

BIMUP ❖ THE OUTER CONNECTION

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

1 JULY 1994

REFERENCE TELECON WITH NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS
WEATHER RADAR OFFICE, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND ON THIS DATE

1. I ASKED IF HE HAD ANY REPORTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC. REGARDING THE PURPORTED UFO SIGHTINGS OVER SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. SPECIFICALLY, I ASKED ABOUT WEATHER RADAR INFORMATION FROM THE NWS WSR 74C AT MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN (SOME 911 TAPES OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN LOCAL POLICE AND A NWS RADAR OPERATOR THAT INDICATED SOMETHING UNUSUAL WAS SIGHTED WERE AIRED ON FOX TELEVISION ON 24 JUNE 1994). POLICE WERE PROMPTED BY CALLS FROM CITIZENS WHO SAID THEY SAW WHAT APPEARED LIKE "CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS AT HIGH ALTITUDE." THERE APPARENTLY WAS NO PERCEIVABLE SOUND ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHENOMENON.
2. INDICATED HE HAD COPIES OF THE AUDIO TAPES AND SOME AFTER-THE-FACT DRAWINGS OR MAPS MADE BY THE RADAR OPERATOR. NO OFFICIAL WEATHER RADAR REPORTS OR FILMS WERE MADE ON THE SUBJECT, SO THE OPERATOR HAD TO CONSTRUCT THE MAPS FROM MEMORY. THE WEATHER WAS SUPPOSEDLY CLEAR AND HAD NO THERMAL INVERSIONS (I WOULD HAVE TO CONFIRM THIS WITH USAF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS CENTER AT SCOTT AFB IL). HE SAID ONE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HAD BEEN INVESTIGATING THIS EVENT AND EVEN VISITED THE NWS FACILITY AT MUSKEGON. SAID THE RADAR RETURNS WERE COHERENT, MOVED AROUND RAPIDLY, VARIED IN ALTITUDE FROM 13K TO 50K, AND WERE SEEN INITIALLY OVER VAN BUREN, BERRIEN, AND ONE OTHER COUNTY. THE RETURNS APPARENTLY THEN MOVED OUT OVER LAKE MICHIGAN, FRAGMENTED INTO MANY SMALLER RETURNS CLOSE TO CHICAGO, AND DISAPPEARED. THE RETURNS HAD A VERY PRONOUNCED "KIDNEY" SHAPE. DURATION OF THE RADAR DEPICTIONS WAS ABOUT 1/2 HOUR, BUT VISUAL OBSERVATIONS PRIOR TO THAT MADE THE TOTAL DURATION AROUND 1.5 TO 2 HOURS. APPARENTLY FAA AND OTHER AIRCRAFT SURVEILLANCE RADARS DID NOT PICK UP THE RETURNS (THEY ARE L-BAND, ABOUT 20 CM WAVELENGTH, AND THE WSR 74C IS C-BAND, ABOUT 5 CM WAVELENGTH). I HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER ANYTHING WAS SIGHTED EITHER VISUALLY OR BY RADAR FROM AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY.
3. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ANY OPINIONS AS TO WHAT WAS SEEN. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE RELATED TO AURORA BOREALIS, WHICH WAS SEEN OVER MICHIGAN THAT SAME NIGHT. I TOLD HIM THAT IF THERE WERE ANY SUCH INFLUENCES, THE PHYSICS OF WHICH I COULD NOT SURMISE, THE RETURNS WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE TRIP ECHOES. HE AGREED. HE ALSO SAID THAT DAVE FORD THOUGHT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME MILITARY ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURE EXERCISES GOING ON; ALTHOUGH, THE PHENOMENON ALSO WAS OBSERVED VISUALLY BY NUMEROUS CITIZENS WHO MADE THE INITIAL REPORTS TO THE POLICE.
4. I ASKED IF HE COULD FAX ME THE MAPS AND DRAWINGS MADE BY THE RADAR OPERATOR. HE SAID HE WOULD DO SO (SEE ATTACHMENTS).
5. INITIAL CONCLUSION: UNKNOWN. INITIAL SPECULATION: POSSIBLE ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION THOUGH NOT EXPLAINABLE; OR POSSIBLE VALID UFO SITING.