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5 FEB 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Technical Services

SUBJECT: Exploration of Operational Potential of "Paranormals"

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1. I was briefed on 31 January by Mr. Kress and [redacted] of OTS on the studies and experiments done by Stanford Research Institute (SRI), as well as that being conducted directly by Agency officers, into the operational potential of certain persons claiming to possess phenomenal psychic or paranormal capabilities. I have also discussed the matter with officers of this Division's Technical Requirements Staff [redacted] and am persuaded that sufficient inexplicable but operationally suggestive data has been accumulated to warrant further investigation.

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2. I understand that at present we can neither explain, control, nor manipulate the phenomena in question, but so long as we continue to be troubled by such otherwise intractable problems as [redacted] and so long as these "paranormal" persons appear to offer even a slight possibility of helping us, I would be reluctant to see their investigation abandoned.

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3. I therefore recommend the continuation of the current experimental research at about the present level, contingent upon the following:

a) that by the end of this Fiscal Year we may reasonably expect to sort out the questions of whether to continue with the contractor and, if so, how,

b) that direct operational experimentation simultaneously can be carried on by OTS officers with appropriate inputs from [redacted] and

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c) that the amount of money required to carry on for the balance of this FY will not be unreasonable, and that funds are available in OTS.

Theodore G. Shackley  
Chief, East Asia Division

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