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March 19, 1976

Dr. F. W. Niedenfuhr
Defense Advance Research Projects Agency
1400 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Dr. Niedenfuhr:

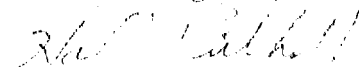
Having seen your letter to Randi the magician, reproduced as an appendix in his book The Magic of Uri Geller, I thought I would write to bring you up to date on Randi's latest contribution to disinformation. Although in general we have no argument with Randi's criticism of Geller's public performances with regard to the possibility of chicanery, we find that with regard to Randi's description of the work at SRI, Randi is clearly up to his old tricks, deception by misdirection. In looking over his book we found that in every instance Randi, in his efforts to fault the SRI experiments with Geller, was driven to hypothesize the existence of loophole conditions that did not in fact exist. Enclosed is a fact sheet correcting the errors in Randi's book with regard to the SRI work, which you may find revealing. Rather than a serious attempt to put forward expert criticism as to the possibilities of chicanery - (his suggested possibilities are trivial and naive in comparison with the sophisticated advice that we obtain from consulting magicians of the caliber of Milbourne Christopher) - we consider his book as simply a commercial venture on his part.

Beyond that, our work with Geller constituted less than 3% of our overall effort in the field of so-called paranormal functioning, even though it seemed to garner the most publicity, in no small part due to Randi's efforts. The bulk of the other 97% is summarized in the March Proceedings of the IBEE just published this month. In this paper we detail the results obtained in over 50 experiments with nine subjects (including visiting skeptical government scientists who acted as subjects), carried out to examine a putative paranormal perceptual mode by which an individual obtains visual data about a remote physical location which may be a building, laboratory, or natural setting.

The editorial accompanying the paper was written by Dr. R. W. Lucky, editor of the journal and also head of the Advanced Data Communications Department at Bell Labs, Holmdel, NJ. We understand that as part of the review process a group at Bell independently replicated our experiment and obtained results similar to ours. Three other labs have also replicated the experiment, and these results are in various stages of preparation for publication.

If you have any questions, either with regard to Randi's allegations or the IEEE paper, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification.

With best regards,



H. E. Puthoff, PhD K1029
Electronics and Bioengineering Laboratory