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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY OFFICE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5995

Freedom of Information/
Privacy Office

16 FEB 2016

Mr. John Greenwald, Jr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is in further response to your electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of July 3, 2015, to the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) for a copy of document ADB022515, entitled, "Parapsychology-Fiction or Reality". The DTIC, on July 9, 2015, referred your request along with a responsive document, retrieved from their files to this office for our review and supplements our letter of July 29, 2015.

Coordination of the referred documents was conducted by the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) and they have no objection to the release of the information. The record is enclosed for your perusal.

There are no assessable FOIA fees associated with the processing of this request.

This office apologizes for any inconvenience this delay may have caused you.

If you have any questions regarding this action, contact this office at 1-866-548-5651 or email the INSCOM FOIA office at: usarmy.meade.902-mi-grp.mbx.inscom-foia-service-center@mail.mil and refer to case #1187F-15. Please note that you now have the ability to check the status of your request online via the U.S. Army Records Management and Declassification Agency (RMDA) website: <https://www.foia.army.mil/FACTS/CaseStatus.aspx>. Please refer to FOIA Control Number: FP-15-024220.

Sincerely,

Joanne Benear

Chief
Freedom of Information/Privacy Office

Enclosure

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ADB022515
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6 ENGLISH TITLE: PARAPSYCHOLOGY - FICTION OR REALITY

21 SOURCE: Trans. of WISSENSCHAFT UND FORTSCHRITT 24/ [redacted] # 248-253 # 1974

SOURCE CIRC REFERENCE NO. (if applicable):

10 AUTHOR: V. Zincenko A. N. Leontev

AUTHOR AFFILIATION:

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the survey (a total of 72,000 questionnaires had been sent out), 25 percent felt that the paranormal manifestations had been accurately documented and 42 percent considered them "perfectly possible."

We do not have similar data that could provide information on the attitude of Soviet scientists on this problem. However, many irresponsible publications prompt a well-founded cause for concern. We therefore feel it is time to express the attitude on parapsychology of the Society of Psychologists of the USSR. The governing body of the Society devoted its attention to the situation in this area at one of its meetings.

The Field of Parapsychological Research

In the "Encyclopedia of Philosophy," parapsychology is defined as the area of research which deals primarily with:

1. Forms of perception that entail information uptake processes that cannot be explained by the function of the known sense organs;
2. Forms in which beings affect physical manifestations outside the organism which are brought about without the aid of muscle strength (wishing, mental influence, etc.). The majority of the current parapsychologists distinguishes among the following forms of (extrasensory) perception:

Telepathy - Transmission of thoughts between transmitter and receiver (inducer and recipient). With the help of telepathy, two persons exchange information without resorting to the sensory organs. Above all, telepathy is the perception of the state of another being.

Clairvoyance - This is also an extrasensory perception of certain events, manifestations or objects without involvement of the known sensory organs.

Precognition - A special form of clairvoyance, the prediction of events that is based on information from the future, which cannot be intellectually substantiated.

Use of Divining Rod - An ability of certain individuals to detect underground water reservoirs, ores, caves and other objects with the help of an "antenna" (bent metal wire, willow twig, etc.).

Paradiagnosis - Diagnosis based on clairvoyance where there is no contact with the patient.

The above-mentioned forms of sensitivity are frequently combined under the designation of extrasensory perception.

In addition, forms of affecting physical manifestations are classified as follows:

Psychokinesis (Telekinesis) - Mental influence exercised by humans on objects in the environment, e.g. on the normal electrical activity of plants, the position of various (generally light) objects in the room.

Psi-Photography - A special form of psychokinesis in which, by looking into the objective of a camera, an individual can allegedly fix on film an object about which he is thinking.



Rosa Kulesova, Niznij Tagil, who was 22 years old at the time, said that she could differentiate colors and read normal letters with her fingers, without using her eyes.

Paramedicine - An area related to parapsychology which encompasses various healing methods that cannot be explained: healing by laying on of the hands, by suggestion (without talking and without direct contact, sometimes from great distances), etc.

All of the above are referred to with the term parapsychology. In addition, the terms psychotronics, bioinformation and biointroscopy are utilized. Some time ago, hypnotic manifestations were also incorrectly considered part of parapsychology. Parapsychologists are currently using hypnosis as a method by which paranormal manifestations can supposedly be elicited. Yoga is often and incorrectly considered part of parapsychology. Astrology is sometimes also regarded as parapsychology.

As is apparent from the above listing, the basis for combining all these areas is the secretive and puzzling nature of the phenomena. We feel it is wrong, in principle, to regard such a basis as adequate for the encompassing of phenomena into a special area of research.

Position of Parapsychology Abroad

We do not wish to take up here the paranormal abilities which since time immemorial have been attributed to shamans, magicians, lamas, yogis, etc. In the European culture, parapsychology existed as a field of systematic, experimental research and observations since 1882, when the first parapsychological society was established in London. It is still in existence today under the name Society for the Study of Psychic Phenomena. Since then, similar societies developed and waned in many countries. Several dozen such societies are in existence today. Most of them consist of a few members who are not psychologists. They generally have small laboratories that are financed by money from members and private funds. Many of the organizations are combined in the International Parapsychological Association (New York). Parapsychological research is carried on to a limited extent at various (especially private) universities in the US and at other research centers. According to unofficial sources, the US government spends 0.5 to 1 million dollars for parapsychological research annually. A number of large firms also supports these investigations by financial contributions. An example of a new organization is the one recently established by US astronaut Edgar Mitchell who held four seances with telepathic communications during a flight to the moon (no positive

results were achieved). The tasks of this organization are development of human faculties as well as investigations in paramedicine and psychokinesis. Mitchell hopes to make his company profitable. His advisers include Wernher von Braun and several scientists from respected research centers. There is also an Academy for Parapsychology and Medicine in California.

According to data from parapsychologists, there are more than 240 laboratories and societies in 30 countries. This estimate appears to be very high. Most of these organizations are in the United States. In 1969, the American Association for the Support of Science, which includes various scientific organizations, accepted the American Parapsychological Association as a member.

Isolated and generally fairly minor parapsychological research projects are carried out occasionally in the laboratories of the United States Navy and Air Force. This research involving the use of computers is intended to provide evidence of the existence of extrasensory perception.

Foreign Publications

Parapsychological investigations are generally published in specialized journals. These are published in many countries: e.g. there are more than 10 parapsychological journals in the United States, five in Great Britain, six in Italy, and two in France. Some of these also have reports on astrology. In addition, various scientific publishers publish monographs as well as proceedings of conferences and symposia. Articles on

parapsychology, especially when they are sensational, are among the most popular subjects of such magazines as Life, Look and Der Stern. However, they occasionally appear also in serious scientific journals, e.g. Science and Nature.

Specialized journals in psychology, physiology and other sciences generally do not publish articles on parapsychology. Only 13 experimental parapsychological investigations were reported in the entire psychological literature published all over the world from 1960 to 1970. Positive results were reported in eight cases and the existence of paranormal phenomena could not be confirmed in the others. It is very indicative that during the same period, 143 experimental studies with positive results and 19 with negative results were published in the parapsychological journals published all over the world. This figure does not include surveys, critical remarks and reports on observations where no controls could be used. A large number of handbooks and textbooks with instructions for performing parapsychological investigations was published abroad. The most recent handbook by R. H. Ashby appeared in 1972.

The International Union of Psychologists (IUPS) does not permit reports or lectures on parapsychological studies at its congresses. This is established in the organization's statutes. Only one exception was made -- obviously by chance -- at the Twentieth International Psychological Congress in Tokyo in 1972, where an American parapsychologist presented a lecture.

It should also be pointed out that parapsychology is utilized for political speculation. In particular, reference is made to the book by S. Ostrander and L. Schroeder "Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain." The book appeared in 1968 after the authors (who are not scientists) visited the USSR, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, and can be regarded only as an inferior concoction of propaganda. Its authors use parapsychology as publicity for anti-Sovietism and anti-Sovietism as publicity for parapsychology. It was an extremely profitable undertaking with five editions being published in less than two years. The book is written on a very low level, bursting with factual errors, distortions and open anti-Soviet attacks. The "achievements" of Soviet parapsychologists are excessively emphasized. Similar exaggerations are encountered very often in Western parapsychological journals and popular magazines (generally without open anti-Soviet attacks). For example, there is conjecture about subjects such as parapsychology and defense, psychological warfare, reconnaissance, etc. All of this is also intended to obtain more funds to finance parapsychological research. But in general books on such themes are uncommon in the parapsychological literature.

Parapsychology in the USSR

In the 1920's and later, Professor L. L. Vasil'ev, a pupil of V. M. Bechterevev, performed investigations in Leningrad (initially with the latter's collaboration) in the area of telepathy and clairvoyance. Similar research was carried out in the Ukraine by B. B. Kazinski. The authors published their results in three monographs which appeared in 1959 and 1962.

There is no organization of parapsychologists in the Soviet Union. From time to time, enthusiasts of parapsychological studies form groups within the framework of other and usually scientific organizations. In 1965, a "bioinformation" section was formed in the Moscow board of the Scientific-Technical Society for Radio Technology. Telepathy is the chief topic of research of this group. In 1967, a Union Section of Technical Parapsychology and Biointroscopy was formed in the Central Division of the Scientific-Technical Society for Construction of Scientific Apparatus. In 1968 and 1971, within the framework of this society, two scientific-technical seminars were held on biophysical effect (manipulation of divining rod); in 1971, a commission was set up for coordination of studies on the subject of biophysical effect. In addition, there are small groups and individuals at various institutes who study parapsychological effects during work and in their free time.

In Niznij Tagil and other cities in the Urals, research has been conducted for a number of years on "cutaneous vision" (the so-called Rosa-Kulesova effect). Cutaneous vision is often unjustifiably considered as a "parapsychological" phenomenon, although it has nothing in common with these. Repeated checking of this ability as well as similar cases abroad and recently in Moscow permit the assumption that there is actually a "cutaneous vision" phenomenon and that it necessitates careful study. Naturally, to date it is impossible to draw precise conclusions as to its mechanisms.

Publications in the USSR

In general, data pertaining to parapsychology appear in collected volumes containing papers and reports of various conferences and symposia. Hence, five lectures dealing with telekinesis were published in 1972 as part of the data from the conference on "Problems of Biodynamics and Bioenergy of the Normal and Pathological Organism as well as Biostimulation by Laser Beams" organized by Kazachistan University. Soviet parapsychologists also occasionally publish in technical journals (e.g. Radiotekhnika), but their articles appear primarily in popular scientific periodicals that appear in mass editions and that are intended chiefly for young people. These are usually reports on studies performed abroad. Numerous articles are by journalists who with their fascination for the exaggerated and sensational report as reliable experimental results that yield only hints of being positive. The number of these publications is very large. We need mention only magazines such as Technika molodezi, Junyi naturalist and Znanie - sila. The topic was also presented several times in 1973 in the periodical Socialisticeskaja industrija. Critical positions expressed by specialists are generally not published.

The mutual exaggeration of results is typical of both Soviet and foreign publications. American press reports appeared on telepathic seances that occurred over long distances in 1966 (Moscow - Novosibirsk, Moscow - Leningrad) with the achievement of positive reliable results. This does not correspond to the facts. Moreover, Komsomol'skaja Pravda reported that positive results were obtained in a telepathic experiment between

earth and Apollo 14. Edgar Mitchell, the organizer and participant in these experiments, wrote that they were of a sensational nature and that negative results were obtained.

In the last decade, no fewer than 500 articles appeared in the USSR on various problems in parapsychology. Most of these were bad reports on poorly performed experiments that are not worthy of mention. Their authors do not take into consideration the requirement for correct experimentation formulated by the parapsychologists themselves. The attention of our press was particularly attracted by Nina Kulagina, a universal subject of telepathic and psychokinetic investigations.

Who Works in the Field of Parapsychology?

A large number of the parapsychologists are individuals with no training in biology or psychology. Engineers, mathematicians and physicists who have no psychological training predominate. In recent years, such specialists very often (and without adequate background) went to work in medical, physiological and psychological institutions where some immediately wanted to become involved in the investigation of very confidential and interesting material. These are usually individuals who either know their own field but do not know anything about psychology and who have observed certain "strange" psychic phenomena, or individuals who have fallen prey to charlatans.

These specialists often have entirely objective motives. For example, they may be searching for a new type of information transmission (telepathy). Or

they may be looking for a new type of energy intended to act on the switching on of an installation from a fairly great distance (psychokinesis). In the process, some of the scientists displayed a completely childish credulity and naivete. Parapsychologists also occasionally include psychiatrists and other physicians who in their practice actually do encounter abnormal phenomena that are difficult to explain. There is also a category of very ingenious individuals, who generally have no solid training and act as propagandists and managers for persons who actually do have some form of unusual faculties. It is precisely these individuals who promote the recognition of parapsychology as an independent science.

Hence, among the parapsychologists and those who support them there are both charlatans as well as totally serious specialists, who must be protected against the scientific bunglers that attempt to misuse parapsychology for their own advantage.

The objects of parapsychological investigations are generally nervous and hypersensitive individuals and sometimes simply sick individuals. For example, pathologically elevated excitability of the diencephalon, manifestations of hysteria, etc. can be quite apparent in persons who have "cutaneous vision."

Methods of Parapsychology

In the early decades, rather primitive methods of investigation and proof were used in parapsychology (guessing of playing cards, suggestion of dreams or thoughts, etc.). Mistrust and suspicion prompted parapsychologists to search for new methods of obtaining evidence.

Engineers and physicists who introduced their research methods in parapsychology exerted an important effect on the investigation procedures. Their point of departure was the assumption that the human brain functions like an electronic machine and that concepts of physics were directly applicable to its study. Consequently, an entire series of very modern technical aids are used in parapsychology, especially computer and laser technology. Many representatives of parapsychology believe that the paranormal phenomena they investigate are ordinary physical phenomena based on electromagnetic radiation, the energy of which can be calculated and measured despite their small size. The detection and measurement of electromagnetic fields, which are variously designated (bioplasma, electroaurogram, biopotential, etc.), are performed in combination with traditional investigation methods (guessing of playing cards, suggestion as to distance, shifting of objects without touching them). Within the scope of parapsychology, there was considerable development of instrumental methods -- including very modern ones -- of evaluation of individual function states. For example, the Kirlian effect (photography of live tissue in high-frequency currents) was utilized by parapsychologists before it was taken up by physiologists and psychologists. At times, even though they do not explain the essence of parapsychological phenomena, some of the methods developed in parapsychology are applicable in psychophysiology and experimental psychology. Even the "noninstrumental methods" of parapsychology are being developed.



Gerard Croiset, a Dutchman, made himself available as a demonstration object and subject at parapsychology congresses; he has in the meantime been discovered to be a clever con man.

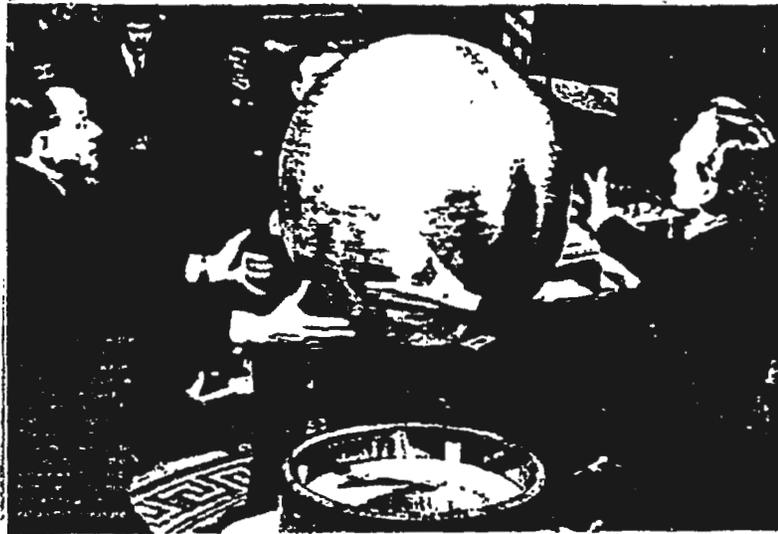
Ten years ago, L. L. Vasil'ev described experiments "with free material," in which a subject was to try to guess something about an object from a number of possible objects unknown to him during the experiment: "The deficiency of these experiments is that evaluation is entirely subjective and there appears to be no way in which to eliminate this subjectivity." In the meantime, the method was developed so that results are analyzed with the aid of "judges" who know what was "assumed" and what might be transmitted and who attempt to ascertain what was actually transmitted

on the basis of what was received. If this proves to be possible, there is evidence that a transmission channel does exist between the transmitter and the receiver. These and a number of other necessary or useful procedures were described in 1967 by M. M. Bongard and M. S. Smirnov in Nauka i. zizu, where they discussed the requirements for "telepathic experiments."

Reliability of Parapsychological Investigations

The history of parapsychology is the history of disclosures in which world-renowned scientists such as Mendelejev, the American physicist Wood and others were occasionally involved. These disclosures naturally caused mistrust and irritation on the part of specialists and these were heightened by the fact that there was often direct mystification and fraud in the demonstrations of parapsychological phenomena. Another reason for mistrust is that paranormal manifestations cannot be reproduced and therefore do not fulfill the requirements of scientific reliability.

The inability to reproduce manifestations is also explained by the special nature of the parapsychological phenomena. These phenomena are linked with special states in the experimental subjects which are difficult to elicit. According to the descriptions of parapsychologists, they are extremely transitory and unstable. They disappear just as soon as an internal or external condition is unfavorable for them. The prevailing opinion is that the states in which parapsychological phenomena occur cannot be maintained for protracted intervals even if favorable conditions are maintained.



In 1967 in London, Prof. Laithwaite demonstrated electromagnetic experiments that astonished even specialists, although these experiments could be explained by physics.

Therein lies the principal contradiction and difficulty of the interpretation of parapsychological manifestations. The parapsychological literature is full of very sensational descriptions. For example, it has been reported that Ted Serios, an American, visually imagined the positions of Soviet rockets on the Soviet-Turkish border and that he photographed them with his eyes (experimental supervisor, L. Eisbud)!!

There have been cases where tricksters and especially illusionists have been called in as experts for untangling the tricks of parapsychological seances. Parapsychology has in general given rise to numerous anti-parapsychological methods and demystification procedures. There are also specialists with extensive experience in this area in the Soviet Union. But no type of demystification affects the believing parapsychologists.

The aggressive tendency to the elicitation of paranormal manifestations and the search for all types of sensations is connected precisely with their belief. A citation follows from an extensive critical book on parapsychology by M. Hansel, which appeared in the USSR in 1970: "The results of these experiments cannot be categorically dismissed as fraud, but it can also not be assumed...that the experiments yield definitive proof of extrasensory perception."

Some of the so-called parapsychological phenomena obviously do actually exist. But a lack of knowledge of the pertinent transmission channels for the information or effect impedes our recognition of their existence. Hopes and efforts are at present concentrated primarily on the investigation of the electromagnetic fields of organisms as means of biological communication and transmitters of information. These studies are being performed on insects, mammals and humans. Many authors do not connect their work with parapsychology, at least externally. The physical basis of these manifestations could not be detected to date. Many parapsychologists believe this is due to the fact that "major" science does not deal with these manifestations.

It appears to us that the fault lies with the parapsychologists themselves, who have done their part to remain outside the confines of science.

Some Conclusions

In dealing with the body of material encompassed by the term parapsychology, a distinction must be made between "supernatural" phenomena promulgated by

mystics and charlatans, and real manifestations for which a satisfactory psychological or physical explanation has not yet been found. The former group must be uncovered and demystified while investigations on the latter must be continued in the appropriate scientific institutions, viz. psychological, physiological, biophysical and medical institutions.

The dissemination of parapsychological views in the form and sensational manner often customary at present objectively plays a negative part, for it provides unstable elements with food for their speculations.

Analysis of the state of so-called parapsychology shows that it is permeated with antiscientific concepts and that it has to a great extent become the area of activity of pseudospecialists. Some of them have designated themselves as the directors and associates of organizations that have never existed in our country, e.g. of the Institute of Technical Parapsychology. We must suppress the activity of unqualified and questionable parapsychologists who with their numerous lectures (which they also present to scientists) voluntarily -- and therefore not unaltruistically -- propagandize parapsychology. These lectures are generally a mixture of myth and reality. The uncritical behavior of a number of serious scientists vis-a-vis parapsychology can be explained only in terms of positivistic indifference to scientific theory and methodology. There is not sufficient basis for the recognition of parapsychology as a separate science, for the only factor uniting parapsychologists is the secret and puzzling nature of the phenomena they investigate.

Moreover, we feel that the publication of sensational scientifically unsound data on parapsychology in newspapers, magazines and popular scientific periodicals is an unacceptable practice. For some reason, this goes counter to the tradition usually followed by serious scientists, viz. initial publication of important scientific accomplishments in the scientific literature and subsequent publication in the popular scientific press.

We have undoubtedly reached the time when research on the real phenomena described by parapsychology should be guided into regular channels. In view of the fact that many parapsychological investigations are being performed by physicists and engineers, the scientific position of research on the biophysical effect and the electromagnetic fields produced by live organisms should be reviewed as a possible basis for biological communication and other phenomena at the Academic Institute for Biophysics and the Academic Institute for Problems of Information Transmission. Investigation of these phenomena in biophysics and information technology will contribute to their demystification.

The Psychological Institutes of the Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of the USSR, as well as other psychological institutions should also review the possibility of strictly scientific investigation of these phenomena. It would obviously be expedient to set up in one of the psychological institutions a laboratory for the examinations of individuals who actually have unusual faculties (these need not necessarily be paranormal faculties). After careful checking, the investigation results

would be published in the scientific literature (and only thereafter in the popular scientific press).

We feel that if solid scientific organizations focus attention on the phenomena described by parapsychology, this would contribute to the clarification of their real nature and to the suppression of quacks who misuse the perfectly natural interest of the public in the many unexplained secrets of the human psyche. The myth of the existence of a "parapsychological movement" in the USSR would then also disappear.