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120 May 1953

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MAY 13 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Briefing for the Psychological Strategy Board

1. Active research work is being performed in the Agency on drugs which can cause personality changes.
2. The Agency is performing research on a drug called "Seraxin" (lysergic acid diethylamide, commonly called LSD). This drug is manufactured by ~~_____~~, and has been exported to the USSR. It causes temporary mental derangement. The drug is tasteless, readily soluble in all liquids, and an infinitesimally small dose will produce mental derangement.
3. We believe it is important that selected individuals, in close contact with high US Government officials who are concerned with foreign affairs abroad, should be informed of the existence of drugs that change personalities.
4. If one of our high government officials shows signs of a changed personality, steps should be taken to have him "confined to quarters" for at least 24 hours, as the drug above mentioned dissipates its effect in that period of time, provided no additional doses are administered. This, consequently, means that the food and liquids during this 24 hour period must be very carefully watched.
5. In our opinion, the Psychological Strategy Board, and the Intelligence Advisory Committee in executive session should be briefed only in general terms, with no reference to the specific drug described, and "no publicity" should be stressed. The attached memorandum is a suggested outline for your briefing of P.S.B. This matter has been coordinated with ~~_____~~ and ~~_____~~.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Attachment - 1
Distribution:

~~_____~~ - 1
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CSI: ~~_____~~ (13 May 53)

SUGGESTED BRIEFING FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL
STRATEGY BOARD

attachment 8
TS # 80423
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1. There has been much talk and publicity concerning "brain washing" and the techniques which supposedly have been used to produce these mental aberrations. The "third degree" in all its variations will undoubtedly weaken and fatigue body and mind to the point where an individual may say or do things apparently completely foreign to his basic philosophy.

2. There are also a group of drugs which temporarily alter personality. Many of these have been known for years as i.e., marijuana, peyote (mescal buttons), and the compounds related to benzadrine. Recent research has greatly strengthened the effectiveness of these compounds in their effect on personality.

3. Although there is, at the present time, no "wonder drug" which will satisfy all the requirements of the so-called "brain washing," it is important to be aware of the possibility of covert administration of drugs to select high-level government officials who are abroad dealing with foreign affairs. The pattern of behavior of high-level Soviet officials suggests that they are aware of these possibilities.

4. It is felt that it is inadvisable to make any general release of information in regard to drugs with relation to "brain washing."