
Statement by Ingo Swann on Remote Viewing

1 December 1995

I refer to:

- CIA Public Affairs Bureau release of a [statement](#) concerning Remote Viewing dated 6 September 1995 (click [here](#) to read it)
- The ABC TV Nightline show of 28 November 1995 (hosted by Ted Koppel)

Since these two events, I have been besieged by many telephone calls and requests for interviews. I have decided that the most efficient way to respond is to prepare this general statement which addresses the basic issues of the involvement of the intelligence/military communities with remote viewing.

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A good place to begin this statement is to unequivocally state that nothing being reported in this latest 1995 flap is new news. Media coverage was quite extensive during the 1970s decade regarding this issue.

Jack Anderson's syndicated columns usually had the scoop, but all the news services picked up the lead a day or two later. These include the Associated Press (AP) and the Washington Post, etc., who are claiming new discovery, but which venerable institutions apparently haven't bothered to check their own archives of published materials. Several competent books were also published during the 1970s and early 1980s. I, however, maintain a nearly complete archive of all published materials I am referring to here.

Hardly anything I've seen or read in the media during the last two weeks is new news, and all of it has been reported on before, including the fact that several intelligence agencies were involved in so-called "psychic research." The present media, therefore, are re-sensationalizing (i.e. re-hashing) old news, probably for the novelty of hype or the benefit of ratings and shares.

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There is one difference, though. This regards the "spin" being loaded into today's media frenzy. This spin is different from the more factual one of the 1970s. To understand it requires a little background

data.

Between 1969 and 1971, American intelligence sources began discovering and confirming that the Soviet Union was deeply engaged in so-called "psychic research." By 1970, it was discovered that the Soviets were spending approximately 60 million rubles per year on it, and over 300 million by 1975.

However, the Soviets were not conducting research into what the West means by "psychic research." The term for their general concept of the research was "psychotronics."

This was a Soviet neologism, and English has no near equivalent. So reporters glibly assumed that psychotronics and psychic stuff amounted to the same thing.

A clarification is, therefore, necessary. The nearest English equivalent is "mind (psycho) energy applications (-tronics)," with emphasis on "applications."

The new English equivalent became "psychoenergetics," but which term does not convey "applications." "Applied psychoenergetics" would be more accurate.

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The amount of money and personnel involved in the Soviet psychotronics clearly confirmed that they were serious about it and had already achieved breakthroughs which justified the increases in expenditures and tightest security.

American intelligence analysts were appalled and embarrassed that the Soviets (KGB and GRU), were involved in topics considered in the USA as speculative, controversial, and fringy. But they were alarmed at the prospect that the Soviets would "get ahead." And so the phrase "the psychic warfare gap" came into existence.

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The intelligence community was well aware that "psychotronics" meant an "applied" something, something psychically aggressive with real applications, something threatening to the well-being and security of the American nation.

In response to this, and with Congressional approval to do so, the intelligence community then involved itself with researching this threat -- the threat analysis of Soviet-applied psychotronics. It is, after all, the established and expected duty of the intelligence community to examine and research all threats to the security of the nation.

This is to say that the intelligence community did not conduct psychic research and go out on a limb just for the hell of it. In fact, that community never did psychic research. What it did was to assess the threat of the Soviet efforts.

This is not just splitting hairs. There is a very big difference.

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All media reports of the 1970s correctly identified the purpose of this threat analysis, albeit with a good deal of joking and amusement.

At the time, this threat analysis was perfectly justified, completely necessary, and unquestionably required in behalf of the well-being of the nation.

All personnel involved with this situation considered that they were working on behalf of the nation and its security -- and future discoveries regarding invasive penetration by psychoenergetic means -- clearly confirmed the reality of the threat. Even most of the 1970s media concluded that the work was necessary, even if it was funny and ridiculous according to Western anti-psi traditions.

The most authoritative and publicly available Western book on psi warfare was by Martin Ebon, published as *Psychic Warfare: Threat or Illusion?* (1983). Documents still classified tell an even more threatening tale.

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The present 1995 media versions of this effort have slid out of this particular important focus which made the effort understandable in the 1970s. The 1995 focus has detached from the cold war and exclusively hypes the sensationalistic aspects.

This largely hype-deliberate change of focus is not only just trivializing. It is disgusting -- and cruel to all those past workers who did that strange work to defend the nation and its security. Hardly any of those past workers can come forward with the cold war facts because they are patriotic and still bound by their security oaths.

On the Nightline TV show of 28 November 1995, Mr. Robert Gates, former director of the CIA, estimated that the intelligence community had invested about \$20 million over the sixteen-year period during which the threat was under examination.

Well. During the mid-1970s, the government paid a manufacturer about \$65 each for hammers which could be bought in a hardware store for \$2.95. The Pentagon invested \$60 million for new toilet seat designs, none of which worked better than the ones you and I use.

A great deal was learned for those \$20 million, and our nation received a lot back for the buck spent.

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And this knowledge, although somewhat on the shelf now, will soon come in handy, again.

Several quite respectable sources have informed me that two major nations are making advances in psychoenergetics applications, one of which is remote viewing. It is also being alleged that a third smaller nation, with well known and advertised hatred of the American Way of Life, is also making progress.

I believe those sources, because I know that liberated Russia sold for big bucks the Soviet psychic secrets three times over in order to acquire needed foreign exchange monies.

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- Remote viewing was researched in response to the fact that the Soviet Union was engaged in large scale research into psychotronic applications phenomena. The national security implications of failure to match a technological breakthrough by the Soviets is obvious. In this respect, the remote viewing research was a product of the Cold War, and is analogous to myriad other projects.
- Initial research was carried out at the very prestigious Stanford Research Institute (SRI). Certain psychically-gifted individuals were able to describe distant locations, often with amazing accuracy.
- With this fact established, the military/intelligence community approved further funding. Research continued, but the main effort soon switched to development (applications), based on two key findings. First, remote viewing ability is latent in nearly all humans. Second, it is possible to teach ordinary people to perform remote viewing.
- Groups of students recruited from the ranks of the funding client agencies were trained at SRI. Their mission was to gather data, using remote viewing, regarding targets of special interest to the client agencies. Usually, these were targets inside the Soviet Union that had resisted the standard intelligence gathering techniques.
- The 15% accuracy cited in recent public statements on behalf of the CIA is the baseline which ordinary non-gifted and untrained persons often do achieve. This figure was identified very early in the SRI research phase. The minimum accuracy needed by the clients was 65%. In the later stages of the development (training) part of the effort, this accuracy level was achieved and often consistently exceeded.
- Throughout the period of my personal involvement (1972-1988), oversight and monitoring teams from the client agencies were in constant attendance. These teams consisted of multi-discipline scientific professionals, some being leaders of their disciplines, and drawn from just about every scientific field. Over the years, representatives of these teams were rotated, with replacements coming in.
- During the sixteen-year time span involved, approximately 500 representatives of these oversight teams identified flaws and strengths in the effort. With this intense scrutiny, the program continued to be approved, tested, and ultimately utilized by testing various kinds of experimental and real-time applications. Thus, it seems at variance with the oversight committees' facts that the CIA suggests that remote viewing was "unpromising." But, as is well known, there are various levels to all games.
- Per the definition used by the client military and intelligence agencies, and as I identified it at

SRI, developed (or trained) remote viewing is a highly-specialized technique. However, the term has been adopted unfairly and incorrectly to include almost any sort of psychic endeavor. This clouds the public mind as to what remote viewing really is.

- The key players in the development, training and use of remote viewing remain under the strictest security constraints. They can't talk, but I, at least, honor them for their commitment to the welfare of the Nation even if within a controversial area. Similarly, the documentation supporting the real story is archived under top security wraps.

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So, there you have it. Detach the topic of remote viewing from the threat analysis regarding nations who have motives against our own -- and yes! you can have a media circus, and spin doctors can gain pseudo-points and amuse and entertain the gullible public.

However, remote viewers did help find SCUD missiles, did help find secret biological and chemical warfare projects, did locate tunnels and extensive underground facilities and identify their purposes. Not all of the time, of course, and sometimes imperfectly so.

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From the top of our system on down, there are many who could stand up and be counted regarding the efficiency of developed remote viewing, and even regarding superior natural psychics. It has been circulated in the intelligence community that successful remote viewing sessions probably saved the nation a billion-plus dollars in what otherwise would have been wasted, or misdirected, activities. Not a bad payback for the \$20 million.

Why do they not stand up and be counted? For the most part, they are afraid of being taken apart in the press, afraid of being ridiculed for doing their duty in an area of threat analysis which was completely justified. This fear is not their fault. It is the fault of our unthinking and irresponsible popular culture.

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I now direct your attention to "successful remote viewing," and ask you to wonder if it can exist. Begin by considering psychics who successfully help the police. Add to that success some quite good remote viewing training. Then consider that what is a bit possible in natural psychics might be understood, developed, and then trained.

Now assume that a "little-bit-psychic" can become a "whole-lot-psychic" -- and you come up with the "eight martini result."

Those of you who witnessed the Nightline TV show of 28 November 1995, will recall an individual said to be from the CIA, but identified only by the name "Norm."

Mr. Robert Gates had just finished saying that remote viewing was unpromising. But when it came "Norm's" time to talk, he began saying something like, "Well, if it's the Eight-Martini Results you want to talk about, I won't talk about them."

What, then, is an "eight-martini" result? Well, this is an intelligence community in-house term for remote viewing data so good that it cracks everyone's realities. So they have to go out and drink eight martinis to recover. Remote viewing does have its amusing aspects, you know.

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Regardless of official and media misdirecting, the general world knows now that remote viewing exists. Soon other nations will utilize it for their own interests.

So official and media misdirecting is shooting Uncle Sam in his feet -- just for the hell of it and a few sensationalizing laughs.

But some insiders know that soon a new psi-threat analysis will be necessary, or at least advisable.



6 September 1995

As mandated by Congress, CIA is reviewing available information and past research programs concerning parapsychological phenomena, mainly "remote viewing," to determine whether they might have any utility for intelligence collection.

- CIA sponsored research on this subject in the 1970's. At that time, the program -- always considered speculative and controversial -- was determined to be unpromising.
- CIA is also in the process of declassifying the program's history.

We expect to complete the current review this autumn and to make a recommendation regarding any future work by the US intelligence Community in this area.