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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PSYCHOTRONIC RESEARCH: JUNE 5-10, 1983

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In June of 1983 I attended the Fifth International Conference on Psychotronic Research. This meeting was held in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, and it gave me an opportunity to talk with Eastern researchers about their latest ideas and experiments.

The International Association for Psychotronic Research (IAPR) has broad interests, covering many borderland areas of science. These include principally psychotronic interactions with physics (the physics of consciousness and mechanisms of psi functioning), medicine (psychic healing, iridology, dermo-optic perception), and geology (dowsing and the examination of so-called geopathogenic zones).

The organization is now ten years old, and has held five conferences attracting international participation. These were in Prague (1973), Monaco (1975), Tokyo (1977), Sao Paulo (1979) and this most recent one in Bratislava in 1983. The president and founder of the organization is Dr. Zdenek Rejdák, from Czechoslovakia. The two vice presidents are Dr. Heinrich Huber, of Austria, and Russell Targ of the US. Three scientific directors include Dr. Shiuji Inomata, from Japan, Dr. Erik Ingenbergs from the West Germany, and Prof. Fedor Romashov from the USSR.

During the conference I was able to visit a striking remote viewing target site from an experiment that Dr. John Bisaha and Brenda Dunne carried out in 1976. In their series of long-distance remote viewing experiments, Bisaha traveled in the USSR and Czechoslovakia. One of the targets was a circular restaurant on a bridge tower high above the Danube river in Bratislava, the conference city for the 1983 IAPR meeting. It was thrilling for me to visit this exotic target, the cafe Bystrica, on the bridge over the Danube; and observe for myself that the distance separating the viewer and the target didn't interfere with the accuracy of the perception. The viewer in this experiment was six thousand miles away in Wisconsin. She described his location as, ". . . near a very large expanse of water . . . boats . . . it seems to have height, vertical lines like poles . . . a circular shape like a merry-go-round or gazebo. . ."

At this fifth conference, there were approximately three hundred attendees, and three simultaneous sessions for three of the five days of the meeting. These sessions were divided into: I - PSYCHOTRONICS AND MEDICINE, II - PSYCHOTRONICS, PSYCHOLOGY, PEDAGOGY, AND CREATIVITY, and III - PSYCHOTRONICS, PHYSICS AND METHODOLOGY. There were approximately seventy-five papers presented, most of those heard by this writer were in translation. The published conference proceedings fill three volumes, and these are only the abstracts. Consequently this highly selective summary will treat each of the topics as briefly as possible, while still trying to communicate a sense of the work.

Two Soviet researchers, Dr. Andre Berezin, a biochemist, and Dr. Konstantin Gubarev, a theoretical physicist, described a variety of interesting projects. One of these is an experiment in rat telepathy, in which two groups of caged rats were housed a mile apart. Each group had been conditioned to move to the left side of their cage to avoid an electric shock to their feet when a red light was turned on. After both groups were reliably conditioned to this response, a computer controlled experiment was carried out. In these trials, the researchers found that when one group of rats was randomly signalled and shocked, their brother rats (litter mates) in the distant cage would move to to the left side of the cage also. The timing signals and selection of which group was to be shocked was controlled by a central computer, and sent to the cage controllers via phone lines. A similarly successful

* Some of the material presented here is from the forthcoming book The Mind Race: Understanding and Using Psychic Abilities by Russell Targ and Keith Harary (Villard/Random House, 1984).

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experiment had been carried out several years ago by Leutin in the Soviet Union, with human subjects also conditioned by electric shocks. This appears to be a serious, well thought out, and well controlled experiment.

A second experimental investigation was carried out in a hospital in which continued research is being done on the effects of electromagnetic radiation on consciousness. In this work, an 18 KHz oscillator was modulated with different types of stochastic (random) noise. The output of the generator is brought to the neighborhood of a patient's head, causing them to have "mystical or religious types of experiences." In other experiments with electromagnetic generators, it was found that heart attacks could be induced in susceptible rats, and relief from hypoxia was obtained in rats suffering from oxygen deprivation.

We also learned from an English researcher at the conference, Guy Lyon Playfair, about a Soviet invention called Lida-4 which is a signal generator producing 100 Hz modulation of a 40 MHz carrier. This device is said to have put an entire hall full of people to sleep in fifteen minutes, according to a report from Dr. Ross Adey.

Dr. Zdenek Rejdák spoke to the plenary session about the desirability of finding physiological correlates to dowsing. He described several approaches to this task. Dowsing and prospecting with psi was a recurring theme in the conference. It is clear that dowsing on the site of interest, map dowsing, and dowsing the answer to questions are all aspects of the same psi process, and all can be equally successful. A finding described by Dr. Edith Jurka of the US was the persistent and stable low-frequency (delta) EEG output of successful dowsers. Rejdak says that anyone can learn to do dowsing, but that one should beware of occultists and secret societies who claim to have all the answers. There was also a discussion of dowsing for thought forms. In this experiment, a researcher mentally created a wall in his office from side to side of the room. A dowser with whom he was working would then have to call him up and correctly tell him where he found the wall, as he dowsed over a drawing of the experimenter's office.

Prof. Romashov from the USSR described his continuing research in nonconventional healing in the hospital setting. Laying-on of hands, starvation therapy, and various types of psychic healing are all being pursued, as initially started in Prof. Spirkin's laboratory several years ago. He believed that iridology is an important diagnostic tool, although it may not be psychotronic. Romashov claims ninety percent success with this approach to diagnosing gastric ulcers. He says that the iris of the eye has in it the code for predicting future illness. In healing experiments Romashov kept his patients blind to the knowledge that they were the subject of remote healing experiments, and found that they were still healed.

Dr. Inomata from Japan presented a description of a complex electromagnetic field, in which one ordinarily experiences the real part of the field, and the complex or "shadow" field interacts with consciousness and is responsible for psi effects. He says that consciousness can change the flow of time, but not interact with matter directly. He suggests that the electron beam interference observed in the Bohm-Aharanov effect would be a good psi sensor because one need affect only the electron phase to get an observable effect. This is similar in some ways to the ideas presented in a paper by Dr. Gubarev (extracting information from the phase of a system without perturbing it). Dr. Elizabeth Rauscher has proposed a complex 8-space geometrical model of space-time with many of the same features.

Frantisek Andrs from Czechoslovakia described research on geopathogenic zones, which are said to be discontinuities in the earth's crust that are hazardous to the health of humans and animals living above them. He and several others described how dowsers can locate these zones, and how these zones have been shown to make animals ill and reduce their productivity. This is like the ancient Chinese system of **fung schway**, in which the elders of the village would have a meeting in a dark and quiet place, to determine a proper and healthy location for a house to be built in the village.

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It was evident that the 1982 paper on "The Persistent Paradox of Psychic Phenomena: An Engineering Perspective" had a great effect on both researchers and policy makers. This paper on remote viewing and psychokinesis was published in the March 1982 Proceedings of the IEEE by Robert Jahn of Princeton University. Several speakers stressed the position of IAPR toward understanding nature, rather than humbling it, and studying the boundary between inner and outer self. Also, there was an evident desire for openness and cooperation rather than military uses of psi.

Madame Yvonne Duplessis spoke about her recent experiments in dermo-optic sensitivity. The most interesting development seemed to be her work with blind children whom she first teaches to recognize raised alphabet letters by tracing their outlines; and then asks them to identify them by touch, through glass or through envelopes.

It was at the Prague meeting of the IAPR in 1973 that we first heard of the so-called psychotronic generators of Robert Pavlita. These generators were again in evidence at this meeting, but it appears that little progress has been made in the past decade. The effect (if any) is still weak and limited to a very few (probably two) practitioners. Better machines have not been built, and above all, the principle of operation is still a secret, shared only by Robert Pavlita and his daughter Jana. It was the view of the IAPR that secret science is magic, and has no place at a scientific meeting. Consequently the demonstrations were of the hotel room variety, with the Pavlitas unwilling or unable to describe the active elements or principles of the attractive machines they were demonstrating.

The famous Czech clairvoyant Spivacek was at the conference, and I had a chance to talk to him about his experiences. He says that he is "totally accurate" in describing distant places, and is willing to place a bet on his ability to describe anything, no matter where. In order to make contact with his target site, he says he needs an experienced trance subject or a meditator whom he mentally sends to the site for him. He can then interview the person

about the site, or visit it through them. It sounded to me exceptionally like the remote viewing protocol. In 1977 he was in Japan demonstrating his ability to slow down and stop the air driven rotors of the Czech investigator Kahuda. The consensus at both meetings was that Kahuda had a real effect with his radiometers, whose rate of rotation appeared to be controlled by PK; but that he formulated a theory for the effect which could not be understood. At the 1977 meeting in Japan I saw Spivacek slow down and stop a radiometer rotor with slanting vanes which was driven by the rising air from a low wattage light bulb. He did this from a distance of about a meter from the rotor.

Psychokinesis is also of continuing interest in the USSR, and it was said that several new PK subjects of the quality of Boris Ermolaev have been found there.

Dr. Eugen Celan from Romania carried out an attempted replication of the Backster effect. He describes the experiment as the transmission of bioinformation between two aquatic plants. In this case the two plants were observed with a real-time thermographic viewing device. When a toxic agent (triasina) was added to the water on one plant (the inductor) it was observed that the temperature of the control plant changed similarly. Shortly after the toxic agent was added to the water of the first plant, the other plant could be observed to change. (One can compare this study with a similar research described in the article by I.T. Baldwen and J.C. Schultz "Rapid Changes in Tree Leaf Chemistry Induced by Damage: Evidence for Communication between Plants" in Science of July 15, 1983, p. 277.) Dr. Celan also carried out a successful replication of Kaznacheyev's mirror-cytopathic effect, in which an infection or chemical injury to a cell is somehow communicated to another similar cell supposedly isolated from it. It was found in this experiment also that the mirror effect could be observed when the isolating material was quartz, but not when it was pyrex. This continues to suggest that the affecting agent is some kind of UV radiation, as Kaznacheyev has proposed.

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Dr. G. Clauzure from France described his experiences in carrying out psi experiments. He believes that psi functioning occurs at the meeting of two states, stress and bodily relaxation.* Psi functioning therefore occurs in brief, dynamic glimpses. It works via a dynamic decline from a high energy state to a relaxed one. Nevertheless, good mental health, rest and relaxation come first, with stress being evoked only temporarily. He describes the dynamics as though the two states each contain a window, and psi occurs only when the two windows are opposite each other. This model is a good match for many reported experiences with psi.

* This agrees with a hypothesis put forward by Gardner Murphy in 1966 that ESP may occur during a rapid movement, or shift, from a relaxation to an active state, or from an integrated to a disassociated state (see G. Murphy, "Research in Creativeness: What Can it Tell us about Extra-sensory Perception," Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, Vol. 60, 1966, pp. 8-21). - Ed.

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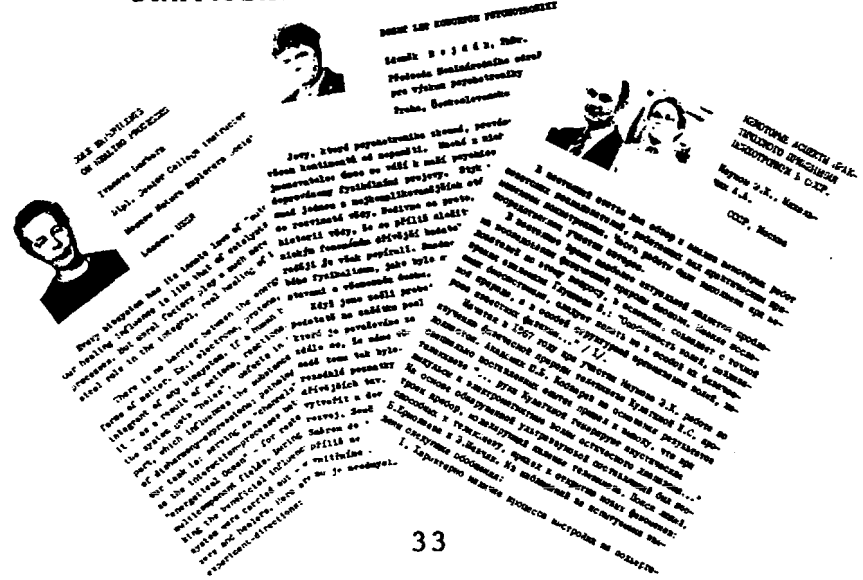

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