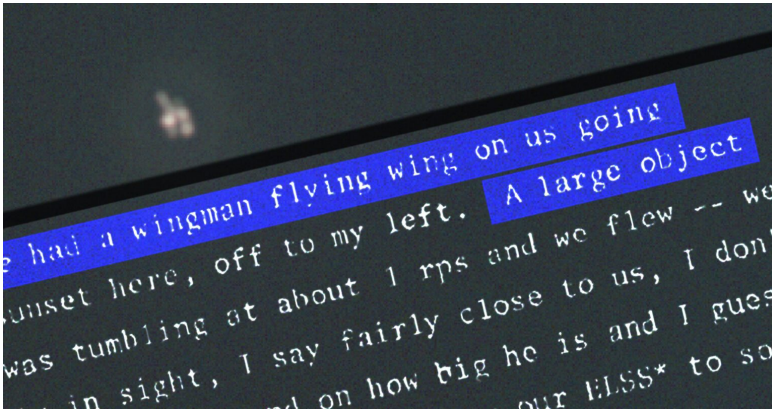


# The Gemini XI UFO – Audio Transcript and Photos



PUBLISHED BY  
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OCTOBER 02, 2021

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The following is a case that has been around the field of UFO research, known as UFOlogy, for many decades. But, it is rarely talked about nowadays, as sightings from the 1960s are often overshadowed by more modern events.

As the story goes here, during the Gemini XI mission which flew from September 12 to 15, 1966, astronauts Charles "Pete" Conrad Jr. and Richard F. Gordon Jr. performed the first-ever direct-ascent (first orbit) rendezvous with an Agena Target Vehicle. However, in addition to their mission, they encountered something they could not explain – and even captured multiple photographs of it.



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On page 106 of the official NASA voice transcript, the sighting was recorded:

106

**CONFIDENTIAL**

TANANARIVE

27:52:21 CC Gemini XI, this is Houston at Tananarive, standing by.

27:52:26 C Houston, Gemini XI. Do you hear - how do we read?

27:52:29 CC Read you loud and clear.

27:52:31 C Okay. We had wing ... here off to my left - large object tumbling at about one revolution per second. We flew - we had him in sight - I'd say fairly close to us - I don't know - it could depend on how big he is and I guess it could have been anything from our ELSS to something else. We took some pictures of it.

27:52:59 CC Roger.

The sighting was also recorded and analyzed in the Condon Report, and ultimately labeled as simply

Condon Report that was mysteriously missing from copies disseminated by the U.S. government; specifically, the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC). The entire section on astronauts and their UFO sightings was removed, though The Black Vault later tracked down the COMPLETE version and archived it here. That once missing section contained the below:

### Proton III

An interesting example of an unexpected sighting of another spacecraft was made by the Gemini 11 astronauts. Quoting from the transcript (GI-11, tape 153, page 1)

We had a wingman flying wing on us going into sunset here, off to my left. A large object that was tumbling at about 1 rps and we flew -- we had him in sight, I say fairly close to us, I don't know, it could depend on how big he is and I guess he could have been anything from our ELSS\* to something else. We took pictures of it.

The identification of the sighting (tape 209, page 2) was given us fellows:

We have a report on the object sighted by Pete Conrad over Tananarive yesterday on the 18th revolution. It has been identified by NORAD as the Proton III satellite. Since Proton III was more than 450 kilometers from Gemini 11, it is unlikely that any photographs would show more than a point of light.

The pictures referred to are shown in enlargement in Plates 17 and 18.

The Proton III satellite and its rocket are included in the P.A.S.S. listings under the numbers D366-60A and 1966-60B with the following characteristics:

\* ELSS = extravehicular life support system

	Satellite		Booster
	1966-60A	1966-60B	1966-60B
Launch Date	1966 July 6	1966 July 6	
Lifetime	72.20 days	46.33 days	
Predicted Reentry Date	16 Sept 1966	21 August 1966	
Shape	Cylinder	Cylinder	
Weight	12,200 kg.	4,000 kg. (?)	
Size	3 meters long (?) 4 meters diameter (?)	10 meters long (?) 4 meters diameter (?)	
Orbital Characteristics	See P.A.S.S. Vol.15, p. 1,192 (1967)		

Inspection of the photos taken at the time of this sighting (Plates 17 and 18) reveals considerably more detail than just a point of light. If the distance from the spacecraft to Proton III is given by the NORAD calculations, then we may infer the physical separation of the several objects in the photographs Plates 17 and 18 are 100 x enlargements of the photographs of Proton III made with the Hasselblad camera of 38 mm focal length. The scale on the original negatives was 1 mm. = 1/58 radian = 1/108. The scale on the enlargements is therefore 1 mm. = 0.01308. Four distinct objects can be distinguished with extreme separation of 30 mm, corresponding to 0.452 or 3.35 km, at a distance of 150 km. The minimum separation of any two components is about one third of the above or more than 1 km. Referring to the table of the Proton III dimensions it is obvious that the photographs are recording multiple pieces of Proton III including possibly its booster plus two other components.

It appears that the Condon report contradicts itself, by stating clearly above that with the distance of the Proton III, it would be unlikely that the photographs would depict more than "just a point of light." Yet, the photographs did, as later in the same section, the Condon report states that the photographs "reveals considerably more detail than just a point of light."

Despite the discrepancy, the Condon report sided with NORAD's interpretation that it was the Proton III.

Was it? Here are the three high resolution (RAW) photographs taken on that mission.

### The Photographs

[.zip file of all three RAW Image Files below \[120MB\].](#)

In the archive of Gemini XI photographs as hosted by the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in partnership with Arizona State University's "School of Earth and Space Exploration," you can find three photographs that captured the unknown object.

The following are those photographs, cropped and zoomed, headed with their official image identification number and followed by all of the available technical information about the shots. The three photographs in their RAW / High Resolution / unedited format, are also available in an archived [.zip file \[120MB\].](#)

#### S66-54659\_G11-S

The poorest of the three photos is the first taken. However, it is shown here to show the object itself was indeed captured.



#### Image Details

Image Id	S66-54659_G11-S
Program	Gemini
Mission Num	11
Date	1966-09-13
Frame Num	8
Orbit	16
Get Time	25:47
Nasa Hq Color Num	66-HQ-1591
Nasa Misc Color Num	S66-54659
Nasa Misc Bw Num	S66-54596
Subject	L-Band antenna, overexposed
Magazine	08
Camera	Hasselblad Super-Wide Camera 70 mm
Lens	Zeiss Biogon 38 mm f/4.5
Film Type	Kodak Ektachrome SO-368 medium speed ASA 64 color reversal

#### S66-54660\_G11-S

This was the second photograph captured.

S66-54661\_G11-S

This was the third photograph captured.

#### The Photographs – Uncropped (Lower Resolution)

Although these three images below are the full photograph frames, the highest resolution (RAW format) are available in the .zip file above, so make sure you download that if you plan to do your own analysis.

Note: The bright object to the right of each frame is the overexposed L-Band antenna.



#### Animated .GIF

Researcher William Johnson created an animated .gif from two of the above photographs, which represents the “tumbling” descriptor used. It offers a nice representation of the object’s movement.



#### Bruce Maccabee Analysis, 2000

Bruce spent his early years in Rutland, VT. After high school he studied physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass (B.S. in physics) and then at The American University, Washington, DC (M.S. and Ph. D. in physics). In 1972 he began his long (36 year) career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, presently headquartered at Dahlgren, Virginia. He has worked on optical data processing, generation of underwater sound with lasers, various aspects of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) and Navy ship defense using high power lasers and the development of optical sensors for use in detecting deadly materials commonly used in CBW (chemical and biological warfare). Bruce Maccabee has been active in UFO research since late 1960s when he joined the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and was active in research and investigation for NICAP until its demise in 1980. He became a member of MUFON in 1975 and was subsequently appointed to the position of state Director for Maryland, a position he held for about 30 years. In 1979 he was instrumental in establishing the Fund for UFO Research and was the chairman for the about 13 years. He presently serves on the National Board of the Fund.



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