

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: January 24, 1949

FROM : D. M. Ladd *DL*SUBJECT: FLYING DISCS *MS*

Mr. Tolson	✓
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	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

I thought you might be interested in the following information concerning "Flying Discs" which has been furnished to the Bureau on a confidential basis by Colonel C. D. Gasser, Resident Engineer, Air Material Command, U. S. Army, who is the principal army technician at the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft Research Center at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Colonel Gasser stated that he knew nothing of an official nature concerning "Flying Discs" other than the fact that they are believed by Air Force Intelligence officials to be man-made missiles, rather than some natural phenomena. It was his further belief that a great deal of information has been compiled concerning these missiles by air force intelligence, and that research on the matter was being extensively done at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

Colonel Gasser then continued with his own ideas as to what might be the nature of these discs which ideas he had formulated through review of those known facts and theoretical conjectures of himself and other scientists concerning the nature of flying discs and methods of propulsion for such type of aerial mechanism. According to him, flying discs have long been a theoretical possibility, and, in fact, a possibility which would indicate one of the best means by which to break through the barriers of the supersonic area. He stated that scientists have, for many years, been attempting to develop this type of aircraft. Some experimentation has been done even in the United States, but insofar as is known in the United States at the present time, there have never been any practical developments. As a second factor of consideration, Colonel Gasser stated that insofar as is known to U. S. scientists at this time, there is no known chemical fuel which would make possible tremendous range of flight such as is ascribed to the reported "flying discs." According to Gasser, there is only one possible fuel which could be utilized which is in accord with present theory, and that is the utilization of atomic energy.

He stated that this subject matter was being given absolutely no dissemination by the air force or other military personnel, and that they had not deemed it advisable to advise him of all information pertaining to this type missile. He continued, however, that in his conversation with representatives at Wright Field and in reading reports returned to this country by foreign agents, he had gathered together certain information which might be of assistance in determining whether or not these so-called missiles were authentic, usable and of danger to the United States.

EHM:hhr *hhr*

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