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Yes, Psychic Warfare Is Part of the Game

Last month, I revealed a Pentagon secret that raised eyebrows from coast to coast. To the thousands of skeptics who wrote in, no, I don't take hallucinogens. The brass hats are, indeed, dabbling in the dark arts.

They are seriously trying to develop weapons based on extrasensory perception. If the research is successful, the next war could be won presumably by casting an evil eye on Moscow.

The true believers are convinced that our national security can be preserved only by spending millions of dollars on such comic-strip concepts as the "hyperspatial howitzer," which supposedly could transmit a nuclear explosion in the Nevada desert to the gates of the Kremlin with the speed of thought.

Rep. Charles Rose (D-N.C.), for example, is a respected five-term congressman and a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence. He has advocated psychotronic weapons with the tenacious courage of some death-defying marvel. He has teetered but ever righted himself on the trembling high wire, keeping his balance against the unseen push and pull of mighty interests, inching his way forward a few more yards to his goal.

By Pentagon standards, not much money has been invested on psychic warfare—a trifling \$6 million. Rose thinks the United States should be spending a lot more money on these ethereal weapons. They could make

every other weapon obsolete," he told my associate, Ron McRae.

The congressman is quite correct; the Buck Rogers weapons would certainly make plain old nuclear bombs obsolete — if they should ever work.

One such weapon, it turns out, has been blessed with an Air Force contract. It's an antimissile system that would throw a time warp over the North Pole. Incoming Soviet missiles would fly into the time warp and explode harmlessly in the past — perhaps blowing up Cmdr. Robert Peary or, if the time warp mechanism was tuned to really high frequency, killing a few dinosaurs.

The National Security Agency, to cite another example, has tried to use ESP to crack Soviet codes. When the agency's computers have failed to break the secret codes produced by the Kremlin's computers, the NSA technicians have enlisted the help of local astrologists and palm readers.

So far, according to my sources, the swamis have been no more successful than our computers. But the Ouija-board warriors are still trying.

Reporting on the bizarre research that goes on in the Pentagon is not without its hazards. Several self-styled psychics have accused me of being an unwitting victim of Soviet success in the field. I am, they say, acting under long-range Kremlin hypnosis intended to persuade the American populace that Pentagon attempts to close the

"psychotronic weapons gap" with the Soviet Union are a waste of money.

I must confess that long-range hypnosis, like the hyperspatial howitzer, happens to be one of the key weapons in the voodoo warriors' arsenal.

But there are more skeptics than advocates. One critic of ESP warfare, physicist Martin Gardner, characterizes the budget for psychotronic weaponry as a monetary "black hole," into which bad research sucks good money forever.