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... stuff of science fiction -- but a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report expresses fear that a major Soviet "psychotronic" research effort may be developing just such mental powers.

"Soviet and Czech psychotronic research ... has powerful potential for use as an effective weapon against groups of men and leaders," according to the report, a copy of which was provided to Reuters by a private source.

Some skeptics have dismissed reports about Soviet psychic experiments as "disinformation" aimed at confusing the West. Many mainstream scientists reject psychic research.

Even so, ...

... tests in which psychics, sitting in a laboratory and given map coordinates of military bases and nuclear plants in the Soviet Union, described those sites in detail that was consistent with CIA data.

A CIA spokesman would not comment on whether or not such tests had been ...

... years SRI has been carrying out a multi-million dollar series of U.S. government experiments in so-called "remote viewing", which they describe as "the perception of events, objects or people which are hidden from the five senses."

In these experiments, they say, a psychologist would sit with a " ...

... pins -- were remarkably accurate, the evident result of some telepathic mental process not yet understood.

Targ told Reuters Soviet scientists have shown great interest in their research, have met with them in the United States and invited them to the Soviet Union for talks. The Soviets were especially interested in whether a way could be found to screen off secrets from psychic intrusion.

The DIA report, "Soviet and Czechoslovakian Parapsychology Research", is based largely on Soviet scientific literature and describes a large-scale Kremlin program including mind-over-matter experiments, a field known as psychokinesis.

FULL X

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It said in one set of experiments a Soviet psychic named Nina Kulagina stood in a laboratory beside the heart of a frog, which had been surgically removed and placed ...

... beat entirely," the report said.

Kulagina's ability "might be used against human targets," the report said. It said Soviet scientists had reported extensively on experiments in which psychics moved or levitated objects through mind-power, a skill that could be used to "deactivate power supplies or to steal military documents."

Larissa Vilenskaya, a scientist who says she participated in Soviet psychic studies for 10 years before emigrating to the United States, wrote in a recent book that Kulagina managed to affect human heartbeats in a number of experiments.

The report said in other experiments reported by Soviet scientists, including Vilenskaya, psychics hypnotized people hundreds of miles away telepathically. It said some western experts are concerned that such hypnosis could be used against "U.S. or allied personnel in (nuclear) missile silos."

Much of the Soviet research described in the report deals with a theory that psychic abilities stem from a form of brain energy that can be identified and studied.

Soviet scientists have developed a machine which they say can extract energy from the brain, and report that when flies were exposed to a beam of such energy they " ...