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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

31 July 1978

MEMORANDUM THRU: *ER 7 Aug*
Chief, OPSEC Spt DivFOR: Commander, Security Support Detachment, 902d MI Group *Rck*

SUBJECT: Attendance at Scientific Seminar in Support of GONDOLA WISH (U)

1. (S) On 29 Jul 78, the undersigned attended an educational seminar entitled Parapsychological Research on Out-of-the-Body Experiences and Strengthening ESP Abilities conducted by Charles T. Tart, Ph.D. Dr. Tart is an internationally respected authority in the field of parapsychology. He has recently served as President of the Parapsychological Association, the international professional organization of scientific investigators of psi. He is a professor of psychology at the Davis campus of the University of California. He is currently on a one year leave of absence from Davis and is serving as a consultant to Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, CA, in the field of parapsychology.

2. (S) The seminar was an oral review of Dr. Tarts latest book, PSI Scientific Studies of the Psychic Realm, E. P. Dutton, New York, 1977. The undersigned purchased several copies of this book (for resale to interested parties) as it is not yet available in book stores on the East coast. The seminar was conducted from 1000 hours to 1600 hours with a 90 minute lunch break from 1200 hours to 1330 hours. The morning session involved an introduction into the scientific examination of ESP. Dr. Tart followed exactly chapter one of his book. During the morning session Dr. Tart also spent a short period of time explaining the extinction principle which is common in routine ESP testing. Dr. Tart has invented a machine for testing and teaching conventional ESP guessing. The particulars of this device are well documented in psi literature. Basically, the machine provides immediate reinforcement to the subject as to the accuracy of his ESP guess, thereby defeating the extinction affect. In the long run, subjects demonstrate a learning curve (they improve in there ESP guessing ability). The afternoon hours of the seminar were dedicated exclusively to the discussion of Out-of-the-Body Experiences (OOBE). The subject matter covered was exactly as stated in chapter nine of his book. The entire afternoon session was recorded by the undersigned. The tape recording is available for review upon request and lasts approximately four hours. It is of interest to note here that Dr. Tart's experiments in OOBE were conducted 12-13 years ago and therefore do not reflect the current state-of-the-art technology. His contributions are however scientifically valuable.

3. (S) Of particular interest were the questions posed by the seminar

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EXEMPTION CATEGORY *2*

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attendees. The attendees expressed their concern over what they believed to be a threat from Soviet efforts in parapsychology. They asked Dr. Tart to comment on this matter. Dr. Tart expressed the opinion that the Soviets were far ahead of us in parapsychology research and that funding for their efforts came from the Soviet military. Dr. Tart also stated that US Government sponsored research in parapsychology is almost zero and he wished he could do something to improve the situation. Dr. Tart stated that he had approached US Government officials on several occasions, but was discouraged. (no further information available) Another question from the seminar attendees was where one could go to learn more about OOB. Dr. Tart referred them to the Monroe Institute of Applied Sciences in Afton, VA.

4. (S) After the seminar the undersigned had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Tart privately. The undersigned casually questioned Dr. Tart as to how common it was for his audiences to ask him about the Soviet parapsychology effort. Dr. Tart stated that the question always comes up. The undersigned also asked Dr. Tart if he had ever been contacted by the Soviets. His response was very evasive (he was and is not aware of the official capacity of the undersigned) but he did state that he had received requests for copies of his scientific studies in parapsychology from the Soviets. (no further information available)

5. (S) No classified or sensitive information was disclosed during the seminar. Dr. Tart stated that he did not have access to classified information when the seminar attendees asked him what was really going on in US Government channels.

Frederick H. Atwater
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2LT, MI
Project Officer

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