Approved For Release 2000/08/10 : CIA-RDP96-00791R000100150001-1

ORD-0520-95

27 September 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

VIA: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: SG1I [redacted]
Director of Research and Development

SUBJECT: Star Gate - Final Response to CDA

1. In January the Executive Director asked ORD to respond to a Congressionally Directed Action (CDA) relating to transfer of the Star Gate Program from DIA to CIA. Shortly thereafter, the Executive Director approved ORD's recommended plan to satisfy the CDA. The plan had three parts: Form a blue-ribbon panel to conduct a twenty-year technical review, immediately declassify past CIA sponsorship and further review other program material for declassification, and at the completion of the panel review, develop a comprehensive management strategy for the program, including addressing whether or not this program made sense for CIA. A recommended Star Gate program management strategy is now complete (attachment A).

2. During March and April, we gave status reports on the Star Gate transfer was presented by CIA to SAC and SSCI Committee staff. Presentation to Congress of the management strategy for Star Gate was deferred until September 30. This date was selected in order to allow CIA to complete the requested technical review with an external blue ribbon panel commissioned by the American Institutes for Research (AIR).

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SUBJECT: Star Gate Program - Proposed Management Strategy

It was agreed by interested staff members and CIA that CIA's final proposed management strategy would be based closely on AIR's review. That review is now complete and attached to the proposed management strategy. In addition, it was proposed during a third meeting with a SAC Committee staff that the NIO for S&T should conduct an assessment of Russian parapsychology with the assistance of DIA Star Gate program personnel in parallel with the technical review. In fact, that foreign assessment is complete and is also reflected in the proposed management strategy.

3. The key recommendations of the proposed management strategy are:

- **Terminate remote viewing operations within the intelligence community.**

  The American Institutes of Research, after interviewing multiple current users of remote viewing, concluded that "*...the information provided by remote viewing is vague and ambiguous, making it difficult if not impossible for the technique to yield information of sufficient quality and accuracy for actionable intelligence.*"

- **Terminate research and development relating to remote viewing within the intelligence community.**

  The American Institutes for Research, after assessing its blue-ribbon panel review of CIA and DIA sponsored research spanning over twenty years, concluded that "*...it remains unclear whether the existence of a paranormal phenomenon, remote viewing, has been demonstrated. The laboratory studies do not provide evidence regarding the sources or origins of the phenomenon...*"

- **Perform a comprehensive declassification review of all DOD and CIA program files to prepare them for official transfer to the National Archives.**

  It was stated in the CDA that "*The Committee also believes that the time has come for a re-evaluation of the classification of the existence of this effort as*

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well as the results that have been obtained over time." In addition, it was directed that *"The DCI's declassification committee should review the history and nature of this program to determine what parts of it may be declassified and be converted into an open world activity."*

- **Apply no resources to the assessment of foreign developments in parapsychology.**

After overseeing the recent assessment of Russian programs, The CIA Directorate of Intelligence in consultation with the NIC states that *"Among the areas of science and sociological change we are monitoring, we view developments in parapsychology as a relatively low threat to the United States and, consequently, as a low priority among all the threats we are trying to monitor and assess."* In addition, the DI stated that *"In none of this Russian research do we see credible evidence of developments that could significantly add to the threat that Russia currently poses to US national security."*

4. These key recommendations are based closely on the AIR review, the DI's comments after reviewing the NIO's foreign assessment, and the CDA itself. They were develo0ped in close consultation with the NIO/S&T and with the DDI. We propose that these recommendations, which comprise the essence of CIA's proposed Star Gate management strategy be forwarded at this time to appropriate members of Congress in satisfaction of the CDA.

SG1I

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