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HEADLINE: Study Cites Soviet Progress on Mind Weapons

BYLINE: By BARTON REPPERT, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The Soviet Union has achieved "significant progress" toward developing mind-control weapons, according to a U.S. Army study disclosed in ...

... Martin Ebon contends that mind-altering effects or "remote monitoring of brain wave activity" are among possible reasons behind the Soviet microwave bombardment of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

"Soviet scientists view the brain as an apparatus available for probing and manipulation," Ebon says. "They are well aware that perfected techniques ...

Publication of Ebon's book, "Psychic Warfare: Threat or Illusion?" comes amid increased interest in parapsychology research on Capitol Hill as well as within the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies.

A report prepared recently by the ...

... persuasion, mischief and disinformation," it said.

Psi phenomena include various forms of extrasensory perception, for example telepathy and "remote viewing" of distant locations. Another form is "psychokinesis," the ability to move or bend solid objects with the mind.

Critics of parapsychology, however, charge that much of the research on those effects is either scientifically unsound or fraudulent. Other skeptics argue that even if the phenomena exist, they are too ...

... include Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said he had discussed the parapsychology field with Soviet researchers during a visit to the Soviet Union in August.

"I personally have never experienced or seen a psychic event," Pell said in a recent ...

... completed by Warsaw Pact countries during the past decade in the area of psychic phenomena, of which psychotronics is one element."

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"The Soviet Union, in particular, appears to have made significant progress toward developing psychotronic weapons," said the Army study, entitled "Fire ...

... 1970s, when the agency was under intense criticism and scrutiny on Capitol Hill.

But a U.S. government official familiar with the parapsychology field, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified, said that currently "there seems to be somewhat renewed interest at the CIA ...

... Yuri V. Andropov and other Kremlin officials during their Aug. 17-21 visit to Moscow.

In his private discussions with Soviet parapsychologists, Pell said he had been unable to get a "firm handle" on the overall scope of scientific resources Moscow is devoting to this ...

... short a time to go into anything in any depth," he said.

The senator said he has been particularly impressed by psychokinesis and remote-viewing research being conducted by Robert G. Jahn, dean of the School of Engineering-Applied Science at Princeton University.

...

... batches of 9,000 plastic spheres tumbling through a "random mechanical cascade."

The Congressional Research Service report said Soviet annual spending on psi research has been "speculated to amount to tens of millions of dollars."

By contrast, total funding for parapsychology studies in the United States "probably does not greatly exceed \$500,000" a year currently, with most of the money coming from ...

... criticized by Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, a group which is skeptical about parapsychology.

"In no sense is this an adequate account of the status of research, because the whole parapsychological area is rife with controversy," said Kurtz, ...

... results in other laboratories it's very elusive."

Ebon, a New York-based professional writer specializing in Soviet affairs, asserted in his book that there was already considerable "circumstantial evidence" pointing to the Soviet KGB's "unorthodox use of electronic means" in an effort to influence human behavior.

Speculation over possible purposes behind the Soviet microwave bombardment of the Moscow embassy believed to have begun as early as 1953 has centered largely on use of the beams for eavesdropping or to try to jam U.S. electronic intelligence-gathering equipment.

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However, Ebon said that "another hypothesis is Soviet use of radiation to effect mind-changes in embassy personnel."

An additional possibility, he wrote, is that the beams may have been "used to

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