



THE BLACK VAULT

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A/B, 4, 3/22
19 September 1951

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

SUBJECT: Meeting on ARTICHOKE held at 1330 hours, 19 September 1951

Present: [REDACTED], O/SI
[REDACTED] IASS
[REDACTED] IASS
[REDACTED] O/SI
[REDACTED] O/SI

A G

1. In discussion of the vial the following points were agreed on:

a. The plastic container should be saved for comparison with pieces of plastic obtained through programs such as "Sovmat."

b. In developing the possible information, it was decided that [REDACTED] of O/O could be contacted as to where plastics are analyzed and the general status of our knowledge of Soviet plastics. A

2. [REDACTED] furnished the following additional information relative to the vials:

a. [REDACTED] had agreed to serve as Russian agents in the [REDACTED]. In the [REDACTED] they had received the devices from a Soviet Army Captain. F

b. As they approached the boundary, two of them announced that they were going to defect. There ensued quite a violent disagreement, and the leader of the group turned back.

c. The two from whom vials were obtained are at present in the [REDACTED] and available for further examination. F

d. The actual analysis, signed by [REDACTED] was done by [REDACTED] toxicologist who is still available. H-B/3 B/6

It was agreed that [REDACTED] should attempt to further exploit these defectors and the toxicologist. Specific questions to them will be discussed at the meeting which will be held immediately upon receipt of the report from [REDACTED] C B

3. [redacted] summed up some of the doubts that have been expressed concerning the authenticity of the material: A

a. The container is extremely bulky and is not of the shape or type which would normally be given to a covert agent.

b. As stated by [redacted] these were low level agents, and if the Russians had such an effective preparation it is doubtful that they would equip low level agents with it, especially since the individuals were from a satellite country. A

4. It was agreed that [redacted] and [redacted] would prepare a report for the official community on this incident. It will be attached to a letter phrased as an "operational query" to the Services concerning materiel recovered under similar circumstances or having similar appearance.

5. The role of the new Office of the [redacted] representative [redacted] was discussed. He will be briefed by [redacted] at a meeting where [redacted] will be present. M-B3
C
A

6. Due to the present lack of specific projects it was agreed that certain people in our Medical Division will be allowed to participate in the formulation of necessary projects.

7. [redacted] received a copy of the resume of the clearance situation of [redacted] consultants. He will endeavor to expedite, particularly clearances of the group designated as psychologists or psychiatrists. In answer to specific queries, [redacted] stated that the word "Artichoke" may be used over the telephone. [redacted] will be investigated as a possible worker on the project. [redacted] promised to inform [redacted] that [redacted] should talk freely to [redacted] on this subject. A
B/6
A

[redacted] A