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SURVEY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES
PRESENT AND FUTURE

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RESEARCH ON THE PHYSICS OF CONSCIOUSNESS (PARAPSYCHOLOGY)

ISSUE DEFINITION

Recent experiments in remote viewing and other studies in parapsychology suggest that there exists an "interconnectiveness" of the human mind with other minds and with matter. This interconnectiveness would appear to be functional in nature and amplified by intent and emotion.

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE

Research on the physics of consciousness goes under the various titles of "Parapsychology", "Mind-Being Research", Mental Telepathy", "Psychokinesis", etc. Attempts in history to obtain insights into the ability of the human mind to function in as-yet misunderstood ways goes back thousands of years. Only recently, serious and scientifically-based attempts have been made to understand and measure the functional nature of mind-mind and mind-matter interconnectiveness. Experiments on mind-mind interconnectiveness have yielded some encouraging results. Experiments on mind-matter interconnectiveness (psychokinesis) have yielded less compelling and more enigmatic results. The implication of these experiments is that the human mind may be able to obtain information independent of geography and time.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

See summary and background of the issue.

IMPORTANCE AND IMMINENCE OF THE ISSUE

There is no certainty as to what results will emerge from basic and exploratory research on the physics of consciousness now underway. Therefore the potential importance of such research and its implications for the United States and the world at large can only be speculated upon. Initial results appear to have a bearing upon a number of areas. In the area of health, the coupling of traditional medical cures to the use of mind-initiated cures could be advanced. In the area of investigative work, "emotional imprints" have been used by skilled sensitives to trace past events in archaeological and police investigations. In the area of education, the ability of the human mind to obtain information at various levels has been indicated as an important factor in successful decisionmaking by executives. In the area of national defense, there are the obvious implications of one's ability to identify distant sites and affect sensitive instruments or other humans. A general recognition of the degree of interconnectiveness of minds could have far-reaching social and political implications for this Nation and the world.

QUESTIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION

Research on the physics of consciousness has received relatively low funding largely because the credibility and potential yield of such research is widely questioned, although less today than ever before. Thus far, the quality of research, that even the strongest pro-

ponents of such research believe is necessary, has been lacking due in part to low funding. Given the potentially powerful and far-reaching implications of knowledge in this field, and given that the Soviet Union is widely acknowledged to be supporting such research at a far higher and more official level, Congress may wish to undertake a serious assessment of the research effort in this country. Questions for congressional consideration include: Is funding for such research adequate? What is the credibility of such research in the sciences, humanities, and religions? How does the public perceive the credibility of research in this field from both a subjective and objective point of view? What should the Federal role in such research be and what agencies are or should be involved in such research?

SELECTED INFORMATION SOURCES

Targ, R. and H. E. Puthoff. Mind-Reach: scientists look at psychic ability. Delacourt Press/Eleanor Friede. 1977. 230 p.
Gough, W. C. et al. The status of research on the physics of consciousness: Working models and experiments. Foundation for Mind-Being Research, Cupertino, California, Sept. 15, 1980. 44 p.

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