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HEADLINE: PENTAGON IS SAID TO FOCUS ON ESP FOR WARTIME USE

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... a high-level review of psychic research behind the Iron Curtain in an attempt to assess a possible Soviet threat.

The Pentagon denies that it is spending money on psychic research. The assertions to the contrary appear in a trio of ...

... events) - all in the name of the national defense.

For more than a century scientists have clashed over what is now called parapsychology. Some praise it as a legitimate study led by bold visionaries, while others decry it as a ...

... dollar'' program of psychic research financed by the Defense Department and intelligence agencies.

The key experiments had to do with what Mr. Targ calls ''remote viewing,'' in which gifted individuals were said to be able to describe distant locations, events and objects. In 1976, for instance, a '' ...

... so basing scheme in which each MX missile would be secretly shifted among a bevy of concrete bunkers so that Soviet planners would never know which shelter to aim at in a first strike.

Quoting a former White House ...

... positive enough to suggest increased MX vulnerability. The former aide, Barbara Honegger, who holds a degree in parapsychology and left the Reagan Administration this fall, confirmed in a telephone interview that the experiments had been done. But she said she did not know whether the ...

... professional psychic over the course of 11 months. Showing the woman top-secret photographs and charts, he had her try to predict the position of Soviet submarines off the East Coast. And she was not alone. Mr. McRae said that the Navy has employed at least 34 psychics, ...

... documents and interviews.

All of those who say that the military is engaged in psychic research contend it stems largely from fear that Soviet psychic breakthroughs might mean the American armed forces could be quietly put out of commission. Specialists from the Central Intelligence Agency are ...

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... visited one of the nation's top parapsychologists to elicit information on whether psychics could jam computers.

Jimmy Carter was worried about the Soviet threat in 1976 before he was inaugurated President, according to Mr. McRae, and had a private audience with Uri Geller. The Israeli mentalist told him that the Soviet Union screened all children for paranormal powers. In 1977, Mr. McRae says, Mr. Carter ordered a high-level review of Soviet psychic research. The secret report, completed in 1978, found no evidence of a massive 'psycho-warfare' project such as Mr. Geller had warned of, but it did find definite Soviet interest. White House officials in office during the Carter Administration say either that they had no knowledge of such Presidential concern or that they can neither confirm nor deny that it existed.

The Russian side of the parapsychology story is emphasized in 'Psychic Warfare,' by Martin Ebon, published this fall by McGraw-Hill. Mr. Ebon says the Soviet Union was goaded into action in 1960 by false reports that the United States Navy conducted telepathy experiments to try to keep ...

... world's first nuclear-powered submarine, as it cruised under the Arctic icecap.

Those reports touched off a flurry of Soviet projects, according to Mr. Ebon. He notes a 1972 analysis by the American Defense Intelligence Agency, which states that 'the major impetus behind the Soviet drive to harness the possible capabilities of telepathic communication, telekinetics and bionics are said to come from the Soviet military and the K.G.B.'

Mr. Ebon devotes a chapter to the knotty problem of how Soviet materialism can accommodate itself to a belief in parapsychology, which in the eyes of some Western analysts is but a short step to the anathema of Karl Marx - the supernatural. 'In the Soviet Union itself,' he writes, 'bureaucratic and academic pragmatists are at odds with dogmatic ideologues. Within the Soviet bloc, positions range from the determinedly experimental in Czechoslovakia to the disdainfully hostile in East Germany.'

Are the superpowers, in fact, ...

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