

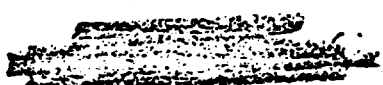


THE BLACK VAULT

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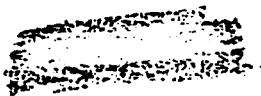


A SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

It is well known that while a subject is under hypnosis, suggestions may be given for post-hypnotic behavior, and that such suggestions will be acted on unless they are repugnant to moral sense or strong convictions of the subject. These suggestions gradually die away, however. It is also well known that those under hypnosis are less discriminating in their judgment of persons and ideas than they would be at other times. It is possible that this opens a way for penetration of otherwise secure organizations, and it is suggested that investigation be made as to whether the possibility could be realized. A method of procedure for this is outlined below. If positive results are obtained from such an investigation, we can then guard ourselves against such methods, and use them ourselves against the enemy.

The suggested procedure involves a combination of confidence man tactics with hypnotic treatment, and might get better results than either taken alone. It would be designed to make available to a spy information that the supplier would not wittingly place in enemy hands, by persuading the subject that the information was for legitimate government purposes. As an alternative, a man might be given hypnotically (with injunction to "forget" the incident), a strong compulsion to keep a secret diary into which significant data would be copied "for the writer's private consideration", and to place such diary in a preselected hiding place in his home. The agent would, of course, get access to it in the absence of the writer. In both these cases a man might thus indirectly betray his country and yet be conscious only of loyalty.

Consider the first case, which is that of duping a loyal person working in a sensitive position into reporting to an outsider such things as: (1) the progress of colleagues with classified research; (2) factory output, plans and problems; (3) military information. An enemy agent might seek to get such data by conveying to the dupe the conviction that the agent was with the F.B.I. and that weekly reports, on the sayings and activities of colleagues were required, and that a patriotic service would be performed if such reports were prepared after hours and sent to "John Jones, P.O.Box 0, Washington D.C." Now in the case of an open non-hypnotic attempt to get such cooperation, the subject, although not initially suspicious of the agent and his credentials, might well ask whether such information could serve any useful F.B.I. purpose. Research should be undertaken to see whether, if a subject were surreptitiously drugged to dull critical faculties, then hypnotized by ostensible F.B.I. agents "seeking to find out if the subject can be trusted with a matter of importance", and given plausible hypnotic instructions, he could be made to perform post-hypnotic spying without rousing his critical faculties or bringing mental censor mechanisms into play. Numerous variants of the basic procedure might be tried, such as varying the instructions from the completely reasonable in the case of some subjects, to the completely absurd or suspicious in the case of others, to see to what extent - if any - the mind might be taken in by the procedure. Injunctions to forget the hypnotic indoctrination might be tried. Substitution of false memories of an interview might be attempted. Injunction to accept subsequent non-hypnotic instructions from an "agent" might be tried out. Creation of an unreasoning liking or dislike for some designated individual might be tried.



Of course it would be necessary to have the experiments performed by persons not known previously to the subjects, since otherwise we might have their subconscious minds saying "yes, let's go along with this acting, since it is only play", and thus yielding false results. On the other hand, as an experiment, it might be desirable to make such a study with a group of university students who have previously volunteered to help with a bit of psychological research "to begin about a month from now", so the professor can prevent a frenzied call to the F.B.I. from a subject on whom the test did not impose. That is, consent to take part in a test can be obtained by a person having the student's confidence, with misdirection as to time and nature of the test, but actual operations will be by complete strangers.

If such a procedure is at all successful, it could probably be adapted to operations in the communist world very easily, since all there are familiar with the idea of spying on one another and of being commandeered by the U.C.B. to act as agents. Unquestioning acceptance of authority, and acquiescence in testing and questioning procedures that would be thought fantastic here, could probably be confidently allowed for.

As a variant to the above, persons responsible for making periodic reports to Gosplan etc., might be duped into sending an extra copy "for control purposes" to some designated Moscow call box.



March 28, 1952.

