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Book reviews

The Samarkand Dimension, by ^JDavid Wise (Doubleday, 303 pp., \$16.95)

This novel of Cold War espionage takes us to the "Twilight Zone" with the weapon of mind control -- control over matter, other minds and missiles.

James Markham is asked by the president to infiltrate KGB security around the Soviets' Samarkand site where the Russians conduct parapsychology experiments.

It's all mind games to Markham, who discovers he is the victim of a CIA mind game and is thrown to the Russians, tortured and sent back home in an elaborately orchestrated plot.

"The Samarkand Dimension" adds another wrinkle to the worries about what the Russians are doing, along with concern about to what use the Pentagon puts its appropriations.

Wise takes an idea most of us pooh-pooh as a parlor game and turns it into an intriguing spy story. Kathleen Ostrander (UPI)