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SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO: REVISITED

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## ABSTRACT

The Socorro, New Mexico UFO incident was a major turning point for many pro-saucer researchers. The seeming honest character of the witness with cursory ground markings, all added favorably to a sound UFO case. To the anti-ufologist Socorro was just another UFO event that had conventional explanations.

During the Spring months of 1981, GSW re-opened the case and visited Socorro to gather new information on the origin of Zamora's famous sighting. The facts that surfaced during this investigation show that the Socorro event is not what it was originally presented to be.

## KEY WORDS

Dr. Hynek; Philip Klass; craft; clandestine testing; secret projects; insignia; landing marks

## SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO: REVISITED

A noteworthy UFO sighting occurred on April 24, 1964, just outside of Socorro, New Mexico, and provides an excellent example of confused distortion of the facts surrounding this type of incident. Socorro, like many other classical UFO cases, is considered by many saucer researchers to be one of the "better" events in the history of the UFO enigma. This fact is well-documented by the number of researchers that have endorsed this incident. The Socorro case, besides providing such convincing evidence of extraterrestrial visitors to so many UFO organizations/researchers, is the only occupant case of the 1960's which the conservative ufologist accepts.

This acceptance was based on the 'Keyhoe Thesis', whereas, the past Director of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon) stated and argued it was "acceptable" to believe in nuts and bolts flying saucers but it was preposterous to claim the existence of the creatures who are piloting these 'crafts'. The material for this narrative was obtained from the files of the Air Force's investigation, the Hynek report, the writings of NICAP and other UFO organizations, as well as the interviews with the witness - Officer Lonnie Zamora. These multiple sources represent a wide data base and are very similar in content, yet different in their conclusions:

THE SIGHTING

*did they interview?*

At 5:45 (MST), on April 24, 1964, officer Lonnie Zamora of the Socorro police department observed a speeding vehicle and executed pursuit in his patrol car. While he was chasing the speeding auto, his attention was interrupted by a "roar and a flame in the sky". The flame was approximately one mile south of the city limits and about 3/4 of a mile from his position. At that moment Zamora described the flame as "bluish and sort of orange in color". He also reported that "he did not notice any object at the top of the flame. He said he did not visualize any smoke, but did observe what may have been dust near the bottom of the flame. The weather report substantiates that it was clear, sunny and windy, with a number of scattered clouds during the alleged sighting.

The witness described the noise of the UFO as a "roaring sound". He also interjected that the noise quickly modified and changed from a high frequency to a lower frequency and abruptly stopped within ten seconds. Zamoras' concern was a small shed outside of town, used to store dynamite which he thought may have blown up, accounting for the noise and flames. Immediately Zamora abandoned chase of the speeding auto and turned off onto the rough road that led in the direction of the shed (and the UFO). Due to the harsh terrain, it took Zamora over one minute to arrive at a good visibility point where the shed could be observed. While looking to the southwest, the witness saw a shiny object in the distance, approximately 800 feet away. The object appeared to be sitting in a shallow gully when Zamora stopped for a few seconds to look at it.

He described the object as being "white in color and aluminum in construction, giving the appearance of a car turned upright on its trunk". Getting back into his squad car, the witness said he saw two people in white coveralls very close to the object. One of the figures appeared to look directly at Zamora's approaching car and apparently were somewhat startled, as the figure seemed to quickly jump up. The witness stated later, that he only observed the two humanoids for less than three seconds and that no details were discernible.

? A ?  
The 'persons' appeared normal in proportion, except they were possibly small adults or large juveniles. Zamora started to drive towards the object, his view was intermittently blocked by the rugged terrain. Finally Zamora reached a flattened mesa area, close to the object. Near this mesa is a broad but shallow gully ten feet below the level of Zamora's parked car. As the witness got out of his vehicle and started to walk toward the object, he heard a loud roar. The noise started at a low frequency and quickly rose in volume and pitch. At the same time, he saw a flame coming from under the object. The object began to move, very slowly at first, and gradually increasing its acceleration and altitude. The flame, now very visibly was light blue in color with streaks of orange. Zamora explained later that he feared that the object was going to explode, so he ran back toward his vehicle. In his haste and fear, he bumped into the car losing his prescription glasses, which he did not stop to recover. He ran approximately 200 feet from the gully, but occasionally glanced back at the object.

Suddenly, the roar stopped and began to emit a high pitched whine. Then the object became silent and started to move in a southwesterly direction at an altitude of approximately ten feet above the ground. It seemed to clear the dynamite shack by only three feet and took off across the country-side, following closely the contour of the ground. Zamora ran back to his car, picked up his glasses and called into headquarters. He told the radio dispatcher to look out the window to try to spot the moving object, 'similar to that of a balloon'. The dispatcher never saw the object, as his area of view was opposite that of the object's direction of flight.

Zamora's description of the object was extremely vague, however, he had the foresight to draw two sketches of the object, one showing how it appeared from a distance of 800 feet and the other from a distance of 100 feet, his closest proximity to the object. The first sketch shows an egg-shaped object which is standing upright, atop two legs that slant outward. The total time available to the witness for the observation of the object during the "close encounter" portion of the sighting, which includes the time Zamora stepped out of his car until the "machine" departed, was approximately twenty-five seconds.

However, during much of this time, he was without glasses. Zamora did mention one obvious detail, he reported observing an 'insignia' in the middle of the UFO. He drew the insignia immediately after the incident. It reveals a symbol of an arrow in a vertical position,

76 This is solution - how come Klass didn't latch on to it?

enclosed from above a semicircle and from below by an apparent horizontal bar. The symbol measured approximately eighteen inches square. The insignia appears very terrestrial in its design, but it's true identification has yet to be determined.

Within the archives of the United States Air Force files on the study of the UFO phenomenon, we find a trip report by Dr. Allen J. Hynek the USAF's advisor on the subject. His report on the visit to Socorro, four days after the sighting, said the incident was "one of the major UFO sightings in the history of the Air Force's consideration of this subject". Dr. Hynek spent only one day visiting the site and interviewing the witness, due to a previous engagement the following day. Hynek returned for a second visit four months later which was as brief as the first visit. Hynek's interview with the news wire services quoted him as saying that the Socorro incident "is one of the soundest, most substantiated reports as far as it goes. Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly without any intent to perpetrate a hoax".

The Socorro incident had been reported by a single police officer (Zamora) and did directly and indirectly involve other law enforcement officers. However, the sighting does violate the Hynek prerequisite. This prerequisite simply stated, consists of certain components that form the fundamentals of a "good" UFO report which includes; multiple witnesses, physical (trace) evidence and a high strangeness index rating.

Dr. Hynek was obviously impressed with the report and the sincerity of the witness. It can be determined by the bits of cursory evidence that "something" did land in Socorro, but to date only Zamora has surfaced as a witness to this event. In view of the Hynek prerequisite of multiple witnesses to such events, it unfortunately leaves us with having to place a high reliability factor on the accuracy of Zamora's report.

It can be stated that Dr. Hynek, during his investigation found the incident acceptable to his criteria, by meeting two of the three necessary requirements, as witnessed by his trip report to the Air Force and his subsequent writings on the subjects.

But was additional information overlooked on the case that could have been obtained with further investigation? We must regress to the initial investigations to answer this question.

### THE INVESTIGATION

Saucer researchers, Ray Stanford of NICAP, Jim and Carol Lorenzen of APRO and Captain Holder of the Air Force were just a few of the persons that visited Socorro for the purpose of obtaining additional information. Each of the involved parties, unfortunately reported a different story. Vast discrepancies were reported in the number of "landing pads", the shape of these ground markings, the reactions (or actions) of the two creatures, just to mention a few.

NO!

? ? The measurements

The accounts are all different and varied from the original account as obtained from the witness. This does not imply that Zamora did not encounter a strange object in the desert, it only 'sets the stage' for the actuality of the sighting.

Being a "classical" UFO sighting along with involving a reputable law officer, there is no wonder numerous persons investigated this incident. Through these investigations, civilian researchers had hopes of collecting substantial evidence that would enable them to solve the mystery behind the Socorro event. But in the process many different assumptions and conclusions were based on the results of their investigations, making it difficult for the public to discern fact from fiction.

From which one of these conclusions do you jump the borderline to the truth? In cases such as the alleged UFO at Socorro, there may never be sufficient evidence for the researcher to confirm their assumptions. But information can be derived from bits of clues making it easier for a logical answer to be formulated. There is some strong evidence recently discovered by GSW, Inc that narrows down the origin of the alleged UFO in question.

ON THEORIES AND OTHER IDEAS

Numerous pro-saucer researchers have strongly upheld the theory that the Socorro incident represented a visitation from outer space, because of the over-whelming volume of evidence. But is this case that sound? It is unquestionable that life exists elsewhere in the Cosmos. However, it's a quantum jump to assume that this life is visiting Earth. Though the scientific community retains no conclusive proof of life in outer space, one must not dismiss the vastness of the universe and the countless number of planets that may sustain intelligent life forms. Does the Socorro incident represent a visitation from outer space?

It is highly improbable due to many factors. One of the obvious negative factors lies with the unsophistication of the object described in the Socorro 'landing'. This vehicle was apparently powered by liquid or solid propellant, and judging by the size of the purported craft, it's flight duration and capability would certainly have been limited. We have an apparent aluminum-looking (constructed) vehicle that was described as void of an atmospheric entry(heat) shield and without such a protective device, descent to Earth from space would not be feasible. If UFO's are extraterrestrial, then the procedure for entering the Earth's atmosphere would be the same for the terrestrial spacecraft. Physical laws are not easily modified and it's doubtful that UFO's have devices that could defy these laws, without deviating to wild conjecture.

Example: look at the effort it required of the United States to employ its precisioned machines to reach the moon. When one dwells on the feasibility of the Socorro craft capable of descending to Earth from either a larger mothership or from the vastness of space itself, it is more likely that Zamora did not observe an extraterrestrial

vehicle. However, the possibility of the Socorro craft belonging to the United States should not be shunned.

There appears to be some elements of cover-up permeating throughout the entire Socorro investigation. When the results of the soil test, possibly contaminated by the residue of the vehicle's fuel, were requested for review by the civilian investigators, the Air Force refused to provide this data. Surely, if nothing had been discovered, it would have been a wise political move on behalf of the government to submit to this request.

GSW has always assumed that a physical craft descended on the outskirts of Socorro due to some strong evidence and the military denials such as the chemical tests. Conversely, there are some persons who feel that the Socorro incident was a complete hoax, one of these individuals is the renown UFO investigator Philip Klass. In his book UFO's Explained, Klass examines the event and attempts to establish logical conclusions to the various segments of the sighting. The following is a brief analysis of these efforts:

1. Klass questions the discrepancies of the pad 'landing' marks found at the site and asked Sgt. Chavez of the New Mexico State police to describe their appearance. Chavez, using a small shovel, dug into the ground, making a U-shaped impression similar to the actual markings. Klass feels this fully explains the markings, and therefore concluded that the pad impressions were manufactured by a shovel.

GSW Response - Klass failed to mention in his results that the ground markings were tightly packed, to such a degree that they could only have been caused by a force of a heavy object, much greater than that of a shovel.

2. Klass further questions why the marks were unsymmetrical.

GSW Response - The vehicle may have possessed a trapezoidal set of landing gear, which being adapted in an off-set displacement would explain why the marks were unsymmetrical in appearance. Possibly the center of gravity of the vehicle could have been off-set, that irregular sized landing gear would have been utilized to create stability when the vehicle landed on rough terrain.

3. Klass further ponders on the fact that many of the bushes in the alleged landing site, surrounding the area, were not affected by the flame coming from the object.

GSW Response - Historical records of similar craft, used in the landings on the moon, with similar thrusts, are equiped with blast deflectors. These deflectors diminish the effect of the thrust burn away from the bottom of the vehicle, which in-turn, would not burn the vegetation in the immediate area, minimizing this affect.

4. Finally, Klass feels that this incident was a hoax perpetrated by some of the town members to bring in tourists, as to give local business a big "boost".

GSW Response - It is true that money transactions were rapidly being made between the curious sightseers and the merchants due to this incident, but this was only shortlived and it did not have a long-lasting effect on the livelihood of the Socorro business community. The Socorro UFO would hardly be the method to attract business to this small town.

Some of the conclusions reached by Philip Klass are logical and can not easily be disputed, however, much of his investigation is predicated on conjecture and many of his own conclusions not quantitatively based, as is the case with most UFO research.

### THE RE-INVESTIGATION

There are numerous possibilities of what the Socorro craft could have represented. The questions that arise, include, where did the vehicle originate and was this event part of the Government's manipulation of the UFO phenomenon? Prior to answering these questions, we first must regress to the beginning of the most recent investigation into this case.

In the early spring of 1981, GSW investigators revisited the Socorro site. As part of the field kit, they brought cameras and a 'scale' drawing of the alleged insignia Zamora reported to have seen on the departing UFO. While an investigator was preparing the camera equipment for use, the other was positioning himself 120 feet distant with the insignia elevated at a height of approximately twenty feet. Photographs were taken of the red insignia on the whitish background cardboard. The results of the pictures were discouraging, as the insignia was barely discernible. Both investigators later commented, upon review of the pictorial data, that if they were not aware of what they were viewing it would have been difficult to identify precisely the details supplied by Zamora.

Both researchers possess 20/20 vision and do not rely on the aid of glasses. Remembering that Zamora had only several seconds to view the insignia, was highly frightened and had lost his prescription glasses, we must question whether Zamora was conveying the actuality of the marking or whether he was even accurate in his previous description. The same questions are relative to the observation of the two purported humanoids. Was Zamora possibly over-sensationalizing the incident? At a distance of 800 feet the humanoids would hardly be distinguishable.

As the investigators were leaving the actual site, they noticed an area approximately 1 3/4 miles away, which gleamed in the sunlight. Extracting binoculars from their vehicle, they viewed what appeared to be an abandoned aircraft junkyard. Later, they discovered that the aircraft were part of the property of a local technical school - New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. This information was obtained from a clerk who works for the City Court system. He warned the researchers not to enter the storage area, because two men were recently convicted of breaking into this property. GSW's team became curious and decided a closer look at the area was warranted.



They traveled on a road through the technical school's campus and came to a barricade which read "Keep Out".

Walking some distance away from the road they found a point at which the contents of the storage area could be viewed. To their amazement, the area contained a large variety of both segmented and intact aircraft. There appeared to be some Navy and Marine jet fighters, some Bell "X" aircraft and a nose section of a large ballistic missile. Some questions began to surface concerning a relation between the Socorro sighting and the Tech school.

The researchers hypothesized that the Socorro UFO could have been the frontal section of a large aircraft with its landing gear generated from the remains from the inner-structural components of an aircraft. There was an enormous amount of spare parts to construct any type of airfoil. When giving this information to GSW's Research Staff, they contacted Mr. C.B. Moore, Professor of Atmosphericics at the Tech school. Mr. Moore was asked when the influx of aircraft arrived at the school. He stated they were part of the Terminal Effects Program which began in 1947, but that most of the artifacts arrived in the early fifties. Moore did not elaborate on any of the aircraft/missile artifacts, nor would he provide any information on the effect that the military (U.S. Navy) has had on the campus. He did infer that he had investigated the Socorro case on his own and feels that Zamora had seen a Lunar Excursion Module (LEM), a vertical take-off vehicle designed to descend on the lunar surface.

We later discovered in further conversations with Moore that the LEM project had been tested at the Tech school twelve months after the Zamora sighting. However, if the LEM vehicle had been tested during the time of the UFO sighting, then Moore would have had reason to state otherwise, so as to divert the inquisitive away from the school. If the Socorro craft was generated from New Mexico Tech, then who built it? Some possibilities exist -

- 1) Fourth year college students aware of the test vehicle and a knowledge in aeronautics -
- 2) The U.S. Navy was testing a similar-type craft simultaneous with the work being conducted at Edwards AFB in California -
- 3) The military and/or aerospace company building the LEM was testing and during one of its flights it experienced mechanical difficulties which caused it to 'land' outside of Socorro, when Zamora observed his UFO.

In 1966 when Philip Klass asked scientists at the school if they had any interest in the Socorro case they emphatically stated they did not. This completely contradicts the story that Moore recently related. During Moore's investigation he stated in a letter, "We have no further information nor conclusions about this (UFO) report". We can now assume a number of people were unofficially involved in the investigation of Socorro from the Tech school.

Mr. Moore who previously worked for General Mills Corporation in 1949, at the White Sands Proving Grounds, tracked a UFO on a theodolite (high-altitude tracking scope) traveling at a purported 18,000 miles per hour. This could explain his slight interest in UFO's and why he investigated the Socorro event.

New Mexico Tech is just one of the possible sources to the origin of the Socorro UFO. There is another theory which is under close investigation by GSW, at Los Alamos, New Mexico, where one of the most confidential military projects occurred in the mid-forties. This was known as the "Manhattan Project", which was the code name given to the development of the first atomic bomb. As was the case in previous years and still is today, clandestine military testing is being conducted at the research center at Los Alamos. The installation is located about 130 miles north-northeast of Socorro.

There is unrestricted terrain between Los Alamos and Socorro with the Rio Grande river lying just east of the two towns. These factors make it possible for a craft to have been piloted from Los Alamos. If the vehicle was flown across the desert or along the Rio Grande river banks, which in either case would have reduced fuel consumption and would have made maneuverability easy, since the flight pattern would have been a near straight heading towards Socorro.

If the Los Alamos theory is true then the craft would have had to cross U.S. Highway 85 or Interstate 40. If this was the case, why wasn't the vehicle observed by passing motorists on these well-traveled highways? One alternative to this is that the UFO came from the nearby Sandia Laboratory installation located near Kirtland AFB, (Albuquerque) which is a high technology firm that develops electronics and other sophisticated devices. If the vehicle came from the Sandia area it would not have to be concerned with the congested areas making the test vehicle nearly undetectable.

If the vehicle did originate north of Socorro, it is possible that the craft was not a LEM-type craft. Let's assume that the UFO was another type of test vehicle, one that would be developed for military purposes. Some of the functions that the machine might possess include;

1. A vehicle to test duration, speed and stability of a future space or reconnaissance mission (FN 1).
2. A counter-measure vehicle, loaded with sophisticated electronic infiltration systems which would enable it to enter a secret installation, heavily guarded by radar, and pass undetected. Possibly the objective in this case was the White Sands Missile Range, which is located a short distance from Socorro. The infiltration system or ECM (electronic counter measures) devices on board the craft would not permit radar beams to detect it, in a similar manner to that of the recently publicized Stealth Aircraft, a plane which is virtually invisible to radar systems.

While enroute to its target the vehicle experienced mechanical difficulties and descended on the outskirts of Socorro, and Zamora

unfortunately, became an unsuspecting witness. When the responsible party for the UFO incident became aware that the 'vehicle' was accidentally observed and was reported to White Sands Missile Base personnel, the incident was then covered up in an attempt to hide the testing. This in turn, created a mystery and when the U.S. Air Force seriously investigated the event and in a cursory way suggested that the sighting was related to an unknown source, the reaction by the saucer researcher was very positive. Indirectly, this would amount to an enhancing of the saucer mystery, in which the UFO researchers inadvertently would play their roles. The agency behind the saucer manipulation would have succeeded in diverting the investigation to the source of the vehicle and further create additional interest in saucer research.

Our investigations revealed that no one at White Sands had any knowledge about the LEM tests in 1964 and most likely they knew nothing about our hypothesized ECM vehicle, due to the high security status of this project.

This is a valid assumption? The writers believe it is, especially in light of the policy that surrounds covert testing. To wit: In 1970 a "UFO" hovered in the New Mexico skies executing acrobatic maneuvers and figure-eight formations before finally descending onto the grounds of Los Alamos by parachute. Officials there were dumbfounded as to what the contraption was or where it may have originated. It was later determined, that the UFO was a high altitude recon-drone launched by White Sands. Officials of the military denied this until they were finally 'forced' to release the facts due to the high publicity surrounding the event (FN 2). That was a typical case whereby the body-politic and neighboring government officials had no prior knowledge of the military test. ED. NOTE: CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THE DRONE HAD BEEN EQUIPPED WITH AN EXPLOSIVE WARHEAD??

#### Conclusions:

Let's review the possibilities of the Socorro incident as related to the source of this "classical" UFO sighting.

- A. Hoax
- B. An extraterrestrial spacecraft
- C. Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) test
- D. A crude airfoil built by the students of New Mexico Tech
- E. A military test > possible ECM device
- F. A covert test conducted by the government and manipulated to enhance the saucer belief system

Of all the explanations the least plausible, to this organization, is the hoax theory. There is sufficient evidence to support that an

sighting actually occurred, which includes historical data that very little monetary gain was achieved from the Socorro incident.

The extraterrestrial spacecraft hypothesis is the overwhelming favorite of many UFO researchers. Many researchers envision this sighting as the first of numerous landings of space ships from a distant planet. Yet, with all the effort expired on this case, the only thing that can be proven in a cursory sense, is that something was observed by Zamora. It's one thing to have a sighting of a nuts & bolts craft, but it is absurd to claim that this was an observation of a bona fide craft from a distant planet. Where is the proof? Where is the evidence?

The U.S. Government was conducting tests on a LEM vehicle near the general sighting area a year after the Socorro sighting. Is it possible that these tests were conducted prior to that time and that New Mexico Tech deliberately falsified this information to stop investigators from connecting the Socorro "UFO" to the school?

The aircraft storage and dump yard at New Mexico Tech contains adequate materials capable of constructing a crude Socorro-type UFO. Was the UFO built by the school? To date no data has surfaced to quantify this interesting possibility. One would assume that the device would have surfaced after all these years or that some college student would have bragged about the event, in light of all the publicity surrounding this incident.

Our government has had secret projects transpiring for years. It is entirely feasible that the Socorro UFO was a test craft that just developed mechanical difficulties. From this point the manipulation hypothesis takes over. In the government's circle of red tape the same group responsible for the sighting is not the same one doing the saucer investigations. This way the two programs proceed concurrently. Rather than expose the secret project responsible for the UFO event, a ruse is created to mislead both the military investigators and the civilian enthusiast. In effect, it is to the advantage of the group manipulating the saucers to promote a few 'good' cases than it would be to suppress the entire subject.

Just remember the events that transpired in the Socorro case. The U.S. Air Force and their top consultant reported that Zamora was not hoaxing or lying about the sighting. The civilian UFO organizations immediately started a series of wild hypotheses, inferring that the Socorro incident was a bona fide visitation of a spaceship with creatures. Philip Klass, who totally discredited both of these theories, attempted to prove a hoax was being perpetrated. He probably should be given credit for coming closest to a logical explanation to the occurrence.

As the reader can see there are more unanswered questions to this event than have been satisfactorily explained in all the years following Zamora's famous sighting. There is no way that sensible UFO researchers can claim this sighting as solid proof to the existance of extra-terrestrials.

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Now is the time for all serious researchers to reconsider the past theories and look at the saucer saga. It appears to the writers that the UFO mystery must be described as a genuine psychological-social phenomenon born in modern times. It is time to forget the vivid speculations and view the continuing mystery from a more logical viewpoint.

-END-

(FN 1): During the later part of 1963, the Defense Department and other cursory agencies launched a joint program, known as Project Cloud Gap, to learn first-hand more about the problems of inspecting and enforcing the arms control agreements. The methods included both conventional and highly developed inspection aircraft which were covertly tested through-out the entire southwest.

(FN 2): Information on this incident was supplied by the Public Information Officer of the White Sands Missile Range during GSW's investigation in the Spring of 1981.

PHOTO "A"

Key to map of Socorro sighting:

- 1 = Point where Zamora first heard the roar and saw the flame from the purported UFO.
- 2 = Point where the witness reported "seeing" the UFO on ground and the two occupants. This distance is approximately 800 feet from the UFO site location.
- 3 = This is the point where Zamora parked his vehicle and in reference to the sighting time, the UFO took off with a burst of flame.
- 4 = The dynamite shed which the UFO flew over during departure.
- 5 = Residence of Felix Phillips, approximately 1,000 feet south-southeast of UFO site.
- 7 = County Fair grounds where Sergeant Chavez mistakenly drove to, misunderstanding Zamora's instructions.
- 8 = High voltage power line west of Highway 60

PHOTO "B" = Photo of witness Lonnie Zamora

PHOTO "C" = Hand drawn sketch by Zamora of purported insignia on Socorro UFO

PHOTO "D" = Socorro 'podprints' from U.S.A.F. files

PHOTO "E" = Zamora's view from position where he said he first saw the "object" and the two occupants in white coveralls. Dark image in right center of photo is a jeep (vehicle) approximate distance is 800 feet. Photograph by Phillip Klass.



# NEW MEXICO TECH

SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO 87801

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

April 29, 1981

Mr. Kenneth Firestone  
GSW Inc. R & I staff  
4214 W. Earll Dr.  
Phoenix, Az. 85019

Dear Mr. Firestone:

In response to your letter of April 27, 1981, the Terminal Effects Program has been in operation at this Institute since 1947. Most of the various aircraft components that are used in the testing have arrived in the period since the early 1950's.

These are the answers to the only questions that I can establish that you have asked.

In regard to the unidentified sighting by Officer Zamora in 1964, I have investigated this on my own and can assure you that there is little probability that it had anything to do with students or the Institute. If we can believe Officer Zamora (and there is no reason except for the strangeness of the observation that we should not) then it appears that he saw a Lunar Landing Module (LEM) but his observation was at least 12 months before the module was first tested here.

We have no further information nor conclusions about this report.

Sincerely,

*CB Moore*

C. B. Moore  
Professor, Atmospheric Physics  
and  
Chairman, Langmuir Laboratory

CBM/kat