STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR FBI

DATE: January 10, 1949

FROM : SAC KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT: "FLYING SAUCERS" OBSERVED OVER OAK RIDGE AREA
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Neale
Miss Candy

There are being submitted herewith two photographs of reputedly "flying saucers" which were seen at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, sometime during July of 1947. All of the information contained in this letter was received from Mr. GEORGE RATHMAN, Chief Investigator, Security Division, Atomic Energy Commission, and Colonel C. D. GASSER, Resident Engineer, Air Material Command, United States Army, who is the principal army technician at the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft Research Center at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Mr. RATHMAN advised that the attached photographs were taken by W. R. PRESLEY in July of 1947. He stated that interview with PRESLEY revealed that he had been snapping photographs of his family in front of his residence at 218 Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, late in the afternoon, when he looked into the sky and observed the vapor trail as exhibited by the photograph numbered "1." PRESLEY stated that he took a snap of this trail, was winding the film to the next number, when he looked into the sky and observed the ball of fire as shown in photograph 2. Upon observing the unusual phenomena, he used his last film in taking photograph #2. PRESLEY made these photographs available to reporters of the Knoxville News-Sentinel and a story concerning them was run in that paper; however, as shown by the photostatic copy of the newspaper clipping, which is also being submitted herewith to the Bureau, the print was very indistinct; the news story did not contain any factual information; and it was regarded generally by the public at the time as a possible trick.

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

Later, it was learned by Mr. RATHMAN and Colonel GASSER that PRESLEY had made several copies of this photograph and had distributed them among his acquaintances at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Upon Colonel GASSER's finding that the photographs had received some distribution, he requested Mr. RATHMAN as Head of the Compliance and Investigations Division, to recover as many as possible of the photographs, advise the persons in whose possession they were found to say nothing to anyone concerning them, and to return the said photographs to him for transmission to the United States Air Force Intelligence Service. Mr. RATHMAN advises that he succeeded in rounding up twenty-four copies of these photographs, and that, according to the statements of PRESLEY, no more copies were made or distributed. RATHMAN further stated that GASSER had appeared extremely concerned over the matter and seemed to be quite emphatic that the matter should be given no more publicity than was absolutely necessary. RATHMAN also advised that he studied the negatives from which the reproductions were made, and they appeared to be authentic in that trick photography should have been apparent, but from the

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