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COUNTRY ALASKA		REPORT NO. IR 5004-40-53	(LEAF BLANK) AF605523
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Sighting of Light on Big Diomedé, Island, USSR			
AREA REPORTED ON Big Diomedé, USSR		FROM (Agency) 5004th Air Intel Sv Sq APO 942, o/o PM, Seattle, Wash.	
DATE OF REPORT 24 November 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 8 October 1953	EVALUATION C-3	
PREPARED BY (Officer) FRANCIS M. BROWN, Major, USAF		SOURCE Raleigh Iyapanna	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

At approximately 081015Z, Raleigh Iyapanna, an Eskimo on Little Diomedé (168°55'W- 65°44'N), observed a light on the southern tip of Big Diomedé Island, USSR (169°03'W - 65°47'N). The light appeared as though it came from a large flashlight or spotlight and lasted for a period of several seconds. The information was reported by Iyapanna to ROY N. FOWLER member of the 5004th AISS stationed on Little Diomedé Island.

The sighting is unusual because persons have not been seen previously in that location and because it is believed to be a difficult place to reach, particularly at night.

Richard E. Loomis
RICHARD E. LOOMIS
Major, USAF
Commander

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Sketch of Observation

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I. DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE:

NAME: Raleigh Iyapanna

AGE: 14 Years

OCCUPATION: Elementary Student and Hunter

PLACE OF BIRTH: Little Diomed Island

II. RELIABILITY OF SOURCE:

This report was made on 6 October 1953 by, Raleigh Iyapanna, an Eskimo of Little Diomed Island. Every night during the week preceding the report he had maintained a watch on Big Diomed on his own initiative. ROY N. FOWLER states he believes the source to be fairly reliable and that the sighting of the light is possibly true. Source is in good health and has excellent eyesight.

III. REPORT OF SIGHTING:

At approximately 081025Z, the source observed a light on the southern tip of Big Diomed Island at an estimated height of 95 feet above sea level. He had been standing in the center of Little Diomed Village looking in the general direction of Big Diomed for about fifteen minutes prior to the sighting. Source observed the light when it appeared and watched it until it disappeared. The duration of the observation was estimated as lasting for several seconds. The light was described as being the size of a nickel coin held at arms length and about the same color as a burning match or dim flashlight. It was the sources opinion that the light came from a large flashlight or spotlight. Immediately after the light disappeared, the source ran to his house, about 25 yards away, and checked the time which was 1030Z. After checking the time he went back to his original position and continued to watch the area the light came from, however, the light did not reappear. For location of the light see Incl #1.

IV. WEATHER:

The night was dark but with no overcast, stars were clearly visible. Big Diomed Island was plainly outlined against the sky. Wind was from the north and estimated at about 5 MPH.

COMMENTS OF THE PREPARING OFFICER:

The location of the light is considered somewhat unusual because people have never been observed on that part of Big Diomed Island and because of the difficulty in reaching the location, particularly at night. If persons on Big Diomed wanted to signal to the Alaskan mainland, it could best be done from the southern tip of the island. From that point, the Alaskan coast from Wales

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(163°05'W - 65°37'N) to approximately Tin City (167°58'W - 65°33'N) could be seen when visibility was good. This stated only to mention the possibility however slight it may be. There is no evidence to support a conclusion that this was the purpose of the light.

Francis M. Brown

FRANCIS M. BROWN

Major, USAF

Preparing Officer

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