

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/23/97

On 7/21/97, [REDACTED] was contacted at her residence Shirley, New York, [REDACTED] was advised of the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview. [REDACTED] then provided the following information:

On 7/17/96, [REDACTED] was sitting on the back deck of her neighbor, [REDACTED] (phonetic), house at [REDACTED] with her husband (then fiancé), [REDACTED] (last name unknown) and [REDACTED] two children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and her fiancé arrived at [REDACTED] at approximately 7:30 p.m. The group sat at a table on a screened in deck of [REDACTED] house which overlooked the canal. The horizon to the south was the Smith Point Park trailer park. [REDACTED] could not see the ocean. [REDACTED] stated that the weather was clear and the visibility good.

[REDACTED] could not recall specifically the time but advised that at some time after dinner and before 9:00 p.m., she was looking out at the water in the direction of the trailer park when she observed a lighted object in the sky above the trailers. The object reminded [REDACTED] of a lighted match head, blue and orange in color. It was brighter at its head and faded towards its tail. It had no defined shape and there was no smoke accompanying it. The object was the relative size of a half dollar coin.

For approximately ten seconds, [REDACTED] observed the object traveling in an arc from her lower right to upper left. The object disappeared for approximately one second and then [REDACTED] observed a large explosion in the same area where the object had disappeared. The explosion was very bright but [REDACTED] could look directly at it. The explosion looked like fire and was colored orange, red and yellow. The explosion was a large round mass that expanded outward to approximately four times the size of the sun in the sky. The expansion was larger in width than in height.

After a few seconds, the explosion mass separated into two large "flame-like" pieces and a number of smaller pieces, and began to fall. Of the two larger pieces, the piece on the right

Investigation on 7/21/97 at Shirley, NY

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1034

265A-NY-259028

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

, On 7/21/97

, Page 2

was slightly larger than the piece on the left. The smaller pieces resembled the shape and motion of large raindrops. All of the pieces fell straight down at a constant speed and disappeared behind the trailer park at the same time. There was no smoke surrounding the pieces. The amount of time from the initial explosion to the objects disappearing behind the trailer park was approximately six to ten seconds.

[REDACTED] did not hear any sounds accompanying or following the event. She did not see anything unusual other than the event. At the time, [REDACTED] thought she had witnessed a propane tank in the trailer park explode. She heard about the Trans World Airlines Flight 800 crash later that evening. [REDACTED] does not wear or require prescription eyeglasses. She was not under the influence of any substance on July 17, 1996.

Following the interview, [REDACTED] was escorted by the interviewing agents to [REDACTED]. Standing on the top step of the deck where she had witnessed the event, [REDACTED] held a ruler given to her by the interviewing agents straight up and down at arms length, placed her thumb on the three inch mark and aligned it with the horizon. With the one inch mark closest to the ground, she advised the event started approximately at the four inch mark and reached its maximum altitude where it exploded, at the seven inch mark. The explosion covered more than half of the length of the trailer park visible from the deck.