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MRN:	80 KUWAIT 3223
Date/DTG:	Jul 08, 1980 / 080000Z Jul 80
From:	KUWAIT OR-M
Action:	WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*; ABU DHABI, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*
TAGS:	EAIR, PINS, TGEN, TSPA, KU
Reference:	79 KUWAIT 486
Subject:	(U) INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL "LIGHT PHENOMENON" SEEN IN KUWAIT'S SKIES

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 OES-09 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6566
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ KUWAIT 3223

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/8/86 (DICKMAN, F.M.) OR-M
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, TGEN, KU
SUBJECT: (U) INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL "LIGHT PHENOMENON"
SEEN IN KUWAIT'S SKIES

REF: 79 KUWAIT 0486

1. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, KUWAIT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS INVESTIGATING REPORT BY SENIOR KUWAIT AIRWAYS PILOT OF AN UNUSUAL " LIGHT PHENOMENON" ON JUNE 20, 1980. THE PILOT, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR H. SHAMLAN, SAID THAT "DURING DESCENT THROUGH APPROXIMATELY 15,000 FT AND BEFORE REACHING WAFRA VOR, WHILE OPERATING FLIGHT NUMBER KU542 FROM CAIRO TO KUWAIT, THE CREW AND I SIGHTED A HUGE BALL OF BRIGHT LIGHT SHAPED LIKE A HEMISPHERE (HALF A MOON SHAPE) ESTIMATED DIAMTER TO BE AROUND TEN MILES, WITH THE FLAT BASE OF THE SPHERE APPROXIMATELY
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Declassified by: John Powers
Senior Reviewer, A/SKS/OH
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Declassified on: 09/29/2025

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THE SAME LEVEL AS THE AIRCRAFT, I.E. 15,000 FT.
"ITS POSITION WAS NORTHWEST OF THE CITY OF KUWAIT AND STEADILY MOVING EASTBOUND AT A SLIGHTLY LESSER SPEED THAN MY AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS 320 KNOTS AT THAT STATE.
"WHEN I TURNED NORTH AT WAFRA, THE PHENOMENON WAS STILL CLEARLY VISIBLE AND REMAINED SO UNTIL WE DESCENDED BELOW THE HAZE LAYER AND STARTED APPROACH TO THE RUNWAY.
" THE CREW OF FLIGHT KU 708, WHO WERE 90 MILES AWAY FROM KUWAIT, REPORTED SIGHTING THE SAME PHENOMENON. MY SIGHTING AND THE KU 708 SIGHTING WERE REPORTED TO KUWAIT CENTRE, WHO COULD NOT PICK UP ANY TRACE OF IT ON THEIR RADAR NEITHER COULD WE PICK IT UP ON OUR WEATHER RADAR."

2. ~~(C)~~ THOUGH A TIME FOR THE SIGHTING WAS NOT GIVEN, IT MUST HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO 2100 HOURS LOCAL TIME, ASSUMING BOTH FLIGHTS WERE ON TIME. KU542 WAS SCHEDULED TO HAVE ARRIVED AT KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FROM CAIRO AT 2110 HOURS, WHILE KU708 WAS DUE IN FROM KHARTOUM AT 2055 HOURS.

3. (U) ABOVE REPORT IS REMINISCENT OF REFTEL'S REPORT OF JANUARY 1979 AND NOVEMBER 1978 ON UFO SIGHTINGS IN KUWAIT'S SKIES. ACCORDING TO SENIOR KOC OFFICIAL, UFO WHICH APPEARED OVER NORTHERN OIL FIELDS IN NOVEMBER 1978 DID STRANGE THINGS TO KOC'S PUMPING SYSTEM. SOME WAGS ARE BLAMING CURRENT KUWAIT ELECTRIC POWER FAILURES (SEE KUWAIT 3220) ON UFOS.

4. ~~(C)~~ ADCM, WHO KNOWS OPERATIONS DIRECTOR SHAMLAN, ASSESSES HIM AS LEVEL-HEADED, COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL, WHO ALMOST CERTAINLY REPORTED ACCURATELY UPON WHAT HE OBSERVED THIS PAST JUNE. KUWAIT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN GIVEN TASK OF INVESTIGATING REPORT. ITS INTERVIEWS
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WITH INHABITANTS OF WAFRA AREA (ALSO AN OIL COLLECTION CENTER) HAVE NOT YET PRODUCED ANYONE WHO ADMITS SEEING THE PHENOMENON.
DICKMAN

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