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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 3 August [redacted]

SUBJECT: Report on Contacts in London, 27-30 July [redacted]

One of the first persons contacted upon our arrival in London was [redacted] who has written [redacted] in the field of ESP. [redacted] is a respected member of the British Psychical Society and a person with whom I have met previously. Our discussions centered principally around the progress of psychic research and its place in present day society. The British have not found many good psychics or reliable sources of psychic phenomena. This is changing a bit, but, [redacted] that some of the best work in the future will come out of Russia. [redacted] theory, and this has been ascribed to by others, and possibly myself, that it takes a certain stress on any society to produce people with these characteristics, at least for them to be identified and come forward without fear of retribution and criticism (embarrassment). When society is very comfortable, the "fringe" people, as the psychic may be identified, tends not to become very visible. [redacted] feeling is that there is enough dissent in Russia that these people are now being more and more identified—some end up in asylums but others are getting support from part of the society, even to the extent that the government permits formal and informal meetings of international psychic groups (re: the 17 July meeting this year). It is important to realize that [redacted] is not saying these are good scientists in Russia, but simply that there's enough evidence coming out of that society that would indicate worthwhileness in watching it. [redacted] hopes to go to the [redacted] meeting, and suggested that it may be an interesting atmosphere.

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A visit to the British Psychological Society, which was arranged by [redacted] was very pleasant and friendly. I had been looking for [redacted] a former colleague who has undertaken a variety of efforts in the ESP in England. [redacted] is obviously persona non grata because [redacted] has gotten into [redacted]. The ESP people seem to be very condemnatory of these activities and, although they knew I knew [redacted] history intimately, they told me in considerable detail the last five years of [redacted] life. They did not give me any address at which I could contact [redacted]. Only [redacted] had said he was probably northeast of London. [redacted] suggested I call [redacted] who has kept in touch with [redacted] had already left for a trip to [redacted] that morning.

At the society we had discussions with the vice president who is an historian in the ESP area and knows the field in detail. [redacted] also encouraged attendance at the [redacted] conference. [redacted] was particularly emphatic about [redacted] giving a significant paper [redacted] own expense). The topic [redacted] does not know, but [redacted] feels it is important that [redacted] be heard. Evidently the [redacted] conference has become a focus for these people as a chance to get as many advocates together as possible.

I became better acquainted with sources of information such as the Psychic News which covers the more dramatic areas of ESP and psychic research or the occult.

This day and a half spent talking with members of the British psychic community will be helpful [redacted]

[redacted] Whether or not it would be worth going to [redacted] is still questionable. I can understand their enthusiasm for having most of the interested people attend. At the same time the papers still tend to be predominantly from the American part of the Society.