



THE BLACK VAULT

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P/B, I, 77, 5

B

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, _____

SUBJECT : Request for Technical Assistance

B

1. I would appreciate the assistance of your _____, in connection with a problem now under study in the intelligence community because of its possible concern to national security. The attached papers indicate the nature and scope of the problem and contain certain recommendations as to steps necessary before the full implications of the matter can be evaluated.

P/B

2. Should the services of the _____ be available for this purpose, _____, my Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, will contact whomever you may designate to work out the details of the study.

3. Because of the sensitive nature of this matter, all papers are being handled on an "EYES ONLY" basis. The code word "Artichoke" has been assigned and is "unclassified" when used in such a way that it does not reveal the nature and scope of the problem.

/s/

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

Attachment A

Distribution:

Addressee - orig & 1

~~_____~~ - 1

1 - 1

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- 1

- 1

Signer - 2

AD/SI - 1

THE PROBLEM:

1. Whether effective, practical techniques exist whereby an individual can be caused to become subservient to an imposed control; and subsequently that individual be unaware of the event;
2. The degree of effectiveness and the practicability of applying such techniques; and
3. The practicability of devising means for more effectively utilizing existing techniques for this purpose.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

1. Medical science, particularly in the fields of psychiatry and psychotherapy, has developed a variety of techniques whereby some control can be imposed on the will of an individual. The techniques include neurosurgery, electric shock, drugs, hypnosis and others.
2. In certain cases after the administration of these techniques, the individual has amnesia with respect to the event.
3. The techniques have not been developed in the United States to the point where the results can be predicted with respect to the extent of control that can be achieved; whether or not and to what extent amnesia will result; and what undesirable physiological reactions may occur in addition.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. If these techniques were developed by a foreign government to the extent that reliable results could be expected in the majority of cases, it is evident that a serious threat to U. S. National Security would exist.
2. Reports of Soviet interest and research in this direction, plus rumors, reports and evaluations of possible Soviet use of these techniques in interrogations, are sufficient to warrant careful investigation of the subject as a basis for evaluating the extent of the threat to U. S. National Security.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That a board of scientists with competence in the appropriate medical fields, and provided with the necessary security safeguards to insure access to material bearing on the subject, be requested to study the problem and make recommendations.

W. J. ...
~~W. J. ...~~

2. That the study include reference to all agents or procedures which might be considered in relation to this problem and eliminate those which U. S. science can establish as unfeasible.

3. That, in the case of agents or procedures or combinations thereof where a potential threat may exist which cannot be evaluated on the basis of the present state of U. S. science, recommendations be made for further research, if practical results can be achieved within a reasonable time.

4. That the recommendations include the scope of the research required, established facilities where such research might be undertaken, and the approximate cost of the research.

5. That the board submit an interim report within three months of the initiation of the study and further interim reports every three months until the study is completed.

As requested

A/B, 1, 82/3

9 January 1948

MEMORANDUM

To:

[Redacted] G

From:

Subject: Keeler Polygraph and Truth Serums

Reference is made to my memorandum of 5 September 1947 in which it was stated that [Redacted] of the [Redacted] was endeavoring to obtain further information concerning the use of truth serum for the writer.

H-B/6
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On 8 January 1948 [Redacted] called the writer and stated that the following books and documents were the only sources of information on this subject that he had been able to ascertain:

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1. Practical Clinical Psychiatry by Strecher and Ebaugh
2. Narco-Analysis by Horsley
3. U. S. War Department Training Bulletin Medical No. 84.

In addition he stated that consultation with the [Redacted] might be of assistance.

B/1

He further stated that [Redacted] of the [Redacted] might have some information on this subject, inasmuch as it was believed that he, together with [Redacted] of the [Redacted] had conducted some experimentation into this subject.

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No further action will be taken by the writer in this matter until advice has been received from you.

[Redacted]