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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/22/96

[redacted], was interviewed at his place of employment, SMOKE SHOP, GIFT SHOP AND DELI CAFE, Old Montauk Highway, Shinnecock Indian Reservation, Southampton, New York, telephones 516-287-2460 and 516-283-8047.

[redacted] After being apprised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, [redacted] provided the following:

[redacted] advised that on the evening of July 17 1996, he was traveling west on the Sunrise Highway between the Westhampton and Manorville Road exits in the vicinity of Center Moriches when he observed an airplane off to his left flying in an eastbound direction. [redacted] glanced to his left a second time and, on this occasion, observed a bright flash of white light on the rear portion of the airplane. [redacted] described the white flash as small, similar to a firework, circular in shape and of a size which did not obstruct the view of the airplane. [redacted] indicated that the airplane appeared to be flying through the white flash. Immediately thereafter, the airplane dipped at a slight angle before stopping and bursting into orange flames. [redacted] observed two separate balls of fire developing into a trail of flames which fell quickly and straight down to his line of sight ending at the tree line bordering the highway. He observed a small amount of black smoke after the disappearance of the trail of flames. Immediately following this observation, [redacted] pulled his car off the highway and heard a series of rumblings at ground level. [redacted] characterized the aforementioned as one continuous event and did not observe impact of the airplane by another object associated with the bright flash.

[redacted] estimated the location of the airplane as due south of his driving location approximately four miles offshore and a total of six miles from his location on the Sunrise Highway. [redacted] attributed his distinct view of the airplane to the evening light framing the airplane as it flew east. [redacted] recalled looking at the clock in his vehicle, described as a Four-Runner, and it reading 8:38 P.M. at the time of his observation.

265A-NY-259028-SUB

Investigation on 7/20/96 at Southampton, New York

File # 265A-NY-259028

by SA PAUL T. PALUMBO;
SA STACY R. DIAMOND/MAM

Date dictated 7/20/96

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