

Parapsychology

According to Dodge in 1964, the Aerospace Technology Division of the Library of Congress reviewed the Soviet literature in an unpublished bibliography entitled, "Soviet Parapsychology" (ATD Report U-64-77). At that time, academic opposition to parapsychology in the USSR had reached its zenith which led ATD observers to the reasonable conclusion that official Soviet support or funds for parapsychological research were unlikely and that investigation in this area might be terminated.

The above conclusion was apparently ■ misguided because of events that occurred in 1959 and 1960. In 1959 a book entitled Mysterious Phenomena of the Human Psyche, was published in the USSR. Its author was Professor L.L. Vasilev, head of the Dept. of Physiology of Leningrad U. and a Corresponding member of the Acad. of Medical Sciences of the USSR. A year later, Professor Vasilev was given state funds to establish at the University appropriately equipped labs for the study of telepathy. The published findings from this lab attracted attention and began to find repercussions in the columns of the non-specialized periodical press. This was followed by a ■ publication in 1962 by Kazhinskij. Following the example of Leningrad, other cities, including Moscow, Kiev, Novosibirsk and Khar'kov, established similiar labs and research centers, at which not only the phenomena described in world literature were examined, but a study was made of parapsychic features displayed by Soviet citizens. The journal Science and Religion has published many articles on Soviet parapsychology, including a discussion of whether it was worth-while continuing research in this field.(1965). Affirmative, though extremely cautious, replies to this question were given by Vice President of the Acad. of Sciences, N.N. Seminov, by Academicians M.A. Leontovich, A.L. Mints and G.M. Frank, and by Professors A.N. Leontev and V.F. Asmus. This brief survey brings the study of
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paranormal phenomena up to the time when studies of a more pertinent nature to this report have begun.

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