Approved for Release 2026

SECRET
Security Information

Executive Registry
53-2872-C

13 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Flying Saucers

1. Flying unidentified objects (Flying Saucers) have been the subject of Air Force observation and analysis because of the possibility that such objects might conceivably be an attack on the U.S. If they are not, it is conceivable that the enemy might take advantage of the confusion created by the ~~by the~~ Flying Saucers to use at his convenience some air weapon against the United States.

2. Thus far Defense Department conducted research in this area has been confined to the effort by A-2 through ATIC with the result that an explanation has been provided on all but 20 per cent of the total 1500 reported sightings of Flying Saucers.

3. Determination of the scientific capabilities of the USSR to create and control Flying Saucers as a weapon against the United States is a primary concern of the CIA/OSI. Its review of existing information does not lead to the conclusion that the saucers are USSR created or controlled. It is the view of OSI that collection of intelligence information on the capabilities of the USSR to produce, launch, and control Flying Saucers and the analysis of such data as might be collected cannot be very effective until there is adequate fundamental scientific research launched to clarify the nature and causes of Flying Saucers and to devise means whereby they might be instantly identified.

4. The major scientific intelligence problems in respect to Saucers are:

a. What is the present level of Soviet knowledge regarding these phenomena?

b. What are possible Soviet capabilities to utilize these phenomena to the detriment of US security interests?

c. What effect do flying saucers have on our warning system.

24

SECRET
Security Information

Approved for Release 2026

5. Conclusions:

a. The instigation of fundamental scientific research is the primary responsibility of the Defense Department.

b. The DCI, after IAC, should dispatch to Secretary Lovett [Later actually: The NSC] along the lines of the attached. The cover sheet explaining to the IAC why the proposed letter is submitted is also attached. (We cleared discussion this draft & the idea with A-2 before IAC)

c. It is far too early in view of the present state of our knowledge regarding Flying Saucers for psychological warfare planners to start planning how the United States might use U.S. Flying Saucers against the enemy.

d. When intelligence has submitted the National Estimate on Flying Saucers there will be the time and basis for a public policy to reduce or restrain mass hysteria.

James Q. Reber

JAMES Q. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

Approved for Release 2026

OSI ROUTING		
	TO	Initials
Act		
Info.		
Info.		
Info.		
Info.	Ops/SI	
Info.		
Info.	Durant	
Info.		
Info.		
Info.		
Info.		

Should be held with "Sauer" working papers for time being

REC

Approved for Release 2026

...FIED RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET
(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Deputy Director/Intelligence		
2	Director		
3			
4			
5			
FROM		**INITIALS**	**DATE**
1	Assistant Director/SI	[illegible]	20 [illegible]
2			
3			

- [2] APPROVAL
- [ ] ACTION
- [ ] COMMENT
- [1] CONCURRENCE
- [ ] INFORMATION
- [ ] DIRECT REPLY
- [ ] PREPARATION OF REPLY
- [ ] RECOMMENDATION
- [ ] SIGNATURE
- [ ] RETURN
- [ ] DISPATCH
- [ ] FILE

REMARKS:

Revised in accord with DD/I suggestions
1. - Propriety
2. - In shape.

[illegible]

SECRET CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED

FORM SEP. 1947 30-4 16—63794-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE