

27 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Parapsychological Association Meeting, 9-11 September 1971.

This morning at breakfast I met with [redacted] who is with the American Society for Psychical Research (ASPR) in New York. [redacted] has been doing research in the effect of distance on ESP transmission; is interested in trying to arrange experiments for the next Apollo flight in April. He tried last year but his plan was rejected. According to a NASA representative, a Dr. [redacted] (the experiments could not be conducted because an outside contract agency had turned it down. [redacted] was convinced that it was, [redacted] I am sure it isn't [redacted] but would like to see if we can locate an [redacted] who may have a subcontract with NASA to evaluate proposed experiments in space or on the moon. I told [redacted] that I would try to think of some way in which he might approach NASA again and would talk with him further.

The next matter we discussed was [redacted] visit to Russia. Dr. [redacted] His area of interest is sleep research. He told [redacted] that the Russians asked him questions only about Astronaut Mitchell's results, the ESP experiments in Apollo 17 and about [redacted] work on the effects of distance on ESP. [redacted] and I agreed they seem to be concerned primarily about the physical aspects of the phenomena. [redacted] says that they are no longer concerned particularly about ESP or clairvoyance but a concentrating on psychokinesis (PK) which is physical movement by psychic power. [redacted] thinks that the Russians are working with their own astronauts which has been reported previously.

We were joined shortly after that by [redacted] About six or seven years ago he wrote several of us a letter looking for an experienced person, he said in hypnosis, I recall as an ESP expert. He said that an agency of the U.S. Government was at that time going to sponsor a study in ESP and learning, however, when a blind ad in Science Magazine was tied to [redacted] there was a ruckus. According to [redacted] the highest levels in government and in [redacted] discussed the matter. The contract was canceled. I had the impression that Dr. [redacted]

[redacted] was also involved in this project. I do not know the nature of the project and didn't choose to push it during the meeting.

[redacted] and I discussed experimental research being done in the field of Parapsychology. [redacted] is highly critical of everyone's work but [redacted] He feels that researchers simply continue to pursue their methodology without putting their subject under different experimental

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conditions. They don't attempt to identify functional relationships among a variety of variables. I would tend to agree with this criticism. [redacted] suggested that [redacted] mention this at the meeting but do it very diplomatically. He pointed out that he had developed some new statistical analyses new to the parapsychologists. They were very upset because they did not understand them and he found he was not communicating with his colleagues. (It is an interesting fact that his concern for communication is interpreted to be his responsibility rather than that of the audience who do not feel a need to acquire further knowledges and skills in the new analytic procedures and techniques.)

One of the more interesting happenings at the Parapsychological Meetings was the announcement that a Gardner Murphy Research Foundation had been chartered. The principals involved in this group were Dr.

Executive Director of the [redacted] <sup>(now retired but former</sup> in New York, was asked to serve as adviser to this group. [redacted] did not want to get involved and recommended that they talk with me. We had a luncheon meeting to explore how they would write their objectives, what sources of funding they would seek and general organizational plans. It was my impression that they are extremely naive in determining objectives and in organizing. They have managed to charter the foundation in Washington but have done little concrete thinking. The underlying purpose of this group is really negative. They are attempting to corral money for other than their roles. They claim that the younger people do not have the opportunities without the domination of [redacted] They also wish to bring more interdisciplinary direction to ESP research. I will continue to make myself available but they must do some hard thinking before much can be done. It was helpful to be asked to serve as adviser because it gives me opportunity to get to know the various researchers in the field better.

Like Dr. [redacted] many of the younger researchers feel that ESP research has not taken appropriate directions. There has been too much use of ESP cards, too many repetitive studies and little innovation or imagination shown in technology. I was impressed and pleased to see a more objective evaluation made of the status of ESP. I feel that it may be more hope for the field.

One of the attendees at the meeting was a Mr. [redacted] He traveled to the meeting on government orders and caused quite a stir because of his association and funding potentialities. Already Mr. [redacted] has let one grant for the development of some equipment in the ESP field. The money was small somewhere around [redacted] was given to a physicist by the name of Dr. [redacted] I chatted with Mr. [redacted] during the meetings and he suggested we get together in [redacted] to discuss the people who are interested in being funded. I think he is somewhat unsure of the personalities and credentials of some of the individuals requesting funds. I told him I would be happy to meet with him.

I had a short discussion with Dr. [redacted] and some of his colleagues about their experiences in Russia. They feel quite negatively toward the Russian Government because they are so restrictive about interaction between American ESP researchers and the Russian psychics and research groups. Russian researchers report that they are hampered in their communications with people in the West. An example, [redacted] wrote to one and his letter took 3 months getting to the individual. He suggested being indirect in the letter communication.

Perhaps the most interesting experience was an accidental meeting with [redacted] is evidently a well known psychic who is working with many prominent people in the field and reports having important contacts in American and Foreign society. [redacted] feels it important that a mind expansion program be set up in order to explore all areas of ESP and related phenomena. No drugs would be permitted. [redacted] feels the savior of the youth would come from such programs and would help prevent more of the youth going on drugs. [redacted] is planning to visit Russia and purportedly has an appointment with the Pope in Rome the last week in September or the first week in October. [redacted] requested that I assist [redacted] in some undertermined fashion to make sure that the good people in the paranormal area get into these programs and that money not be wasted on the less talented. We spent several hours discussing these problems. [redacted] asked if [redacted] could get in touch with me at a later date. The contact was made by [redacted] on 23 September. [redacted] plans to visit [redacted] on the 27th and would like to get together to discuss ESP--particularly the experiments with Astronaut Mitchell. I said I would be happy to see [redacted] and discuss the problems with [redacted]

In summary these were the most productive meetings I have attended. There were few European representatives however, so little contact could be made with such individuals. It did fill me in on developments and certainly made my contacts more meaningful and up-to-date. Enclosed with this report are most of the papers given at the meeting.

So quickly after Parapsychology has become recognized by the official scientific body (American Asso. for Advancement of Science) we now have a parapsychological experiment forcibly brought to the attention of the American public. It seems that Edgar Mitchell, the Apollo 14 astronaut who went with Alan Shepherd on the moon, has been deeply interested in ESP for some time despite his Doctor of Science degree from M.I.T. Two weeks before launch date, he arranged a test with a Chicago drafting engineer, Olof Johnson, who has unusual psychic ability. The test used 25 regular colored ESP cards, 5 each of O, L, +, =, V, in random order. Mitchell looked at each card for 15 seconds in Cape Kennedy and Johnson in Chicago guessed which one of 5 it was and recorded his guesses. There were ten sessions, making 250 guesses. Just by coincidence, with no ESP, Johnson should get one out of 5, or 5 of 25, or 50 of 250 correct. It is reported that he got about half or 125 of the 250 correct. This is  $125-150=75$ , too high for coincidence. Such a deviation of 75 is more than ten standard deviations,  $\sqrt{npq}=6.4$  odds of ten million to one against chance. If there was no sensory leakage over the long distance telephone ESP was working on earth as the odds against chance were too high. Then Mitchell took the cards up with him to the moon and six more sessions were done during rest periods, hopefully one of them from behind the moon. Six sessions of 25 guesses each make 150 guesses. By chance with no ESP Johnson should get 30 out of 150 correct. At this time it is not reported how many Johnson got correct. If he got the standard deviations ( $\sqrt{npq}=5.0$ ) or 15 more than 30, that is 45 at least out of his 150 moon guesses, the odds are more than 100 to one that this was not coincidence but that ESP was working and so will reach out the quarter of a million miles to the moon. Let us hope we soon find out what happened. If it worked and especially if it worked from the back of the moon, it seems to me opposition to parapsychology even by skeptical scientists will melt.