

1974

III SRI Investigations of Remote Viewing

Experimentation in this area began during studies carried out to investigate the abilities of a New York artist, Mr. Ingo Swann, when he expressed the opinion that the insights gained during experiments at SRI had strengthened his ability (researched before he joined the SRI program)⁴⁵ to view remote locations.

To test Mr. Swann's assertion, a pilot study was set up in which a series of targets from around the globe were supplied to the experimenters by SRI personnel on a double-blind basis. In our estimation, Mr. Swann's ability to describe correctly details of buildings, roads, bridges, and the like, indicated that it might be possible for a subject to access and describe, by means of mental imagery, randomly chosen geographical sites located several miles from the subject's position and demarcated by some appropriate means. Therefore, we set up a research program in remote viewing.

As observed in the laboratory, the basic phenomenon covers a range of subjective experience variously referred to in the literature as simple clairvoyance, traveling clairvoyance, astral projection, out-of-body experience (OOBE), autoscopy (in the medical literature), or exteriorization. We have chosen the term "remote viewing" as a neutral descriptive term, free of prior associations and bias as to mechanisms.

We then carried out a detailed study of remote viewing with a second subject, Mr. Pat Price, a former California police commissioner and city councilman. This experiment (published in Nature⁴) consisted of a series of nine double-blind, demonstration-of-ability tests involving local targets in the San Francisco Bay Area which could be

perceived visually, as though he were looking at the object or place from a position in its immediate neighborhood. The subject's perception has mobility, such that he is able to shift his point of view to allow him to describe elements of a scene that would not be visible to an observer simply standing at ground level and describing what he sees. In general, motion is not perceived, and, in fact, moving objects often are not seen at all.

With regard to accuracy, in our experience a subject is much more likely to describe accurately a remote site chosen at random from hundreds of nearby locations, than he is to select correctly an integer from zero to nine chosen by a similar random process. We consider that this difference in task stems from fundamental signal-to-noise considerations.

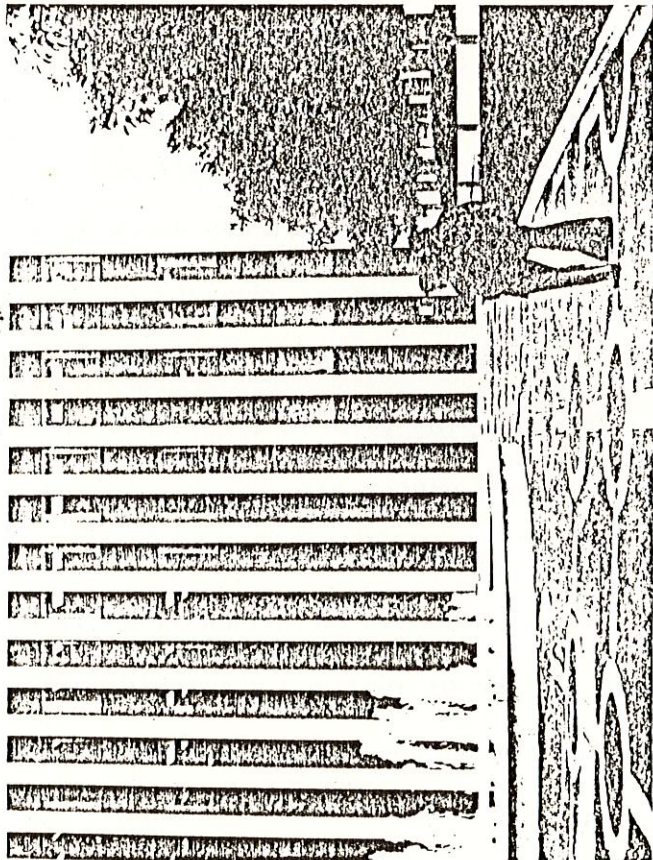
There appear to be two principal sources of noise in the system. These are memory and imagination, both of which can give rise to mental pictures of greater clarity than the target to be perceived. For example, in a number guessing task, a subject can create a perfect mental picture of each numeral from zero to nine from his own imagination and attempt to obtain the correct answer by some sort of mental matching. The same is true for card guessing experiments. In remote viewing, on the other hand, the subject is apparently more likely to approach the task with a blank mind as he attempts to perceive pictorial information from remote locations about which he knows he has no mentally stored data.

In the two years since we first started working with Swann, he has been studying the problem of separating the external signal from the internal noise. In our most recent experiments he dictates two lists for us to record. One list is composed of objects that he "sees" but

does not think are at the remote scene. A second list comprises objects that he thinks are at the scene. In our experience, he has made much progress in this most essential of all abilities, the ability to separate memory and imagination from reality. This is the key to bringing the remote viewing channel to fruition with regard to its potential usefulness.

To indicate the level of proficiency that can be attained by this process, we present the results of our last experiment with Swann in which the target location (chosen by the usual double blind protocol) was the Palo Alto City Hall. Swann described a tall building with vertical columns and "set in" windows. (His sketch, together with the photograph of the site, is shown in Figure 4.) He said there was a fountain, "but I don't hear it." (At the time the target team was at the City Hall during the experiment, the fountain was not running.) He also made an effort to draw a replica of the designs in the pavement in front of the building, and correctly indicated the number of trees shown in the sketch (four).

In the remainder of this section we describe three closely related experiments which were designed to provide additional information concerning the factors that govern these phenomena. The first experiment is a replication of the Price study, in which a different subject attempts to describe nine remote Bay Area target locations. In the second experiment we attempt to measure the resolution capabilities of the remote viewing channel. In this case we randomly select from among technologically oriented targets within SRI. The subjects are, as always, kept ignorant of the target pool, and they are asked to describe the type of apparatus, equipment or objects with which the remote experimenter is interacting. The final experiment is a preliminary test of our hypothesis that the remote viewing



TARGET—PALO ALTO CITY HALL

Picture of the miniature golf course
from yesterday?

field of open-
jungle wind
trees?

a corridor of some sort.
a wall behind the trees
building.

lawn.

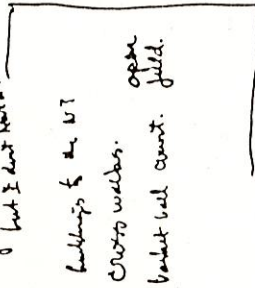
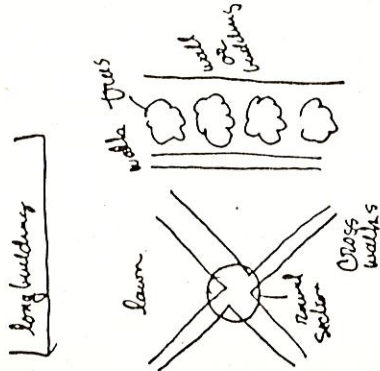
an open field.

an enclosed area of some sort.
a quad.

a fountain
but I don't know.

buildings to the left
cross walks.
open field.
but not court.

Swann
13 Nov 71.
1040 am.



SUBJECT SWANN'S RESPONSE
TO CITY HALL TARGET

FIGURE 4

SA-3183-14

experimenter remaining behind. The experimenter traveling to the remote site may take other observers with him, and the presence of these observers will in general be kept secret from the subject.

After an agreed upon travel time has elapsed, the subject will describe his impressions of the remote site into a tape recorder. A comparison is then made when the demarcation team returns.

A. Replication Study on the Remote Viewing of Natural Targets

This experiment was designed to be a replication of our previous experiment with Price, the first replication attempted. The subject in this experiment, Hella Hammid, is a professional photographer. She is, like Price and Swann, highly intelligent and also artistically gifted. She was selected for this series on the basis of her successful performance as a percipient in the EEG experiment described earlier. Outside of that interaction, she had no more than the usual experience with apparent paranormal functioning.

At the time we began working with Mrs. Hammid, she had no strong feelings about the likelihood of her ability to succeed in this task. This was in contrast to Ingo Swann who had come to our laboratory fresh from a lengthy and apparently successful series of experiments with Dr. Gertrude Schmeidler at City College of New York,⁴⁶ and Pat Price who felt that he makes use of his remote viewing ability in his everyday life.

In comparison with the latter two, many people are more influenced by their environment and are reluctant to attempt activities under public scrutiny which many consider to be impossible. The society often provides inhibition and negative feedback to the individual who might otherwise

descriptions without replacement), the a priori probability of such an occurrence by chance is $p = 2 \times 10^{-4}$.

B. Technology Series

Having completed two series of remote viewing experiments under rigorously controlled conditions, we concluded that the existence of the channel had been adequately established, and we set out to try to determine some of its properties. Since remote viewing is a perceptual ability, it is important to obtain data on its resolution capabilities. To accomplish this, we turned to the use of indoor technological targets.

These experiments, twelve of which have been completed to date, were carried out with five different subjects. They were told that one of the experimenters would be sent to a laboratory within the SRI complex, and while in that location would interact with the equipment or apparatus that was there. He was further told that the target could be anything from office equipment to machinery or an experimental set-up.

As in other work, one experimenter left the subject with a second experimenter blind as to the contents of the target pool and selected by random protocol a piece of apparatus with which to interact. (It was known, however, that on a random basis targets would be replaced and removed; one of the goals of this particular experiment was to obtain multiple responses to a given target to investigate whether correlation of a number of subject responses would provide enhancement of the signal-to-noise ratio.) The outbound experimenter then used the equipment in an appropriate manner for fifteen minutes, after which he returned to the laboratory to collect a tape recorded narrative and any drawings generated

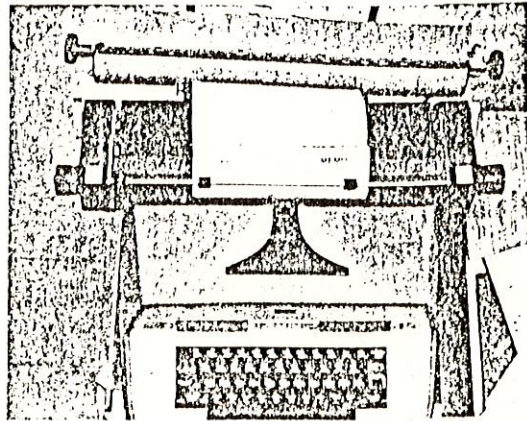
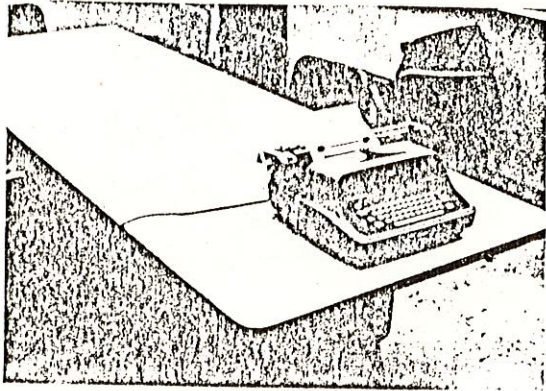
by the subject.

In the twelve experiments, seven targets were used: Drill press, computer driven flight simulator (Linc trainer), xerox machine, video terminal, chart recorder, ESP teaching machine (random number generator) described later, and typewriter. Three of these were used twice (drill press, video terminal, and typewriter) and one (xerox machine) came up three times in our random selection procedure.

Comparisons of the targets and subject drawings for the typewriter, xerox machine, and video terminal are shown, respectively, in Figures 8, 9, and 10. Our tentative conclusion at this point is that correlation of multiple responses provides an enhancement of the signal-to-noise ratio relative to efforts at target identification on the basis of a single response.

C. Normal and Paranormal--Use of Unselected Subjects in Remote Viewing

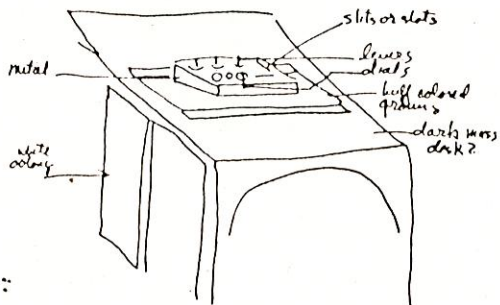
After more than a year of following the experimental protocol described above, we initiated a series to determine whether individuals other than putative "psychics" could demonstrate the remote viewing ability. To test this idea, we have a continuing program to carry out additional experiments of the outdoor type with naive subjects whom we have no a priori reason to believe have paranormal perceptual ability. To date we have collected data from twelve experiments with four individuals in this category, all of whom have had technical educations and are currently working as scientists (a man and a woman from the SRI professional staff, and another man and woman who were U.S. government visitors at SRI).



TECHNOLOGY SERIES
TYPEWRITER TARGET

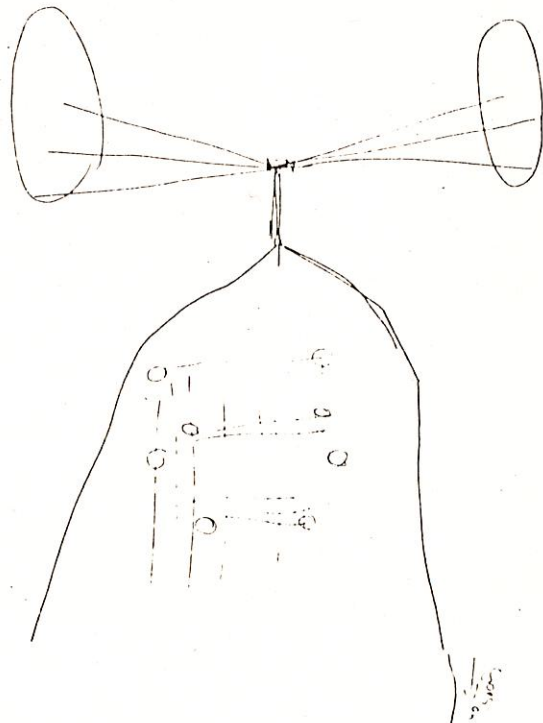
Seems to resolve into 2 parts
one sitting on top of the other -
a machine in 2 parts -
white on the side
see the floor now - hinge

11.25



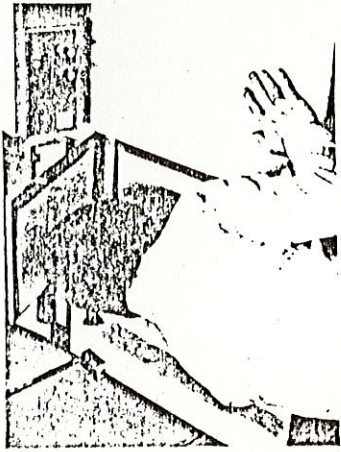
The lights must be inside
a green crescent

SUBJECT SWANN'S RESPONSE
TO TYPEWRITER TARGET

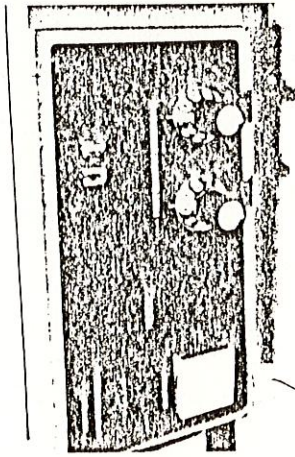


SUBJECT H. H. RESPONSE
TO TYPEWRITER TARGET

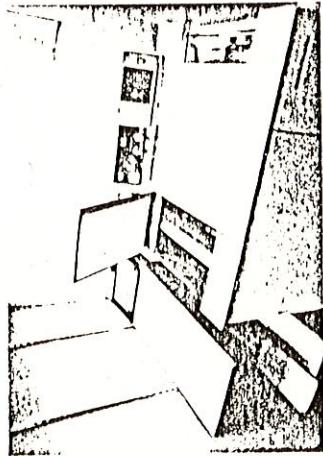
FIGURE 8



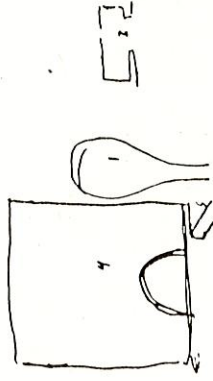
TO ADD INTEREST TO TARGET
LOCATION EXPERIMENTER WITH
HIS HEAD BEING XEROXED



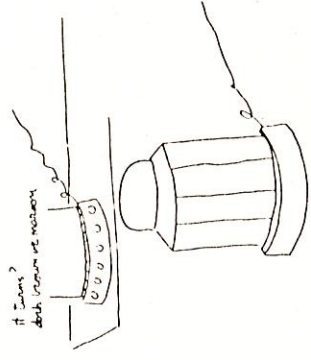
TARGET LOCATION: XEROX MACHINE
(TECHNOLOGY SERIES)



(3)



When asked to describe the square at upper left, the subject said, "There was this pre-dominant light source which might have been a window, and a working surface which might have been the sill, or a working surface or desk." Earlier the subject had said, "I have the feeling that there is something silhouetted against the window."



It looks like
dark window or mirror



Person
sitting at
desk

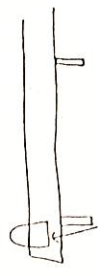


FIGURE 9 DRAWINGS BY THREE SUBJECTS FOR XEROX MACHINE TARGET

S-74 "Noise" discovery