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5 June 1972

Dear

Research and pseudo-research results, as exemplified in the attached material, have stimulated considerable curiosity regarding the physical basis of Kirlian photography and its potential applications. I have attached some background material concerning the process and various fanciful explanations for the characteristics of the obtained images. Also included are some photographs of organic material taken with the Kirlian technique.

I would be highly appreciative if you or one of your colleagues would casually examine the material, merely to the extent of separating fact and fancy regarding plant life. We have not reached the point of accepting the ectoplasm hypothesis but are interested in the technique as a potential indicator of plant constituents. The following is a list of general questions provided as an orientation for future discussion and not to be construed as requiring specific answers.

(1) Maps of human acupuncture points do not correspond exactly with the distribution of the nervous, circulatory, or lymphatic systems. Do the plant photographs display any systematic relationships to structural or functional plant networks?

(2) Do the various spots and lines correspond to areas of high metabolic activity or locations in which one would expect concentrations of various biochemical substances?

(3) Is there any explanation for the particular positions of the flares or corona that appear at the edges of leaves? (Incidentally, the apparatus used in producing our photographs did not permit variation of frequency and voltage. The Russian literature indicated that the position, extent and color of the corona varied with frequency and voltage which would cause different cells to resonate in response to the characteristics of the electrical field.)

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(4) A sequence of the photos were taken over a several-day period. Do these photographs give any indication of the health or condition of the leaf beyond loss of moisture?

(5) If the Kirlian technique does have potential for indicating the health of a plant or the nature of its natural and absorbed constituents, would it have any advantages over existing techniques?

(6) Is there any relationship between the "Baxter Effect" and Kirlian photography of plants?

If you feel there is something worthy of discussion in this collection of material, I and perhaps a couple of colleagues would like to have an informal discussion with you or one of your staff members to attempt the separation of fact from fiction.

Sincerely,