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7 May 1956

Minutes of the Working Committee Meeting, held 12 April 1956, at 1000 hours.

Members present were:

- Mr. [redacted] (Chairman)
- Dr. [redacted]
- Dr. [redacted]
- Mr. [redacted]
- Mr. [redacted]
- Dr. [redacted]
- Mr. [redacted]
- Dr. [redacted]
- Mr. [redacted]
- Dr. [redacted]
- Dr. [redacted]
- Col. [redacted]
- Miss [redacted] (Secretary)

C/SAR/REE

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Mr. [redacted] opened the meeting by reading points from the original [redacted] Charter, restating goals, aims, needs to be served, and definition of the project.

It was reported that since the last meeting, attempts had been made to contact members of the Working Committee individually to discuss aspects of the program of special interest. However, changes in the Committee membership had occurred and some present needed orientation.

Report was offered on completed or near-completed projects. These included the final report on the Brainwashing Study now in press and the study on Chinese behavior patterns which has completed collection of data. It was indicated that the latter project would be completed by 1 July 1956.

[redacted]

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Mr. [redacted] reported that data already distributed on the Chinese project was favorably received by his Division. Mr. [redacted] indicated that further data would be distributed at a later date.

Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] reported on the brain studies now ongoing at [redacted] University Medical School. Some preliminary findings were reported and it was indicated the studies would continue.

The area of hypnosis was discussed. It was agreed that considerable interest in this area existed in the Agency, but that the interest was greater than the actual operational need. An objective here will be to attempt to assemble a systematic paper bringing together various views and uses. Dr. [redacted] inquired as to the cost and how much time was involved in the study of hypnosis. It was indicated that two small projects were now ongoing and that a third project was in the proposal stage. Dr. [redacted] indicated that the studies were modest and went about as far as the Agency needed. Mr. [redacted] Division, indicated that his office had kept on top of the subject for many years.

Dr. [redacted] indicated that September to April was too long a time between meetings and that in order to evaluate the activity more contact was necessary. Mr. [redacted] indicated that he would work as closely as possible with Dr. [redacted] and that it was the

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intention to see if there could be more frequent meetings with Working Committee members. It was indicated that it was believed the entire Working Committee should meet at least twice a year, but that there should be more frequent contacts with individual members.

Hypnosis was discussed again and Dr. [redacted] reported that the present phase was correlating hypnotic phenomena with physiological and biochemical processes. Dr. [redacted] indicated again there was no solid operational requirement for work on hypnosis. Mr. [redacted] indicated that there was work going on at the present time to find concealed techniques for the induction of hypnosis, particularly by using the polygraph. He indicated that they had not reached the point where they had specific information, but as soon as available they would give information about it. He indicated that in his opinion, their work was somewhat crude, but that the results were encouraging. Dr. [redacted] indicated that there was considerable interest in hypnosis and reported on some Canadian studies. He also discussed the importance of studying mass hypnosis. Mr. [redacted] indicated that there were plans to get better information from the field of anthropology, which was believed to have some of the best information on the things Dr. [redacted] was discussing. However, we have no systematic work in this area now. Dr. [redacted] indicated that he felt studies in this area were very pertinent, particularly in conditioning agents for field assignments.

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Work with one of the psychotechnicians was reported. It was indicated that the major emphasis at the present time is on studying reactions of individuals to drugs rather than the drug itself. Work is continuing on trying to learn more about how to manage, exploit, and utilize reactions for purposes pertinent to the Agency.

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The Indirect Assessment Program was reported as a new activity. It was pointed out that a joint working committee, made up of representatives of the Office of Training, and had been constituted and was meeting approximately every two weeks. At the present time a study will be undertaken to attempt to discover whether a person's reactions under alcohol can be used as a useful assessment device. Dr. wanted to know what it was we were trying to assess. Mr. indicated that this was one of the things we were trying to find out. Dr. indicated that he and his colleagues were interested in this subject and Dr. and Mr. indicated that as soon as we had a specific proposal we would come to him for assistance. Dr. indicated that there was considerable concern among operational people on this subject. He stated that we were looking for the best way to mount experimental work in this area. Mr. indicated that we were going to try a systematic approach to see whether judgment made from photos, behavior at cocktail parties, and so forth, could contribute anything to assist operating case officers in their operations. Dr. indicated that a possible valuable conclusion would be that none of these things would be better ignored.

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Interest in interrogative techniques was discussed. The specific project in this area is the [redacted] Project which was reported in previous meetings. This is a study to attempt to get guarded information from individuals which they ordinarily refuse to reveal. It was indicated that this program was getting along fairly well and that we were in about the middle of it. Dr. [redacted] wanted to know what was meant by "the middle of it". Dr. [redacted] indicated that the experimental design had been completed. Twenty-eight individuals had been systematically studied by participating psychiatrists and a series of structured questions relating to each individual had been completed. Some of the actual interviewing had begun. However, no preliminary findings have been reported.

Mr. [redacted] reported that in line with the original [redacted] Charter, proposals had been made to expand the overt research foundation. [redacted]

[redacted]. At the present time the Society is so closely connected with [redacted] University that it is difficult to use it for contracting for external research in other research communities. Therefore, it was being proposed that the Society be completely separated from [redacted] University, a full-time research director of the Society hired making it possible to keep closer touch with the research community and mount projects of interest as requirements developed.

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[REDACTED]

Dr. [REDACTED] indicated that he had difficulty in mounting certain projects in which he was interested and that he would be interested in using such a group. Mr. [REDACTED] wanted to know whether Security aspects of this new setup had been properly evaluated. Dr. [REDACTED] wanted to know what type of person was being considered as full-time director. Mr. [REDACTED] indicated that he had several types in mind and that this could be discussed later with Dr. [REDACTED] if he was interested. Dr. [REDACTED] pointed out that he was not a candidate for the position but that he would welcome an opportunity to talk about what was being planned.

With the conclusion of the brainwashing study, essentially the same group working on this problem may begin work on a study of the dynamics of defection and treason. A specific proposal in this area is now in our hands and will probably be implemented in the next year.

There are no plans for further studies on foreign behavior such as the Chinese project. However, the Chinese study is looked upon as a pilot study in this area and should the need arise further subject studies may be mounted.

The next area discussed was that of operational assistance.

It was reported that two field trials using psychochemicals as an adjunct to interrogation had been tried, that it was planned to continue to give this assistance wherever indicated and possible.

[REDACTED]

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Dr. [redacted] reported that these had been largely successful from the standpoint of being able to take a measure of where we are and where we are going. Dr. [redacted] wanted to know if the administration of drugs had been handled by recognized medical men. Dr. [redacted] indicated that this was impossible under the circumstances. Medical specialists were consulted but M.D.'s did not actively participate in the interrogations. Dr. Gunn stated that we should consider the danger involved in not using H.D.'s and that even in certain foreign areas, H.D.'s can be provided to work with these projects, that we must be prepared to account for unfortunate reactions. He emphasized strongly that this should be taken into consideration. Dr. [redacted] indicated that we did have this concern and that it had been taken into account.

There was further discussion of the Chinese study as a pilot program. It was indicated that the Chinese study had been a worthwhile study, but that nothing from this study indicated going systematically from culture to culture with similar studies. Further studies in this area will have to be mounted on the basis of specific operational requirements levied against our group.

The representatives from other offices were asked to report on anything of significance. Mr. [redacted] reported that there had been no AMBICONE cases and mentioned again the disguised hypnosis study. Dr. [redacted] reported that they had been asked to produce on a crash basis a document on brainwashing, which he

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understands has received wide circulation. The document was prepared from work reported by [redacted] and OTR. They had tried to make it interesting and readable. He understood that there had been some lack of coordination in the final issuance of the document and they hoped there had been no embarrassment caused by this. He indicated that they had had a week to prepare the document and had been given to understand that coordination was being taken care of by someone else. Dr. [redacted] indicated that he had no specific report to make, that there had been regular participation when opportunity had been afforded, that he worked with Security on AMBIGUOUS when it came up. Dr. [redacted] indicated that he had no report to make other than that he was working with Dr. [redacted] on the hypnosis study. Dr. [redacted] emphasized that the [redacted] Working Committee, to be effective, had to work both ways; that we were reporting what we were doing and that for us to be effective, we needed to know a good deal about what others in the area were doing also. The Working Committee is an advisory group and we are willing to expose our work for scrutiny. We are inviting people to come to [redacted] to look us over and we would like to see more of what others are doing. Dr. [redacted] indicated that many of the things his colleagues were doing were common practice. He suggested that many of the things the [redacted] Program was studying were things that his colleagues were already aware of and have used in their professional practice for years. Dr. [redacted] indicated that they wanted to get

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all they could from the Committee. Dr. [redacted] stated that the Committee has a valuable place as an advisory committee. He wanted it understood that he was not complaining but that he believed more good could be accomplished by getting advice before a project was mounted rather than afterwards.

The meeting closed with Mr. [redacted] stating that in the absence of any advice to the contrary, the meaning of [redacted] goes beyond [redacted] alone. At the request of the Director, this mechanism is an attempt at coordinating all interested activities pertinent to the clandestine services, that this meeting had been an attempt to implement this coordination idea and that through meeting together and having this type of discussion, a better understanding of the [redacted] concept could be evolved.

[redacted]

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