



Russian Woodpecker: Hazardous To Your Mental Health?

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Some of us have long suspected that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the Soviet Woodpecker was not quite known. Five years ago, Ira Einhorn, writing in *CoEvolution Quarterly*, noted the exact synchronicity between the Woodpecker's shortwave pulses and naturally-occurring alpha brainwave frequencies. In his article ("A Disturbing Communique," #16, Winter 1977-78), Einhorn advanced the opinion that the Russians were engaged in a sinister "mind control" experiment of Orwellian dimensions. He traced the design of the Woodpecker transmitter to sketches found in the notebooks of the electrical engineering genius, Nikola Tesla. *CoEvolution's* editors discounted the mind-control hypothesis, while permitting Einhorn to have his say.

But there is new evidence that Einhorn was right. According to an AP report, Dr. Ross Adey, Chief of Research at the Pettis Memorial Veterans Hospital in Loma Linda, California, has obtained from Soviet colleagues a mini-Woodpecker transmitter known as the "Lida." Operating on a frequency of 40 MHz, the mini-Woodpecker "bombards brains with low frequency radio waves," and is being used experimentally by the Russians as "a replacement for tranquilizers and their unwanted side effects."

As mentioned in the October *POP-COMM*, the pulsed radio waves "stimulate the brain's own electromagnetic current and produce a trance-like state," according to the report. Adey has obtained a copy of the

Russian-language manual describing use of the mini-Woodpecker. "The manual says it is a 'distant pulse treatment apparatus' for psychological problems including sleeplessness, hypertension, and neurotic disturbances," reports the California researcher. (Soviet psychiatrists routinely classify as "neurotic disturbances" many acts of overt political protest directed against the state establishment.)

Dr. Adey Ross describes his own experiments with the Lida, in which a cat was placed within the pulsed RF field of the transmitter. "Within a matter of two or three minutes (the cat) is sitting there very quietly . . . it stays almost as though it were transfixed," he said. The animal remains "uninterested in its surroundings" for about half an hour after the RF field is shut down.

Could the Soviets be using a higher-power, lower-frequency pulse transmitter to perform surrogate lobotomies at long distance on their own increasingly restive populations? Adey thinks so. "Obviously . . . in the Soviet Union, manipulation of group behavior, whether it be in the classroom, or the workplace, or in assembly halls, crowds and so on, is probably acceptable," he told reporters.

Adey is in fact aware of the controversy surrounding the shortwave Woodpecker as well. The AP report concludes: "The Lida may have been the forerunner of a device that is presently bombarding Europe and the United States with very powerful radio waves in the 6-30 MHz shortwave range, Adey said. The Soviets say the waves are a radar system."

Barring the outside possibility that the mini-Woodpecker is an elaborate piece of

Soviet "disinformation," designed to send Western researchers scrambling down a blind alley while the Soviet concoctors of the hoax laugh up their sleeves (though Adey's successful animal tests would seem to quash the "hoax" hypothesis), it now appears likely that the OTH radar "cover story" for the Woodpecker's activities was, at worst, a bald-faced lie; or at best, a less-than-candid account of the device's multiple experimental purposes.

Frankly, there has been little evidence of the Woodpecker's ability to induce a state of catatonic trance in Western hams and SWLs. Its appearance on frequency is much more likely to produce a perfectly healthy, violent urge to smash one's fist through the loudspeaker! But a cautionary note is due: listeners who are prone to epileptic disturbance should be aware of the Woodpecker's ability to activate brain-wave states associated with seizures. And the rest of us should watch for any telltale effects of induced hypnosis, the next time the Woodpecker pays a visit. Most sinister of all is the fact that these devices are meant to be used without benefit of a receiver. The high power pulses are intended to act directly on the electrical energy of the brain, with one's body acting as the receiving antenna. Against such measures of psychotronic warfare, there can be no defense, short of living inside an RF-shielded "Faraday box."

American OTH radar, incidentally, does not use a pulse signal at all, but a square-wave sweep, thus discounting any notion that the CIA may be planning to use similar lobotomizing tactics on our own restive population—their notorious clandestine LSD experiments notwithstanding.