



# THE BLACK VAULT

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PROJECT BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE

1. The basic memorandum explained the origins of Project BLUEBIRD/ARTICHOKE in OSI. This addendum concerns the indications of activity by other offices in this program.

2. The bulk of the material in OSI files concerns the work of OSI in analyzing foreign activities related to the use of drugs and psychochemicals in interrogations. There are however memoranda for the record concerning Agency meetings at least through 1955. These MRs contained brief references to work being done under the auspices of other offices in the U.S. In at least one instance OSI provided support for the domestic R&D effort when an OSI chemist, an expert in toxic plants, went to ~~the~~ in December 1952 to pick up some plants with "anesthetic qualities" for subsequent evaluation.

3. At just what time Project ARTICHOKE changed from an inter-agency program concerned with production of intelligence on foreign activities to an agency-operated R&D program (the forerunner of MKULTRA?) is not clear from the files. By late 1952, however, a change had taken place and the players now were the Security Officer, CIA, the Chief, Medical Services, Chief, TSS as well as the AD/OSI. A paper of 16 July 1953 from the Security Officer, CIA to ARTICHOKE representatives, entitled "Restatement of Program", notes the following basic aims:

- a. to perfect techniques utilizing existing drugs, hypnosis, and other elements for the extraction of information from individuals whether willing or not.
- b. to provide field teams for testing, experimenting and refining techniques . . . . . for the extraction of information from indigenous personnel under field conditions.

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- c. .... arrange for research and experimentation ..... for the development of means for the control of the activities and mental capacities of individuals whether willing or not."

Other items through (1) concerned other details of the program.

4. A note in the record dated 23 October 1953 by Dr. [redacted] (Scientific Advisor to the AD/OSI) notes that "ICSO has prepared a new set of 'by laws' for the Committee, which will include approval of testing of drugs on volunteers among Agency personnel". A reference of 29 October 1953 also by [redacted] refers to draft memoranda to be returned to the ARTICHOKE Committee, one of which is entitled "Experimental Project Utilizing Trainee Volunteers". No copy of this memorandum could be found. A record of a conversation between Dr. [redacted], AD/OSI and Dr. [redacted] of OTS dated 14 December 1953 refers to the Schwab activity at Detrick and contains the following cryptic notation:

"Lovell knew of Frank R. Olson. No inhibitions. Baring of inner man. Suicidal tendencies. Offensive usefulness?"

5. Another [redacted] MR dated 5 February 1954 reports on discussions with a representative of [redacted] concerning a visit to [redacted] for the purpose of collecting certain flowers, making an extract and testing. It notes "complication. TS wants lab facilities for extraction -- two human patients to try it on there -- delicate situation in G. Afraid untoward accident don't want to get mixed up in clinical testing." The record contains no follow-up on this proposed field work.

6. One of the last references in OSI files to ARTICHOKE is in the form of a copy of a trip report filed by [redacted] of the Office of Security following a visit he made to the [redacted], 6-11 April 1955 for discussions with Dr. [redacted] and others regarding research on drugs for intelligence purposes. This trip report contains intimations of more than casual Agency interest in U.S. use of drugs for intelligence purposes. Follow-up papers were submitted by the Chief, [redacted] Field Office through mid-1955 and Dr. [redacted] of OSI was on the distribution.

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