

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: F-412000

SUBJECT: Observation of Sputnik I

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

RESPONSE TO

NOTE: [REDACTED]

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[On file in the CIA Library is a copy of a letter written by SN Mequi of the Pakistan Meteorological Department on 6 Dec 57, to the CSAGI Reporter on Rockets and Satellites, Uccle, Belgium. The subject is as follows: "Russian Satellite Observations in Pakistan." UNCLASSIFIED]

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Approved for Release
Date 1 SEP 1996

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DATE

No.

PAKISTAN METEOROLOGIC

From: Director General of Meteorology,

The Institution,

Meteorological Service,

KARACHI.

To

L.V. Berkner Esqr.,
Special Reporter on Radio & Satellites,
D/o Service Du Rapprochement F.R.N.,
15, Avenue Circulaire,
Bruxelles, BELGIUM.

Scott: Alcot Nos. 1-3, P-
Karachi, (Pakistan) 16/10/1957

Subject - RUSSIAN SATELLITE OBSERVATIONS IN PAKISTAN.

Dear Sir,

I feel gratified to inform you that observations of the Russian artificial earth satellite (Sputnik I) were started by the scientists of the Pakistan Meteorological Service in accordance with standing arrangements immediately after news about the release of the satellite reached in this country.

I am enclosing a summary of the preliminary observations recorded along with my comments, whenever necessary. A more detailed report will follow in due course.

I shall be glad to have your comments on the enclosed summary of observations.

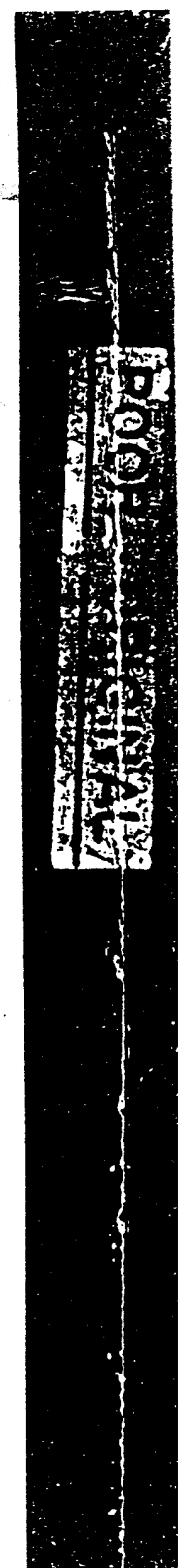
Yours sincerely,

(S. E. RAO)

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On October 9, 1950, a detailed study of October 9 and 10
 announced indications were received as follows:-
 October 9 at 1830 hrs. GMT
 1412 hrs. GMT
 2020 hrs. GMT
 October 10 1127 hrs. GMT
 The regularity of these signals after intervals of 90
 minutes or the integral multiples is characteristic of
 They were
 1) 1 hrs. 34 min. ± 95 x 1
 2) 1 hrs. 08 min. ± 95 x 2 (e)
 3) 1 hrs. 07 min. ± 95 x 3 (e)
 It is clearly established that the signals on the
 ultra high frequency are from the Russian North Star.

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As I stated in an earlier talk the notified signals on 30 and 40 were presumably for fixing the orbit in the early stages and not for obtaining the scientific information. The use of the letter "y" for these signals is very significant.

In the 10th evening four observers at the Pilot Balloon Observatory, Airport, observed the satellite in a direction of 235° from North and 4.5° above the horizon and after about 2 minutes in a position 235° from North and 2.5° above horizon, after which it was not visible.

The observation of the first satellite from Karachi was independently reported by Mrs. Cook, the wife of Third Secretary in U.S. Embassy in Karachi on the morning of 11.10.1966 and her description agreed closely with that of Meteorological Observers except for the altitude which differs in the two cases slightly and is perhaps due to the fact that the observations were taken by the observers with a theodolite, while the others were without any instrument. I am however, convinced that these observations refer to the real satellite.

The satellite was seen at the observatory by Pilot Balloon theodolite Mark IV. The colour was red at the top and violet at the bottom and appeared to be something like the colour of the spectrum in which the 2 ends could be recognized but not the intervening ones. This is what we should expect; while flying I have noticed a number of times that when an aeroplane enters the clouds and its shadow becomes perceptible in the clouds, we see the colour of the spectrum round the shadow. The satellite is apparently revolving in an atmosphere of cosmic dust and shows colour of the spectrum round its shadow. All those who claim to have seen the satellite have really seen the spectrum round its pin-point shadow on the satellite and its shadow cannot be perceived by the low power binoculars or theodolites. The reported observation of changing colour of the satellite by the U.S. Naval Officers in Alaska fits this.

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