CONFIDENTIAL

15 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Special Management Guidelines for the SRI Paranormal Project

1. Both the nature of research in the paranormal field and the intense interest it excites within our organization and in the public at large, together with the highly competitive and complexly motivated character of other research efforts in this field, make it essential that we formulate and adhere to certain special guidelines for the administration of any new efforts. The real intent and purposes of such guidelines would be to:

a. simplify the contractor's task by eliminating all unnecessary confusion and distractions;

b. tighten the responsibility and control functions within the sponsor's organization;

c. serve both the contractor's and the sponsor's interests by increasing project security; and

d. permit us to arrive at sound and well-documented, however modest, conclusions by focusing on limited, consistent and explicit objectives.

The guidelines listed below need not be considered definitive; to the extent that modifications seem essential from a practical point of view or that additional guidelines would serve the above purposes, contractor and sponsor personnel should agree on emendations.

2. Data Control. The complex nature of the funding and phasing of SRI's past paranormal investigations makes it virtually impossible to establish, now, which data were developed under whose auspices. Other than portions which clearly relate to sponsor tasking and direct or indirect sponsor validation, no attempt will be made to control use of that data--most of which has already become public knowledge in one form or other. But it will be understood that, from the start of the new (January 1974) contract effort, all data developed will fall under the sponsor's purview and none of it will be released in any form to other than authorized sponsor personnel without prior sponsor approval. On its part, the sponsor undertakes to be as expeditious and liberal as circumstances permit in approving the release of non-sensitive data for open publication.

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3. Authorized Personnel. As far as the sponsor's organization is concerned, 'authorized' personnel will be understood to mean: in the first instance, the primary project officer, [redacted] or his immediate superiors [redacted] and Mr McMahon); and, in [redacted] absence or with respect to purely 'basic' research matters, his alternate project officer, [redacted] or his immediate superiors [redacted] and Dr Stevens). As far as the contractor's organization is concerned, 'authorized' personnel will

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be understood to mean: only those (to be listed by name and function) immediately involved in the research effort, the essential chain-of-command superiors and such other SRI specialists as may be required in conducting the research. Individuals other than 'authorized' personnel, whether from the sponsor's or other governmental or non-governmental organizations, will not be given access to project data without prior sponsor approval. Such approval will be limited to individuals essential to the conduct of the research. It is likely that, because of prior associations and publicity, the contractor will receive queries about the status of research and we appreciate the awkwardness this might create; whenever possible it is suggested that the contractor take the position that, largely on its own resources, the masses of data already collected are being studied and the results may, if appropriate, be published at a later time; the contractor should avoid more explicit comments unless there is prior coordination with the sponsor.

4. Release of Data to Sponsor Personnel. The requirements for progres and financial reports are specified in the contract and they will be released only to 'authorized' sponsor personnel. In the same sense, visits to the paranormal research laboratory should be limited to authorized sponsor personnel. The sponso will attempt to curtail inqueries and requests for site visits by its personnel and it is suggested that, should it become necessary, the contractor handle such requests by stating that it now operating under restrictive groundrules and urging the individual to contact the project officer or his alternate.

5. Acceptance of Guidance from Sponsor Personnel. Similarly, to avoid confusion or disruption of the contractor's efforts, tasking and guidance will be accepted only from authorized personnel; unsolicited views may be referred to the project officer or his alternate. It may be that, later, the contractor and the sponsor will wish to brief sponsor personnel and solicit their views and suggestions; but, if so, it should be undertaken in a well-controlled, methodical manner and for quite specific purposes related to the research design and objectives.

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[redacted]

6. Other Sponsorship. The sponsor assumes that the scope and terms of the contract are such that SRI's paranormal investigative resources will be fully absorbed by the effort but, since the sponsor's support cannot be alluded to by SRI, that will not preclude offers of sponsorship by others--including the government. It is suggested that, in response to official or unofficial offers, SRI initially state that it is consolidating and studying previously collected data and doesn't wish to undertake new investigations until this analysis is completed. If this response doesn't have the desired result, SRI should inform authorized sponsor personnel before making any commitments or disclosures. SRI and sponsor personnel will then agree on the most effective means of handling the situation.

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PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS: OUTLINE OF 'BASIC' RESEARCH TASKS

This outline is divided into ~~three~~ four sections: one for each of the three specified areas of basic research and a final section devoted to general comments and suggestions relating to the overall research design. It is suggested that the extensive batteries of standard tests listed below be given only to those gifted subjects used in developing the 'applied' research data and to an appropriate number of controls.

PART I: Identification of Measurable Characteristics Possessed by Gifted Subjects (approximately 20% of the total project effort)

Sensory Evaluation

Auditory
A - Simple tones, check extremes of spectrum (in both intensity & frequency) -going as far beyond thresholds as instrumentation permits
B - As much fancy audiometry as facilities permit - as indicated by above
B - Include if possible measures relating to implicit speech — under Part II = Subliminal verbalization

A = Implement
B = Consider

Visual
A - Check acuity, defining the extreme limits
B - Visual fields by instrument with several types of targets and varying dimness-intensity-color factors
A - Pseudoisochromatic plates
- Color discrimination with monochrometers or yarn test
A - Explore ~~vision~~ Electromagnetic beyond visible range; beyond visual threshold (the B number of PHOTONS)
A - Flicker-Fusion test

Tactile
A - Two-point discrimination
- Vibratory
- Heat and Cold discrimination
B - (Synesthesia test?) — Stereognosis?

under the medical exam

Psychological Evaluation

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A - Omnibus Personality Inventory (OPI) (or MMPI)
A - Projective tests -- TAT and/or Rorschach
SG1I A - WAIS/PAS test (by [redacted])
A - Luscher Color test
B - Strong and/or Allport-Vernon -- aptitude/values
B - Reaction time tests -- latency
A - Raven's Matrix -- abstractions
- Embedded Figures tests -- illusions
A - Memory tests, including eidetic imagery is possible
B - Suggestibility tests (Ernest Hilgarde, Stanford)
A - Field Dependency tests (Witkin)
B - If facilities permit, tests relating to 'information processing' rates and modes

In-Depth Interview

- This item is listed separately but will obviously be closely tied to both the psychological evaluation (above) and the medical evluation (below). We visualize the possibility of separate but related interviews by medical, ~~psychiatric~~ and psychological personnel; but this needn't

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its being handled by one pers who is qualified and interested enough to cover all of the facets in appropriate depth. These facets should include, for instance: complete medical history, with particular focus on childhood or later diseases which might relate to the 'giftedness'; family medical history; curriculum vitae; objective events and subjective views relating to the discovery and enhancement of the subject's paranormal capacities; other special skills or interests; socio-economic, cultural, familial environment; outstanding 'peaks', experiences, traumas; religious content of the subject's life; other paranormal or related experiences (e.g., deja vue) on which the subject has not been tested; and such psychiatric and psychological interview techniques as may shed further light on the subject's personality, values, motivation, mental state and interpersonal style.

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Medical Evaluation

A
- Medical history (as above)
- General phsyical examination (normal lab work as well)
- EEG
- Neurological examination, Dynamometer – include tactile, heat cold, vibratory
- Opthomological exam (see Sensory Evaluation)
- ENT exam (see Sensory Evaluation)
- Such other examinations as may be suggested by the above

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Behavioral Evaluation

- Interviews (as above)
A - Time estimates
A - Recognition tests (tachistoscope)
A - If feasible, certain sponsor-provided tapes and films designed to test observation, recall and assessment skills

PART II: Identification of Neurophysiological Correlates (approximately 20% of the total project effort)

Note: the CNS and ANS testing should be done during paranormal experimentation, with truly random inter-trial intervals.

Central Nervous System

Defer this examination

A - Evoked potential -- tones and lights, several frequencies at specified amounts above and below threshold
- EEG
- CNV -- lights, words, tachistoscope

Autonomic Nervous System

A - GSR
- Heart rate
- Finger plethysmogram
- Respiration -- pneumatic or nasal

NOTE: For all of the above ANS measures we should have:

(1) baselines and resting levels
(2) response to tones and lights
(3) sub-threshold stimuli
(4) specialized testing

PART III: Identify (or provide theories on) the nature of the validated paranormal phenomena and energy (approximately 10% of the total project effort)

- Use of Beischer probes, if feasible) specifying the energy
- Use of Gradiometers) level, field strength, intennity of stimuli
- Whether in eclectic or creative mode, attempt to provide basic theoretical constructs on the underlying dynamics, the mode of communication or of energy transference which seem consistent with the validated phenomena
- Provide theories on means of developing/enhancing the gift

PART IV: General Comments and Observations, Additional Suggestions

(1) For optimum credibility with sponsor elements (assuming validation of the phenomena) we urge adoption of the most stringent experimental controls feasible under the circumstances--including, but not necessarily limited to, use of non-paranormal lab referees [redacted] who would: initially check the balance of the overall experimental design; establish daily procedures and routine management practices before beginning experimentation with the subjects; spot-check the on-going experiments; establish the random trials involving CNS, ANS and other (e.g., X-Ray) tests.

(2) Throughout the experimentation, use only qualified experts to administer the various specialized tests;

(3) Before a day's experimentation, subjects should strip-down (removing rings, wristwatches, etc, as well) and put on a special lab garment (jumpsuit);

(4) We should have a clearer understanding of the criteria employed by the contractor in determining who are 'gifted' and 'superstar' subjects;

(5) It should be understood that, while the sponsor will not be given the identities of the subjects along with the results of testing, the sponsor will have access to all of the specified raw test data (above);

(6) If X-Rays are done on a spot basis during experimentation, it should be limited to chest, hands and skull; (ultra-sound?) -

(7) We should also have a clearer understanding and, if possible, a set rate ($10 per hour) for the subjects' fees;

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(8) There should be matched normal-control subjects throughout;

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(9) [redacted] should be on the list of [redacted] 'authorized' supervisors;

(10) It might be useful to have a simple yet comprehensive self-inventory form (e.g., mood, rested, ailments, etc) for the subjects to fill out on the morning of each test day before interaction with lab personnel;

(11) Matters of protocol and procedure for any given experiment should not be discussed with the subjects beforehand; and

(12) We should be clear on the nature of 'feedback' (when, how, how often) to be given to the subjects during experimentation.

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