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## DID COOLIDGE CHANNEL HARDING?

### The New York Times, Op-Ed Page, July 4, 1996

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By William P. Barrett

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.--Seances in the **White House**! Administration officials issue a denial! Last month's news? Try 1926. Calvin Coolidge's Administration was rocked by a claim that he and his family had entertained mediums and that the **White House** was a hotbed of believers in the supernatural.

This accusation was made at Congressional hearings where the inquisitor was none other than the magician Harry Houdini. For decades, Houdini had campaigned against fortune-tellers, accusing them of blackmailing and swindling people.

Many states banned fortunetelling for pay, but not Washington, where a license cost \$25. The capital swarmed with palm readers and astrologers.

Houdini persuaded a Congressman to try to ban fortunetelling in the District. Appearing before a subcommittee on Feb. 26, 1926, Houdini attacked "deliberate frauds and cheats." In response, two well-known mediums, Jane Coates and one Madame Marcia, testified that such a bill violated their right to freedom of religion. Several fortunetellers said senators (unidentified) consulted them regularly.

On May 17, the day before the second hearing, Houdini sent his top investigator to visit the two mediums. At the hearing, he asked his aide about what she had learned about "the **White House** and seances being there." She replied that Madame Marcia had told her that "almost all the people in the **White House** believed in spiritualism." Then she quoted Jane Coates as having said, "I know for a fact that there have been spiritual seances held at the **White House** with President Coolidge and his family, which proves that inter-communication with the dead is established."

This was sensational stuff for a country that had embraced the reassuring "Silent Cal," who took office in 1923 after Warren G. Harding's death. The Administration "denied that any **seance** had been held in the **White House** since Mr. Coolidge became President," The New York Times reported. Later, Jane Coates claimed that she had merely said that seances had been held "under the shadow of the **White**



For most of Reagan's presidency, his schedule was co-ordinated by astrologer Joan Quigley.

## Bad Times for Bonzo

**Star power is put to use at the White House**

The tale of the Reagan astrologer is one of the weirdest scandals ever to rock any White House. On the one hand, it's a silly and amusing comedy of errors; on the other, it's a profoundly disturbing secret abuse of the nation's executive office. It is perhaps the only instance of paranormal forces having an undeniably real impact on the course of U.S. history.

Towards the end of Ronald Reagan's second term, sordid unpleasanties were finally starting to stick to the Teflon President. In May 1988, the crushing liabilities of Iran-Contra, the bloated national debt and Reagan's faltering mental acuity were joined by a new revelation: that for the previous seven years of his administration, the president's every important action had been orchestrated by Nancy Reagan's astrologer, Joan Quigley.

This disclosure stunned the nation, with good reason. It's disturbing enough that a president could be the puppet of an anonymous, unelected individual, hidden away from the American public. Compounding the travesty, the source of this clandestine influence was nothing more substantial than the vicissitudes of Ronnie's horoscope. What a sad and barbaric state of affairs, to have our nation guided for the better part of a decade by the empty divinations of the Zodiac.

Nonetheless, it must be said that the mass media are guilty of blowing this story out of proportion and leaving misconceptions about the Reagan astrologer in the popular consciousness. People have been led to believe that Quigley had a personal say in Oval Office decision making, that she maintained direct contact with the president, and was responsible for developing and implementing policy according to the heavens. As best we can tell, this was never the case.

Quigley's actual role in White House operations, though very real and influential, was by no means the all-encompassing stranglehold on the Executive Branch it has been made out to be. Still, the exact scope of her influence remains elusive, known only to two people: Quigley and Nancy Reagan.

For seven years, these women pulled off the dizzyingly impossible task of keeping a secret in the single most monitored and media-scrutinized place on earth. White House aide Michael Deaver knew about the astrologer and carried out her instructions, as did chief of staff Donald Regan later on. And Reagan himself knew about Quigley's influence, although not from the beginning. Other than those few people, no one had any idea what was going on. When Don Regan spilled the beans in his vengeful 1988 memoirs, *For the Record*, he was so in the dark he didn't even know Quigley's name. If not for Regan's bitter expulsion from the Reagan administration, the entire secret of Nancy's stargazing "Friend" might still be intact today.

Following Regan's expose, Quigley and Mrs. Reagan have each spoken and written at length about their covert transactions. Their stories contradict each other on several key points. Sorting out the truth here is a bit like charting the interplay of celestial forces in the distant sky, an imprecise and dubious "science" at best. Before examining the respective claims of the former First Lady and the former First Astrologer, let's round up the handful of facts that have been established about this horoscope horror.

Quigley was a longtime consultant to Nancy Reagan, the two having been introduced by TV's Merv Griffin sometime in the '70s. Quigley contributed astrological advice during Ron's 1976 bid for the Republican nomination, although she was not heavily involved with the Reagans until the 1980 campaign. Once they made it to the White House, Nancy's association with Quigley increased dramatically -- as did Quigley's control over Mr. Reagan's day-to-day routine. During the campaign Quigley volunteered her services, but after the inauguration she began charging a sizable fee, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3,000 per month.

What exactly did Quigley do for this kind of money? In short, she devised laboriously detailed charts indicating which dates and times were good for the president and which were bad, according to his horoscope. Certain times were deemed ideal for action and supposedly ensured success; others were unsuitable and invited disaster. Unlike the daily generalities offered by newspaper horoscopes, Quigley's readings were calibrated down to the exact hour and minute.

In the course of their regular telephone sessions, Nancy would list her husband's upcoming itinerary, and the San Francisco-based astrologer would calculate the proper timing each significant event required to achieve optimum harmony with planetary influences. Nancy then passed along these scheduling requirements to the White House staff, with the absolute demand that they be carried out. For the most part, the instructions were followed. Don Regan summed up his strange duty in this passage from his memoirs:

"Although I had never met this seer -- Mrs. Reagan passed along her prognostications to me after conferring with her on the telephone -- she had become such a factor in my work, and in the highest affairs of the nation,

highlighted in green ink for "good" days, red for "bad" days, yellow for "iffy" days) as an aid to remembering when it was propitious to move the president of the United States from one place to another, or schedule him to speak in public, or commence negotiations with a foreign power."

Thus, Quigley had full control over the appointment book of the most powerful man in the free world. Or, as Quigley would prefer to put it, the astrological forces of the cosmos did.

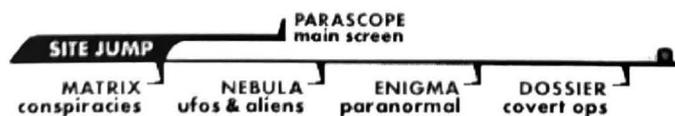
That, apparently, was the extent of Quigley's sway in the Reagan White House. Contrary to popular belief, she was not using star charts to conjure up foreign policy or outline the federal budget. All decisions on policies, strategies and agendas were made by Reagan and his staff prior to Quigley's input. The only thing she contributed was the timing of these actions: when to make announcements, when to arrange summits, when to schedule the departures and arrivals of Air Force One.

So does that mean the whole Quigley affair was not really that big a deal? Not exactly. Even by simply scheduling events, she made countless impacts on the Reagan presidency. In giving arbitrary astrological requirements priority over meaningful considerations, the White House could have seriously imperiled the president many times over. His personal safety, which Quigley professed to be ensuring, could have been compromised whenever security preparations were altered to accommodate her schedule. And then there's the question of timing the president's actions for maximum political effectiveness. As Don Regan put it, that particular executive power went out the window:

"[T]he president's schedule is the single most potent tool in the White House, because it determines what the most powerful man in the world is going to do and when he is going to do it. By humoring Mrs. Reagan we gave her this tool -- or more accurate, gave it to an unknown woman in San Francisco who believed the Zodiac controls events and human behavior and that she could read the secrets of the future in the movements of the planets."

## **Next: The First Lady's Fantasies and Fears**

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Nancy had special phone lines installed in the White House and at Camp David for consultations with Quigley.

## Nancy's Star-Crossed Secret

### Fear for Ron's life leads her to Joan Quigley

Ronald and Nancy Reagan have a long history of involvement with astrologers and psychics. As movie stars in 1950s Hollywood, they were close friends with celebrity astrologer Carroll Righter, and became a fixture at his glamorous monthly "zodiac parties." Later they met the late psychic Jeane Dixon, who served as Nancy's personal advisor for years. Nancy was always more enthusiastic about such paranormal matters than her husband, but Ron never shied away from them. Even as governor and as president, he happily made public his enjoyment of newspaper horoscopes, his many superstitions, and his avid interest in the occult.

In the 1970s, Reagan began to entertain notions of running for the presidency. By many accounts, Nancy became obsessed with the idea, and may have even wanted the White House more than Ron did. To help pave the way to Washington, she turned to her psychic friends. Around this time Nancy had a falling out with Jeane Dixon, losing all faith in the psychic's abilities. The most likely source of this estrangement was Dixon's prediction that Reagan did not have a chance of being elected president in 1976. Nancy went shopping for a new supernatural consultant who might tell her what she wanted to hear.

Nancy's friend Merv Griffin told her about an astrologer he'd had on his talk show named Joan Quigley. Griffin judged her abilities most impressive, and he arranged a brief meeting between the two during Reagan's campaign for the 1976 Republican nomination. At this meeting, Quigley concurred with Jeane Dixon's forecast that this was not to be Ron's year. In the pages of her memoirs, *My Turn*, Nancy claimed she does not remember meeting Quigley in person until 1985. Perhaps the content of Quigley's prediction had something to do with its lack of memorability.

As Reagan was mounting another campaign in 1980, Quigley contacted Nancy again, this time certain Ron would capture the Oval Office. They discussed "good" and "bad" times indicated by Reagan's astrology chart, and

a few of Quigley's scheduling suggestions were carried out. Whether by the auguring of the heavens or not, Reagan went on to crush Jimmy Carter and whisked Nancy into the White House at last.

For the first happy months after the landslide election, Nancy apparently had little or no contact with Quigley. After all, she was blissfully content, she'd won the keys to the kingdom, and there was nothing more for fortune-telling to offer her.

But all that changed on March 30, 1981. John Hinckley, Jr.'s assassination attempt nearly drew the curtains on the Reagan presidency. The failed assassination turned Nancy Reagan's world upside down. At any given time, sinister forces could take her husband's life and her precious dream away -- and she was completely helpless to stop it.

Unless the stars might have their say.

Nancy says that shortly after the shooting she spoke to Griffin, who said he had just spoken to Quigley. She had told him Reagan's chart indicated that March 30 was a terrible day, and she could have warned him that his life was in danger. Immediately Nancy called Quigley to confirm this. It was at that moment that Quigley went from being a casual acquaintance who had helped on the campaign to being an indispensable shadow guardian of Ronald Reagan's destiny.

Once he recovered from the gunshot wounds, Nancy was stricken with fear every time Reagan left the house. Heightening her dread was the infamous "zero-year" curse, the 20-year cycle of every president since William Harrison dying in office after being elected in a year ending with zero -- a macabre pattern given much discussion in the wake of the Hinckley shooting. Nancy saw the assassination attempt as a stern lesson, as though she personally had failed to take measures that could have protected Ronnie. She resolved never to leave her husband exposed to such "foreseeable" hazards again.

"After March 30, 1981, I wasn't about to take any chances," Nancy wrote in her memoirs. "Very few people can understand what it's like to have your husband shot at and almost die, and then have him exposed all the time to enormous crowds, tens of thousands of people, any one of whom might be a lunatic with a gun. I have been criticized and ridiculed for turning to astrology, but after a while I reached the point where I didn't care. I was doing everything I could think of to protect my husband and keep him alive."

She took to calling Quigley once or twice a month with the details of Ron's schedule, accepting all of the astrologer's recommendations for fine-tuning its timing. Nancy turned these instructions over to Michael Deaver, a close friend of the Reagans who reportedly never grumbled at these peculiar orders and did a remarkably good job of keeping their source unknown.

Nancy had private phone lines installed at the executive mansion and at Camp David, expressly for making calls to Quigley. According to former officials, the FBI and CIA are concerned to this day that the KGB may have tapped Nancy's conversations with Quigley, gathering extensive intelligence on the president's forthcoming actions. To date, no proof of this possibility has publicly surfaced.

Quigley's influence over Reagan's schedule was so secret, at first not even he knew about it. Nancy was implementing Quigley's advice without telling Ron for several months, explaining in her book that it was difficult to bring up the subject to him. She procrastinated about telling him until one day when he walked in during a phone session with Quigley. When the president asked who she was talking to, Nancy broke down and revealed her interventions with his schedule. Reagan was unfazed by the news.

"If it makes you feel better, go ahead and do it," he told her, according to Nancy's memoirs. "But be careful. It might look a little odd if it ever came out."

As if through some divination of his own, Reagan was right about that. Michael Deaver's successor as astrological facilitator, Donald Regan, would eventually blow Quigley's cover. Regan was not so dutifully acquiescent as Deaver when it came to indulging Nancy's scheduling modifications. Regan did not get along with her personally, and considered it extraordinarily demeaning for the presidency to cater to something as silly as astrology.

After being fired from his chief of staff post, Regan lashed back with a tell-all memoir, which revealed -- among other things -- the truth about Nancy's astrologer. The revelation stirred a media frenzy that painted the already scandal-embroiled White House as a complete looney bin. Nancy was outraged that this secret had been "betrayed" by Regan, but he argued that he had no choice but to reveal the truth. "My description of White House life in my period as chief of staff would have made little sense if I omitted it," Regan wrote in a commentary on Nancy's own memoirs. "All those schedule changes, when laid out in black on white pages, would have looked downright senseless in the absence of an explanation."

Months later Nancy made her only extensive public statement on the Quigley affair, in the pages of *My Turn*. There she portrayed herself as the scared, vulnerable wife of a man whose life was in constant jeopardy. She tried to minimize the scope of Quigley's influence, and disingenuously laughed off her belief in astrology as a mere affectation, a "crutch" that helped her cope with severe anxiety.

"While I was never certain that Joan's astrological advice was helping to protect Ronnie, the fact is that nothing like March 30 ever happened again," Nancy wrote, thoroughly hedging her bets. "Was astrology one of those reasons? I don't really believe it was, but I don't really believe it wasn't. But I know this: It didn't hurt, and I'm not sorry I did it."

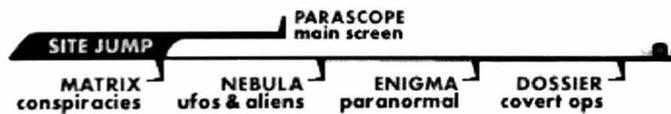
In response to the critics who decried Quigley's advice as an atrocity and branded the First Lady a superstitious laughing-stock, Nancy offered the following rebuttal:

"It didn't seem to matter that nothing other than Ronnie's schedule was affected by astrology. Or that tens of millions of Americans really believed in astrology. Or that almost every newspaper that ridiculed me for taking astrology seriously also featured a daily horoscope column."

Nancy's first two points may be open to debate, but the third is rock-solid.

**Next: So Speaks the Soothsayer**

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Quigley's star charts were even used to orchestrate Reagan's swearing-in ceremony.

## So Speaks the Soothsayer

Joan Quigley had an agreement with Nancy Reagan not to reveal to anyone the services she rendered for the White House. By all indications Quigley kept her end of the bargain, despite the prestige that may have been gained by disclosing her role as the president's astrologer. Even after the news broke, Quigley tried her best to maintain her client's confidentiality. But upon the publication of Nancy's confessions in *My Turn*, Quigley was compelled to respond to what she felt was a gross misrepresentation of the facts.

"What she has left out about the way she used astrology and my ideas would fill a book," Quigley explained in the book her ideas yielded, which she entitled *What Does Joan Say?*. This title refers to what Quigley claims was a frequent question the president asked Nancy in their personal discussions, countering Nancy's assertion that he had little concern for Quigley's advice.

Before her destiny became entangled with the Reagans', Quigley enjoyed a successful career as an astrologer to California's upper crust. She was selective about her clientele, interested in reading the charts of the rich and famous rather than those of mere commoners. In 1972, she claims she calculated the horoscope of Richard Nixon (not that Nixon was her client -- this was just a personal exercise for Quigley), and saw that he would win reelection in 1972. But there was something more: she says that his chart indicated a horrible downfall brewing for Nixon in the following two years.

Looking back, Quigley is confident that she had foreseen Watergate. She cites this as the first time she ever mixed astrology with politics, and it struck her that horoscope readings could be an especially valuable tool for a politician, who must always strive to dodge pitfalls and seize opportunities.

Quigley says that Nancy Reagan first called her in 1973, at the behest of mutual acquaintance Merv Griffin, although Nancy says they first spoke in 1976. The two apparently first met face to face at a San Francisco campaign stop during Reagan's bid for the 1976 Republican nomination. Quigley recalls Nancy being very interested in meeting her, having spoken to her years before and watching her on the Merv Griffin show. Nancy herself

claims not to remember this meeting, and never mentioned being impressed after seeing a Quigley TV appearance. Perhaps Quigley's desire to serve celebrity clients has led her to romanticize that early encounter.

At any rate, Quigley claims she predicted Reagan would lose in 1976 but win in 1980, and came aboard that second campaign with much greater involvement. She threw herself into analyzing the horoscope chart of Ronald Reagan, an Aquarius. In her book Quigley spends a good deal of time defending her brand of astrology as a valid and misunderstood "science," distinct from the tawdry newspaper horoscopes most people are familiar with.

"I base my astrological analysis on the data provided to me by astronomers and charts calculated by computers," she explains. "My conclusions are based on this accurate scientific material in the same way your doctor supports his diagnosis by the laboratory reports of an economist bases his predictions on statistics."

Quigley dismisses newspaper "Sun Sign" columns as "harmless and amusing," but not true astrology. "A person must be very credulous indeed to believe that the same thing is happening to one twelfth of the world's population during a given day or month," she wisely points out.

What makes Quigley's system of astrology different? Well, it constructs a horoscope for each person based on the exact moment of birth, preferably down to the precise minute. She explains that this information provides a chart that is genuinely accurate for every individual. Apparently, it's not so silly for us to believe that the same thing is happening to each segment the world's population that was born at a given moment.

When the exact birth moment is unknown -- as was the case with Ronald Reagan -- Quigley determines it via an arcane process called "rectification." This apparently involves calculating a bunch of possible charts for that birthday through trial and error, until you hit the one that sounds like it fits the person.

Quigley based her prediction that Reagan would win in 1980 in part on the harmonious conjunction between Ron's horoscope and the horoscope of the United States of America. That's right -- nations, events and inanimate things all have their own star signs. Born on July 4, 1776, America is a Cancer.

Quigley's contributions to the 1980 campaign included the scheduling of the second Carter-Reagan debate. The date was October 28, alarmingly close to the election, but a time at which Quigley found the planets conspiring heavily against the liberal Libra incumbent. Reagan was widely judged as the debate's winner, and he cruised to victory a few days later. He was an Aquarius rising.



which Nancy has named as the catalyst for Quigley's deep involvement with the Reagan presidency. Quigley agrees that this was a primary concern of Nancy's, but not the only one. Nancy also wanted Quigley to help her improve her inauspicious public image.

Even as the newly-inaugurated president rose to enormous popularity, Nancy made a terrible first impression as First Lady. She was roundly criticized as being vain, pretentious and shallow. She had reportedly asked the Carters to move out of the White House early, so that her extensive redecorating might get a head start. Much was made of her purchase of an expensive new set of White House china and the high fashions she constantly wore, extravagances that seemed inappropriate with the nation in the throes of a recession.

Her unpopularity stung Nancy to the core of her soul, according to Quigley. Nancy feared for Ron's safety, but perhaps equally much, she wanted to patch up her poor image. "I want everyone to love me," she lamented to Quigley.

And so Quigley took up Nancy's astrology charts as well as the president's, and set out to recreate Nancy Reagan as a beloved First Lady. She actually handled the job quite well, advising Nancy to actively pursue her charitable interests in helping needy children and fighting drugs, complete with lots of public appearances; to expand her socializing beyond the privileged elite; to limit her designer clothing to special occasions and stop granting interviews to fashion magazines; and to generally be more kind, personable and human whenever someone stuck a camera or microphone in her face.

It was good advice, and it seemed to work. The media and the public began to take notice of "the new Nancy," and while she didn't win everyone over, she did go on to become one of the most popular First Ladies of recent times. In many ways there was nothing supernatural about Quigley's help. Any good PR consultant could have wrought the same transformation, without the assistance of star charts.

The famed astrologer nevertheless took complete credit as the "architect" of Nancy's mended persona. At least Quigley was honest enough to regard the new image as a total sham, a facade of which the real Nancy was not worthy. "I created for her a beautiful, desirable image, hoping that in time she would grow into it and become the person I taught her to appear to be," Quigley wrote in a hilarious display of audacity. "My pupil was a consummate actress, but I couldn't help feeling that while she had worked hard and studied diligently, she had never really understood the reason for taking the course."

Quigley likewise dedicated herself to preserving the president's popularity -- not just his safety, as Nancy's version of the tale would indicate. Quigley manipulated Reagan's schedule to evade political snafus as well as assassins' bullets. She unabashedly claims responsibility for Reagan's

reputation as the Teflon President: "I was the Teflon in what came to be known as the 'Teflon Presidency,'" she boasts. Because she arranged Reagan's actions to fall on all the astrologically propitious moments, she felt that no one's criticisms or arguments could detract from him -- even on occasions when Reagan was factually in the wrong.

Most of Quigley's scheduling recommendations were followed smoothly, but there were a few bumpy spots. For instance, Reagan wished in early December 1983 to announce that he would be seeking reelection, but Quigley judged the timing to be terrible. She forced the announcement to wait until January 29, a move that frustrated Reagan. What's more, she had him deliver the speech at 10:55 p.m., a late hour that had political commentators scratching their heads.

In the ensuing campaign, Quigley made a scheduling demand that she describes as the only time she failed the Reagans. She says she picked a poor time for the first Reagan-Mondale debate, misreading Walter Mondale's horoscope as infelicitous on a day when he was in fact filled with "pizazz." Reagan's debate performance was considered poor. When the second debate came around, Quigley says she redeemed herself.

Quigley visited the Reagans at the White House only once, attending a state dinner in April 1985. Nancy described this as the first time they met in person, forgetting their brief San Francisco meeting in 1976. After her pleasant stay in Washington, a presidential scandal erupted. It regarded an affair that Quigley would later list among her crowning achievements. Reagan was making a trip to Germany in May, and as a gesture to Helmut Kohl, he planned to lay a wreath in a Bitburg cemetery. Because there were Nazi soldiers buried there, Reagan's show of respect was considered atrocious by many.

Quigley went to work arranging the times for Reagan's visits to Bitburg and the concentration camp site, Bergen-Belsen. Because of the tight schedule and delicate security measures involved, it took a great deal of haggling and fighting for Quigley to nail down the times she wanted. But she prevailed, and claims that her scheduling focused all attention on the Bergen-Belsen trip and minimized the importance of the Bitburg wreath-laying. "I had defused Bitburg for all intents and purposes," she writes. But it seems that a lot of people still regard the Bitburg visit as a black spot on the Reagan presidency, to this day. Whatever magical diversion she may have conjured up, it did not wash out the aura of scandal from around the visit.

In May 1988, when Don Regan revealed the secret of the White House astrologer, Quigley was vacationing in Paris. Regan was unaware of Quigley's name, and in her absence scores of astrologers everywhere were stepping forward to claim they were the presidential soothsayer. Before long, the press uncovered Quigley as the genuine article.

Quigley's sister called her in Paris to break the news of her sudden fame.

terribly upset by the turn of events, and just said they would talk more about the situation once Quigley returned home. When she arrived in New York and caught a connecting flight to San Francisco, a crafty Time magazine reporter had booked the seat next to her and requested an interview. Quigley chose to answer his questions.

When Nancy found out about this, she hit the ceiling. She called Quigley and forbade her ever to speak to the press about what had happened. Quigley refused, saying she would either answer or decline any questions as she saw fit. Nancy did not want to have the truth come out.

"Nancy said, 'Lie if you have to. If you have to, lie,'" Quigley wrote. "Nancy never called again. After seven years of being constantly in touch... the last word Nancy ever said to me was, 'Lie!'"

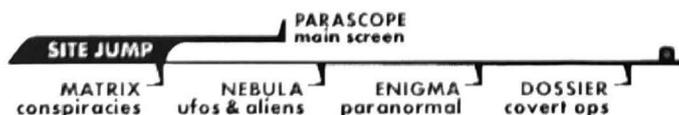
And so it ended. In her book Quigley outlines her frustrations over Nancy's inability to deal with the truth, but what infuriates her even more is Nancy's lack of gratitude. She bemoans Nancy's failure to send her so much as a thank you card after the successful 1980 campaign, which Quigley had worked on for free. Quigley feels that Nancy resented having to pay for her services after Reagan's election -- an estimated \$3,000 a month -- even though Quigley thought she was severely undercharging:

"[E]ven if she wished to, she could not afford to pay me even a fraction of what I was worth. I could not have done this for the Reagans had I not had other sources of income. ... And I imagine she congratulated herself often, during the seven years of the presidency that she consulted me, on having found an incredible bargain."

Nancy Reagan and Joan Quigley are the only two people who will ever know exactly what happened during this bizarre and disturbing chapter in the history of American government. But you'd have to be one heck of a simpleton to think either of them is telling the whole story, undiluted by selective recall and generous self-aggrandizement. You may as well believe the stars and planets speak the truth.

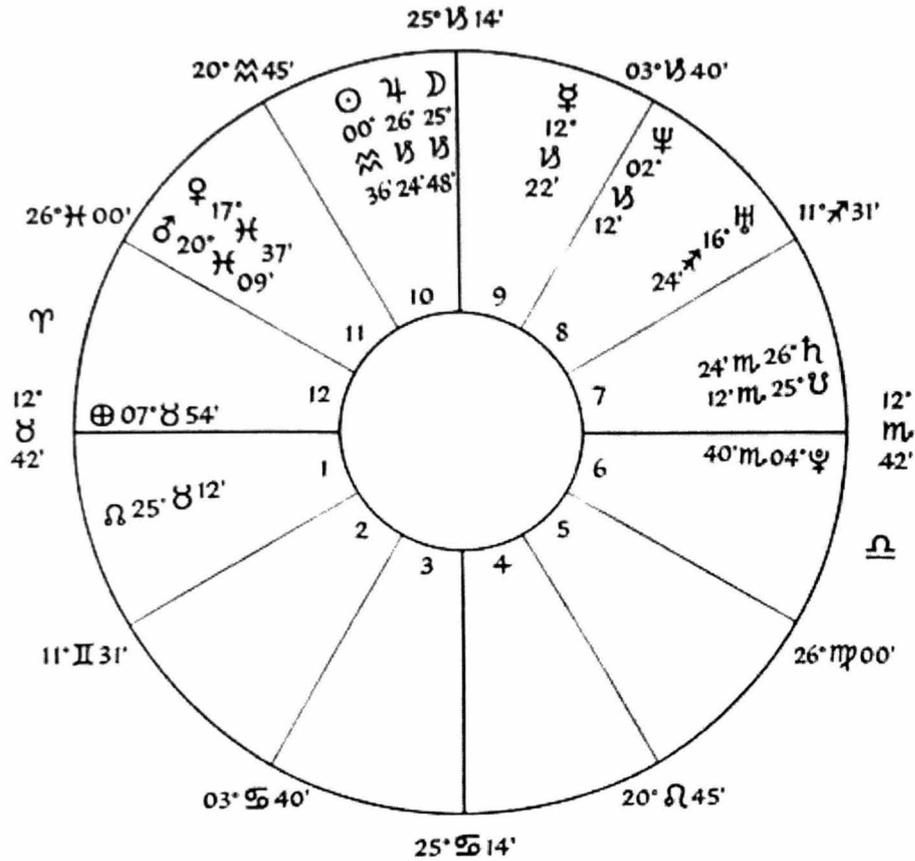
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# Astrological Chart for Ronald Reagan's Oath of Office

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# Hillary's Psychic Friends Network



by D. Trull  
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In a miniature scandal that is drawing comparisons to Nancy Reagan's infamous consultations with astrologers to guide her husband's policies, it has come to light that Hillary Rodham Clinton has held quasi-mystical sessions with a so-called "New Age guru." The First Lady reportedly went into a trance and conducted conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt

and Mathama Gandhi.

This story stems from disclosures in Bob Woodward's new book, "The Choice," which focuses on presidential contenders Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. The description of Mrs. Clinton's "seances" fill only a few pages, but that brief account has sent the media into a frenzy and granted late-night talk show hosts a Buttafuoco-style supply of comedic ammunition.

According to Woodward, Mrs. Clinton has been friends with psychic researcher Jean Houston since 1994. Houston is a successful author and lecturer who advocates the existence of spirits and the untapped potential of the mind. She became a valued confidant to the First Lady, helping Mrs. Clinton cope with unfavorable public scrutiny and the aftermath of the '94 Republican landslide.

In April 1995, Houston and Mrs. Clinton met in the White House solarium, partly to discuss ideas for the book "It Takes a Village," which Mrs. Clinton was writing. Houston believes that people can draw strength from their historical "archetypes" -- Houston says her own is the goddess Athena -- and she had identified Eleanor Roosevelt as Mrs. Clinton's spiritual forebear. She encouraged Mrs. Clinton to close her eyes and imagine that she was meeting the former First Lady. Houston then asked her to speak to Mrs. Roosevelt, and to provide an imagined reply.

"I was misunderstood," Hillary said on Eleanor's behalf, Woodward's book claims. "You have to do what you think is right. It was crucial to set a course and hold to it."

Houston later led Mrs. Clinton into an admiring imagined conversation with Gandhi. Houston also suggested that she speak with Jesus Christ, but Mrs. Clinton refused because that would be "too personal."

Houston, whose father was a writer of jokes for such comedians as Bob Hope, says that her original inspiration for the inner conversation technique came from the childhood experience of seeing family friend Edgar Bergen speak with his dummy, Charlie McCarthy. Bergen told her that he was always surprised by what Charlie said, even though the voice was his own. The notion that a discussion with oneself could lead to new discovery has stuck with Houston all her life. She describes it as a powerful mental exploration technique that finds precedent in the works of philosophers such as Machiavelli.

But neither the media nor the White House is regarding Houston's work in such noble terms. Neel Lattimore, Mrs. Clinton's spokesman, was quick to discourage any parallels to Nancy Reagan's

supernatural proclivities, downplaying the encounter as harmless brainstorming.

"This is not a mystic, this is not channelling," Lattimore said. "This is just her talking, especially at a time when she was working on her book, trying to get her head in shape and helping her get through some tough times."

Other White House spokespersons have suggested that Houston is only one of many women Mrs. Clinton spoke with while writing her book, and merely a minor acquaintance. But Houston has actually visited Mrs. Clinton with great frequency, and has spent the night at the White House on a number of occasions. Mrs. Clinton's chief of staff, Maggie Williams, came to speak of Hillary's mood brightening notably on days when she got her "Jean fix."

Appearing on "Dateline NBC," Houston herself portrayed the conversations as nothing more than "idea sessions" and wished to quell the hubbub. She recalled the talk with Mrs. Roosevelt as lasting only four minutes and could not even remember a discussion with Gandhi taking place.

Houston describes Mrs. Clinton as having been exposed to more psychological abuse than any other person she knows of. She offers this theory as a possible explanation for the First Lady's status as a lightning rod of the nation's disapproval:

"America had a lot of its shadow, its negativity, projected onto the Soviet Union. And I think that when the Soviet Union dissolved, a lot of that shadow was released. ... In part... it went towards a woman who was... changing a certain perception of who women are and what they can be. And this is scary."

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# CIA-Initiated Remote Viewing At Stanford Research Institute

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**Abstract** - In July 1995 the CIA declassified, and approved for release, documents revealing its sponsorship in the 1970s of a program at Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, CA, to determine whether such phenomena as **remote viewing** "might have any utility for intelligence collection" [1]. Thus began disclosure to the public of a two-decade-plus involvement of the intelligence community in the investigation of so-called parapsychological or psi phenomena. Presented here by the program's Founder and first Director (1972 - 1985) is the early history of the program, including discussion of some of the first, now declassified, results that drove early interest.

## Introduction

On April 17, 1995, **President** Clinton issued Executive Order Nr. 1995-4-17, entitled Classified National Security Information. Although in one sense the order simply reaffirmed much of what has been long-standing policy, in another sense there was a clear shift toward more openness. In the opening paragraph, for example, we read: "In recent years, however, dramatic changes have altered, although not eliminated, the national security threats that we confront. These changes provide a

greater opportunity to emphasize our commitment to open Government." In the Classification Standards section of the Order this commitment is operationalized by phrases such as "If there is significant doubt about the need to classify information, it shall not be classified." Later in the document, in reference to information that requires continued protection, there even appears the remarkable phrase "In some exceptional cases, however, the need to protect such information may be outweighed by the public interest in disclosure of the information, and in these cases the information should be declassified."

A major fallout of this reframing of attitude toward classification is that there is enormous pressure on those charged with maintaining security to work hard at being responsive to reasonable requests for disclosure. One of the results is that FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests that have languished for months to years are suddenly being acted upon.<sup>1</sup>

One outcome of this change in policy is the government's recent admission of its two-decade-plus involvement in funding highly-classified, special access programs in **remote viewing** (RV) and related psi phenomena, first at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) and then at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), both in Menlo Park, CA, supplemented by various in-house government programs. Although almost all of the documentation remains yet classified, in July 1995 270 pages of SRI reports were declassified and released by the CIA, the program's first sponsor [2]. Thus, although through the years columns by Jack Anderson and others had claimed leaks of "psychic spy" programs with such exotic names as Grill Flame, Center Lane, Sunstreak and Star Gate, CIA's release of the SRI reports constitutes the first documented public admission of significant intelligence community involvement in the psi area.

As a consequence of the above, although I had founded the program in early 1972, and had acted as its Director until I left in 1985 to head up the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin (at which point my colleague Ed May assumed responsibility as Director), it was not until 1995 that I found myself for the first time able to utter in a single sentence the connected acronyms CIA/SRI/RV. In this report I discuss the genesis of the program, report on some of the early, now declassified, results that drove early interest, and outline the general direction the program took as it expanded into a multi-year, multi-site, multi-million-dollar effort to determine whether such phenomena as **remote viewing** "might have any utility for intelligence collection" [1].

## Beginnings

In early 1972 I was involved in laser research at Stanford Research Institute (now called SRI International) in Menlo Park, CA. At that time I was also circulating a proposal to obtain a small grant for some research in quantum biology. In that proposal I had raised the issue whether physical theory as we knew it was capable of describing life processes, and had suggested some measurements involving plants and lower organisms [3]. This proposal was widely circulated, and a copy was sent to Cleve Backster in New York City who was involved in measuring the electrical activity of plants with standard polygraph equipment. New York artist Ingo Swann chanced to see my proposal during a visit to Backster's lab, and wrote me suggesting that if I were interested in investigating the boundary between the physics of the animate and inanimate, I should consider experiments of the parapsychological type. Swann then went on to describe some apparently successful experiments in psychokinesis in which he had participated at Prof. Gertrude Schmeidler's laboratory at the City College of New York. As a result of this correspondence I invited him to visit SRI for a week in June

1972 to demonstrate such effects, frankly, as much out of personal scientific curiosity as anything else.

Prior to Swann's visit I arranged for access to a well-shielded magnetometer used in a quark-detection experiment in the Physics Department at Stanford University. During our visit to this laboratory, sprung as a surprise to Swann, he appeared to perturb the operation of the magnetometer, located in a vault below the floor of the building and shielded by mu-metal shielding, an aluminum container, copper shielding and a superconducting shield. As if to add insult to injury, he then went on to "remote view" the interior of the apparatus, rendering by drawing a reasonable facsimile of its rather complex (and heretofore unpublished) construction. It was this latter feat that impressed me perhaps even more than the former, as it also eventually did representatives of the intelligence community. I wrote up these observations and circulated it among my scientific colleagues in draft form of what was eventually published as part of a conference proceedings [4].

In a few short weeks a pair of visitors showed up at SRI with the above report in hand. Their credentials showed them to be from the CIA. They knew of my previous background as a Naval Intelligence Officer and then civilian employee at the National Security Agency (NSA) several years earlier, and felt they could discuss their concerns with me openly. There was, they told me, increasing concern in the intelligence community about the level of effort in Soviet parapsychology being funded by the Soviet security services [5]; by Western scientific standards the field was considered nonsense by most working scientists. As a result they had been on the lookout for a research laboratory outside of academia that could handle a quiet, low-profile classified investigation, and SRI appeared to fit the bill. They asked if I could arrange an opportunity for them to carry out some simple experiments with Swann, and, if the tests proved satisfactory, would I consider a pilot program along these lines? I agreed to consider this, and arranged for the requested tests.<sup>2</sup>

The tests were simple, the visitors simply hiding objects in a box and asking Swann to attempt to describe the contents. The results generated in these experiments are perhaps captured most eloquently by the following example. In one test Swann said "I see something small, brown and irregular, sort of like a leaf or something that resembles it, except that it seems very much alive, like it's even moving!" The target chosen by one of the visitors turned out to be a small live moth, which indeed did look like a leaf. Although not all responses were quite so precise, nonetheless the integrated results were sufficiently impressive that in short order an eight-month, \$49,909 Biofield Measurements Program was negotiated as a pilot study, a laser colleague Russell Targ who had had a long-time interest and involvement in parapsychology joined the program, and the experimental effort was begun in earnest.

## Early Remote Viewing Results

During the eight-month pilot study of **remote viewing** the effort gradually evolved from the **remote viewing** of symbols and objects in envelopes and boxes, to the **remote viewing** of local target sites in the San Francisco Bay area, demarked by outbound experimenters sent to the site under strict protocols devised to prevent artifactual results. Later judging of the results were similarly handled by double-blind protocols designed to foil artifactual matching. Since these results have been presented in detail elsewhere, both in the scientific literature [6-8] and in popular book format [9], I direct the interested reader to these sources. To summarize, over the years the back-and-forth criticism of protocols, refinement of methods, and successful replication of this type of **remote viewing** in

independent laboratories [10-14], has yielded considerable scientific evidence for the reality of the phenomenon. Adding to the strength of these results was the discovery that a growing number of individuals could be found to demonstrate high-quality **remote viewing**, often to their own surprise, such as the talented Hella Hammid. As a separate issue, however, most convincing to our early program monitors were the results now to be described, generated under their own control.

First, during the collection of data for a formal **remote viewing** series targeting indoor laboratory apparatus and outdoor locations (a series eventually published in toto in the Proc. IEEE [7]), the CIA contract monitors, ever watchful for possible chicanery, participated as **remote** viewers themselves in order to critique the protocols. In this role three separate viewers, designated visitors V1 - V3 in the IEEE paper, contributed seven of the 55 viewings, several of striking quality. Reference to the IEEE paper for a comparison of descriptions/drawings to pictures of the associated targets, generated by the contract monitors in their own viewings, leaves little doubt as to why the contract monitors came to the conclusion that there was something to **remote viewing** (see, for example, Figure 1 herein). As summarized in the Executive Summary of the now-released Final Report [2] of the second year of the program, "The development of this capability at SRI has evolved to the point where visiting CIA personnel with no previous exposure to such concepts have performed well under controlled laboratory conditions (that is, generated target descriptions of sufficiently high quality to permit blind matching of descriptions to targets by independent judges)." What happened next, however, made even these results pale in comparison.

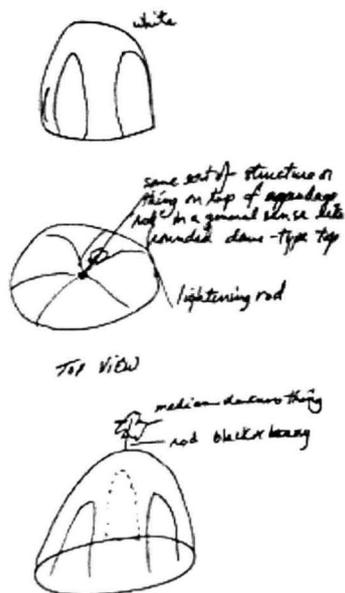


Figure 1 - Sketch of target by V1

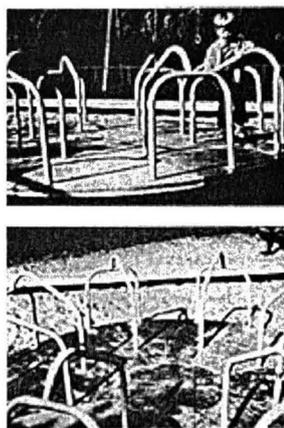


Figure 2 - Target (merry-go-round)

## Coordinate Remote Viewing

To determine whether it was necessary to have a "beacon" individual at the target site, Swann

suggested carrying out an experiment to **remote** view the planet Jupiter before the upcoming NASA Pioneer 10 flyby. In that case, much to his chagrin (and ours) he found a ring around Jupiter, and wondered if perhaps he had **remote** viewed Saturn by mistake. Our colleagues in astronomy were quite unimpressed as well, until the flyby revealed that an unanticipated ring did in fact exist.<sup>3</sup>

Expanding the protocols yet further, Swann proposed a series of experiments in which the target was designated not by sending a "beacon" person to the target site, but rather by the use of geographical coordinates, latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds. Needless to say, this proposal seemed even more outrageous than "ordinary" **remote viewing**. The difficulties in taking this proposal seriously, designing protocols to eliminate the possibility of a combination of globe memorization and eidetic or photographic memory, and so forth, are discussed in considerable detail in Reference [9]. Suffice it to say that investigation of this approach, which we designated Scanate (scanning by coordinate), eventually provided us with sufficient evidence to bring it up to the contract monitors and suggest a test under their control. A description of that test and its results, carried out in mid-1973 during the initial pilot study, are best presented by quoting directly from the Executive Summary of the Final Report of the second year's followup program [2]. The **remote** viewers were Ingo Swann and Pat Price, and the entire transcripts are available in the released documents [2].

"In order to subject the **remote viewing** phenomena to a rigorous long-distance test under external control, a request for geographical coordinates of a site unknown to subject and experimenters was forwarded to the OSI group responsible for threat analysis in this area. In response, SRI personnel received a set of geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of a facility, hereafter referred to as the West Virginia Site. The experimenters then carried out a **remote viewing** experiment on a double-blind basis, that is, blind to experimenters as well as subject. The experiment had as its goal the determination of the utility of **remote viewing** under conditions approximating an operational scenario. Two subjects targeted on the site, a sensitive installation. One subject drew a detailed map of the building and grounds layout, the other provided information about the interior including codewords, data subsequently verified by sponsor sources (report available from COTR)."<sup>4</sup>

Since details concerning the site's mission in general,<sup>5</sup> and evaluation of the **remote viewing** test in particular, remain highly classified to this day, all that can be said is that interest in the client community was heightened considerably following this exercise.

Because Price found the above exercise so interesting, as a personal challenge he went on to scan the other side of the globe for a Communist Bloc equivalent and found one located in the Urals, the detailed description of which is also included in Ref. [2]. As with the West Virginia Site, the report for the Urals Site was also verified by personnel in the sponsor organization as being substantially correct.

What makes the West Virginia/Urals Sites viewings so remarkable is that these are not best-ever examples culled out of a longer list; these are literally the first two site-viewings carried out in a simulated operational-type scenario. In fact, for Price these were the very first two **remote** viewings in our program altogether, and he was invited to participate in yet further experimentation.

## Operational Remote Viewing (Semipalatinsk, USSR)

Midway through the second year of the program (July 1974) our CIA sponsor decided to challenge us to provide data on a Soviet site of ongoing operational significance. Pat Price was the **remote viewer**. A description of the **remote viewing**, taken from our declassified final report [2], reads as given below. I cite this level of detail to indicate the thought that goes into such an "experiment" to minimize cueing while at the same time being responsive to the requirements of an operational situation. Again, this is not a "best-ever" example from a series of such viewings, but rather the very first operational Soviet target concerning which we were officially tasked.

"To determine the utility of **remote viewing** under operational conditions, a long-distance **remote viewing** experiment was carried out on a sponsor-designated target of current interest, an unidentified research center at Semipalatinsk, USSR.

This experiment, carried out in three phases, was under direct control of the COTR. To begin the experiment, the COTR furnished map coordinates in degrees, minutes and seconds. The only additional information provided was the designation of the target as an R&D test facility. The experimenters then closeted themselves with Subject S1, gave him the map coordinates and indicated the designation of the target as an R&D test facility. A **remote-viewing** experiment was then carried out. This activity constituted Phase I of the experiment.

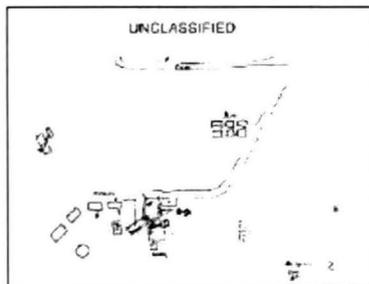


Figure 3 - Subject effort at building layout

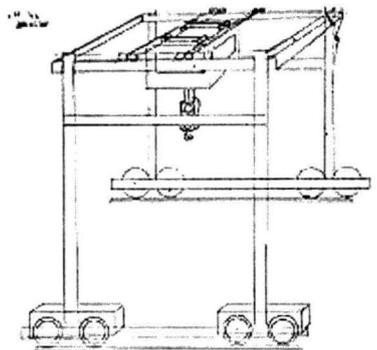
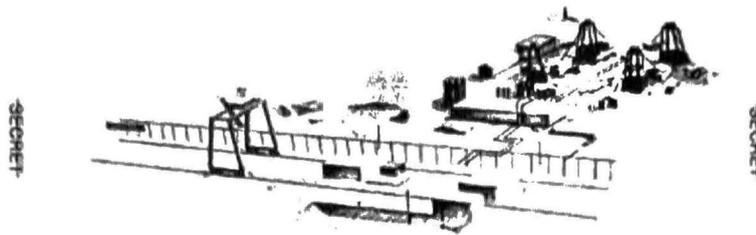


Figure 4 - Subject effort at crane construction

Figure 3 shows the subject's graphic effort for building layout; Figure 4 shows the subject's particular attention to a multistory gantry crane he observed at the site. Both results were obtained by the experimenters on a double-blind basis before exposure to any additional COTR-held information, thus eliminating the possibility of cueing. These results were turned over to the client representatives for evaluation. For comparison an artist's rendering of the site as known to the COTR (but not to the experimenters until later) is shown in Figure 5.....



*Figure 5 - Actual COTR rendering of Semipalatinsk, USSR target site*

Were the results not promising, the experiment would have stopped at this point. Description of the multistory crane, however, a relatively unusual target item, was taken as indicative of possible target acquisition. Therefore, Phase II was begun, defined by the subject being made "witting" (of the client) by client representatives who introduced themselves to the subject at that point; Phase II also included a second round of experimentation on the Semipalatinsk site with direct participation of client representatives in which further data were obtained and evaluated. As preparation for this phase, client representatives purposely kept themselves blind to all but general knowledge of the target site to minimize the possibility of cueing. The Phase II effort was focused on the generation of physical data that could be independently verified by other client sources, thus providing a calibration of the process.

The end of Phase II gradually evolved into the first part of Phase III, the generation of unverifiable data concerning the Semipalatinsk site not available to the client, but of operational interest nonetheless. Several hours of tape transcript and a notebook of drawings were generated over a two-week period.

The data describing the Semipalatinsk site were evaluated by the sponsor, and are contained in a separate report. In general, several details concerning the salient technology of the Semipalatinsk site appeared to dovetail with data from other sources, and a number of specific large structural elements were correctly described. The results contained noise along with the signal, but were nonetheless clearly differentiated from the chance results that were generated by control subjects in comparison experiments carried out by the COTR."

For discussion of the ambiance and personal factors involved in carrying out this experiment, along with further detail generated as Price (see Figure 6) "roamed" the facility, including detailed comparison of Price's RV-generated information with later-determined "ground-truth reality," see the accompanying article by Russell Targ in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol. 10, No. 1. [Click here to read the abstract.](#)



  
*Figure 6 - Left to right: Christopher Green, Pat Price, and Hal Puthoff.  
 Picture taken following a successful experiment involving glider-ground RV.*

Additional experiments having implications for intelligence concerns were carried out, such as the **remote viewing** of cipher-machine type apparatus, and the RV-sorting of sealed envelopes to differentiate those that contained letters with secret writing from those that did not. To discuss these here in detail would take us too far afield, but the interested reader can follow up by referring to the now-declassified project documents [2].

## Follow-on Programs

The above discussion brings us up to the end of 1975. As a result of the material being generated by both SRI and CIA **remote** viewers, interest in the program in government circles, especially within the intelligence community, intensified considerably and led to an ever-increasing briefing schedule. This in turn led to an ever-increasing number of clients, contracts and tasking, and therefore expansion of the program to a multi-client base, and eventually to an integrated joint-services program under single-agency (DIA) leadership. To meet the demand for the increased level of effort we first increased our professional staff by inviting Ed May to join the program in 1976, then screened and added to the program a cadre of **remote** viewers as consultants, and let subcontracts to increase our scope of activity.

As the program expanded, in only a very few cases could the clients' identities and program tasking be revealed. Examples include a NASA-funded study negotiated early in the program by Russ Targ to determine whether the internal state of an electronic random-number-generator could be detected by RV processes [16], and a study funded by the Naval Electronics Systems Command to determine whether attempted **remote viewing** of distant light flashes would induce correlated changes in the viewer's brainwave (EEG) production [17]. For essentially all other projects during my 14-yr. tenure at SRI, however, the identity of the clients and most of the tasking were classified and remain so today. (The exception was the occasional privately-funded study.) We are told, however, that further declassification and release of much of this material is almost certain to occur.

What can be said, then, about further development of the program in the two decades following 1975? In broad terms it can be said that much of the SRI effort was directed not so much toward developing an operational U.S. capability, but rather toward assessing the threat potential of its use against the U.S. by others. The words threat assessment were often used to describe the program's purpose during its development, especially during the early years. As a result much of the **remote-viewing** activity was carried out under conditions where ground-truth reality was a priori known or could be determined, such as the description of U.S. facilities and technological developments, the timing of rocket test firings and underground nuclear tests, and the location of individuals and mobile units. And, of course, we were responsive to requests to provide assistance during such events as the loss of an airplane or the taking of hostages, relying on the talents of an increasing cadre of **remote-viewer/consultants**, some well-known in the field such as Keith Harary, and many who have not surfaced publicly until recently, such as Joe McMoneagle.

One might ask whether in this program RV-generated information was ever of sufficient significance as to influence decisions at a policy level. This is of course impossible to determine unless

policymakers were to come forward with a statement in the affirmative. One example of a possible candidate is a study we performed at SRI during the **Carter**-administration debates concerning proposed deployment of the mobile MX missile system. In that scenario missiles were to be randomly shuffled from silo to silo in a silo field, in a form of high-tech shell game. In a computer simulation of a twenty-silo field with randomly-assigned (hidden) missile locations, we were able, using RV-generated data, to show rather forcefully that the application of a sophisticated statistical averaging technique (sequential sampling) could in principle permit an adversary to defeat the system. I briefed these results to the appropriate offices at their request, and a written report with the technical details was widely circulated among groups responsible for threat analysis [18], and with some impact. What role, if any, our small contribution played in the mix of factors behind the enormously complex decision to cancel the program will probably never be known, and must of course a priori be considered in all likelihood negligible. Nonetheless, this is a prototypical example of the kind of tasking that by its nature potentially had policy implications.

Even though the details of the broad range of experiments, some brilliant successes, many total failures, have not yet been released, we have nonetheless been able to publish summaries of what was learned in these studies about the overall characteristics of **remote viewing**, as in Table 5 of Reference [8]. Furthermore, over the years we were able to address certain questions of scientific interest in a rigorous way and to publish the results in the open literature. Examples include the apparent lack of attenuation of **remote viewing** due to seawater shielding (submersible experiments) [8], the amplification of RV performance by use of error-correcting coding techniques [19,20], and the utility of a technique we call associational **remote viewing** (ARV) to generate useful predictive information [21].<sup>8</sup>

As a sociological aside, we note that the overall efficacy of **remote viewing** in a program like this was not just a scientific issue. For example, when the Semipalatinsk data described earlier was forwarded for analysis, one group declined to get involved because the whole concept was unscientific nonsense, while a second group declined because, even though it might be real, it was possibly demonic; a third group had to be found. And, as in the case of public debate about such phenomena, the program's image was on occasion as likely to be damaged by an overenthusiastic supporter as by a detractor. Personalities, politics and personal biases were always factors to be dealt with.

## Official Statements/Perspectives

With regard to admission by the government of its use of **remote viewers** under operational conditions, officials have on occasion been relatively forthcoming. **President Carter**, in a speech to college students in Atlanta in September 1995, is quoted by Reuters as saying that during his administration a plane went down in Zaire, and a meticulous sweep of the African terrain by American spy satellites failed to locate any sign of the wreckage. It was then "without my knowledge" that the head of the CIA (Adm. Stansfield Turner) turned to a woman reputed to have psychic powers. As told by **Carter**, "she gave some latitude and longitude figures. We focused our satellite cameras on that point and the plane was there." Independently, Turner himself also has admitted the Agency's use of a **remote viewer** (in this case, Pat Price).<sup>9</sup> And recently, in a segment taped for the British television series *Equinox* [22], Maj. Gen. Ed Thompson, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,

U.S. Army (1977-1981), volunteered "I had one or more briefings by SRI and was impressed.... The decision I made was to set up a small, in-house, low-cost effort in **remote viewing**...."

Finally, a recent unclassified report [23] prepared for the CIA by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), concerning a **remote viewing** effort carried out under a DIA program called Star Gate (discussed in detail elsewhere in this volume), cites the roles of the CIA and DIA in the history of the program, including acknowledgment that a cadre of full-time government employees used **remote viewing** techniques to respond to tasking from operational military organizations.<sup>10</sup>

As information concerning the various programs spawned by intelligence-community interest is released, and the dialog concerning their scientific and social significance is joined, the results are certain to be hotly debated. Bearing witness to this fact are the companion articles in this volume by Ed May, Director of the SRI and SAIC programs since 1985, and by Jessica Utts and Ray Hyman, consultants on the AIR evaluation cited above. These articles address in part the AIR study. That study, limited in scope to a small fragment of the overall program effort, resulted in a conclusion that although laboratory research showed statistically significant results, use of **remote viewing** in intelligence gathering was not warranted.

Regardless of one's a priori position, however, an unimpassioned observer cannot help but attest to the following fact. Despite the ambiguities inherent in the type of exploration covered in these programs, the integrated results appear to provide unequivocal evidence of a human capacity to access events **remote** in space and time, however falteringly, by some cognitive process not yet understood. My years of involvement as a research manager in these programs have left me with the conviction that this fact must be taken into account in any attempt to develop an unbiased picture of the structure of reality.

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## Footnotes

1 - One example being the release of documents that are the subject of this report - see the memoir by Russell Targ elsewhere in this volume.

2 - Since the reputation of the intelligence services is mixed among members of the general populace, I have on occasion been challenged as to why I would agree to cooperate with the CIA or other elements of the intelligence community in this work. My answer is simply that as a result of my own previous exposure to this community I became persuaded that war can almost always be traced to a failure in intelligence, and that therefore the strongest weapon for peace is good intelligence.

3 - This result was published by us in advance of the ring's discovery [9].

4 - Editor's footnote added here: COTR - Contracting Officer's Technical Representative

5 - An NSA listening post at the Navy's Sugar Grove facility, according to intelligence-community chronicler Bamford [15]

6 - DIA - Defense Intelligence Agency. The CIA dropped out as a major player in the mid-seventies due to pressure on the Agency (unrelated to the RV Program) from the Church-Pike Congressional Committee.

7 - See also the contribution by Ed May elsewhere in this volume concerning his experiences from 1985 on during his tenure as Director.

8 - For example, one application of this technique yielded not only a published, statistically

significant result, but also a return of \$26,000 in 30 days in the silver futures market [21].

9 - The direct quote is given in Targ's contribution elsewhere in this volume.

10 - "From 1986 to the first quarter of FY 1995, the DoD paranormal psychology program received more than 200 tasks from operational military organizations requesting that the program staff apply a paranormal psychological technique known (sic) as "remote viewing" (RV) to attain information unavailable from other sources." [23]

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*An Assessment of the Evidence for Psychic Functioning*  
by Jessica Utts

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Volume 10 Number 1: Page 3.

Research on psychic functioning, conducted over a two decade period, is examined to determine whether or not the phenomenon has been scientifically established. A secondary question is whether or not it is useful for government purposes. The primary work examined in this report was government sponsored research conducted at Stanford Research Institute, later known as SRI International, and at Science Applications International Corporation, known as SAIC. Using the standards applied to any other area of science, it is concluded that psychic functioning has been well established. The statistical results of the studies examined are far beyond what is expected by chance. Arguments that these results could be due to methodological flaws in the experiments are soundly refuted. Effects of similar magnitude to those found in government-sponsored research at SRI and SAIC have been replicated at a number of laboratories across the world. Such consistency cannot be readily explained by claims of flaws or fraud. The magnitude of psychic functioning exhibited appears to be in the range between what social scientists call a small and medium effect. That means that it is reliable enough to be replicated in properly conducted experiments, with sufficient trials to achieve the long-run statistical results needed for replicability. A number of other patterns have been found, suggestive of how to conduct more productive experiments and applied psychic functioning. For instance, it doesn't appear that a sender is needed. Precognition, in which the answer is known to no one until a future time, appears to work quite well. Recent experiments suggest that if there is a psychic sense then it works much like our other five senses, by detecting change. Given that physicists are currently grappling with an understanding of time, it may be that a psychic sense exists that scans the future for major change, much as our eyes scan the environment for visual change or our ears allow us to respond to sudden changes in sound. It is recommended that future experiments focus on understanding how this phenomenon works, and on how to make it as useful as possible. There is little benefit to continuing experiments designed to offer proof, since there is little more to be offered to anyone who does not accept the current collection of data.

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*Evaluation of a Program on Anomalous Mental Phenomena*  
by Ray Hyman

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Volume 10 Number 1: Page 31.

Jessica Utts and I were commissioned to evaluate the research on **remote viewing** and related phenomena which was carried out at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) and Scientific Applications International Corporation (SAIC) during the years from 1973 through 1994. We focussed on the ten most recent experiments which were conducted at SAIC from 1992 through 1994. These were not only the most recent but also the most methodologically sound. We evaluated these experiments in the context of contemporary parapsychological research. Professor Utts concluded that the SAIC results, taken in conjunction with other parapsychological research, proved the existence of ESP, especially precognition. My report argues that Professor Utts' conclusion is premature, to say the least. The reports of the SAIC experiments have become accessible for public scrutiny too recently for adequate evaluation. Moreover, their findings have yet to be independently replicated. My report

also argues that the apparent consistencies between the SAIC results and those of other parapsychological experiments may be illusory. Many important inconsistencies are emphasized. Even if the observed effects can be independently replicated, much more theoretical and empirical investigation would be needed before one could legitimately claim the existence of paranormal functioning. Note: This article is followed by a response from Jessica Utts.

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*Remote Viewing at Stanford Research Institute in the 1970s: A Memoir*  
by Russell Targ  
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Volume 10 Number 1: Page 77.

Hundreds of **remote viewing** experiments were carried out at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) from 1972 to 1986. The purpose of some of these trials was to elucidate the physical and psychological properties of psi abilities, while others were conducted to provide information for our CIA sponsor about current events in far off places. We learned that the accuracy and reliability of **remote viewing** was not in any way affected by distance, size, or electromagnetic shielding, and we discovered that the more exciting or demanding the task, the more likely we were to be successful. Above all, we became utterly convinced of the reality of psi abilities. This article focuses on two outstanding examples: One is an exceptional, map-like drawing of a Palo Alto swimming pool complex, and the other is an architecturally accurate drawing of a gantry crane located at a Soviet weapons laboratory, and verified by satellite photography. The percipient for both of these experiments was Pat Price, a retired police commissioner who was one of the most outstanding **remote** viewers to walk through the doors of SRI.

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*The American Institutes for Research Review of the  
Department of Defense's STAR GATE Program: A Commentary*  
by Edwin C. May

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Volume 10 Number 1: Page 89.

As a result of a Congressionally Directed Activity, the Central Intelligence Agency conducted an evaluation of a 24-year, government-sponsored program to investigate ESP and its potential use within the Intelligence Community. The American Institutes for Research was contracted to conduct the review of both research and operations. Their 29 September 1995 final report was released to the public 28 November 1995. As a result of AIR's assessment, the CIA concluded that a statistically significant effect had been demonstrated in the laboratory, but that there was no case in which ESP had provided data that had ever been used to guide intelligence operations. This paper is a critical review of AIR's methodology and conclusions. It will be shown that there is compelling evidence that the CIA set the outcome with regard to intelligence usage before the evaluation had begun. This was accomplished by limiting the research and operations data sets to exclude positive findings, by purposefully not interviewing historically significant participants, by ignoring previous DOD extensive program reviews, and by using the discredited National Research Council's investigation of parapsychology as the starting point for their review. While there may have been political and

administrative justification for the CIA not to accept the government's in-house program for the operational use of anomalous cognition, this appeared to drive the outcome of the evaluation. As a result, they have come to the wrong conclusion with regard to the use of anomalous cognition in intelligence operations and significantly underestimated the robustness of the basic phenomenon.

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*FieldREG Anomalies in Group Situations*

by R. D. Nelson, G. J. Bradish, Y. H. Dobyns, B. J. Dunne, and R. G. Jahn  
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Volume 10 Number 1: Page 111.

Portable random event generators with software to record and index continuous sequences of binary data in field situations are found to produce anomalous outputs when deployed in various group environments. These "FieldREG" systems have been operated under formal protocols in ten separate venues, all of which subdivide naturally into temporal segments, such as sessions, presentations, or days. The most extreme data segments from each of the ten applications, after appropriate correction for multiple sampling, compound to a collective probability against chance expectation of  $2 \times 10^{-4}$ . Interpretation remains speculative at this point, but logbook notes and anecdotal reports from participants suggest that high degrees of attention, intellectual cohesiveness, shared emotion, or other coherent qualities of the groups tend to correlate with the statistically unusual deviations from theoretical expectation in the FieldREG sequences. If sustained over more extensive experiments, such effects could add credence to the concept of a consciousness "field" as an agency for creating order in random physical processes.

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*Anomalous Organization of Random Events by Group Consciousness:  
Two Exploratory Experiments*

by Dean I. Radin, Jannine M. Rebman, and Maikwe P. Cross  
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Volume 10 Number 1: Page 143.

Two experiments explored the hypothesis that when a group of people focus their attention on a common object of interest, order will arise in the environment. An electronic random number generator was used to detect these changes in order. Events judged to be interesting to the group were called periods of high coherence and were predicted to cause corresponding moments of order in the random samples collected during those events; uninteresting events were predicted to cause chance levels of order in the random samples. The first experiment was conducted during an all-day Holotropic Breathwork workshop. The predictions were confirmed, with a significant degree of order observed in the random samples during high group coherence periods ( $p = 0.002$ ), and chance order observed during low group coherence periods ( $p = 0.43$ ). The second experiment was conducted during the live television broadcast of the 67th Annual Academy Awards. Two random binary generators, located 12 miles apart, were used to independently measure order. The predictions were confirmed for about half of the broadcast period, but the terminal cumulative probabilities were not

significant. A post-hoc analysis showed that the strength of the correlation between the output of the two random generators was significantly related ( $r = 0.94$ ) to the decline in the television **viewing** audience.