HEADQUARTERS
ALASKAN AIR COMMAND
ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE
APO 942, U. S. AIR FORCE

31 January 1952

STATEMENT
(James S. Bangs, Civilian)

I presented a theory which would tend to explain the rapid moving aircraft sighted over Mt. McKinley. I present this as a possibility though I would find it hard to duplicate the condition.

By coincidence, on that night we stopped our antenna for maintenance some time between 1000Z and 1015Z with the beam pointed on Mt. McKinley or within 5° of that peak. This was known since we had had reason to check the bearing shortly after stopping rotation. As far as we know, none of the magnetron frequencies were changed until some time between 1045Z and 1100Z. These times coincide closely with the time of initial pickup and final fade of the plots.

Three things are necessary to give this result:

1. Our transmitter frequencies must, in at least one case, be the same as one of their receivers.

2. Our antenna must be pointed at a target (P.E.) which can be "seen" by their radar.

3. The pulse repetition frequencies of the two sets should be nearly equal (almost identical).

Condition 1 is probably present at least once a week by the laws of average since each transmitter is operated over a limited frequency range and the two systems use the same ranges of frequency.

PRF, though close, it is improbable that they would be quite so identical. However, such a condition is always possible.

Our antenna was stopped on Mt. McKinley which can be seen by both sites.

The conditions could be possible, and even though unlikely, I feel that the possibility should be considered.

The reason the track appeared as dots rather than as a land mass is that, even though our beam hits considerable land that could reflect energy to the other site, time required for energy to travel from our antenna to their antenna by way of several land bodies which are relatively close together would give them a point plot.