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Statement
Athelstan F. Spilhaus
June 3, 1994

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 3 Jun 94 Place: VA

I Athelstan F Spilhaus, hereby state that Jeffrey Butler, was identified as a Colonel, USAF and Jim McAndrew, was identified as a Lieutenant, USAF on this date at my home and do hereby, voluntarily and of my own free will. make the following statement. This is done without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement.

I was the Director of the NYU Balloon Project and also involved with many other sensitive activities. Until these discussions, I had no indication of what the "Roswell incident" was. I was involved in numerous unusual activities such as reconstruction of captured German rockets, development of drone planes and the like--such as long range balloons. The Army Air Force had seen what the Japanese had done with long range balloons; although not effective as weapons, they did initiate the long-range balloon research which led to use of balloons for the detection and collection of debris from atomic explosion. Although I was involved in sensitive classified programs, I completed secrecy agreements for various projects, and I understand that this activity (Mogul, etc. is now declassified) and I did enforce "need to know". In part, I left NYU because the administration wanted to know too much about the various projects I was involved in (the Bikini test). At one time I was sent by the US government to assist the South Africa meterological efforts and I worked numerous other special missions. Even though the war was over the Cold War had just started and certain things were sensitive. I recall that it was Col Duffy who brought me from the Reserves to active duty. It was during this period that I did become involved in a "UFO case". Some bush pilot had found some pock marks in dry snow in Alaska in 1950. So we flew up and saw peculiar round holes in the snow. We landed and took dog sleds to the site and found craters with a hole in the center. We cored one out of the snow and found a center of frozen conical ice. I began to think of something I had seen in the desert where glass had been formed similarly after a lightening strike (the "fumoroles"). I took one back to the university in dry ice and wrote a classified report. We even simulated a small lightning strike over dry snow (just from the snow blowing over the surface) and came up with conical ice formations. This was the Stony River Incident and it wasn't a UFO. On the December 1947 balloon project reports the "service flights" probably refer to the then Top Security project AFOAT 1 (related to MOGUL) which was to produce a report to the President when the Russians exploded an atomic device and were ready to produce a droppable atomic bomb. We coordinated all the listening posts to determine what stage the Russians were at. Concerning the Watson Laboratory gear, I don't remember the specifics of what that gear was. I recommend you check with Charlie Moore for those details. Many of the projects I just new about in general--these were sensitive times--it was sometimes better not to know too much--I knew about the collection of debris with special planes daily from Eilson AFB to the North Pole and back, PTARMIGAN flights, that lasted through the 50's. Concerning the Japanese balloons, I don't recall any specifics. Nor do I recall whether we had REWARD tags on all the balloons. I went many times to Alomogordo AAF and White Sands--not necessarily for balloon flights. I worked on naval activity such as the thermal affects on SONAR. Concerning actual balloon construction, Winzen of St Paul Minnesota, in association with General Mills, did most of the balloons. General Mills also did some balloon projects. Winzen made the first polyethelene (non-stretchable balloons). Flight #5, I really did not get into the details of the individual flights or experiments. The polyethelene material was very durable--it was designed not to burst--you could push a sharp thing through it but it would be difficult to tear

it with your hands. There was also debris collection on sticky paper. Most of the balloon projects were not concerned with weather--that's why there weren't radiosondes on all the balloons. The "cosmic ray train" was probably just a cosmic ray experiment on one of our ballons. The balloons were made of sections and had tape reinforcements but I don't recall any specifics on the tape material. Mylar was not called that originally--it may have originated as polyethelene. All the polyethelene we use was of a translucent material. Neoprene was used during the war; generally for meterological and artillery firing ballons. The artillery radar tracked the balloons with corner reflectors--this gave the winds aloft to assist the gunners. The radar reflectors were sheets of reflective material and they changed over time but I don't recall the details of the changes. On reviewing Charlie Moore's letter, the acoustic detection relates with the atomic debris collection. The reflectors were for tracking and was made up of a metalized paper or fabric. Charlie explains the flowers--I'd heard about the flowers before, don't remember where--we used whatever we had in the experimental realm. The targets were throw-aways--we didn't put a tag on them, maybe a radiosonde, but not a target. Such a train would make gouges (shallow) as it was dragging the ground. We used meterology as a cover story--it was a natural. It had a purpose beyond the project--we could use the constant level analysis of the constant pressure (isobaric) vs constant altitude to study atmospherics mathematically--therefore using it was natural. Ramey's press conference--the Air Force position makes sense for the mistake that the PIO made in his statements. (All the NYU personnel had left Alomogordo when the "material" was brought in--someone stated that it may have been Col Duffy's and therefore sent it to him at Wright Patterson--not because it was extraterrestial) It is a logical reason to send it (the debris from the desert) there--not because it was special--Col Duffy was a fine officer and I'm sure he'd recognize it. I was not aware of any association between our balloon projects and the alleged "Roswell incident" until this interview. I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from either the US government or American public. There is no classified information that I am withholding related to this inquiry and I have never been threatened by US Government persons concerning not talking about this situation .

SIGNED:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized to administer oaths this
3rd day of June 1994
VA

JEFFREY C BUTLER, COL, USAF

WITNESS(s):

JAMES MCANDREW, 1LT, USAF

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Statement, with Hieroglyphic and Balloon Train Drawings

Charles B. Moore

June 8, 1994

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 8 Jun 94 Place: NM

CBM

I, Charles B Moore, hereby state that Jeffrey Butler, was identified as a Colonel, USAF and Jim McAndrew, was identified as a Lieutenant, USAF on this date at my home and do hereby, voluntarily and of my own free will, make the following statement. This is done without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement. CBM.

CBM

I was the Project Engineer for the NYU balloon project during the 1947 time frame. I was not aware that the project had the name MOGUL until 1992 when I was contacted by an individual who was working on some research related to the "Roswell Incident" and the relationship to the NYU balloon project. Our only purpose for the NYU group was to develop constant level balloons. In the early flights at Alomorgodo, starting in June, 1947, we used radar targets to track the balloons (not all the balloons had targets). Some of the targets were apparently manufactured by a toy or novelty company. Ed Istvan was the procurement officer and he had contacted some company that extruded toothpaste tubes as well as radar chaff. The early balloons were made of neoprene and manufactured primarily by the Dewey Almy company in Cambridge and the Kaysam company. Dewey balloons were dip type and the Kaysam ones were cast in a mold. The neoprene balloons were susceptible to degradation in sunlight turning from a translucent milky white to a dark brown . Some of the material would almost look like dark gray or black flakes or ashes after exposure to the sun for only a few days. The balloon material and radar target material would be scattered after returning to the earth depending on the surface winds. The balloon material also had a peculiar acrid odor due to plasticizers and anti-oxidants. There is a recollection from another procurement person (Peterson) that he had obtained radar reflectors from a toy manufacturer. I have a specific recollection of reinforcing tape applied to the seams of the reflectors that had some symbols such as arcs, flowers, circles and diamonds. These were pinkish in color. To my knowledge, there were no radar reflectors in New Mexico in 1947 like the ones we used until the NYU group arrived. The Columbia group was primarily involved in developing low frequency microphones for long range detection of explosions. There was intense pressure for these developments, the constant altitude balloons and the microphone gear. I was involved in 1945 in China-Burma-India for the installation and maintaining of weather equipment in the war against Japan. Our subsequent work with the balloons and microphones was highly classified and we didn't know that there was a project name until 1992. Concerning the make up of the balloon trains, we used braided or twisted nylon lines--there were no monofilament lines during the 1947 time frame. Some of the balloons in early June carried radar targets for tracking purposes since we did not have radiosonde receivers with us.Some also carried sonobouys for detecting the pressure waves where we didn't have the Watson Lab microphone gear. All the radiosondes were coverend in white painted cardboard; I don't recall the color of the sonobouys but I believe they were covered in metal. On review of the photos in the Randle/Schmitt book, the material looks like one of our balloon and target assemblies. The wooden beams were made of a balsa wood that had been coated in an Elmers-like glue. The targets had eyelets where the various strings were attached. The 307(B) model was more of an aluminum foil material than the 307(C) model, which was more of an aluminized paper. The targets we used appeared more fragile than the later

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model. I think that Flight #4 was the flight that was launched out of Alamogordo on June 4, 1947. This is based on Dr. Crary's actual diary of the launch and other events. This is also one of those events where we went to multiple radar targets because we were not having good success with single targets. This flight was with multiple balloons and targets and may have had a sonobouy (black box?). The Watson Lab gear was the microphone equipment specifically for MOGUL. The idea was proposed in a 1945 letter from Dr Ewing (Woods Hole and Columbia) to Gen Spaatz that we might be able to detect nuclear blasts via pressure waves and low frequency microphones. This was developed from a study of the 1883 Krakatoa explosion where the pressure waves circled the earth seven times. Dr Crary was sent to Ascension island (the antipodol) to attempt to detect the Crossroads shot for Operation Crossroads on Kilohuea or Bikini. He didn't get anything. In December, 1946, Dr Crary was sent to Alomogordo to run the field stations for MOGUL. There were several ground microphone sites for detecting blasts (bombs) detonated off the New Jersey coast. He also initiated activities off Bermuda and Panama. Dr Crary and Dr Peoples were the advance people and scientific monitors for our project. Dr Peoples told us to use the cover story of meteorology and to enforce the need-to-know--in fact I had been reluctant to discuss any of this until only a few years ago. Your letter (SAF/AA) is the first official document I've seen that says this is declassified. Concerning the Japanese balloons, we did not use any of them for MOGUL. We didn't pattern our work after the Japanese balloons. We were very secretive of our work, but the cover story was not a detailed developed cover story. Our new hires were not even aware of the purpose. They thought they were just handling meteorological equipment. Any of the flights that had "tags" would have stated, "Research Balloon Flight, Request Return to NYU". The "service flights" for Dr Peoples were specific ones carrying the microphone gear. The radar test flights were not recorded. There was a lot of pressure to develop the constant level balloons. The tracking was to be done by the Watson Labs radar for the V-2 launches, etc. Starting in early June, 1947 the 307(B) targets came from NYU. We also launched TNT on some of the balloons to simulate airbursts for detection. All of these balloons were accounted for. These and the radar test flights had no tags--we did not want these to be associated with our project and the explosive ones would all be destroyed with pressure switches. To my knowledge, the NYU group were the only ones using balloons in New Mexico during this time but others were involved in other activities so debris from rockets, aircraft dropsondes, etc. may have been found throughout this area. Initially we did not coordinate any of our balloon launches with the Civil Aeronautics Administration. We had no contact with any of the Roswell personnel-- although Crary or Peoples may have. There were two July 8th press releases: in the earlier release, Col J D Ryan stated that radar reflectors were being used to track balloons for wind information. July 8th is the same day the NYU group returned to NYU, so we had no contact with the Roswell personnel when the announcement was made concerning having found the "discs". When we heard the news back in New York, we joked that they probably found one of our balloons. From that time up until about 1980, no one, officially or otherwise made any contact with me concerning the possible association between MOGUL and the "Roswell incident"(it was in about 1980 that William Moore contacted me and asked questions about balloons making "gouges" in the earth). The July 10th Alomorgodo News article shows a demonstration of some of our multiple balloons and target trains. We had no one there so it was surprising to see this. It almost appears that there was some type of "umbrella cover story" to protect our work with MOGUL.

C.B.M

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I can think of no other explanation for Roswell than one of our early June service flight balloons. If one of our balloons went down there was no shroud of secrecy about it. We would attempt to recover the flight gear when possible, but the reflectors, balloons, and microphone equipment was expendable. We went to no great effort to recover the equipment and we certainly would not cordon off an area where one of our balloons went down. We would sometimes send out 3-4 men to recover the equipment if we knew where it went down. The July 10th Alomorgordo News report was a good cover--it does not appear to be a coincidence--I don't know who may have initiated it. Trakowski does not recall being involved in a cover story in one of my conversations with him. In New Mexico during 1947, all of our balloon operations were launched from Alamogordo AAF. CBM.

CBM I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from either the US government or American public. There is no classified information that I am withholding related to this inquiry and I have never been threatened by US Government persons concerning refraining from talking about this situation. CBM

SIGNED:

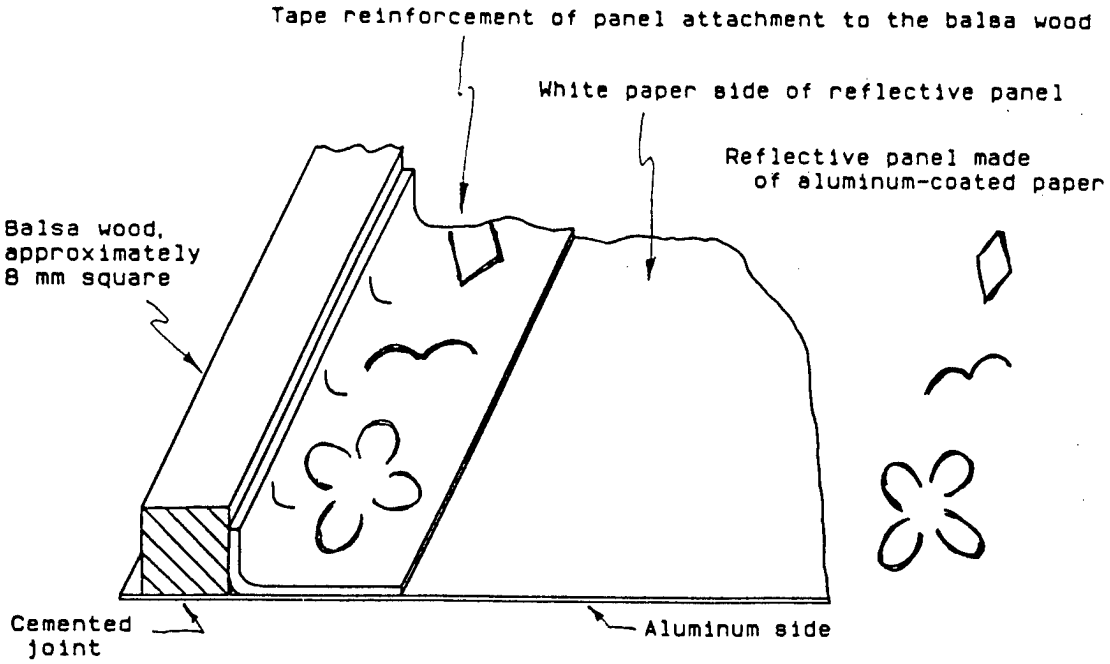
Charles B. Moore

WITNESS(s):

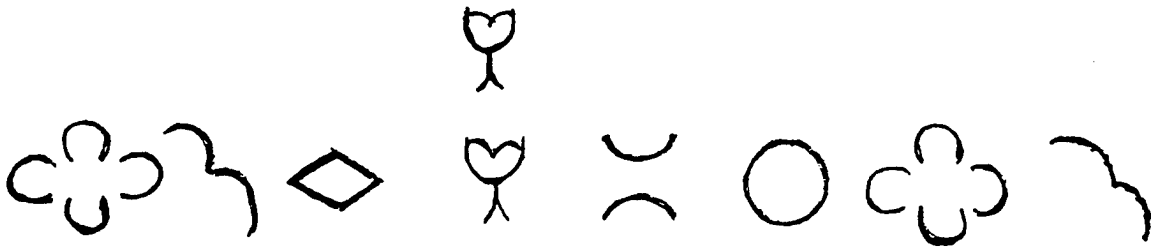
Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized to administer oaths this
8th day of June 1994 , NM

JEFFREY C BUTLER, COL, USAF

JAMES MCANDREW, 1LT, USAF



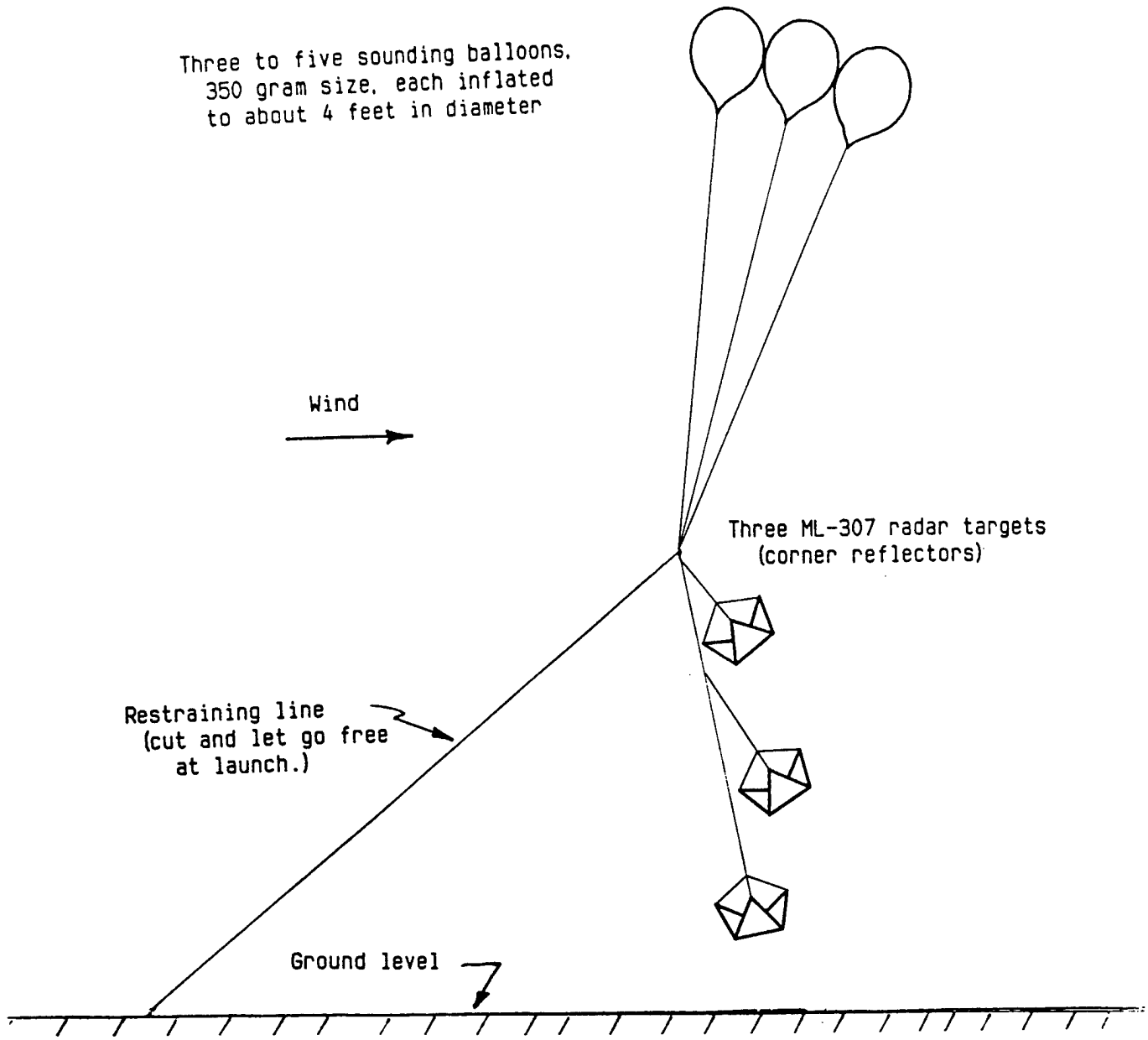
MY RECOLLECTION OF THE REFLECTOR MATERIAL ATTACHMENT TO THE BALSA WOOD PIECES ON THE ML-307/AP PILOT BALLOON RADAR TARGETS IN 1947.



AN APPROXIMATE REPRODUCTION OF THE FIGURES PRINTED ON THE TARGET-REINFORCING TAPE
(This is not authoritative since I last saw one of these targets more than 20 years ago.)

C. B. Moore

C.B. Moore
August 28, 1992



TYPICAL RADAR TARGET FLIGHT TRAIN USED BY THE NYU BALLOON GROUP IN 1947

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Statement
Albert C. Trakowski
June 29, 1994

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Date: 29 Jun 94 Place: VA

I, Albert C. Trakowski, hereby state that Jeffrey Butler, was identified as a Colonel, USAF and Jim McAndrew, was identified as a Lieutenant, USAF on this date at my home and do hereby, voluntarily and of my own free will, make the following statement. This is done without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement.

I was provided a background on the Air Force efforts related to the GAO audit and it's association with the "Roswell Incident" and project Mogul. I personally know all the persons that Col Butler identified to me as having been contacted in this effort (Spilhaus, Moore, Istvan, Fletcher, Ms Duffy). I have also been contacted by several researchers and writers and discussed project Mogul and provided some documents to some of them. Robert Todd, I'm not sure whether he was a believer or not. Charles Ziegler was working on the history of nuclear weapons detection capability. He had some letters/papers that I did not have such as the letters the Gen Spaatz directed the establishment of project Mogul. Carl Pflock apparently wanted to establish the "incident" of Roswell as a UFO incident. Charlie Moore was primarily responsible for development of the constant level balloons for lifting the instrument packages. Concerning a cover story for the project Mogul, there was no planned cover story. I do not recall any documentation nor any efforts to develop a cover story even though the security for Mogul was of great concern. Charlie Moore and Athel Spilhaus used meteorological research as a cover but this was a spur of the moment effort--it was an obvious answer to a query--there was no documentation for using meteorology. We never considered a planned cover story; we were concerned with security.

I was the project officer succeeding Col Duffy in approximately November 1946. My primary purpose was nuclear weapons and guided missiles detection programs. Previously, I was appointed as the laboratory chief in the Signal Corps as an Air Force officer in charge of the Spherics program and later for the development of weather radar. Since my background was in physics, I took over project Mogul. It was the only Top Secret project at Watson Labs and I was the Top Secret Control Officer, so I knew the impacts with security associated with the project. We moved from Watson Labs to Cambridge Me which combined became the Air Force Cambridge Research Center, and I became the Director of the Air Force Geophysics Lab (and remained so until 1949). Through 1949, I was the director of both MX968 and Mogul. As the Mogul director, I went to Alamorgordo Army Air Field in early July 1947, to observe the New York University balloon group. The "Roswell Incident" occurred after we had returned to Red Bank (Watson lab) NJ. I became aware of this only after Col Duffy called me from Wright Field from his home. This was just an informational call, he just wanted to let me know that someone had come to him with some debris from New Mexico and he said, "this sure looked like some of the stuff that you launched from Alamorgordo." Duffy was very familiar with the various

apparatus and materials for the project, so if he said that it was debris from the project, I'm sure that's what it was. He was not concerned with a breach of security for the project.

Concerning the name Maj Pritchard, he may have worked for me but I don't recall him. I have no knowledge of any counterintelligence. or intelligence persons on the project or associated with my directorate at Watson or Cambridge Labs. When we took over the project, we were aware of the sensitivity of the project--we were aware that we were working in the open--it was a weakness of security because the activity could be observed. I never observed any of the balloon "trains" but I did see some of the early reflectors. Some of the reflectors were procured from sources out of normal channels. Some of the contractors lined up were not quite in concert with typical Signal Corps practices and procedures. Jack Peterson was very energetic and could make procurement actions take place. Ed Itsvan, who I believe actually arranged for production for some of the reflectors, actually went to a toy manufacturer in New York city to get some. It was kind of a standing joke. I remember that some of the prototype and preproduction targets had this pink or purplish tape holding the material to the balsa beam. This tape had flowers and other designs on it. The reflectors were probably made starting in late 1944 but I do not recall how long the production run was. I do not recall any other specific attributes but they were geometrically and structurally simple.

I am not part of any conspiracy to withhold information from either the US government or American public. There is no classified information that I am withholding related to this inquiry and I have never been threatened by US Government persons concerning refraining from talking about this situation .

SIGNED:

Albert C. Trakowski

WITNESS(s):

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized to administer oaths this
28th day of June 1994 at , VA

JEFFREY C BUTLER, COL, USAF

JAMES MCANDREW, 1LT, USAF