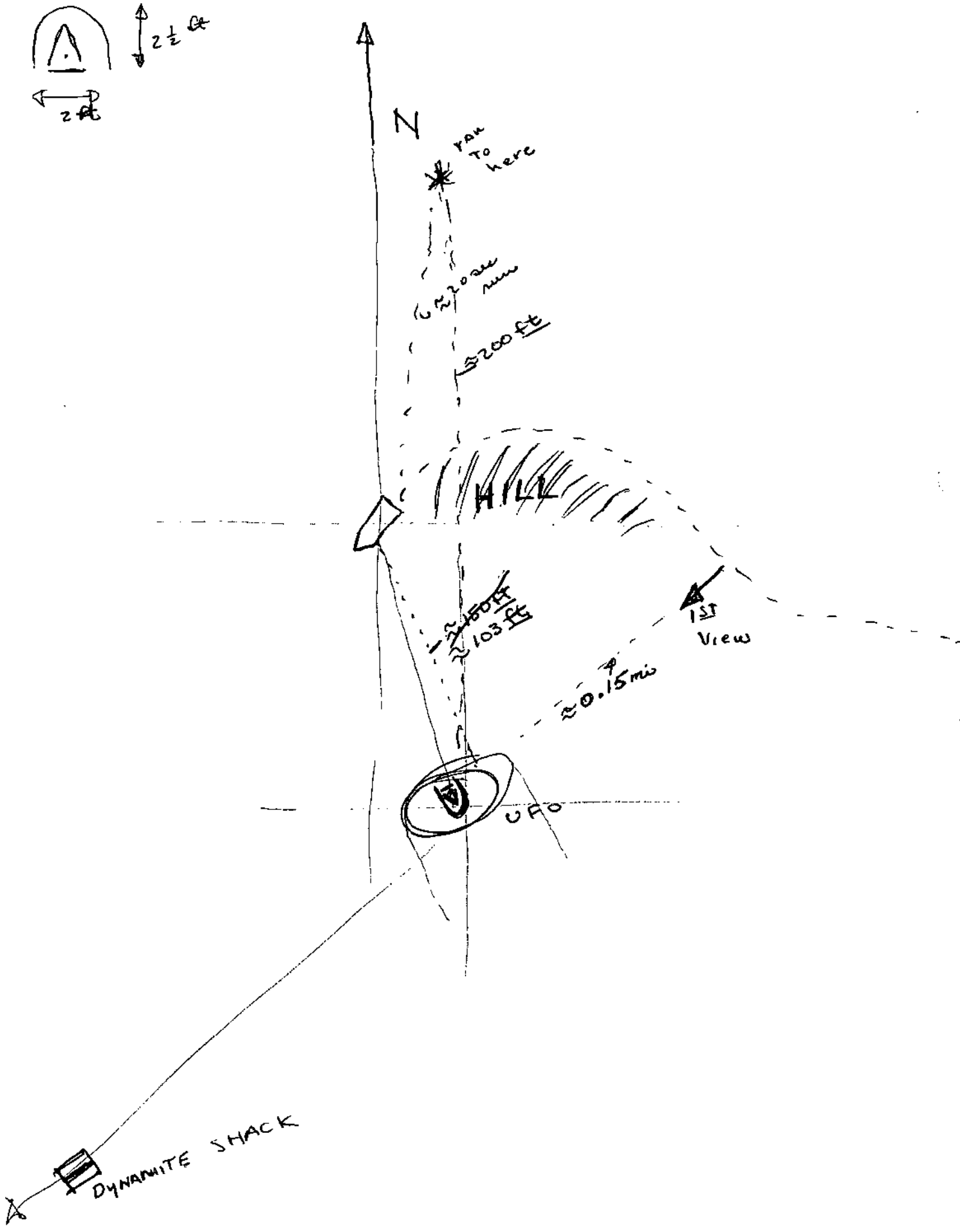
2P27



— "GOPHER'S-EYE VIEW" FROM S-W TO N-E —
ZAMORA'S CAR IN DISTANCE

1'

R. RICHLAND STANFORD


2 ft
2½ ft
N
ran to here
≈120 yds
≈200 ft
HILL
≈460 ft
≈103 ft
1st View
≈0.15 mi
UFO
DYNAMITE SHACK

U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U.S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

24 (Day) Apr (Month) 1964 (Year)

2. Time of day: 5 (Hour) 50 (Minutes)

(Circle One): A.M. or (P.M.)

3. Time Zone: (Circle One): a. Eastern, b. Central, c. (Mountain), d. Pacific, e. Other _____

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving, b. (Standard)

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

_____ (Nearest Postal Address) _____ (City or Town) _____ (State or Country)

Additional remarks: _____

5. How long was object in sight? _____ (Hours) 15 (Minutes) _____ (Seconds)

5.1 How was time in sight determined?

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

DAY
a. Bright ✓
b. Cloudy

NIGHT
a. Bright
b. Cloudy

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you, b. In back of you, c. To your right ✓, d. To your left, e. Overhead, f. Don't remember

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS *(Circle One)*:

a. None
b. A few
c. Many
d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON *(Circle One)*:

a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight — pitch dark
d. Don't remember

9. The object appeared: white

(Circle One): a. As a light b. Shiny c. Dark d. Don't remember

10. If it appeared as a light, was it brighter than the brightest stars?

11. Did the object: *(Circle One for each question)*

a. Appear to stand still at any time?	Yes ✓	No	Don't Know
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?	Yes	No ✓	Don't Know
c. Break up into parts or explode?	Yes	No ✓	Don't Know
d. Give off smoke? Dust	Yes	No	Don't Know
e. Change brightness?	Yes	No	Don't Know
f. Change shape?	Yes	No ✓	Don't Know
g. Flash or flicker?	Yes	No ✓	Don't Know
h. Disappear and reappear ?	Yes	No ✓	Don't Know

12. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes (No) Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: _____

13. Did the object move in front of something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): (Yes) No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what in front of: Parts

14. Did the object appear: *(Circle One)*: (a. Solid) b. Transparent c. Vapor d. Don't Know

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

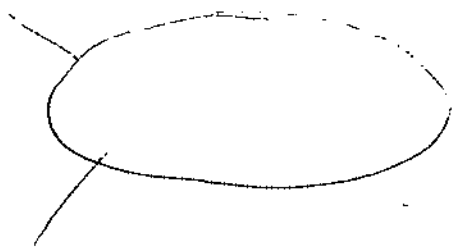
a. Eyeglasses	(Yes)	No	e. Binoculars	Yes	No
b. Sun glasses	(Yes)	No	f. Telescope	Yes	No
c. Windshield	Yes	No	g. Theodolite	Yes	No
d. Window glass	Yes	No	h. Other _____		

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound Slamming of door sounds - not like motor

b. Color White.

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



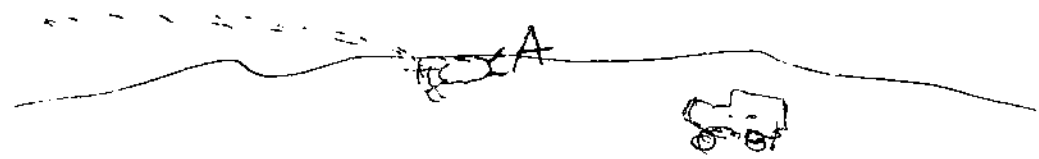
18. The edges of the object were:

(Circle One): a. Fuzzy or blurred
b. Like a bright star
(c.) Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember
e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

SW-



21. How large did the object appear to you as compared to an object with which you are familiar?

Car

22. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

Small fraction

23. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

Yes — in the distance.

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, describe in your own words a common object or objects which, when placed up in the sky, would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

Egg-like shaped.

Thought it might explode — or look funny.

Did not take off with the crew — very windy that day.

25. Where were you located when you saw the object? *(Circle One):*

a. Inside a building
(b) In a car — second time
(c) Outdoors
d. In an airplane (type)
e. At sea
f. Other_____

26. Were you *(Circle One)*

a. In the business section of a city?
b. In the residential section of a city?
(c) In open countryside?
d. Near an airfield?
e. Flying over a city?
f. Flying over open country?
g. Other_____

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

28. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

28.1 What direction were you moving? *(Circle One)*

a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
(e) South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

28.2 How fast were you moving?_____ miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? *(Circle One)*

a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
(e) South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest
i. Overhead

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? *(Circle One)*

a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
(e) South
(f) Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest
i. Overhead

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North (thru east) and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

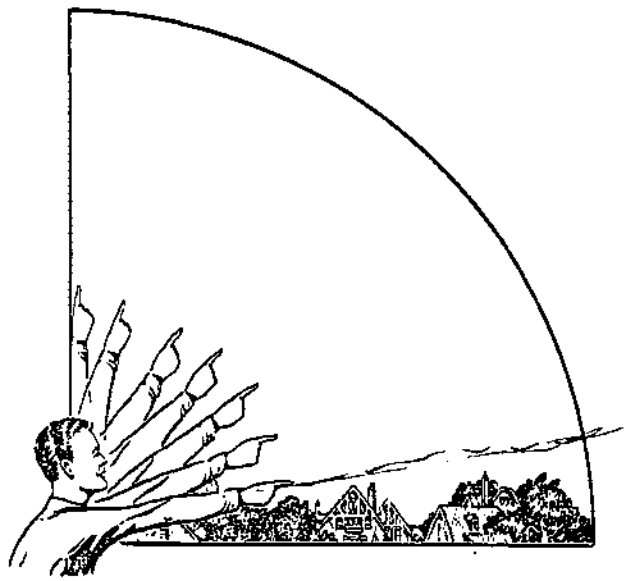
31.1 When it first appeared:

a. From true North_____ degrees.
b. From horizon_____ degrees.

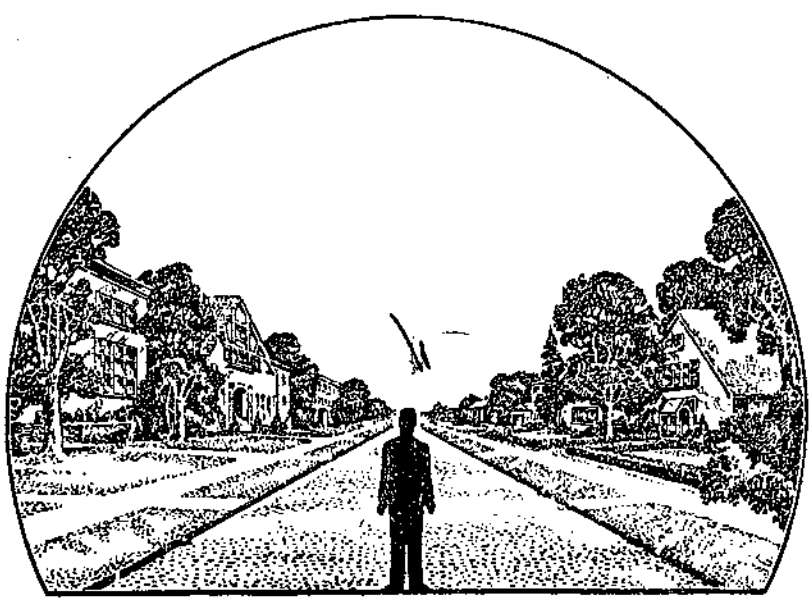
31.2 When it disappeared:

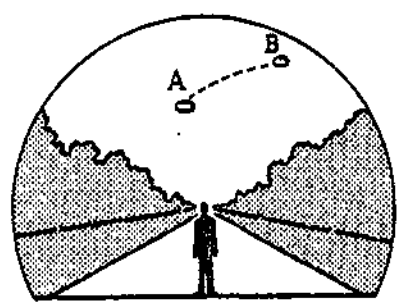
a. From true North_____ degrees.
b. From horizon_____ degrees.

32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the *same* curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.





34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

CLOUDS *(Circle One)*

a. Clear sky
b. Hazy
c. Scattered clouds
d. Thick or heavy clouds

WEATHER *(Circle One)*

a. Dry
b. Fog, mist, or light rain
c. Moderate or heavy rain
d. Snow
e. Don't remember

35. When and to whom did you report that you had seen the object?

_____ Day _____ Month _____ Year

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) Yes No

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? 100 mph

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) (Yes) No 200 feet

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? _____

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME _____ (Last Name) _____ (First Name) _____ (Middle Name)

ADDRESS _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (Zone) _____ (State)

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Age 30 Sex _____

Indicate any additional information about yourself, including any education, which might be pertinent.

No more cobile money —
Had two egs — lost glasses —

42. Date you completed this questionnaire: _____ (Day) _____ (Month) _____ (Year)

Sound wipers work —
wind was from south —
Object took NW & S.W.

U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

(SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

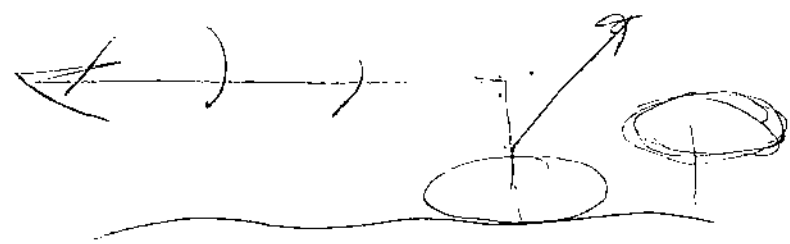
NAME _____
(Please Print)

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

(Do Not Write in This Space)

CODE:



Sept 18, 1956
Joshua Tree
Mohave Desert

Ted Jordan
State Police
Jaws Lachie
Bob Hodges
State Police
Capt Byrnes
BSI White
Sanitary Board

Hicks - pictures
Capt. Holder - Sample

Brunker
little girl

UPI —
La Paz
Capt Byrnes

4 PFS
MYSTERIOUS

Jack Rams
Bait - Party
Brunner
Source
Mrs Cuinn

A Private, Nonprofit Corporation Founded in 1956

OCT 9 1972

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

Suite 23
3535 University Boulevard West
Kensington, Maryland 20795
301-949-1267

John L. Acuff
President

G. Stuart Nixon
Executive Director

October 3, 1972

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Just a note to enclose a question from one of our members concerning the Soccorro case. If you could draft a reply that we could print, I would like to run the two together.

The last time I talked with Phil Klass about Soccorro, he said he had spoken with various "professors" in Soccorro, who told him he should "nose around" about Zamora and Soccorro's mayor. Have you had a chance to talk with these same professors? Has anyone talked to the mayor to see how he feels about the implicit charge against his character? Phil likes to point out that no one has sued him for libel. Poor Zamora, I would guess, doesn't want to hear about UFOs for the rest of his life.

Enclosed is a copy of our latest newsletter, which you may not have received yet via our regular mailing.

Many thanks for your help on the above.

Sincerely,

Stuart

Stuart Nixon

NICAP

1730 RHODE ISLAND AVE NW
WASHINGTON, DC (20036)

AUG 21, 1972

DEAR EDITOR:

I'M IN A DILEMMA CONCERNING ONE OF THE EARLIER PUBLICATIONS - (APR-71 FEEDBACK / READERS WRITE) SECTION.

WHAT BOTHERS ME IS THAT AFTER READING DR HYNEKS RECENT BOOK - "THE UFO EXPERIENCE", I FIND HE PLACES THE SOCORRO CASE HIGH ON THE PROBABILITY / STRANGENESS CURVE, WHILE MR KLASS RESOLVES IT, IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, AS A HOAX. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE APPARENT EXTREME DIFFERENCES ON THE SAME CASE. I INDEED RESPECT THEIR PERSONAL PEROGATIVES BUT STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY COULD BE SO FAR APART. CAN NICAP OR FOR THAT MATTER DR HYNEK OR MR KLASS RESOLVE THE DILEMMA THAT BESETS ME.
COMMENTS FROM EITHER OR ALL THREE IN THE UFO INVESTIGATOR WILL SUFFICE

SINCERELY,
PAUL J SMITH
FULLERTON, CALIF.

P.S.
WHAT EVER BECAME OF THE 'NICAP - N.C PHOTO CASE - AUG-70 UFO INVESTIGATOR?

MEMO: File--Socorro Folder

August 20, 1964

Following phone call from Ray Stanford, I called Dr. F. yesterday. He returned my call today and had Tom Sciucca (Sp?) who handled most of the analysis describe the results to me.

Started by again emphasing minute size of sample. Said only definite identification was silica (SiO^2) and possibly some silicates.

Tests--

(1) diffraction, X-ray

(2) emission

(3) considerable microscopy

Suggested that sample was so small that possibly didn't get metal from original xxxxxxxx sandstone; i.e. that it was not showing up.

RH Note: This seems to be the most likely explanation to me.

Ray Stanford, Bob McGarey, Walt Webb & I all viewed the sample under high magnification while it was still on the rock. It appeared shiny and metallic, and seemed to be smeared on the rock. That is, it was spread even in the "pores" of the rock.

It should be noted that the investigators at first seemed quite confident that the sample was large enough for positive identification.

The above is based on telephone notes and the written report is not at hand, so the full report may shed more light on the difficulties of investigation.

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
NICAP
8-21-64

cc: Ray Stanford

THE SIGHTING

Mr. Lonnie Zamora, a New Mexico policeman, sighted a UFO while chasing a speeding car. He abandoned the chase when he heard a roaring sound like an explosion that came from the direction of a dynamite storage shack, and radioed headquarters that he was going to investigate. A brilliant, cone-shaped blue flame accompanied the roaring sound. The flame disappeared, descending behind one of the hills, and then the roaring sound stopped and was replaced by a whining noise that rapidly decreased in pitch until it became inaudible.

Driving within 800 feet of the scene, he saw two small figures dressed in what appeared to be mechanics' "white coveralls", whom he described as looking like "young boys" or "small adults,"

Driving within 800 feet of the scene, he saw two small figures, whom he described as looking like "young boys" or "small adults," dressed in what appeared to be mechanics' "white coveralls," "doing something to the object." From that distance, Zamora described the object as being white, metallic, and oblong, and having two leg-like protrusions angling out from beneath it.

As Zamora drove closer to the scene, the figure farther away from him looked in his direction, apparently startled by the ar's approach. At that distance, Zamora could not make out any details such as facial features, hands, or feet and assumed that the figures were completely covered by their suits. Still assuming that he had driven upon a possible auto accident, he radioed Sgt. M. Smauel Chavez of the New Mexico .State Police and continued up a second hill, at whith time he lost sight of the object.

At the top of the next hill, about 100 feet from the object, he heard two metallic "bangs" that sounded like doors slamming shut. He was almost opposite the UFO and looking on it nearly broadside in the gully, the dynamite shack being 80 to 100 yards west of the object. A more accurate description was observed at this distance. Zamora describe the object as being about the length of a car (12 to 15 feet long), approximately 4 feet thick, and supported by "girder like" legs or stilts measuring from 2 1/2 " to 4 1/2 feet in lenghth. (Webb prefers the latter figure and considers it an average because the legs were apparently adjustable.) But now the creatures (or small figures) were gone.

Soon after, he heard a very loud roar and saw smoke and blue flame come from the bottom of the object, kicking up a little dust around the UFO. Thinking the object was going to explode, Zamora crouched down, shielding his face with his arm. He looked up when he heard the roar diminishing and saw that the UFO had risen between 10 to 20 feet about the floor of the gully. The "indescribably brilliant blue" flame appeared again, shrank to nothing, and the roar stopped, leaving a whining sound which dropped rapidly from a high to a low pitch, fading out completely. Before the object silently flew away, he saw a red insignia (or design) on the its side measuring about 2 1/2 feet high and described as a crescent ober a horizontal line, with an inverted "V" over a vertical line in the center. The UFO cleared the dynamite shack (by about three feet, according to the USAF), maintained a low altitude abouve the scrubland for two or three miles on a southwest course (heading), and ascended rapidly over a perlite mine and disappeared (heading) in the direction of Black Mountain and Six-mile Canyon.

+

OFFICIAL AIR FORCE STATEMENTS

J. Douglas Stewart
265 W. McCreight Avenue
Springfield, Ohio

May 17, 1964

T. Sgt. David Moody
F.I.D.
T.D.E. (UFO)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Fairborn, Ohio

Dear Sgt. Moody;

I was very interested in hearing you on WHIO's "Conversation Piece" program last Thursday. Your answer to the last question, regarding the markings on the object seen by Sgt. Zamora in New Mexico, raised some questions of my own. Unfortunately, of course, time had run out by then and I couldn't call them in, but I wondered if you could answer them by mail?

As I recall, you stated that these markings were red, about a foot high, and resembled a crescent shape with an arrow pointing into the crescent and a bar beneath...something like this I would suppose?

My questions, then, are these:

1) Have any of these UFOs ever been reported before to have markings, either like these or some other symbol? —NO

2) Doesn't the Federal Aviation Agency require that all aircraft in this country, experimental or otherwise, have either civilian "N—" registration numbers or military designation symbols? —?

3) What of the other reported sightings in the New Mexico area, about the same time as Sgt. Zamora's. (I was disappointed that you didn't mention these on your program.) Did any of these sightings report such markings? —NO. (3) OVER

4) What of the boy in the Moriarity area who was reported in our local paper to have fired several shots at a hovering object? (4) OVER

5) Wasn't the object seen by Sgt. Zamora—or the others in the area—picked up on somebody's radar? (5) OVER

6) What of the orange 'tractor trailer'-sized object seen Friday night near Interstate 90 south of Ashtabula? This certainly doesn't match the description of Sgt. Zamora's object, nor does it seem likely that our government would be testing an aircraft of that size in that part of the country. (6) OVER (X)

I wouldn't be bothering you with these questions, but since you did give the addresses over WHIO, and the Air Force has said your investigations are not secret, I felt you wouldn't hesitate to disclose this additional information.

Many thanks for your attention.

Very truly yours,

J. Douglas Stewart

(3). There were four official cases reported to the Air Force following the Socorro sighting requiring investigation by the Air Force. 1) La Madera sighting by Mr Gallagos evaluated as a fire in the dump where the alleged object was observed. 2) The case where it was claimed that a witness shot at a flying saucer with his 22 and hit it with six shots. The initial investigation was made by the local police and they did not believe t the story. The Air Force officials agreed with their conclusion. Dr Hynek talked with the witness and did not consider the report valid. Final evaluation made at Wright Patterson concurs with all other investigative efforts and the case is carried as a hoax. 3) The little girl that was allegedly burned by the rays from a flying saucer. The Doctor who treated her for burns was contacted, not the girl, and in his professional opinion the girl had conjunctivitis caused by the sun, wind and sand storms in the area at the time. Several days had passed and the girl showed no evidence of being burned, when she was contacted by Air Force Officials from Kirtland AFB. 4) A fourth sighting made by an unidentified witness at Socorro on 25 April was determined to be a rotating Navigation Beacon located at the spot where a UFO was reported to be. (Report received over the phone and witness did not give name). In addition to these reports there were 10-15 calls to the Base at Kirtland of objects observed or under observation at the time of the call. These were all evaluated at the time of the report as either the Planet Venus, Satellite ECHO, or known A/C in the area at the time. Several reports were due to a photo plane on low level missions using an unusual strobe flash for lighting of the targets.
4) Regarded as a hoax by local police, newsmen, AP investigators, Civilian Investigators et
5) The object was at no time reported to be at an altitude of over 20 ft, and would be lost in the ground clutter. There were no unidentified tracks on radar in the area (Includi sets asafar South as El Paso) during the entire period.
6) No report of an object at Astabula has been received. It is possible that this is the Fire in the dump, since this happened near Santa Fe. However, the object was reported as white and like a butane tank by the witness. Circumstances surrounding the report indicate that this is an extremely unreliable REPORT, since there were several witnesses and only ONE would indicate that he saw anything unusual.

Allen Cleary
TSGT USAF

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

TELEPHONE: (202) 667-9434

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

RICHARD H. HALL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

USAF Evaluation of Socorro

"The Disputed CIA Document on UFOs," by John Lear (Science Editor): Saturday Review, September 3, 1966, pp. 45-50.

Air Force evaluation of Socorro as reported by John Lear, page 49 of the above-named article.

"Copies of several different Air Force reports on the Socorro episode are in SR's possession. None of them casts doubt on policeman Zamora's story. One of them says 'Zamora .... is basically sincere, honest, and reliable. He would not be capable to contriving a complex hoax, nor would his temperament indicate that he would have the slightest interest in such.... His fright was genuine, and his feeling that he had seen something truly unusual is attested by the fact that he asked whether he should speak to the priest first before saying anything about it. Any question of hallucination seems clearly out. He is a non-drinking man.....I conclude, therefore, that Zamora saw a tangible, physical object, under good daylight illumination, and from fairly close range (at the closest, almost as little as 100 feet). It appears essential that we discover what the physical object actually was... /and/ consider this one of the major UFO sightings in the history of the Air Force's consideration of this subject.... It will require, very possibly, the attention of the Secretary of the Air Force himself.'"

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

8 January 1965

Dear Mr. Barrow:

The Socorro, New Mexico, sighting is still unsolved. However, no evidence was found which indicated that the vehicle was from outer space.

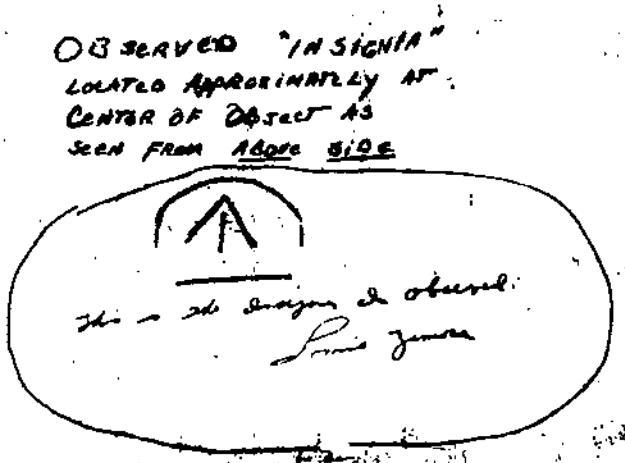
Sincerely,

Maston M. Jacks

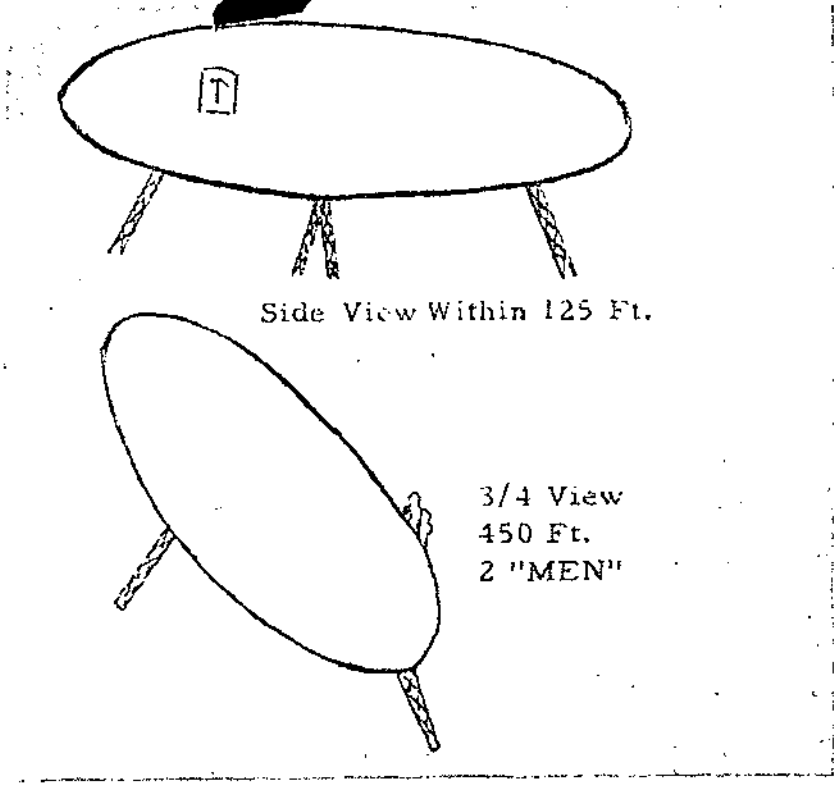
MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. Robert Barrow
4167 Cleveland Road
Syracuse, New York, 13215

Hell, Use This As Sighting Picture



Officer Lonnie Zamora's sketch of Socorro, N.M. UFO



Front and Side View of Object Seen By Zamora

Menzel's Book—A Science Fiction Tome?

APRO Member Marie White of Orland Park, Illinois, informs us that Science Fiction Book Club, Garden City, L. I., New York, sent literature to entice new members. Any three books for $1.00, Bonus book by H. G. Wells added. The usual stamp stickers with names of science fiction books to stick on the order include Menzel's new book, "The World of Flying Saucers." Fitting.

---

1. Zamora's position at 450 feet when he first spotted the landed UFO.
2. Where Zamora parked on top of mesa to look across and down at UFO.
3. Dynamite shack.
4. The object.
   a. Mesa 1
   b. Mesa 2
   c. Mesa 3

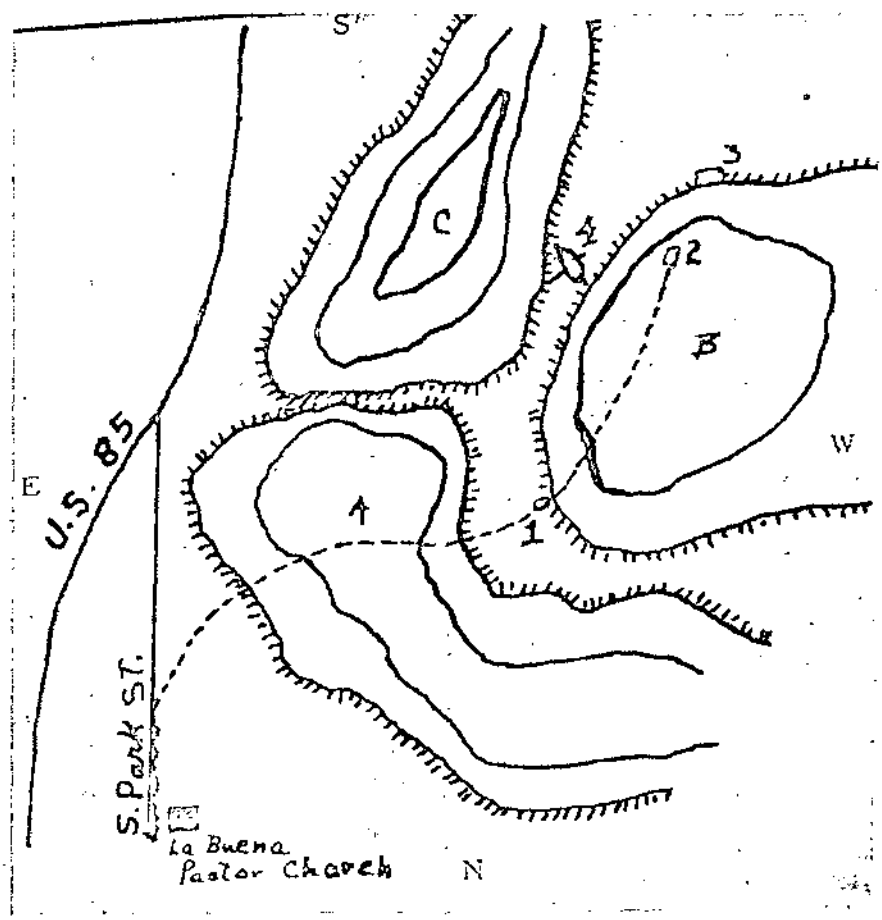


Diagram of Landing Area

Socorro NM
April 24, 1964

Lonnie Zamora, 606 Reservoir St., Socorro NM, 835-1134, Officer Socorro PD about 5 years, office phone 835-0941, now on ~~2 pm-10 pm~~ 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM shift.

About 5:45 PM 4/24/64 while in Socorro 2 Police Car (64 Pontiac white) started to chase a car due south from west side of Court House. Car was apparently speeding, and was about 3 blocks in front. At point on Old Rodeo Street (extension of Park St. south) near George Morillo residence (about 1/2 mile south of Spring Street, the chased car was going straight ahead toward rodeo grounds. Car chased was a new black Chevrolet (it might have been Floyd Reynolds boy Vivian about 17). Chased car still about 3 blocks ahead. Lonnie alone.

At this time saw a flame in the sky to the southwest some distance away-- heard a roar and possibly a 1/2 mile or a mile. Came to mind that a dynamite shack in that area had blown up, decided to leave chased car go.

Flame was bluish and sort of orange too. Could not tell size of flame. Sort of motionless flame, slowly descending. Was still driving car and could notpay too much attention to the flame. It was a narrow type of flame. It was like a "stream down" -- a funnel type--narrower at top than at bottom. Flame possibly 3 degrees or so in width--not wide.

Flame about twice as wide at bottom as top, and about four times as high as top was wide. Did not notice any object at top, did not note if top of flame was level. Sun was to west and did not help vision. Had green sun glasses over perscription glasses. Could not see bottom of flame because it was behind the hill.

Notsmoke noted. Noted some "commotion" at bottom--dust? Possibly from windy day--wind was blowing hard. Clear sunny sky otherwise--just a few clouds scattered over area.

Noise was a roar, not a blast. Not like a jet. Changed from high frequency to low frequency and then stopped. Roar lasted possibly 10 seconds--was going towards it at that time on the rough gravel road. Saw flame about as long as heard the sound. Flame same color as best as recall. Sound distinctly from high to low until it disappeared. Windows both were down. No other spectators noted--no traffic except the car in front--and car in front might have heard it but possibly did not see it because car in front was too close to hill in front, to see the flame.

After the roar and flame, did not note anything, while going up the somewhat steep rough hill--had to back up and try again, two more times. Got up about half way first time, ~~in~~ wheels started skidding, roar still going on, had to back down and try twice

agaon before made the hill. Hill about 60' long, fairly steep and with loose gravel and rock. While beginning third time, noise and flame not noted.

After got to top, traveled slowlyon the gravel road westwardly. Noted nothing for awhile...for possibly 10 or 15 seconds, went slow, looking around for the shack--did not recall exactly where the dynamite shack was.

Suddenly noted a shiny type object to south about 150 to 200 yards. It was off the road. At first glance, stopped. It looked, at first, like a car turned upside down. Thought some kids might have turned over. Saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of these persons seemed to turn and look straight at my car and seemed startled--seemed to quickly jump somewhat.

At this time I started moving my car towards them quickly, with idea to help. Had stopped about only a couple seconds. Object was like aluminum--it was whitish against the mesa background, but not chrome. Seemed like [illegible] in shape and I at first glance took it to be overturned white car. Car appeared turned up like standing on radiator or on trunk, at this first glance.

The only time I saw these two persons was when I had stopped, for possibly two seconds or so, to glance at the object. I don't recall noting any particular shape or possibly any hats, or headgear. These persons appeared normal in shape--but possibly they were small adults or large kids.

Then paid attention to road while drove towards scene. Radio'ed to sheriff's office "Socorro 2 to Socorro, possible 10-44 (accident), I'll be 10-6 (busy) out of the car, checking the car down in the arroyo."

Stopped car, was still talking on radio, started to get out, mike fell down, reached back put up mike, then replaced radio mike in slot, got out of car and started to go down to where knew the object (car) was.

Hardly turned around from car, when heard roar (was not a blast) exactly a blast), very loud roar--at that close was real loud. Not like a jet--knows what jets sound like. Started low frequency quickly, then roar rose in frequency (higher tone) and in loudness from loud to very loud. At same time as roar saw flame. Flame was under the object. Object was starting to go straight up--slowly up. Object slowly rose straight up. Flame was light blue and at bottom was sort of orange color. From this angle, saw what might be the side of object (not end, as first noted). Difficult todescribe flame. Thought, from roar, it might blow up. Flame might have come from underside of object, at middle, possibly a four feet area--very rough guess. Cannot describe flame further except blue and orange. No smoke, except dust in immediate area.

As soon as saw flame and heard roar, turned away, run away from object but did turn head towards object. Bumped leg on car--back fender area. Car facing southwest. Glasses fell to ground, left them there. Ran to north--car between him and object.

Object was in shape. It was smooth--no windows or doors. As roar started, it was still on or near ground. Noted red lettering of some type, like . Insignia was about 2½' high and about 2' wide guess. Was in middle of object, like . Object still like aluminum-white.

After fell by car and glasses fell off, kept running to north, with car between me and object. Glanced back couple of times. Noted object to rise to about level of car, about 20 to 25 feet guess--took I guess about ~~three/seconds~~ six seconds when object started to rise and I glanced back. I ran I guess about half way to where I ducked down--about fifty feet from the car is where I ducked down, just over edge of hill. I guess I had run about 25 feet when I glanced back and saw the object about level with the car and it appeared about directly over the place where it rose from.

I was still running and I jumped just over the hill--I stopped because I did not hear the roar. I was scared of the roar, and I had planned to continue running down the hill. I turned around toward the object and at same time put my head toward ground, covering my face with my arms. Being that there was no roar, I looked up, and I saw the object going away from me, in a southwest direction. When the roar stopped, heard a sharp tone whine from high tone to low tone. At end of roar was this whine and the whine lasted mayb a second. Then there was complete silence about the object. That's when I lifted up my head and saw object going away from me. It did not come any closer to me. It appea to go in straight line and at same height--possibly 10 to 15 feet from ground, and it cleared the dynamite shack by about three feet. Shack about eight feet high. Object was traveling very fast. It seemed to rise up, and take off immediately across country. I ran back to my car and as I ran back, I kept an eye on the object. I picked up my glasses (I left the sun glasses on ground), got into the car, and radio'ed to Nep Lopez, radio operator, to "Look out the window, to see if you could see an object." He asked what is it? I answered "It looks like a ~~minnow~~ balloon." I don't know if he saw it. If Nep looked out his window, which faces north, he couldn't have seen it. I di not tell him at the moment which window to look out of.

As I was calling Nep, I could still see the object. The object seemed to lift up slowly, and to "get small" in the distance very fast. It seemed to just clear the Box Canyon or Six Mile Canyon Mountain. It disappeared as it went over the mountain. It had no flame whatsoever as it was traveling over the ground, and no smoke or noise.

Feeling in good health. Last drink--two or three beers--was over a month ago. Noted no odors. Noted no sounds other than described. Gave directions to Nep Lopez at radio ~~to~~ and to Sergeant M S Chavez to get there. Went down to where the object had be

and I noted the brush was burning in several places. At that time I heard Sgt Chavez (N M State Police at Socorro) calling me on radio for my location, and I returned to my car, told him he was looking at me. Then Sgt. Chavez came up, asked me what the trouble was, because I was sweating and he told me I was white, very pale. I asked the Sgt. to see what I saw, and that was the burning brush . Then Sgt. Chavez and I went to the spot, and Sgt. Chavez pointed out the tracks.

When I first saw the object (when I thought it might be a car) I saw what appeared to be two legs of some type from the object to the ground. At the time, I didn't pay much attention to what it was--I thought it was an accident--I saw the the two persons. I didn't pay ~~mmm~~ attention to the two "legs?" The two "legs" were at the bottom of the object, slanted outwards to the ground. The object might have been about three and a half feet from the ground at that time. I just glanced at it.

Can't tell how long saw object second time (the "close" time), possibly 20 seconds--just a guess--from time got out of car, glanced at object, ran from object, jumped ~~/////~~ over edge of h ill, then got back to car and radio as object disappeared.

As my mike fell s I got out of car, ~~mmmm~~ at scene area, I heard about two or three loud "thumps," like someone possibly hammering or shutting ~~mmmmm~~ a door or doors hard. These "thumps" were possibly a second or less apart. This was just before the roar. The persons were not seen when I got up to the scene area.

Just before Sgt. Chavez got to scene, I got my pen and drew a picture of the insignia on the object.

DISTANCES FROM OBJECT

FIRST SIGHTING OF FLAME. Approx 3/4 miles.

FIRST SIGHTING OF OBJECT WITH PEOPLE (2)
By OBJECT. .15 MILES

2ND SIGHTING OF OBJECT. 103FT.
Where: "INSIGNIA" OBSERVED.

"OBJECT" STARTED TO DEPART OR
LIFT OFF SURFACE

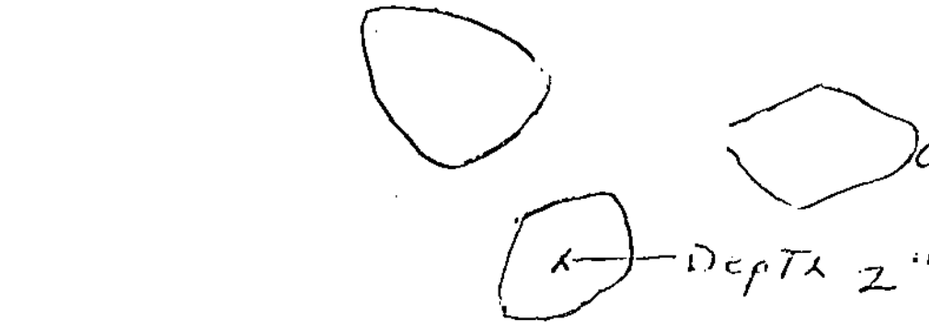
3RD SIGHTING OF OBJECT Approx. 200FT.
Where: OBJECT LEFT SURFACE

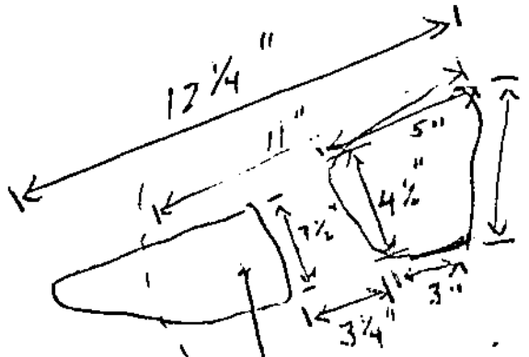
OBJECT DEPARTED

FOOTPRINTS
- IN SOFT SAND

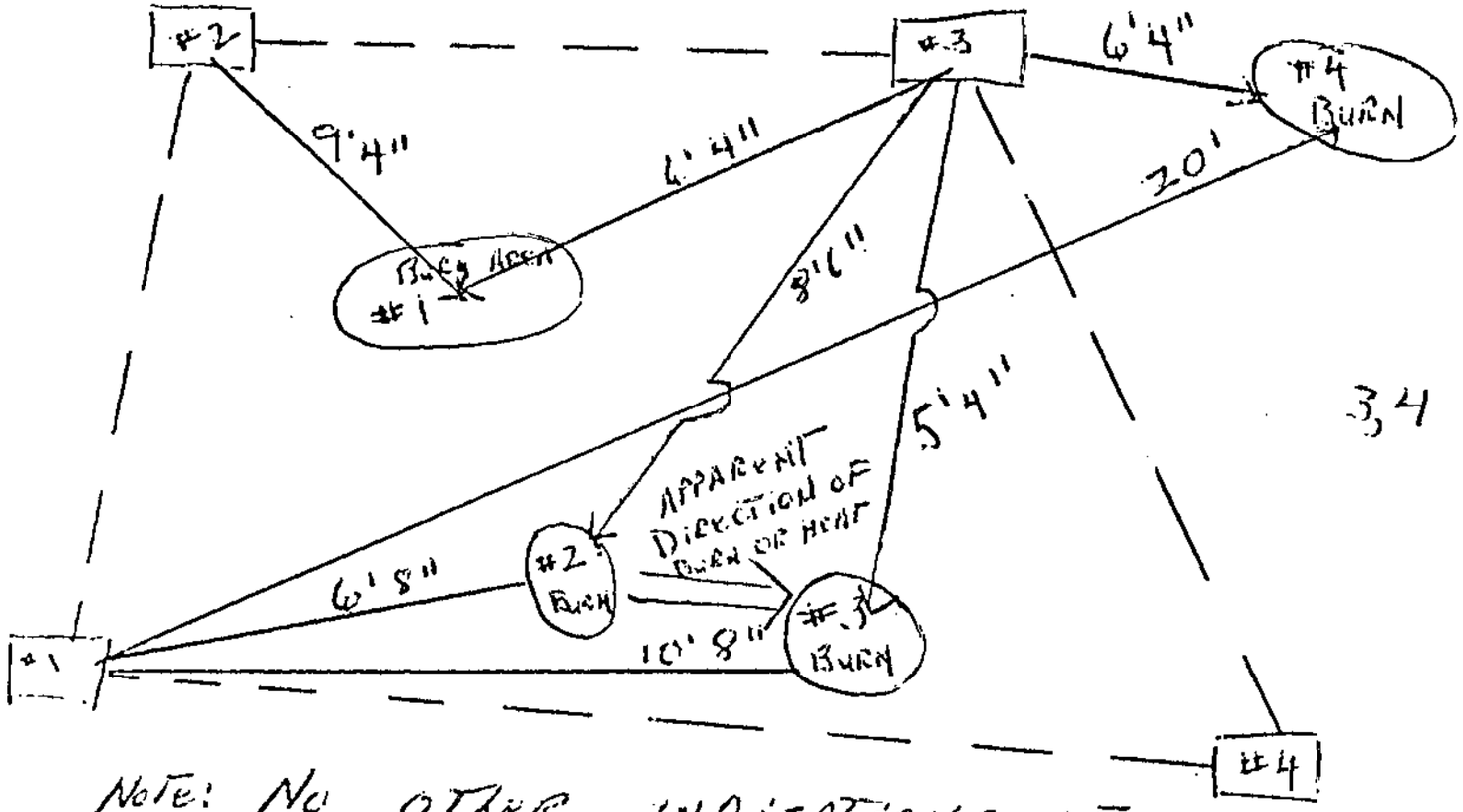
NOTE: 1 SET OF PRINTS IN AREA OF # 4 INDENTATION

NOTED - POSSIBLY MORE OUTLINES DESTROYED BY PERSONNEL IN AREA.





POSSIBLE END OF PRINT UNDETERMINED DUE TO TYPE OF SOIL



APPARENT DIRECTION OF BURN OR HEAT

NOTE: NO OTHER INDICATIONS OF A BLAST - i.e. - A THRUST FORCE - WERE NOTED - NO OTHER CHARRING, INDENTATIONS - OR AREA DISTURBANCES WERE NOTED!

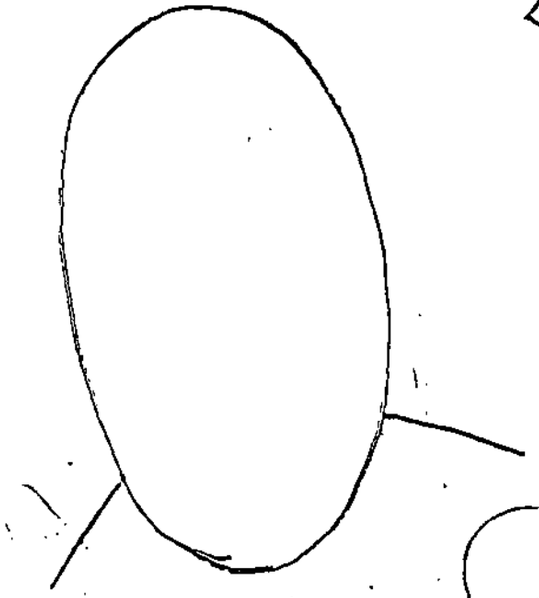
EXAMINATION CHARRED AREAS 1, 2, 3, 4 INDICATED THAT:

① & ② HAD HEAT APPLIED IN A STRAIGHT OR ALMOST STRAIGHT DOWN DIRECTION

#③ & ④ HAD HEAT APPLIED INTO VECTORS INDICATED (APPROX.) -

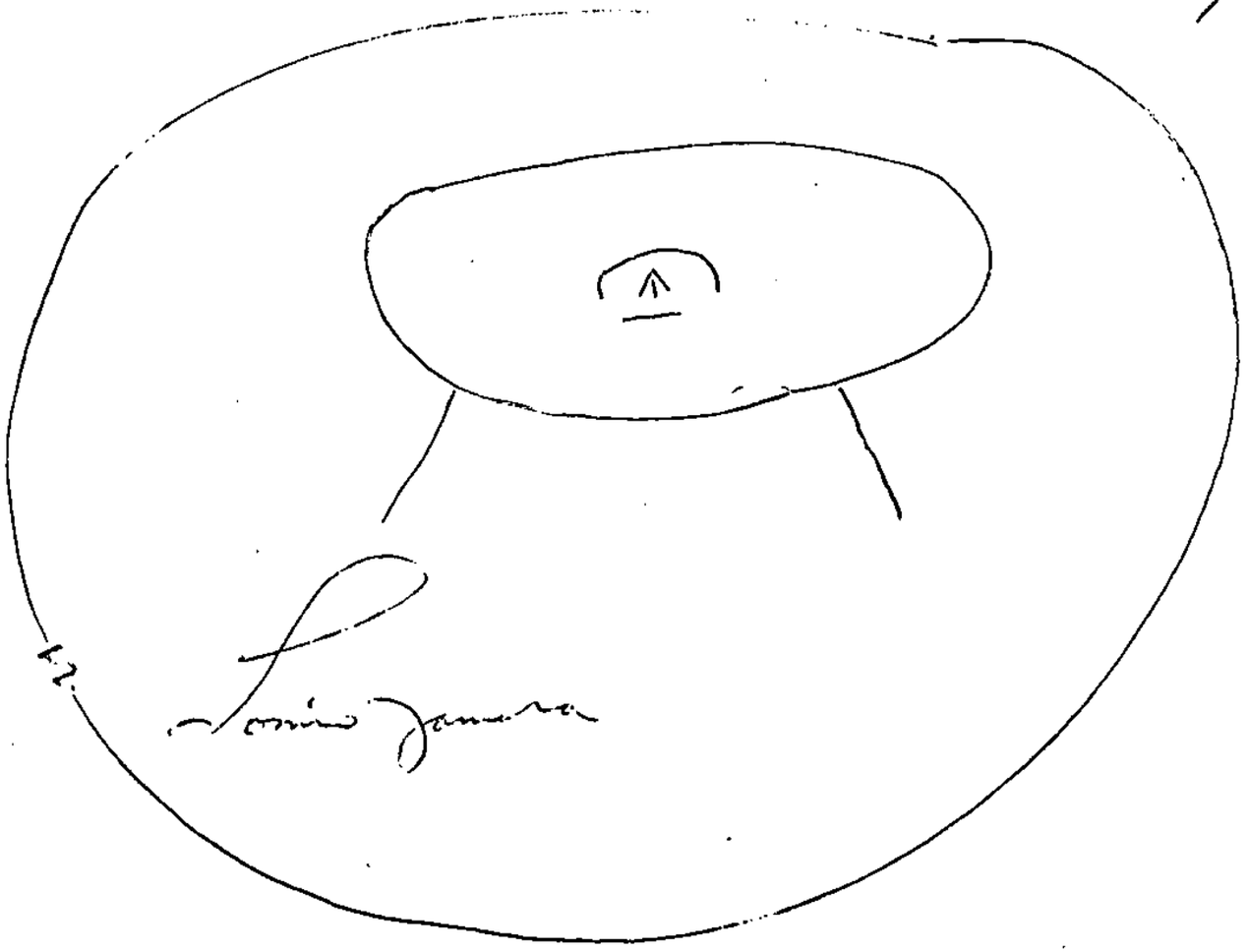
THIS WAS DETERMINED CERTAIN BY EXAMINATION OF GRASS - ROOTS & BUSHES IN THE AREA

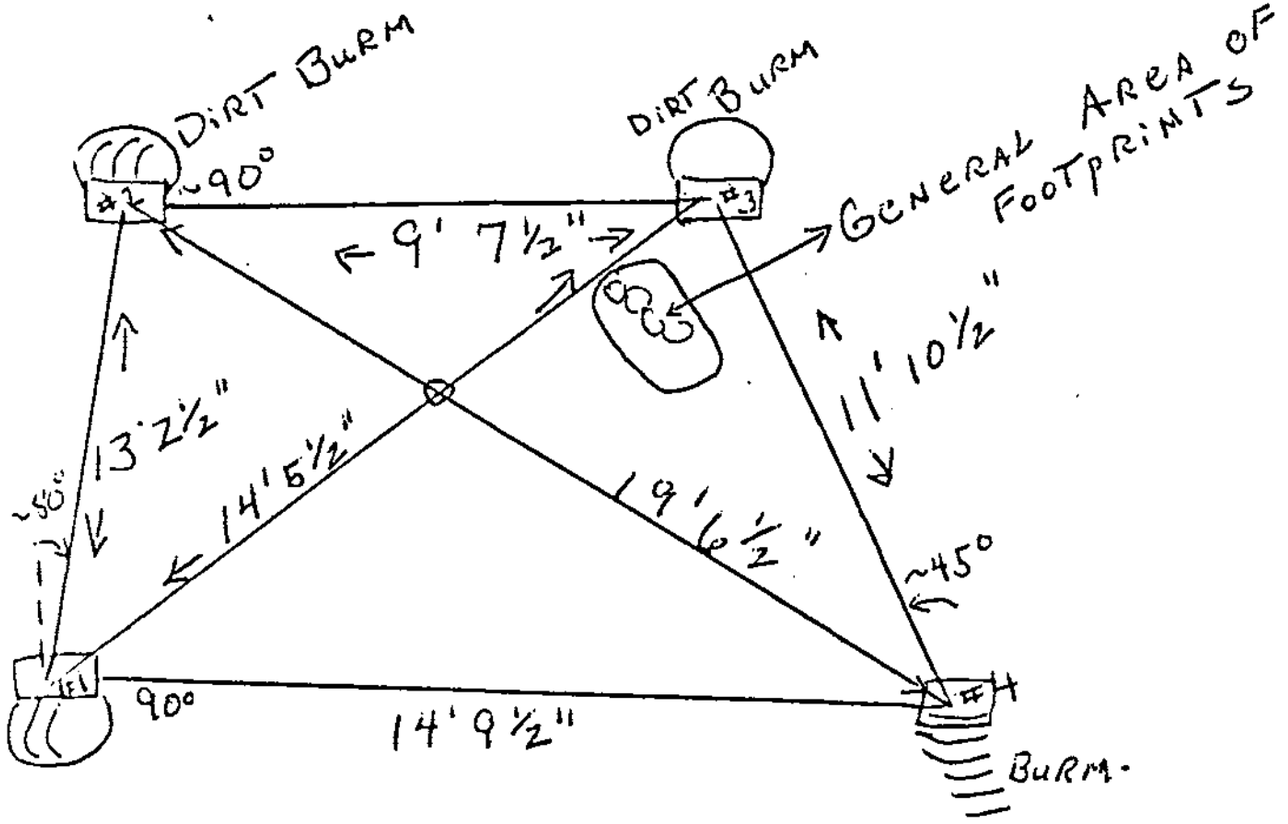
FIRST VIEW OF THE OBJECT -
FROM APPROXIMATELY .15 MILES -
LOOKING DOWN ON IT



L. Z.

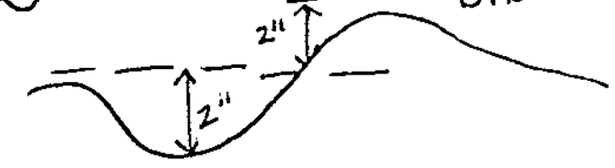
SKETCH OF OBJECT
FROM MY POSITION-
AT APPROXIMATELY 10 3PT.-





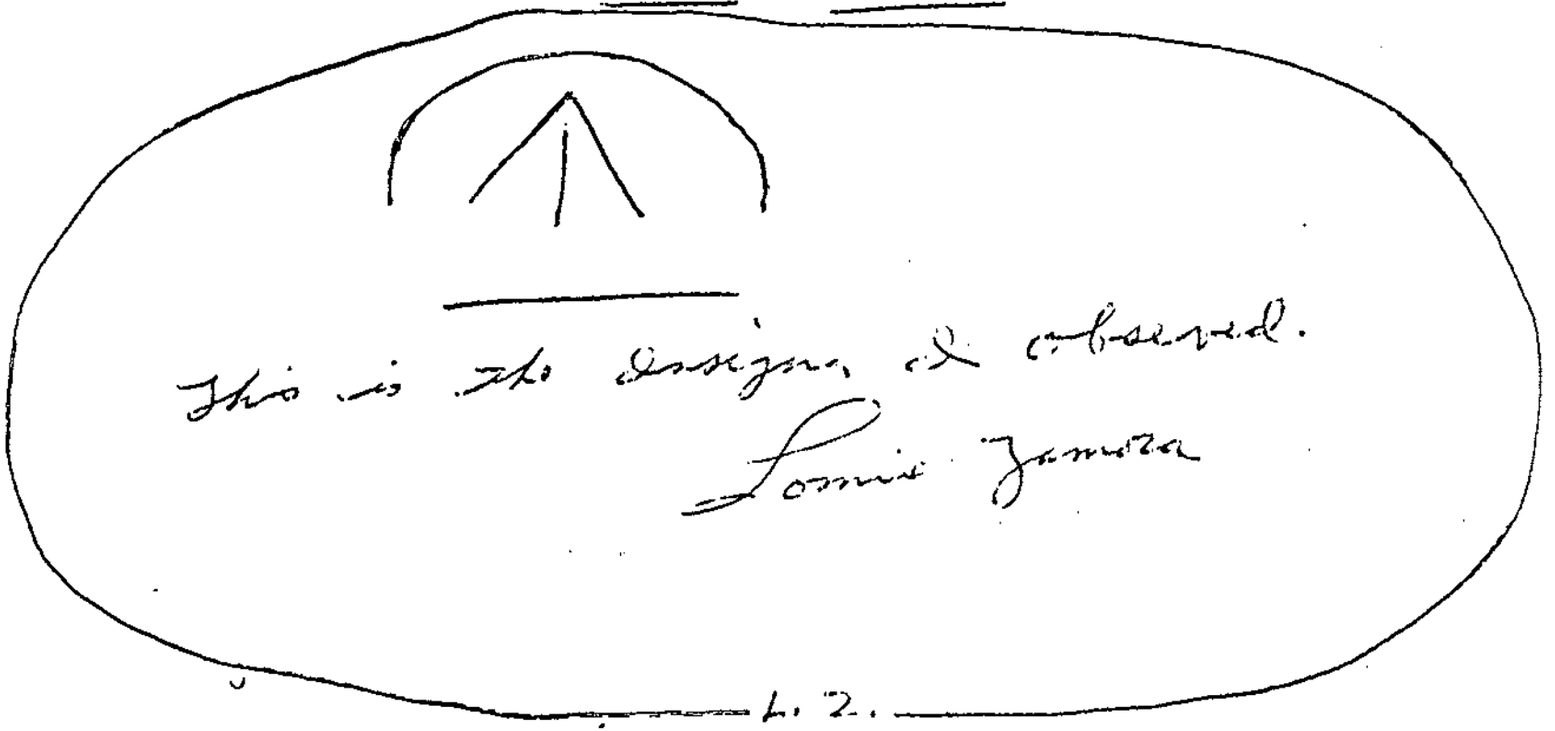
NO OTHER INDENTATIONS FOUND.

#1, #2, #3 ~ Trough WT. PLACED DIRECTLY AND REMOVED DIRECTLY - WELL DEFINED - AS



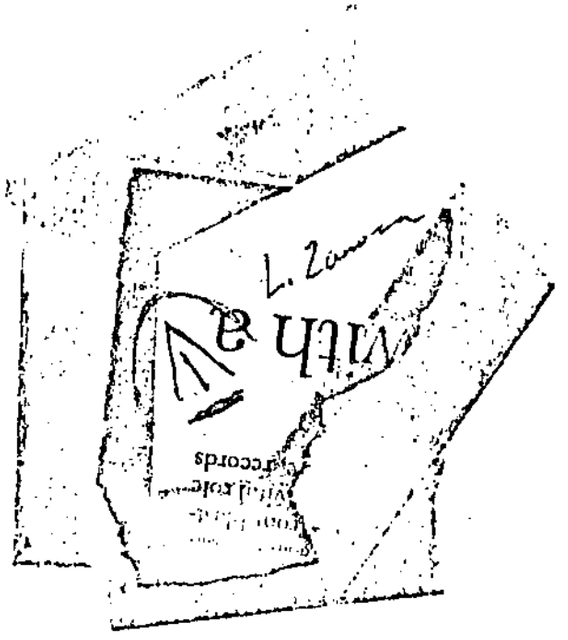
#4 SIDES DEFINED - BURM AND INTERNAL BASE NOT AS WELL DEFINED - AS TROUGH WT. ROCKED UP.

OBSERVED "INSIGNA"
LOCATED APPROXIMATELY AT
CENTER OF OBJECT AS
SEEN FROM ABOVE - SIDE



This is the design observed.
Lonnie Zamora

L. Z.



SKETCH MADE BY PATROLMAN ZAMORA.
APPROXIMATELY 5 MIN. AFTER OBJECT
DEPARTED.

JEM

checking he did, I'm much more disposed to consider seriously that those may have been real photos than I was before. In the account that Fontes gives, he mentions that an American Air Force general showed up shortly after the photos were released in Rio, and leaves his reader with the impression that there might have been some causal connection between that officer's visit and a general hushup by the Brazilian Navy. That was January of 1958; if one had any basis for thinking that such an interaction with the American Air Force occurred, it would be a considerable point on the grand coverup side of the fence.

Socorro

One last point: Have you ever heard of any reports that there was a patch of "fused sand" near the site of the Socorro landing? As a result of a remark that Hank Kalapaca made to me at lunch in the Rayburn building on 7/29, I followed up a lead that Stan Friedman picked up when he spoke to a nuclear society in Las Vegas. I'm still in the process of checking it, so won't elaborate details here. Briefly, a woman who is now a radiological chemist with the Public Health Service in Las Vegas was involved in some special analyses of materials collected at the Socorro site, and when she was there, the morning after, she claims that there was a patch of melted and resolidified sand right under the landing area. I have talked to her both by telephone and in person here in Tucson recently, and am asking Charlie Moore to do some further checking. I must say, it's very hard to imagine how such material could have been there not only on the evening of the 24th but still there on the morning of the 25th without it ever having been reported before. She mentioned it to Stan rather casually, as if she assumed that everybody knew about the fused sand. She was surprised to be told, especially by me, that nothing like that had ever before been reported. She did analyses on the plant-fluids exuded from stems of greasewood and mesquite that had been scorched. She said there were a few organic materials they couldn't identify, but most of the stuff that had come out through the cracks and blisters in the stems were just saps from the phloem and xylem. Shortly after she finished the work, Air Force personnel came and took all her notes and materials and told her she wasn't to talk about it any more. Grand coverup? Not necessarily. The fused sand might be another matter.

This has gotten to be a very long letter. I'm not sure if this brings me up-to-date on all the questions that you sent. I think I have commented on most of the points that need discussion.

Oh, no, I just remembered the 1967 case near Nebo, N.C. Quite by chance, I'll be spending five or six days within a few miles of there in about a week. I'm going to take that