



MSI PATCH SHEET

Hoover, J. Edgar
(memo)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. M. LADD *DL*
 FROM : *[Redacted]* *b7c*
 SUBJECT: FLYING SAUCERS AND FLYING DISCS

DATE: 8-8-47

(K5) *[Signature]*

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

[Signature]

Reference is made to the memorandum to you from the Liaison Section dated July 21, 1947, setting forth a request from Colonel *[Redacted]* of the Intelligence Division of the War Department for the Bureau to conduct investigation to determine the origin of the flying discs. *b7c*

OBSERVATIONS:

It is felt that the situation regarding these flying saucers and flying discs is very similar to the situation which was previously encountered by the Bureau during the past war in handling complaints arising out of the sighting of Japanese balloons. You will recall that at the inception of these complaints the Bureau conducted considerable investigation and located numerous balloons as a cooperative measure for the Army and that after considerable work had been done, the Army then informed that these were military weapons and that they would take over the handling of these completely. This they did and in an extremely short time issued a big press release as to the splendid work of the Army in locating these Japanese balloons. From the information available thus far, it does not appear that these discs should be treated other than as a military weapon. Certainly the Bureau has no way to determine what experiments the Army and Navy are conducting and whether such might be arising out of experiments being conducted by them nor do we have any way of determining how far the Russians have progressed in certain experiments and whether such might be the results of experiments by the Russian Army. It short, it would certainly appear that this is a military situation and should be handled strictly by military authorities. *[Signature]*

In this connection it might be pointed out that our present Portland case arose out of the fact that two Army Intelligence officers were returning from an interview of two individuals who reportedly had seen flying discs. If the Army Intelligence officers are handling some of these interviews, it is believed that they should be handling all of these interviews, and it is not believed that the Bureau should be expending its precious manpower on these complaints which thus far have no connection with our Russian espionage program. The military authorities certainly are better equipped to know what they are looking for than we are and have more facilities for handling any material which it is necessary to examine as a result of its being reported as a remnant of a flying disc. It is believed that the Bureau is merely playing bird-dog for the Army by using our manpower to run out these complaints on flying discs.

ACTION:

EX-34 RECORDED

162-83894-87

In view of the recent Bureau Bulletin #42 dated July 30, 1947, however, there is attached a letter to the Chicago Office asking that they conduct the requested investigation.

Attachment

5 SEP 29 1947 *[Signature]*

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Mr. [REDACTED] also discussed this matter with Colonel L. E. Forney of MID. Colonel Forney indicated that it was his attitude that inasmuch as it has been established that the flying disks are not the result of any Army or Navy experiments, the matter is of interest to the FBI. He stated that he was of the opinion that the Bureau, if at all possible, should accede to General Schulgen's request.

SWR:AJB

ADDENDUM

I would recommend that we advise the Army that the Bureau does not believe it should go into these investigations, it being noted that a great bulk of those alleged discs reported found have been pranks. It is not believed that the Bureau would accomplish anything by going into these investigations..

DML

(Clyde Tolson)

I think we should do this
7-15

(J. Edgar Hoover)

I would do it but before agreeing to it we must insist upon full access to discs recovered. For instance in the La. case the Army enabled it & would not let us have it for cursory examination.

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7-15-1947

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. W. LADD
FROM : E. G. FITCH
SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS

DATE: August 19, 1947

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
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Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
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Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

S.W. Reynolds

Aug. 19

Special Agent [redacted] of the Liaison Section, while discussing the above captioned phenomena with Lieutenant Colonel [redacted] of the Air Forces Intelligence, expressed the possibility that flying discs were, in fact, a very highly classified experiment of the Army or Navy. Mr. [redacted] was very much surprised when Colonel [redacted] not only agreed that this was a possibility, but confidentially stated it was his personal opinion that such was a probability. Colonel [redacted] indicated confidentially that a Mr. [redacted] who is a scientist attached to the Air Forces Intelligence, was of the same opinion.

Colonel [redacted] stated that he based his assumption on the following: He pointed out that when flying objects were reported seen over Sweden, the "high brass" of the War Department exerted tremendous pressure on the Air Forces Intelligence to conduct research and collect information in an effort to identify these sightings. Colonel [redacted] stated that, in contrast to this, we have reported sightings of unknown objects over the United States, and the "high brass" appeared to be totally unconcerned. He indicated this led him to believe that they knew enough about these objects to express no concern. Colonel [redacted] pointed out further that the objects in question have been seen by many individuals who are what he terms "trained observers," such as airplane pilots. He indicated also that several of the individuals are reliable members of the community. He stated it is his conclusion that these individuals saw something. He stated the above has led him to come to the conclusion that there were objects seen which somebody in the Government knows all about.

Mr. [redacted] pointed out to Colonel [redacted] that if it is a fact experimentations are being conducted by the United States Government, then it does not appear reasonable to request the FBI to spend money and precious time conducting inquiries with respect to this matter. Colonel [redacted] stated that he agreed with Mr. [redacted] in this regard and indicated that it would be extremely embarrassing to the Air Forces Intelligence if it later is learned that these flying discs are, in fact, an experiment of the United States Government.

Mr. [redacted] subsequently discussed this matter with Colonel L. R. Forney of the Intelligence Division of the War Department. Colonel Forney stated that he had discussed the matter previously with General Chamberlin. Colonel Forney indicated to Mr. [redacted] that he has the assurance of General

SWR:LL

EX-64

RECORDED

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RF

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Chamberlin and General Todd that the Army is conducting no experimentations with anything which could possibly be mistaken for a flying disc.

Colonel [redacted] of the Air Forces Intelligence subsequently contacted Mr. [redacted] and indicated that he had discussed this matter with General Schulgen of the Army Air Forces. General Schulgen had previously assured both Mr. [redacted] and Colonel [redacted] that to the best of his knowledge and information no experiments were being undertaken by the Government which could be mistaken for flying discs. Colonel [redacted] indicated to Mr. [redacted] that he had pointed out his beliefs to General Schulgen and had mentioned the possibility of an embarrassing situation arising between the Air Forces Intelligence and the FBI. General Schulgen agreed with Colonel [redacted] that a memorandum would be prepared for the signature of General McDonald, A2, to General LeMay, who is in charge of Research and Development in the Air Corps. Colonel [redacted] indicated that this memorandum will set forth the characteristics of the objects seen by various reliable individuals. The memorandum will then request General LeMay to indicate whether or not any experiments are being undertaken by the Air Forces which could possibly be connected with any of the observed phenomena. Colonel [redacted] stated that when a reply is received from General LeMay, a communication will be addressed to the Bureau.

Mr. [redacted] will follow this matter closely with Colonel [redacted] and General Schulgen so that the Bureau will be promptly advised of all information regarding the flying discs, especially any information indicating that they are, in fact, an experiment of some Governmental agency.