

SANTA CRUZ

BOLIVIA, AUGUST 1979



Fifteen months after the curious events at Bermejo, Bolivia, a somewhat similar event took place in the Santa Cruz region of Bolivia. According to documentation declassified under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act and made available by the Defense Intelligence Agency:

On late afternoon [8 August 1979] the Embassy here received information that a strange object had been found on a farm near Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Source stated that the object was about 70 centimeters in diameter and two meters in circumference with a hole in one side and a metal skin covering of approx one-half inch thickness. Later the object was described as "about three times the size of a basketball."

A second report, filed shortly afterwards, demonstrated that U.S. authorities were taking a considerable interest in the incident:

A second fireball fell from the sky early in the morning of the same day that the first one was found near Cotoca. This second one was found 200 kilometers north of the city of Santa Cruz on the farm of Juan Saavedra by the Campesino Gonzalo Menacho Viveras. The place is in the area of Buen Retiro near the Yapacane River. According to the information given by the Campesino, around 12.30 a.m. on Friday last week he heard a loud whistling sound and saw a fireball followed by an explosion. He said that the next evening a silent aircraft that had three lights was flying over the explosion area.

After dawn on Friday morning the Campesino started looking around the area of the impact and found a sphere. As it was not heavy, he took it home where he kept it until his friend, Nataniel Mendez Hurtado, learned of the other sphere in Cotoca and passed on information concerning this second sphere.

The mystery of finding these two spheres, exactly alike, is that according to the witnesses they were fireballs. That is to say that these spheres became real balls of fire when they entered the atmosphere because of the friction and after a high speed fall they hit the ground. However, in the area where they've been found, there were no signs of the impact and [it] looks as though the spheres landed smoothly.¹

Notably, the documentation concerning the sphere recoveries states that U.S. authorities had received "a roll of 35mm film for color prints and a roll of Kodachrome 40 movie film. The 35 mm film will be developed and printed here in La Paz. The movie film will be forwarded to DIA."

Questions abounded: From where did the spheres originate? What was the "silent aircraft" that flew directly over the crash site the following evening? And how had the spheres negotiated a smooth landing? An attempt to possibly answer at least some of those questions by examining the relevant photographs and film footage failed when the DIA stated, in response to a FOIA request, that the material could not be located.²

While some have argued that this case involved nothing stranger than fallen space debris of terrestrial origin, the questions concerning the "silent aircraft" and the fact that the objects did appear to have landed smoothly leave this case wide open and suggest a potentially more exotic origin than mere rocket or satellite detritus.

¹ Defense Intelligence Agency documentation, August 1979

² Letter to Nick Redfern from the Defense Intelligence Agency, 4 August 1990



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

Gery D. Huelseman
Chief, Information Management Operations Branch
National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC)
4180 Watson Way
Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5648

23 April 2007

Ryan S. Wood
14004 Quail Ridge Drive
Broomfield CO 80020

Dear Mr. Wood

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 4 Apr 07, case number NASIC-07-008.

A search was conducted and the requested documents were located. After reviewing the documents, it was determined that it is releasable.

Sincerely



GERY D. HUELSEMAN

Attachments
Releasable Documents

SEQUENCE NR: CIP79025046 USER-MORIARITJ ID: 48352-97SEP22/12.20.07/A01

TITLE: MOON DUST, ADDITIONAL OBJECT REPORTEDLY FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ *U*
DOC NR: 6808005979, 3 PP
DOC DATE: 790821/1330
FICHE NR: DST79C013084
REQ NR: D-T3B49756 (DT3B49756)
INF CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)
INF LOC: SANTA CRUZ
INF DATE: 790819
COSATI: SPACE TECHNOLOGY (22)
CLASSIF: CONFIDENTIAL
DWNGRADE: CLASSIFIED BY: USDAO LA PAZ DATT AIRA; DECLASSIFY ON: ORIGINATING AGENCY'S DETERMINATION REQUIRED
RELEASE: NOFORN (NF)

TEXT: ENTIRE.

(u) *NOFORN* ONE OF THE LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER OF LA PAZ, EL DIARIO, CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY ON JULY 19, 1979 STATING THAT A SECOND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT VERY SIMILAR TO THE FIRST ONE REPORTED, HAD BEEN FOUND IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT. (SEE IIR 6808005779 REGARDING FIRST OBJECT REPORTED): THE HEADLINE OF THIS STORY STATES QUOTE: NEW SPHERE FELL FROM SPACE IN SANTA CRUZE, UNQUOTE. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS, QUOTE: A SECOND FIRE BALL FELL FROM THE SKY EARLY IN THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY THAT THE FIRST ONE WAS FOUND NEAR COTOCA. THIS SECOND ONE WAS FOUND 200 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ ON THE FARM OF JUAN SAAVEDRA BY THE CAMPESINO GONZALO MENACHO VIVERAS. THE PLACE IS IN THE AREA OF BUEN RETIRO NEAR THE YARACANE RIVER. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE CAMPESINO, AROUND 12:30 A.M. ON FRIDAY LAST WEEK HE HEARD A LOUD WHISTLING SOUND AND SAW A FIRE BALL FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT THE NEXT EVENING A SILENT AIRCRAFT THAT HAD THREE LIGHTS WAS FLYING OVER THE EXPLOSION AREA.

(u) *NOFORN* AFTER DAWN ON FRIDAY MORNING THE CAMPESINO STARTED LOOKING AROUND THE AREA OF THE IMPACT AND FOUND A SPHERE. AS IT WAS NOT HEAVY, HE TOOK IT HOME WHERE HE KEPT IT UNTIL HIS FRIEND FRAGILE, MENDEZ HURTADO LEARNED OF THE OTHER SPHERE IN COTOCA AND PASSED ON INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS SECOND SPHERE. THE MYSTERY OF FINDING THESE TWO SPHERES, EXACTLY ALIKE, IS THAT ACCORDING TO THE WITNESSES THEY WERE FIRE BALLS. THAT IS TO SAY THAT THESE SPHERES BECAME REAL BALLS OF FIRE WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE BECAUSE OF THE FRICTION AND AFTER A HIGH SPEED FALL THEY HIT THE GROUND. HOWEVER, IN THE AREA WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FOUND, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF THE IMPACT AND LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SPHERES LANDED SMOOTHLY. THE MATERIAL OF THE SPHERES IS KIND OF FRAGILE, BUT THEY ARE NOT DAMAGED (BY IMPACT) AND IN BOTH CASES THEY ONLY SHOW A HOLE (IN OUTER SKIN) WITH MELTED EDGES AND AN EXPLOSION (APPARENTLY) DESTROYED THE

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEQUENCE NR: CIP79025046 USER-MORIARITJ ID: 48352-97SEP22/12.20.07/A01

CONTENTS OF THE INTERIOR.

(u)* ~~NOFORN~~* GONZALO MENACHO SAID THAT WHERE HE FOUND THE SPHERE HE SAW SOME BURNED PLANTS BUT HE DID NOT SEE ANY SIGN OF THE IMPACT ON THE SOFT GROUND. THE SPHERE FOUND IN THE NORTH OF THE SANTA CRUZ DEPARTAMENT WEIGHS ABOUT SIX KILOGRAMS WITH A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 80 CENTIMETERS. THE OUTSIDE METAL IS SIMILAR TO COPPER, IS KIND OF DARK WITH LIGHT SPOTS, AND HAS APPARENTLY BEEN EXPOSED TO VERY HIGH TEMPERATURES. THE SPHERE IS MADE BY TWO PIECES PUT TOGETHER WITHOUT ANY RIVETS. ON THE TOP OF THE SPHERE YOU CAN SEE A HOLE OF IRREGULAR SHAPE AND NEXT TO IT ANOTHER SMALL ROUND HOLE. IN BOTH, THE MATERIAL IS MELTED, AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPHERE THERE IS A ROUND AREA THAT LOOKS LIKE A CORK IN A BOTTLE HELD IN PLACE BY THREE SEMIMELTED SCREWS. THE SPHERE WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ BY NEWSMEN FROM A LOCAL RADIO STATION WHO INFORMED THIS NEWSPAPER OF THE DETAILS. THE CAMPESINO WHO FOUND THIS SPHERE CLAIMS IT AS HIS PROPERTY. THE SPHERE WAS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY ALL AFTERNOON AT THE RADIO STATION UNQUOTE.

(u)* ~~NOFORN~~* REPORTING OFFICER COMMENT: A PICTURE ACCOMPANYING THE ABOVE ARTICLE SHOWS THIS SECOND UNIDENTIFIED SPHERE TO BE PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL IN APPEARANCE TO THE FIRST ONE. A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE AND PICTURE WERE FORWARDED TO DIA, DT-3 BY STATE DEPARTMENT POUCH ON JULY 20, 1979. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE POUCH WERE THE FOLLOWING RELATING TO THE FIRST SPHERE 35 MM COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS; AN UNDEVELOPED ROLL OF HOME MOVIE FILM; AND A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY.

UNCLASSIFIED

SEQUENCE NR: CIP79024087 USER-MORIARITJ ID: 09877-97SEP22/14.13.46/A01

TITLE: MOON DUST, OBJECT FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ *U*
 DOC NR: 6808005779, 2 PP
 DOC DATE: 790817/2000
 FICHE NR: DST79C012507
 REQ NR: D-T3B49756 (DT3B49756)
 INF CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)
 INF DATE: 790816-790817
 COSATI: SPACE TECHNOLOGY (22)
 CLASSIF: CONFIDENTIAL
 DWNGRADE: CLASSIFIED BY: USDAO LA PAZ DATT/AIRA; DECLASSIFY ON:
 ORIGINATING AGENCY'S DETERMINATION REQUIRED
 RELEASE: NOFORN (NF)

TEXT: ENTIRE.

(u)g* ~~NOFORN~~ ON LATE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 16, 1979, THE EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT A STRANGE OBJECT HAD BEEN FOUND ON A FARM NEAR SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA. SOURCE STATED THAT THE OBJECT WAS ABOUT 70 CENTIMETERS IN DIAMETER AND TWO METERS IN CIRCUMFERENCE WITH A HOLE IN ONE SIDE AND A METAL SKIN COVERING OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF INCH THICKNESS. LATER THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS ABOUT THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL. SOURCE STATED THAT HE HAD FILM OF THIS OBJECT WHICH HE GAVE TO AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL ON AUGUST 17, 1979.

(u)g* ~~NOFORN~~ ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 17, 1979, THE SANTA CRUZ NEWSPAPER EL DEBER PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON THIS INCIDENT. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE: PART OF WHAT COULD BE A SATELLITE FELL NEAR COTOCA. A PHENOMENON THAT COULD FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD ON BOLIVIA OCCURRED IN OUR CAPITAL WHEN A SPHERE WAS DISCOVERED THAT FELL APPROXIMATELY SIX DAYS AGO ON A FARM LOCATED 15 KM FROM COTOCA.

(u)g* ~~NOFORN~~ ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THIS NEWSPAPER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COL ARIEL COCA, THE SPHERE IS MADE OF SPECIAL LIGHT ALLOY BUT VERY RESISTANT, POSSIBLY A FUEL TANK OR A PART OF A SATELLITE. THE OBJECT DOES NOT HAVE ANY SIGNS OR MARKS THAT COULD IDENTIFY ITS ORIGIN NOR THE COUNTRY TO WHICH IT BELONGS.

(u)g* ~~NOFORN~~ COL COCA SAID THAT HE WILL INFORM HIS SUPERIORS OF THIS PHENOMENON SO THAT A STUDY CAN BE MADE TO DETERMINE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA WHERE THIS BALL OF FIRE (AS THEY CALLED IT) FELL, DELAYED IN TELLING THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE EVENT BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID THAT NO ONE WOULD LISTEN, UNQUOTE.

(u)g* ~~NOFORN~~ AN ACCOMPANYING PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER SHOWS COL COCA, COMMANDER OF THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY, EXAMINING A ROUND OBJECT WHICH REACHES ABOVE HIS KNEES AND APPEARS TO BE PERFECTLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SEQUENCE NR: CIP79024087 USER-MORIARITJ ID: 09877-97SEP22/14.13.46/A01

ROUND EXCEPT FOR A HOLE (MISSING PORTION OF OUTER SKIN) WHICH IS ABOUT NINE INCHES IN DIAMETER

PFN INFORMATION: PART 001

RELATES: ARIEL COCA IS A MEMBER OF AIR FORCE ACAD.

PERSON: COCA, ARIEL
PROTITLE: COLONEL, DIRECTOR, COMMANDER
PERS CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)

FACILITY: AIR FORCE ACAD
FACL CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PAGE 3

FROM: USDAO LA PAZ BOLIVIA

TO: RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//DT-3//

INFO: RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC//DC-4//

RULPALJ/USCENCSOZZSE QUARRY HTS CL//J2//

RULYVGA/USCONSOLANT//N2//

RUEAHQA/HQURAF WASHDC//XDCOM//

_____/7602 AIR INTEL GP FT BELVOIR//INCO//

_____/PTD WRIGHT-PATERSON AFB OR//TDAMO//

_____/ADCOM ENT AFB CL//J-2//

_____/DEPT OF STATE WASHDC//INR//GPK//

RECEIVED
AUG 11 1979
DIA INS-20

BT

THIS IS IR 6 808 0057 79

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

- 1. (U) COUNTRY: BOLIVIA (BL)
- 2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: 6 808 0057 79
- 3. (U) TITLE: MOON DUST - OBJECT FOUND NEAR

SANTA CRUZ.

DISSEMINATION DELAY DUE TO

- 4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: NA
- 5. (U) DATE OF INFO: 790816-790817
- 6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 790817
- 7. (U) DATE & PLACE OF ACQ: 790816-790817, SANTA CRUZ
- 8. (U) REFERENCES: D-T3B-49756/CONTINUES
- 9. (U) ASSESSMENT: A7 P-6 B. P-6

RDS-3 RECEIPT DELAY.

1521

1979

10. (U) ORIGINATOR: USDAO LA PAZ, DATT/AIRA
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: NO
12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER: HAROLD T. HAMILTON, COL, USAF
13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: HAROLD T. HAMILTON, COL,
USAF
14. (U) SOURCE: A. NEWS MEDIA, B. OTS
15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: PROTECTIVE CAVEAT USED

DUE TO SENSITIVITY OF INFO. DIRC: NO

16. SUMMARY: A REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITHIN THE EMBASSY AND REPORTED IN THE SANTA CRUZ NEWSPAPER OF AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT HAVING BEEN FOUND ON A FARM NEAR SANTA CRUZ.

ITEM 22. A. ON LATE AFTERNOON OF 790816 THE EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT A STRANGE OBJECT HAD BEEN FOUND ON A FARM NEAR SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA. SOURCE STATED THAT THE OBJECT WAS ABOUT 70 CENTIMETERS IN DIAMETER AND TWO METERS IN CIRCUMFERENCE WITH A HOLE IN ONE SIDE AND A METAL SKIN COVERING OF APPROX ONE-HALF INCH THICKNESS. LATER THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS "ABOUT THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL". SOURCE STATED THAT HE HAD FILM OF THIS OBJECT WHICH HE GAVE TO AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL ON 790817.

B. ON THE MORNING OF 790817, THE SANTA CRUZ NEWSPAPER "EL DEBER" PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON

THIS INCIDENT. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE - PART OF WHAT COULD BE A SATELLITE FELL NEAR COTOCA. A PHENOMENON THAT COULD FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD ON BOLIVIA OCCURRED IN OUR CAPITAL WHEN A SPHERE WAS DISCOVERED THAT FELL APPROXIMATELY SIX DAYS AGO ON A FARM LOCATED 15KM FROM COTOCA.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THIS NEWSPAPER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COL ARIEL COCA, THE SPHERE IS MADE OF SPECIAL LIGHT ALLOY NOT VERY RESISTANT, POSSIBLY A FUEL TANK OR A PART OF A SATELLITE! THE OBJECT DOES NOT HAVE ANY SIGNS OR MARKS THAT COULD IDENTIFY ITS ORIGIN NOR THE COUNTRY TO WHICH IT BELONGS.

COL COCA SAID THAT HE WILL INFORM HIS SUPERIORS OF THIS PHENOMENON SO THAT A STUDY CAN BE MADE TO DETERMINE ITS ORIGIN AND TO BE ANALYZED IN CASE IT CONTAINS RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA WHERE THIS BALL OF FIRE (AS THEY CALLED IT) FELL, DELAYED IN TELLING THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE EVENT BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID THAT NO ONE WOULD LISTEN. - UNQUOTE.

C. AN ACCOMPANYING PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER SHOWS COL COCA, COMMANDER OF THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY, EXAMINING A ROUND OBJECT WHICH REACHES ABOVE HIS KNEES AND APPEARS TO BE PERFECTLY ROUND EXCEPT FOR A HOLE (MISSING PORTION OF OUTER SKIN) WHICH IS ABOUT NINE INCHES IN DIAMETER.

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NO COMMENTS:

WE HAVE MADE NO INQUIRIES NOR

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OTHER THAN TO GET THE

UNDEVELOPED FILM DISCUSSED EARLIER. WE RECEIVED FROM SOURCE

5

A ROLL OF 135MM FILM FOR COLOR PRINTS AND A ROLL OF

KODACHROME 40 MOVIE FILM, TYPE A. THE 135MM FILM

WILL BE DEVELOPED AND PRINTED HERE IN LA PAZ. THE MOVIE

FILM AND A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY WITH ACCOMPANYING

PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE FORWARDED BY POUCH ON 790820 TO DIA

DT-3. THE COORDINATES FOR THE TOWN OF COTOCA ARE

17-49S, 63-03W. REFERENCE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE TO

"OUR CAPITAL" - THIS REFERS TO SANTA CRUZ AS THAT TOWN IS

THE CAPITAL OF THE DEPARTMENT (STATE) OF SANTA CRUZ

BT

EMB COORDINATION: . . . AMB

APPROVED:

HAROLD T. HAMILTON
Colonel, USAF
Defense Attache

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

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ACTION

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DIA:
DISTR

JADR(01) JB J31NMCC RECD(07) SPCDEFI ARD(14)(15)
ATRIA(01) ASD/PARE(01) IDIA(01) NMIC NIDR
- CMC CC WASHINGTON DC
- CNO WASHINGTON DC
- CBA WASHINGTON DC
- C I A
- NSA WASH DC
FILE

Rec'd KUS-3B1 31 AUG 79

(043)

TRANSIT/P341511/2341846/883135TOR2341846 RETRAN OF MAY439

DE RUFSLTA #7131 P341511

ZNY CCCCC

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FM USDAO LA PAZ BOLIVIA

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC DT-3

INFO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC DC-4

RULPALJ/INSCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ J2

RULYVGA/INCONSOLANT HP

RUEAHOA/HQUSAF WASHDC X03X

RUEAATG/7602 AIP INTEL CP FT BELVIDER INCO

RUCIAEA/PTO WRIGHT PATERSON AFB OH TDAMO

RUMRMLB/ADCOM ENT AFB CL J2

RUEHC/SFCSTATE WASHDC INR GPM

BT

THIS IS OF 6 883 0050 79

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT NOT FULLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) COUNTRY: BOLIVIA (EL)
2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: 6 883 0050 79
3. (U) TITLE: PCC - ELST - ADDITIONAL OBJECT REPORTEDLY FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ
4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: NA
5. (U) DATE OF INFO: 790819
6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 790821
7. (U) DATE & PLACE OF ACQ: 790819, LA PAZ
8. (U) REFERENCES: D-13R-48756/CONTINUES
9. (U) ASSESSMENT: P-6

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1507
3781/08/81
4/31/81

LG
4/3

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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63787

10. (U) ORIGINATOR: USDAO LA PAZ, DATT/AIPA
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION NO
12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER: HAROLD T HAMILTON, COL, USAF
13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: HAROLD T HAMILTON, COL, USAF
14. (U) SOURCE: NEWS MEDIA
15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: PROTECTIVE CAVEAT USED DUE TO SENSITIVITY OF INFO. DIRC NO
16. (U) THE LA PAZ DAILY NEWSPAPER "EL DIARIO" OF 790519 REPORTED THAT A SECOND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT HAD BEEN FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ.

ITEM 291: DETAILS: ONE OF THE LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF LA PAZ, "EL DIARIO", CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY ON 790519 STATING THAT A SECOND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT VERY SIMILAR TO THE FIRST ONE REPORTED, HAD BEEN FOUND IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT. (SEE FR-6 000 0057 79 REGARDING FIRST OBJECT REPORTED.) THE HEADLINE OF THIS STORY STATES QUOTE: NEW SPHERE FELL FROM SPACE IN SANTA CRUZ - UNQUOTE. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS. QUOTE: A SECOND FIRE BALL FELL FROM THE SKY EARLY IN THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY THAT THE FIRST ONE WAS FOUND NEAR COTOCA. THIS SECOND ONE WAS FOUND 300 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ ON THE FARM OF JUAN SAAVEDRA BY THE CAMPESINO GONZALO MENACHO VIVERAS. THE PLACE IS IN THE AREA OF BUEN RETIRO NEAR THE YAPACANE RIVER. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE CAMPESINO, AROUND 1913R AN ON FRIDAY LAST WEEK HE HEARD A LOUD WHISTLING SOUND AND SAW A FIRE BALL FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT THE NEXT EVENING A SILENT AIRCRAFT THAT HAD THREE LIGHTS WAS FLYING OVER THE EXPLOSION AREA.

AFTER DAWN ON FRIDAY MORNING THE CAMPESINO STARTED LOOKING AROUND THE AREA OF THE IMPACT AND FOUND A SPHERE. AS IT WAS NOT HEAVY, HE TOOK IT HOME WHERE HE KEPT IT UNTIL HIS FRIEND NATAKIEL MENDOZ HURTADO LEARNED OF THE OTHER SPHERE IN COTOCA AND PASSED ON INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS SECOND SPHERE.

THE MYSTERY OF FINDING THESE TWO SPHERES, EXACTLY ALIKE, IS THAT ACCORDING TO THE WITNESSES THEY WERE FIRE BALLS. THAT IS TO SAY THAT THESE SPHERES BECAME REAL BALLS OF FIRE WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE BECAUSE OF THE FRICTION AND AFTER HIGH SPEED FALL THEY HIT THE GROUND. HOWEVER, IN THE AREA WHERE THEY'VE BEEN FOUND, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF THE IMPACT AND LOOKS

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ADMISSION SLIP
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PAGE 3

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AS THROUGH THE SPHERES LANDED SMOOTHLY. THE MATERIAL OF THE SPHERES IS KIND OF FRAGILE, BUT THEY ARE NOT DAMAGED (BY IMPACT) AND IN BOTH CASES THEY ONLY SHOW A HOLE (IN OUTER SKIN) WITH MELTED EDGES AND AN EXPLOSION (APPARENTLY) DESTROYED THE CONTENTS OF THE INTERIOR.

GONZALO MENACHO SAID THAT WHERE HE FOUND THE SPHERE HE SAW SOME BURNED PLANTS BUT HE DID NOT SEE ANY SIGN OF THE IMPACT ON THE SOFT GROUND. THE SPHERE FOUND IN THE NORTH OF THE SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT WEIGHS ABOUT SIX KILOGRAMS WITH A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 80 CENTIMETERS. THE OUTSIDE METAL IS SIMILAR TO COPPER, IS KIND OF DARK WITH LIGHT SPOTS, AND HAS APPARENTLY BEEN EXPOSED TO VERY HIGH TEMPERATURES.

THE SPHERE IS MADE BY TWO PIECES PUT TOGETHER WITHOUT ANY RIVETS. ON THE TOP OF THE SPHERE YOU CAN SEE A HOLE OF IRREGULAR SHAPE AND NEXT TO IT ANOTHER SMALL ROUND HOLE. IN BOTH, THE MATERIAL IS MELTED. AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPHERE THERE IS A ROUND AREA THAT LOOKS LIKE A CORK IN A BOTTLE HELD IN PLACE BY THREE SEMI-MELTED SCREWS.

THE SPHERE WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ BY NEWSMEN FROM A LOCAL RADIO STATION WHO INFORMED THIS NEWSPAPER OF THE DETAILS. THE CAMPESEÑO WHO FOUND THIS SPHERE CLAIMS IT AS HIS PROPERTY. THE SPHERE WAS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY ALL AFTERNOON AT THE RADIO STATION. UNQUOTE. NO COMMENT. /

A PICTURE ACCOMPANYING THE ABOVE ARTICLE SHOWS THIS SECOND UNIDENTIFIED SPHERE TO BE PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL IN APPEARANCE TO THE FIRST ONE. A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE AND PICTURE WERE FORWARDED TO CIA/OT-3 BY STATE DEPT POUCH ON 704820. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE POUCH WERE THE FOLLOWING RELATING TO THE FIRST SPHERE: (1) 35MM COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS; (2) AN UNDEVELOPED ROLL OF HOME MOVIE FILM; AND (3) A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY. REQUEST DIA ADVISE IF FURTHER REPORTING/ACTION IS DESIRED ON THESE INCIDENTS. ALSO, IF THE MOVIE FILM IS DEVELOPED, REQUEST ONE COPY BE FORWARDED TO USDAO LA PAZ FOR TRANSMITTAL TO ORIGINAL OWNER.

BT
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ANNOTES
PJ 117

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