On 6 December 1958 between 1835 and 1840 local time, source observed, by telescope, an artificial object having a continuous brightness of magnitude 3 (same as the Belt of Orion) cross his position [field of vision] while source was observing Mars. The object traveled north to south. There was no sign of disintegration, smoke, flash, or noises. There was no sign of any fall. Source did not photograph the object, but he is sure that the object was identical with Sputnik III. Subsequent observations proved negative.

Headquarters Comment: A preliminary check showed that Sputnik III was not within source's area of visibility at the time indicated, nor in the direction cited in agreement with computed orbits. The carrier rocket for Sputnik III reentered the earth's atmosphere on 3 December 1958 according to a Soviet announcement.

Headquarters Comment: Evaluation requested of Air and OSI.

Field Dissemination: None

End of Message
On 6 December 1958 between 1836 and 1840 local time a source observed, by telescope, an artificial object having a continuous brightness of magnitude 3 (same as the Belt of Orion) cross his position in field of vision while source was observing Mars. The object traveled north to south. There was no sign of disintegration, smoke, flame, or noise. There was no sign of any fall. Source did not photograph the object, but he is sure that the object was identical with Sputnik III. Subsequent observations proved negative.

Headquarters Current: A preliminary check showed that Sputnik III was not within source's area of visibility at the time indicated, nor is the direction cited in agreement with computed orbits. The carrier rocket for Sputnik III reentered the earth's atmosphere on 3 December 1958 according to a Soviet announcement.

Headquarters Current: Evaluation requested of Air and OSI.

Field Dissemination: None
5. (FIELD COMMENT: OBJECT IMPACTED PRIOR TO REACHING THE CASPIAN.)

6. FIELD DISSEMINATION: NONE INDICATED.

END OF MESSAGE