Anglo-Soviet occultists to meet in London

by Mark Burdman

Organizers of a conference on parapsychology in London Oct. 21-22 might take pause from the fate of the unfortunate E. Frenkel of the Soviet Union. Frenkel was a psychic healer, or what the Soviets call a “mentalist.” According to recent Soviet press accounts, Frenkel decided that he could use his mind waves to stop a train. So, he went onto the tracks, and lo and behold, the train stopped him. He is now dead.

Cynics might claim that the Soviet press articles were using the episode to assure Soviet readers that some trains still run on the U.S.S.R.’s destroyed railroad system. Conversely, Frenkel might have thought that standing on train tracks emitting brain waves could be quite safe, since Soviet trains don’t run too often these days. Or perhaps Frenkel was counting on a train strike. This is indeed what happened: The train struck him.

In the U.S.S.R., there is certainly a connection between the collapse of the physical economy and the eruption of weird psychic phenomena. The past year has seen a spectacular increase in government-sponsored occultism. On Soviet television each morning, media personality Alan Chumak exhibits what he calls his “healing energy” to hundreds of thousands of viewers. The viewers, according to an account in the U.S. Army daily Stars and Stripes Oct. 7, “put bottles of water and open tubes of cold cream in front of his televised image, worshipping this Good Samaritan version of the czarist mystic Rasputin.” His “remarkable success,” the paper notes, has been helped by a combination of “glasnost, miserable medical care, and a certain naive belief in extrasensory perception.”

By the week of Oct. 9, the Soviet news agency TASS was reporting that aliens from outer space had arrived in a village near Moscow.

‘The Great White Brotherhood’

The case of E. Frenkel hopefully will be registering on the brain waves of those attending the Oct. 21-22 conference at Regent’s College, London, which is actually an Anglo-Russian event. In Britain too, the collapse of the economy has had a lot to do with the dramatic increase in ecologism.
and occultism. In fact, given the condition of the British rail system, many participants would do better to travel to the conference by their brain waves than by British Rail.

The conference is sponsored by the Wrekin Trust and the London-based College of Psychic Studies. The Wrekin Trust is one of the central coordinating institutions in Britain for "New Age"/"Age of Aquarius" cult projects. Its activities often overlap those of the satanic Lucis Trust and the Scotland-based Findhorn Foundation. The founder and guru of the Wrekin Trust is Britain’s Sir George Trevelyan. A graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge University, Sir George was the author of the book A Vision of the Aquarian Age, published in 1972. The Wrekin Trust offers an occult delicatessen of New Age obsessions, including the cabala; the devil-worshiping ninth-century Bulgarian cult of Bogomilism; the Holy Grail; alchemy; astrology; shamanism; reincarnation; ecology; ad nauseam.

A featured speaker at the Oct. 21-22 event is Russia’s Barbara Ivanova. Born in the early days of the Bolshevik Revolution, she is billed as an expert in “bio-information, psychic healing, parapsychology, reincarnation, interspecies communication, and protection of animals.” Ivanova is a promoter of the ideas of the Russian mystical artist Nicholas Roerich, who became quite a cult figure earlier in this century, and whose ideas are today used to bridge the “New Age” movements in the East and West. Coincidence or not, Radio Moscow announced on Oct. 11 that a first-ever “Nicholas Roerich Conference” is taking place in the U.S.S.R., with delegations sent from Bulgaria, Mexico, the United States, France, India, and elsewhere. She has also written articles calling for the rehabilitation of Madame Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophy movement and a guru of the “New Age.” Because of her efforts, articles praising Blavatsky have, for the first time, appeared in the Soviet press.

On the night of Sept. 27, Barbara Ivanova gave a seminar at the Institute for Complementary Medicine in the U.K. The head of that institute is David Lorimer, one of whose own areas of work is study of the Bogomils and the writings of Peter Deunov, a Bulgarian mystic (1864-1944). According to the book The Occult Establishment, by James Webb, Deunov was a slavic messianist and mystic who believed that Bulgaria was the “new Byzantium,” that the “culture of the Anglo-Saxon branch of the white race” was passing, and that his followers would be “inheritors of the Bogomils.” According to Webb, Deunov believed himself to be a key philosopher of the New Age, which he saw astologically as the Age of Aquarius. Deunov announced in 1914, before a meeting of the “Brotherhood of Bulgaria,” that the New Age had begun, with a “new type of man.” His ideas, following his death, have been disseminated by an outfit calling itself “The Great White Brotherhood.”

All of this would be arcane enough, were it not for the fact that “reputable” personalities from the Anglo-American scientific establishments will be participating, side by side with Madame Ivanova. One of these is Prof. Arthur Ellison, a prominent scientist and professor in electrical engineering in Britain, who also happens to be a specialist in such fields as “bio-electricity in its relationship to altered states of consciousness.” Ellison is past president of the British Society for Psychical Research, and past chairman of the blavatskyite Theosophical Research Centre. The Society for Psychical Research is one of the organizing agencies for making the occult “respectable” in Establishment circles, and numbers many leading personalities in its ranks.

Another speaker is Dr. Robert Morris of the United States, President of the International Parapsychological Association, and the first person to hold the Koestler Chair of Parapsychology at Edinburgh University in Scotland. Morris is part of the “mainstream” of what passes for science these days in the United States, having served in recent years on the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

That Ellison and Morris are honored personalities is symptomatic of the state of mind of the Anglo-American Establishment these days. Isn’t the case of E. Frenkel a good metaphor for those Washington paranoids, who believe that the imminent financial crash can be headed off by “perception management,” and who won’t accept reality until it crashes down on their own heads?

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"If a black death could spread throughout the world once in every generation, survivors could procreate freely without making the world too full. The state of affairs might be unpleasant, but what of it?"

—Bertrand Russell

This evil is from the father of the peace movement—find out what the rest of them think.

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