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PAGE:0001

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SERIAL: OW1902103993

BODY
COUNTRY: JAPAN
SUBJ: MINISTRY TO STUDY PSYCHIC POWERS, UFO'S FOR FUTURE INDUSTRY

SOURCE: TOKYO KYODO IN ENGLISH 0935 GMT 19 FEB 93
TEXT:

((TEXT)) TOKYO, FEB. 19 KYODO -- JAPAN'S BUREAUCRATS ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE THE BURGEONING NEW AGE INDUSTRIES SERIOUSLY WITH A PLAN TO STUDY SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA, INCLUDING PSYCHIC POWERS AND EVEN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFOS), GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID FRIDAY.

THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) OFFICIALS SAID THE MINISTRY PLANS TO FORM A RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF ART, CULTURE, AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY -- SUCH AS TELEPATHY AND CLAIRVOYANCE -- FOR APPLICATION TO NEXT-GENERATION INDUSTRY.

THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE, WHICH WILL LIKELY BE SET UP IN 1995, IS THE BRAINCHILD OF A MITI PANEL ESTABLISHED LAST NOVEMBER TO STUDY CREATION OF AN INDUSTRY MORE SENSITIVE TO HUMAN NEEDS FOR ART, INNER PEACE, AND OTHER INTANGIBLE THINGS.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THE PANEL, COMPRISING KEY FIGURES FROM A VARIETY OF BUSINESS AND CULTURAL CIRCLES, IS ACCUMULATING DATA ON THE EFFECT OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TEA CEREMONIES AND FLOWER ARRANGING ON THE STATE OF THE MIND THROUGH BRAIN WAVE CHECKS AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATIONS.

THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH WILL ALSO BE TRIED WITH TELEPATHY, UFOS, AND OTHER PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL AND OCCULT PHENOMENA, LONG IGNORED BUT GAINING CREDIBILITY OF LATE IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

THE RESEARCH WOULD INCLUDE BRAIN WAVE CHECKS ON THOSE WHO CLAIM TO EXPERIENCE TELEPATHY OR STUDY OF SUCH PHENOMENA AS SOOTHING MUSIC TRIGGERING QUICKER GROWTH OF PLANTS.

THE PANEL WILL DRAFT AN INTERIM REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES BY MAY

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PAGE:0002

PROVIDING CONCRETE IDEAS FOR THE PLANNED INSTITUTE.

THE OFFICIALS SAID DISCOVERIES MADE AT THE INSTITUTE ARE LIKELY TO BE APPLIED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS TO INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING.

ONE EXAMPLE OF THE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS IS A HOME-USE DEVICE WHICH EMITS SUPERSONIC WAVES TO RELAX PEOPLE BY GIVING THEM THE ILLUSION THEY ARE SITTING IN A FOREST, THEY SAID.

ADMIN

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