

Star Gate

8/11/95

Congressionally Directed Action: SAC

- DCI to conduct technical review going back 20 years at CIA, DIA
- DCI to review program history and nature to determine what parts can be declassified
- DIA Director should establish cooperative activity with Russians

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Congressionally Directed Action: **Additional Conferees Language**

8-1-95

- **Directed DIA to transfer 10 civilian billets, \$500K to CIAP,**
- **Asked DCI for status report to Committees by March 1st**
 - management strategy
 - transfer status
 - identification of CIA program manager
- **Transferred management of Star Gate to CIA July 1st**
- **Adopted Senate directions in previous SAC language**

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Congressionally Directed Action

8/1/95

Senate Appropriations Committee

Additional Points in Congressionally Directed Action:

- *“The Committee...believes that the time has come for a re-evaluation of the classification of the existence of this effort as well as the results...”*
- *“...does not accept the excuse that this somehow compromises US Intelligence .“*
- *“...concerned that Congressional direction in t he past...regarding joint programs with the Russians and Chinese has only been sporadically pursued.“*

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Subsequent Conferees Language

- DIA to transfer 10 billets, \$500K to CIA
- DCI to give status report by March 1st
- Transfer management of Star Gate July 1st
- Adopt all previous SAC language

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Proposed Management Strategy

- Terminate remote viewing operations within Intelligence Community (IC)
- Terminate research and development relating to remote viewing within IC
- Complete declassification review of all CIA, DOD files; 4-man yrs, \$400K in FY96, 97
- Apply no immediate resources to assessments of foreign developments in parapsychology

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Basis of Key Recommendations

- Blue Ribbon Panel Review by American Institutes of Research, Key Scientists
- Recent Foreign Assessment by National Intelligence Council: NIO/S&T, OSWR
- Specific Language of the Congressionally Directed Action

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Blue-Ribbon Panel

- Dr. Jessica Utts, Professor of statistics, Univ. of CA/Davis; Primary Proponent
- Dr. Ray Hyman, Professor of psychology, Univ. of Oregon; Primary Skeptic
- Dr. Lincoln Moses, Professor Emeritus of Statistics, Stanford Univ.
- Dr. David Goslin, former Exec. Dir., Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, NRC
- Dr. Michael Mumford, Ph.D. Psychology
- Dr. Andrew Rose, Ph.D. Psychology

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AIR's Directed Objectives

- Comprehensive technical evaluation of remote viewing R&D at CIA and DIA
- Evaluation of remote viewing's utility in intelligence operations regardless of scientific validity
- Recommend to CIA management strategies for possible program execution at CIA

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AIR R&D Review Process

- SAIC principal investigator asked to identify 10 most favorable documents
- Detailed bibliographies made of all relevant CIA, DIA documents
- Key CIA, DIA documents declassified
- Over 80 documents ultimately declassified, transferred to blue ribbon panel
- Panel given every document requested

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AIR R&D Review Process, Cont.

- Blue Ribbon Panel met formally, reviewed CIA objectives, program documents, got presentation from SAIC (R&D contractor)
- Professors Utts and Hyman commissioned to write separate detailed reviews
- Commissioned reviews exchanged, rebuttals permitted, AIR arbitrated final conclusions for CIA key recommendations

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AIR Operational Utility Evaluation

- DIA program manager asked to identify most favorable users of remote viewing
- AIR conducted standard interviews of these users on location with CIA present
- AIR interviewed Star Gate remote viewers, and program manager
- AIR re-examined CIA's independent utility study based on documented user evaluations

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Dr. Utts' Conclusions

- Asserted that “Psychic functioning” is well-established
- Observed that statistical results obtained were far beyond chance expectations
- Refuted argument that methodological flaws or fraud could account for results
- Claimed some SRI, SAIC results were replicated in other labs

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Dr. Hyman's Conclusions

- Recent SAIC results are methodologically superior to previously flawed SRI work
- New results are statistically significant
- Results hampered by secrecy, experimental data base has had no community peer review, no public scrutiny
- Better than chance results do not, by themselves, establish that a paranormal phenomenon is the cause

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Dr. Hyman's Review, Cont.

- Use of same “judge” during all SAIC experiments is possible serious flaw
- “Remote viewing,” as opposed to Ganzfeld, has not been replicated in other labs
- Boundary conditions, i.e., when and where remote viewing can reliably occur, have not been defined
- Possibility of methodological flaw in results has not been eliminated

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AIR's Judgments on Commissioned R&D Reviews

- Reviewers agree more than they disagree:
 - Statistically significant results
 - Vast improvement in experimental protocols
- Reviewers disagree on key points:
 - Establishment of paranormal causality
 - Replication of “remote viewing” in other labs

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AIR's Judgments on Commissioned R&D Reviews

- AIR independently concludes:
 - the data do not establish that a paranormal phenomenon is involved, nature of source not identified
 - the data have not been replicated independently
 - the boundary constraints critical to obtaining statistically significant experimental results are not practical in real world of intelligence collection

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Future Research and Development

- SAIC's exp. results must be replicated in an independent lab, not SAIC (RH, AIR)
- Experimental protocols must be re-judged by independent judge (RH, JU, AIR)
- Cloak of secrecy must be removed since it precludes objective community review (RH)
- AIR concluded future R&D should not take place within Intelligence Community since 20 years of IC investment failed to establish a paranormal phenomenon.

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AIR's User Interviews

- Users say remote viewers typically give descriptions too broad and vague to be useful as intelligence
- Remote viewers provide much inaccurate, irrelevant, information making it difficult to interpret by analysts
- Different remote viewers often inconsistent
- In no case, *analyzed by AIR*, did the user actually act on remote viewing information

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AIR's Conclusions on Utility

- Conditions under which remote viewing is observed in the lab do not apply in the operational environment
- The users found some accuracy on broad background characteristics, but not the concrete, specific information valued by intelligence collectors
- Since remote viewing typically does not produce actionable information, it should not be used operationally

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Further Declassification

- Congressionally Directed Action:
 - The Committee believes it's time for re-evaluation of the classification of both the program and its findings
 - DCI should review history and nature of program to see which parts can be declassified
- Dr. Hyman's findings:
 - Secrecy has kept this program from benefiting from the checks and balances that come from doing research in a public forum.

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Future Foreign Assessments

- Based on recent assessment, National Intelligence Council concludes and Directorate of Intelligence concurs that no immediate resources should be applied to assessments of foreign developments in parapsychology.
- Assessment had oversight of NIO/S&T and OSWR

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Congressionally Directed Action (SAC)

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