

The Mind Race

Targ and Harary

1984

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AUTHORS' NOTE

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In September 1983, we received an invitation to visit the Soviet Union as guests of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. This gave us an opportunity to discuss our remote-viewing work with them, and also to learn firsthand what sort of research they are currently doing. Our host for this visit was Dr. Andrei Berezine, a biophysicist working at a Moscow research hospital.

With us on the trip was Elisabeth Targ (daughter of R.T.), who holds a translator's certificate in Russian and is a second-year medical student at Stanford. She was able to act as our translator and tell us what was going on at times when Russian conversations would have otherwise gone over our heads.

In Moscow we spoke with physicists, psychologists, and medical researchers. The physicists were mainly concerned with discussing the details of our precognitive experiments, while the medical people and psychologists had many good questions and interesting ideas about the whole field of psi research and its implications for their work. We had very stimulating exchanges with both groups of scientists.

Over coffee and pastries at the First Moscow Medical Institute, we met Professor Andriankyn, director of the Theoretical Department of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. Andriankyn, responsible for inviting us to the Soviet Union, sponsored our visit. His main concern at this Institute is with non-drug treatment of mental patients. One focus of this work concerns the experimental use of low-frequency electric and magnetic fields.

At the Institute, we also talked with Dr. Igor Smirnoff and two other

researchers who had just completed the experiment in "rat telepathy" described in Chapter 4. As we sat in their equipment-crowded basement laboratory, along with several other medical people from the hospital, they discussed the experiment with us. They had discovered that the experiment was not successful when carried out with groups of rats, because they fought with each other under the stressful conditions.

Konstantine Goubarev is a physicist involved with the rat experiment. However, he is personally most concerned with the design of a computer program that analyzes a person's physiological data to determine from that data when a particular change in his or her state of consciousness, such as dropping into a hypnotized condition, has occurred. He demonstrated the program for us, on typical data tapes. He believes that he has accomplished his goal of showing changes in the state of human consciousness by looking at mathematical transformations of the data and observing phase changes rather than amplitude changes. This would be quite an accomplishment, because at this time it is not even clear to Western researchers that hypnosis is a definable change of state.

We were also very happy to meet again with Dr. Yuri Gulyaev at his Institute of Radio Engineering and Electronics overlooking Gorky Park. We all sat on comfortable red leather chairs in his spacious office, while over countless ceremonial glasses of Armenian cognac Dr. Gulyaev described some of his most recent work. He also gave us a copy of I. M. Kogan's new book *Applied Information Theory*. Professor Kogan argues that if psychic phenomena are to be explained at all, it will have to be through low-frequency electromagnetic principles. Gulyaev told us that the first person to put forward the idea that psi was carried by electromagnetic waves was James Clark Maxwell, in the last century, and that his idea was described in a recent U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences journal dealing with the measurement of biomagnetic fields.

Along with his duties as deputy director of the Institute, Gulyaev is able to pursue his interests in psychotronics as well. With his colleague Dr. Eduard Godik, he has been examining the electromagnetic and visible radiation emitted by the human body. They have carried out sensitive photon-counting experiments with a spectrometer that measures the wavelength of the emitted light, and found that there may be some physical evidence for the so-called auras that certain people claim to see surrounding the human body.

Professor Gulyaev said that he has also been able, to a limited extent, to continue his work with Nina Kulagina. He described a particularly

interesting experiment in psychic abilities to read letters from the shelves of his office. He started each paragraph on a card, and Professor Gulyaev would take the card and could do this task with success. To leave the room before he came back, he reported that he

Toward the end of our stay in Soviet Armenia, where we were in the Industrial Psychology Institute southeast of Istanbul and in contrast with the snow we had seen in our environment, with people walking in the city square in the evening.

On our first full day in Yerevan with some members of the Institute's laboratory full of arcade-type equipment, we met with Professor Gulyaev for a careful series of remote-viewing sessions chosen by an architect—a building dating from almost the time of the city carved out of the solid rock of the other Greco-Roman buildings.

The viewers and outside observers in the study were volunteers from the Institute, experimenter, accompanied by a team that would go to a distant location, and then go to the apparatus in the laboratory, an interviewer would record the impressions about the site. The team decided to carry out this work in the Electrical and Electronic Institute. The results translated into Russian and published in the journal confirmed the earlier findings. The presence of having a viewer determined that the team had opened the environment for experiments, this precognition would soon carry out a long-distance

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interesting experiment in which he tried to find out if she could use her psychic abilities to read letters. In these trials, he randomly chose a book from the shelves of his office and asked Kulagina to name the letters that started each paragraph on a given page. After she gave her answer, Professor Gulyaev would take the book down and open it. He told us that she could do this task with surprising accuracy. However, when she was told to leave the room before the book was opened, thereby losing her feedback, he reported that her responses fell to chance.

Toward the end of our visit we were taken to the city of Yerevan, in Soviet Armenia, where remote-viewing experiments had been carried out in the Industrial Psychology Laboratory at the state university. Yerevan, southeast of Istanbul and north of Baghdad, was warm and sunny, in contrast with the snow we left in Moscow. It was also a much more relaxed environment, with people strolling around a large illuminated fountain in the city square in the evening to listen to music.

On our first full day in Yerevan we visited the university and spoke with some members of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Then, in a laboratory full of arcade-type video games used to study hand-eye coordination, we met with Professor Rubin Aguzumtsian, who had carried out a careful series of remote-viewing trials. The target sites for this study were chosen by an architect—a good idea in this city of remarkable structures dating from almost the time of Christ. One church, called Gehard, was carved out of the solid rock of a mountainside in about A.D. 300. Many other Greco-Roman buildings were built of a red volcanic rock.

The viewers and outbound experimenters for the remote-viewing study were volunteers from a psychology class. For each trial an outbound experimenter, accompanied by two guards (watchers—also from the class), would go to a distant location, open the envelope with the target information, and then go to the appointed site. Meanwhile, back in the laboratory, an interviewer would encourage the viewer to describe his or her impressions about the site that was being visited. Professor Aguzumtsian decided to carry out this work after reading the 1976 IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) paper from SRI, when it was translated into Russian and published in the Soviet Union. His experiments confirmed the earlier findings, and also gave him the interesting experience of having a viewer describe a chosen target site before the target team had opened the envelope or gone to the target. As in our own experiments, this precognition was an unexpected complication. We may soon carry out a long-distance series of remote-viewing trials in coopera-

tion with this laboratory, to see what results we will get from using a ten-thousand-mile baseline for remote viewing. In this series we will, of course, work with a viewer who has never been to Yerevan.

In our travels from Moscow to Leningrad to Yerevan, we met with many researchers who expressed the hope that there could be continued open communication in this field. They all expressed the feeling that psi's importance lies in the development of human potential, rather than in its possible military applications. But everyone we talked with also made some oblique reference to what we were not being shown. For example, we knew that the Popov Society laboratory run by Professor Spirikin had been closed down several years ago. On this trip we learned that it has now been re-opened under the direction of Dr. Alexander Chernetzky. We were even told that the laboratory is now called the Fourmany Street Lab. We were not, however, told what sort of work this lab is currently engaged in.

Nevertheless we feel it is important and very desirable to arrange future cooperative meetings with the Soviet scientists to further explore the details of psychic functioning. We might even come up with a potential contribution to help solve the decades-old problem of off-site verification for nuclear testing and arms control. If successful, that would be an application of psychic functioning that we believe the whole world would like to see.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Remote-

Research

For several years, the compilation of remote-viewing experiments involving the use of free-response targets; only these types of p

We have found that most published formal experiments would be expected by chance. (not listed here), with eight remote viewing is not due to random experiments go unreported