

Soviet Success R 12



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Paraphysics Research in the Warsaw Pact (U)

Introduction

(C) USSR research on paranormal phenomena (i.e., telepathy, ESP) was begun in the early 1920s by a few researchers, it was interrupted at the start of World War II, and was reinitiated in 1959. Established scientists from various disciplines entered this research field at that time. Shortly after, the scope of research was increased to include all types of paranormal phenomena (e.g., psychokinesis). In recent years, many additional researchers have become active in the field and have begun to address a much wider range of human sensitivities (e.g., subtle electromagnetic fields). A trend toward multidisciplinary research is now emerging which will likely accelerate the understanding of the various paranormal phenomena. Additional investments of both personnel and money will likely lead to increases in the scope of research and should be expected in the immediate future.

(C) Most of the current research on paranormal phenomena is apparently performed as an adjunct to other official duties; however, it is likely that there are some researchers involved on a full-time basis and receive government support. At least three, and possibly more, officially sponsored research groups exist in Moscow, Leningrad, and Alma-Ata.

(C) The research level has been cyclic in responding to criticism and encouragement. Through the mid-1960s, the main conflicts were over ideological issues (scientific and Marxist). Recent trends indicate that serious ideological conflicts have been resolved and that official attitudes at least tolerate, if not openly accept, such research. Open, highly visible support from prominent scientists has recently been given through official party organs. Increases in interest have been noted in a wide sector of the scientific community. Criticisms continue but they are not as intense or frequent as during earlier periods. The Party has much to gain and little to lose from properly conducted paraphysics research.

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Research Achievements

(C) The striving for ideological acceptance has led researchers to create a variety of new terms for their research, and to emphasize theoretical explanations based on known to yet-to-be discovered physical mechanisms. While this may lead to improved research in some areas, it could cause some possibilities to be ignored. An emphasis on application potential is also apparent. Ideological objections have usually given way, in the USSR, to practical considerations regardless of the controversial nature of a new idea or unusual phenomenon.

(C) In the Soviet Union research is done primarily with people who demonstrate consistently high paranormal performance ability. It is known that there is a program to screen "gifted people" from the general population, and that training techniques are used to enhance such abilities.

(C) The data for assessing Communist achievements in parapsysics research are quite limited, and very little information is available from reliable researchers. That which is available usually lacks sufficient backup material. This may be due, in some cases, to lack of proper publication channels for such research, or is possibly due to political or security factors. Although limited, the data that are available from reliable researchers are highly significant and very revealing.

(C) In 1967, the statistically most significant telepathy experiment in the history of paranormal phenomena research was done. An experiment by Kogan's group in Moscow achieved 105 out of 135 correct correlations to random-selected digits from 0-9. The "sender" and "receiver" were separated by a few meters to a few kilometers. Kogan's group also achieved statistically significant results in long-distance (3000 km) experiments. These experiments, and others like them, demonstrate the basic communication potential of paranormal abilities. Similar experiments probably have been repeated in the Soviet Union, since the communication application is a known USSR research goal. Additional experiments carried out from submarines, space, or command and control locations, perhaps involving simple codes, have probably already been done to explore practical value of parapsysical phenomena. The application of similar paranormal channels for information access (i.e., in an intelligence role) has surely not been overlooked by the Warsaw Pact countries.

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(C) In addition to communication, other experimental results indicate that some people can generate unusual energetic "field" effects which interact with sensitive devices and material objects. Certain people can induce desired reactions (physiological, ideomotor) in other people, and some individuals have unusual sensitivity to subtle electric, magnetic, or electromagnetic fields. The application of such "energetic" phenomena to induce certain types of responses in others might be considered by Warsaw Pact countries although the effectiveness of such influences, if any, on unwitting people is unknown. There is also evidence that sensitive interrogation devices are being developed that respond to subtle paranormal effects.

(C) Research in paranormal phenomena reported by some of the Warsaw Pact countries is considered unreliable. However, improvements are expected and the scope will probably be broadened in the future. This research could provide clues for explaining, other unusual paranormal abilities, such as telepathy, and could indicate ways of enhancing such abilities for wider practical use. It is also possible that certain adverse influences will be discovered that would have military potential.

Conclusions

(C) During the past few years, worldwide research on paranormal phenomena has increased. Although most is of questionable value or is difficult to evaluate, a few experiments are extremely significant and are generally repeatable. Some of the research in paranormal phenomena in the USSR is significant, and some basic applications conceivably have occurred. Increased scope and diversity of research in the Warsaw Pact countries, and the pursuit of various application options, will probably continue. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of such research, increases in theoretical understanding of various unusual paranormal phenomena will probably be achieved. (CONFIDENTIAL)

SOURCE: U.S. Air Force Foreign Technology Division Analysis -
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For further information, contact DIA Project Officer -
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