

# CIA FILES

## Operation ARTICHOKE

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# CIA ARTICHOKE FILES

**"Manchurian Candidate" ARTICHOKE CIA Files - ARTICHOKE was the CIA'S cryptonym for the study and/or use of special interrogation methods that have been known to included hypnosis, drugs and total isolation. It grew out of the Agency's Operation BLACKBIRD and was a forerunner to the Agency's MKULTRA.**

Project ARTICHOKE also known as Operation ARTICHOKE was run by the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence. The project went deeper into interrogation methods studied in the CIA's Project BLUEBIRD. ARTICHOKE offensive mind control techniques experiments attempted to induce amnesia and highly suggestive states in its subjects. ARTICHOKE focused on the use of hypnosis, forced morphine addiction, forced morphine addiction withdrawal, along with other drugs, chemicals, and techniques.

The main focus of the program was summarized in a January 1952 CIA memo, "Can we get control of an individual to the point where he will do our bidding against his will and even against fundamental laws of nature, such as self-preservation?"

One program experiment attempted to see if it was possible to produce a "Manchurian Candidate." In Richard Condon's 1959 novel "The Manchurian Candidate" an American soldier, who has been placed into a hypnotic state by Communist forces, returns home to assassinate on command. Five years earlier the CIA considered the possibility. A January 1954 CIA report asks the question, "Can an individual of [redacted] descent be made to perform an act of attempted assassination involuntarily under the influence of ARTICHOKE?"

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 14 December 1950

TO : Mr. [REDACTED] Banner

FROM : Mr. [REDACTED] Allen

SUBJECT: Special Training

Reference is made to our recent conversation regarding training of B staff members in hypnotic methods as an essential background to future S. I. work.

In this connection, it may be recalled that [REDACTED] formerly of I & S, took a special short course in hypnosis from a so-called [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] attended from the end [REDACTED]

A special investigation was run on [REDACTED] prior to [REDACTED] taking the course, which disclosed that in many ways [REDACTED] an unsavory character; however, judging solely upon results achieved in [REDACTED] case, the course apparently is successfully taught.

In connection with the above, a parallel investigation turned up the name of one [REDACTED] a professional hypnotist [REDACTED] who bears an excellent reputation both professionally and ethically. However, the investigative report did not disclose whether [REDACTED] taught hypnotism or would teach hypnotism for a fee.

Since time is the essence in this operation, it is felt that (along the lines of your original suggestion) two B staff members should be authorized to secure from [REDACTED] this special short course [REDACTED] starting as soon as possible [REDACTED] using what ever cover is necessary.

It is suggested that if possible [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] be designated to take this course.

It is furthermore suggested that immediately upon completion of this course, [REDACTED] recommendations to the Deputy Chief, I & S, Mr. Banner and to Mr. Allen of the B project, as to whether or not in their opinion [REDACTED] course gives the required background for this work.

In the event of a favorable recommendation by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as set out above, this project will immediately designate other staff members for this special course. However, if the recommendation is unfavorable, it is suggested that immediate steps be taken to ascertain if [REDACTED] will teach hypnotism and under what circumstances this could be arranged.

[REDACTED]  
MORSE ALLEN

TO : ~~James Morse Allen~~

A/B, 5, 28/1  
Date: 9 July 1951

FROM : ~~██████████~~

SUBJECT: ~~██████████~~ H-B/6

B/6 On 23 June 1951, ~~██████████~~

~~██████████~~ was contacted by telephone by ~~██████████~~ a lie detector operator, ~~██████████~~ regarding a course of instruction in hypnotism. At that time ~~██████████~~ stated that instruction could begin anytime that the student presented himself ~~██████████~~

B/6 On 2 July 1951 approximately 1:00 p.m. the instruction began with ~~██████████~~ relating to the student some of his sexual experiences. ~~██████████~~ stated that he had constantly used hypnotism as a means of inducing young girls to engage in sexual intercourse with him. ~~██████████~~ a performer in ~~██████████~~ orchestra was forced to engage in sexual intercourse with ~~██████████~~ while under the influence of hypnotism. ~~██████████~~ stated that he first put her into a hypnotic trance and then suggested to her that he was her husband and that she desired sexual intercourse with him. ~~██████████~~ further stated that many times while going home ~~██████████~~ he would use hypnotic suggestion to have a girl turn around and talk to him and suggest sexual intercourse to him and that as a result of these suggestions induced by him he spent approximately five nights a week away from home engaging in sexual intercourse.

3/6 ~~██████████~~ claimed that during the Second World War he had worked for ~~██████████~~ (characterized by ~~██████████~~ as such a top secret intelligence organization that he was not permitted to give the words that the initials represented). His work for ~~██████████~~ consisted in hypnotizing subjects and causing them to memorize detailed material while under the influence of hypnotism. After the subject was awakened he would go to some other place and there be re-hypnotized and repeat verbatim ~~██████████~~ stated the material he had memorized while previously under the influence of hypnotism. ~~██████████~~ stated that while mentally transporting this information the subject could not be made to reveal any of the material as due to post hypnotic suggestion he had completely forgotten it until he was re-hypnotized.

3/6 ~~██████████~~ stated that ~~██████████~~ and a former student of ~~██████████~~ was considerably advanced in thought projection by hypnotism. ~~██████████~~ could cause a subject in hypnotic trance to read from a closed book a considerable distance away. ~~██████████~~ stated that about one out of twenty subjects have sufficient clairvoyance to be able to do thought projection.

B/6 On the last day of the period of training ~~██████████~~ introduced the student to a man who was waiting for an appointment with ~~██████████~~. The student was introduced as an expert hypnotist who wished to try an experiment on the man. The student at that time hypnotized the man and suggested that he would feel no pain. The student then suggested that he would be deaf for two minutes after he awoke. When the man awoke he could hear nothing, and to test for fakery the

TO  
VIA  
VIA

SUBJECT : Special Research, Bluebird  
[REDACTED]

A  
C A/B, V, 110, 1

I. General Problem

For the past several months Bluebird has been endeavoring to ascertain by research, study, instruction and some practice what value (if any) can be derived from SI and H techniques when applied to war and specific Agency problems. These broad problems; using known SI and H techniques, may be classified as follows:

- A. Can accurate information be obtained from willing or unwilling individuals.
- B. Can Agency personnel (or persons of interest to this agency) be conditioned to prevent any outside power from obtaining information from them by any known means?
- C. Can we obtain control of the future activities (physical and mental) of any given individual, willing or unwilling by application of SI and H techniques?
- D. Can we prevent any outside power from gaining control of future activities (physical and mental) of agency personnel by any known means?

Bluebird believes that A (above) can be answered in the affirmative using SI and H techniques. Bluebird is not fully satisfied with results to date, but believes with continued work and study remarkable and profitable results can be obtained regularly.

However, B, C, and D (above) are as yet unanswerable although Bluebird is of the opinion that there is a worthwhile chance that all three may at some future date be answered affirmatively. This opinion is supported generally

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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by numerous individuals having knowledge of these techniques and by much literature and intelligence in this field.

Since an affirmative proof of E, C and D would be of incredible value to this agency Bluebird's general problem is to set up, conduct and carry out research (practical - not theoretical) in this direction.

Set out below is one specific proposal aimed at achieving our ends as rapidly as possible and with a maximum of security.

II. [REDACTED] C

Through internal agency channels, Bluebird was given the name of [REDACTED] an individual of [REDACTED] extraction and not a citizen of the United States who had been given certain operational security clearance. [REDACTED] was reported to have done considerable work in SI and H and to have an unusual and interesting general background. [REDACTED] was also reported as being reliable, trustworthy, a known anti-Communist. In view of the above, and on the instructions of the Director of I&SS, [REDACTED] was brought to a safe area near headquarters and interviewed, interrogated and observed by Bluebird on 19, 20 and 21 February 1951. [REDACTED] personality, ability, intelligence, sincerity and apparent security mindedness were impressive. Bluebird officers were unable to find any indications of deviousness or pro-Soviet interests during these observations. [REDACTED] only apparent obvious weaknesses were his foreign background and non-United States citizenship.

According to [REDACTED] he was born in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] C



[REDACTED]

the student approached the man from behind and shouted in his ear and clapped his hands by his ear with absolutely no apparent effect upon the man's hearing.

[REDACTED] was most cooperative throughout the lessons and made for the student a series of tape recording of his various methods of hypnotism.

A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Possible Fallibility of Polygraph Testing of Subjects in Posthypnotic States**

A/B, III, 6, 17

Source is [redacted] of a prominent psychiatric clinic and research foundation. Many new methods of psychognosis and psychotherapy have been developed under source's [redacted]. Source has previously submitted a report entitled [redacted].

1. Q. On the basis of your knowledge of hypnology, do you think that it would be possible to induce a posthypnotic state on a subject in such a way that his reactions to polygraph testing would be significantly altered?

A. My offhand opinion is that this would be quite possible. Of course it would be very simple to conduct experiments which could definitely decide this question one way or another, but on the assumption that such experiments have not yet been carried out, I should like to comment briefly on the possibilities to be considered.

As I understand it, the polygraph measures unconscious physical reactions to the stimuli of the mental disturbances caused by the telling of deliberate lies. Therefore, it would appear possible that a subject could possibly avoid these reactions if he were interrogated while in a posthypnotic state and thus establish his innocence for some incriminating acts or associations. This might be done by the induction of posthypnotic amnesia for the incriminating episodes and the substitution of an alibi situation by the establishment of false recollections. In other words, the subject would be convinced that he was actually telling the truth and would not have the psychosomatic disturbances necessary for a polygraph reaction. In addition to this, complete amnesia of the hypnosis itself can be effected and an affective defense can be set up against rehypnotization by another hypnotist. Furthermore, the subject's reactions to other questions used in testing the polygraphability of a subject would probably be normal.

2. (Collector's Note: In addition to the comments reported above, source suggested and supplied reference material which he felt might provide some background information on this subject. A brief review of some of this literature was undertaken by the collector and the comments listed below were abstracted. Although they often support source's opinions, they are by no means directly attributable to him, nor can the conclusions reached be construed as bearing his endorsement. A brief review of recent volumes of Psychological Abstracts (Abstracts) (later than 1950) revealed no articles describing experiments involving posthypnotic behavior in relation to the polygraph machine. Therefore the following comments include other references which the collector considers as possibly applicable to the problem.)

a. The Nature of the Posthypnotic STATE — In the first place, there still seems to be a great deal of confusion about the actual nature of the posthypnotic state itself and about the scope of influence of the operator in the subject's reactions when awake. These questions were cited by Henry Quise of Long Island University, who points out that they have plagued investigators for many years and have received no clarity in interpretation. He goes on to say that perhaps even more complex is the question as to how a subject responds to the fact that he is behaving in a way which is different from his usual behavior. (1) He explains that the "posthypnotic

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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act will often have in it an aspect of remembrance as to the suggestion given in the trance" but he adds, "Of course, some phenomena of a posthypnotic nature, such as hallucinatory experience, may be accepted by the subject as being of unquestionable authenticity."

b. Hypnosis and Antisocial Conduct — Despite an active controversy on the subject, there is much evidence that hypnosis can induce antisocial behavior. (2) In this connection it should be brought out that such acts can be accomplished in the posthypnotic state with no apparent knowledge or feeling on the part of the subject. Several experiments have shown that such "subjects handled peculiarities in their posthypnotic activities by accepting them as congruous aspects of their behavior. (3) Such "acceptance" of the antisocial act of lying might well preclude any physical reactions which would be measurable by the polygraph.

In experiments with the hypnotic and post-hypnotic production of antisocial behavior, attempts are often made by experimenters to break the induced state of posthypnotic amnesia several days after the experimental antisocial act or acts have been committed by the subject. The accusations brought out in these interrogations usually arouse apparently righteous indignation or disbelief on the part of the "guilty" subject. In one such experiment a young female subject had been induced under hypnosis to steal money from the pocket of a stranger's coat after awakening from her trance. (4) She was given posthypnotic amnesia for the source of the compulsion. She stole the dollar and later spent it. When confronted with the facts several days later she did not believe them. On the basis of her reactions the experimenter reported as follows: "These comments are included to indicate the difficulties a cross-examiner would meet in attempting to bring a confession from a criminal hypnotic subject. Miss A's manner betrayed not the slightest evidence or consciousness of guilt. I cannot say, of course, what might have been her reaction to a lie-detector or third-degree methods."

Subsequently this subject was again hypnotized and her amnesia for the incident removed. "Miss A was then asked whether she thought she could in hypnosis be induced to commit more serious crimes—such as to steal important government papers were she a secretary in Washington. She said, 'Yes, I think so.' She held to this belief both in the trance and normal states.

c. Training and Testing — In case posthypnotic compulsion were utilized in an attempt to circumvent lie detection, the necessarily complete control over the posthypnotic behavior of a subject would require a period of intensive training and testing. Subjects vary widely in the hypnotizability. In other words, one person might show little initial resistance to trance induction but the operator might find that he would show a great deal more resistance to illusion creation or to one or more of the standard criteria for measuring the depth of hypnosis. (Such criteria include (1) hypnotic analgesia to painful stimuli, (2) mixed olfactory hallucinations, (3) age regression control, (4) posthypnotic amnesia, (5) ability to carry out posthypnotic suggestions and the rapid induction of trance through an unrelated posthypnotic signal. (5) As ~~Brennan~~ pointed out, "To achieve the best results, one must utilize the individual characteristics of each subject. (6) Through patient experimentation with device suggestions used to circumvent the points of resistance, very deep

BRENNAN

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hypnosis can usually be obtained in a willing subject. It should then be possible to predict the effects which the subject's own peculiar personality and hypnotizability characteristics will play in the posthypnotic state. The ultimate goal of the training would be the creation of a state of hypnotizability whereby the operator could rapidly induce a posthypnotic state in which the subject would have no conscious knowledge or memory of his incriminating activities or connections.

In addition to the above goal, it would be also possible to induce in the subject a facility for autohypnosis. Leslie M. McGraw of Los Angeles stated that it is difficult to hypnotize oneself at all deeply unless a post hypnotic suggestion has been given during hetero-induced hypnosis to the effect that the person can thereafter hypnotize himself." (7)

d. Detection of Posthypnotic State by Polygraph — As far as polygraph detection of the post hypnotic state itself is concerned, this seems unlikely in the light of the negative and inconclusive results of experiments conducted by True and Stephenson which correlated electroencephalogram, pulse and plantar reflexes in hypnosis with age regression and induced emotional states. (8)

(1) Guse, Henry. "Posthypnotic Behavior and Personality," *Personality*, Vol. 1, No. 3, Nov. 1951, page 232.

(2) Estabrooks, G.R., "The Possible Antisocial Use of Hypnotism," *PERSONALITY*, Vol. 1, No. 3, Nov 1951, page 294-299.

(3) Guse, op cit page 236.

(4) Breman, Margaret, "Experiments in the Hypnotic Production of Antisocial and Self-Injurious Behavior," *PSYCHIATRY*, Vol 3, No. 1, Feb 42, pp 90-51.

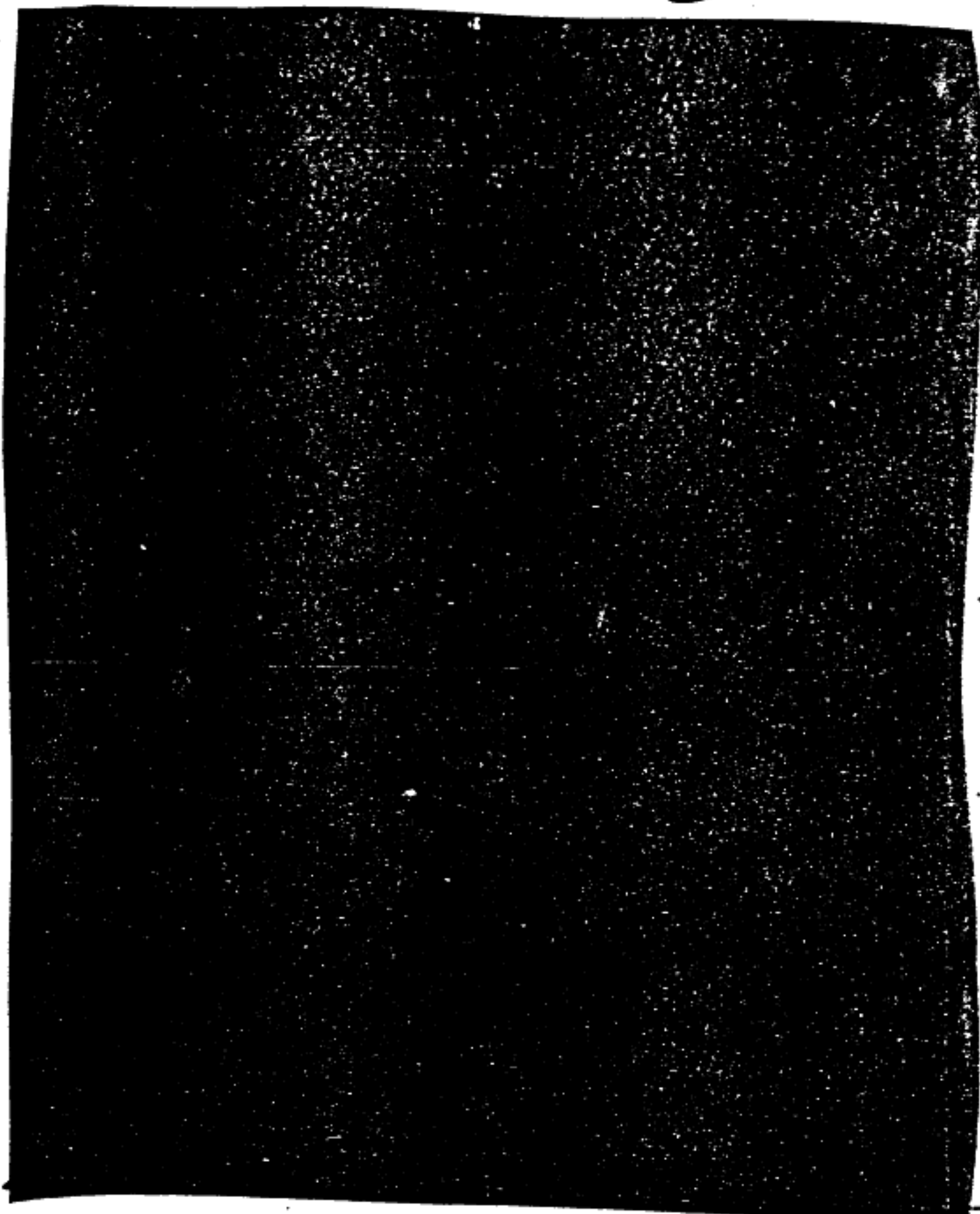
(5) True, Robert M. and Stephenson, Charles W., "Controlled Experiments Correlating Electroencephalogram, Pulse and Planter Reflexes with Hypnotic Age Regression and Induced Emotional States," *PERSONALITY*, Vol 1, No 3, Nov 51, page 293.

(6) Breman?, op cit, page 52

(7) McGraw, Leslie M., "A Study of the HYPNOTIZABILITY of Hypnotists," *PERSONALITY* Vol 1, No 3, Nov 51, page 301.

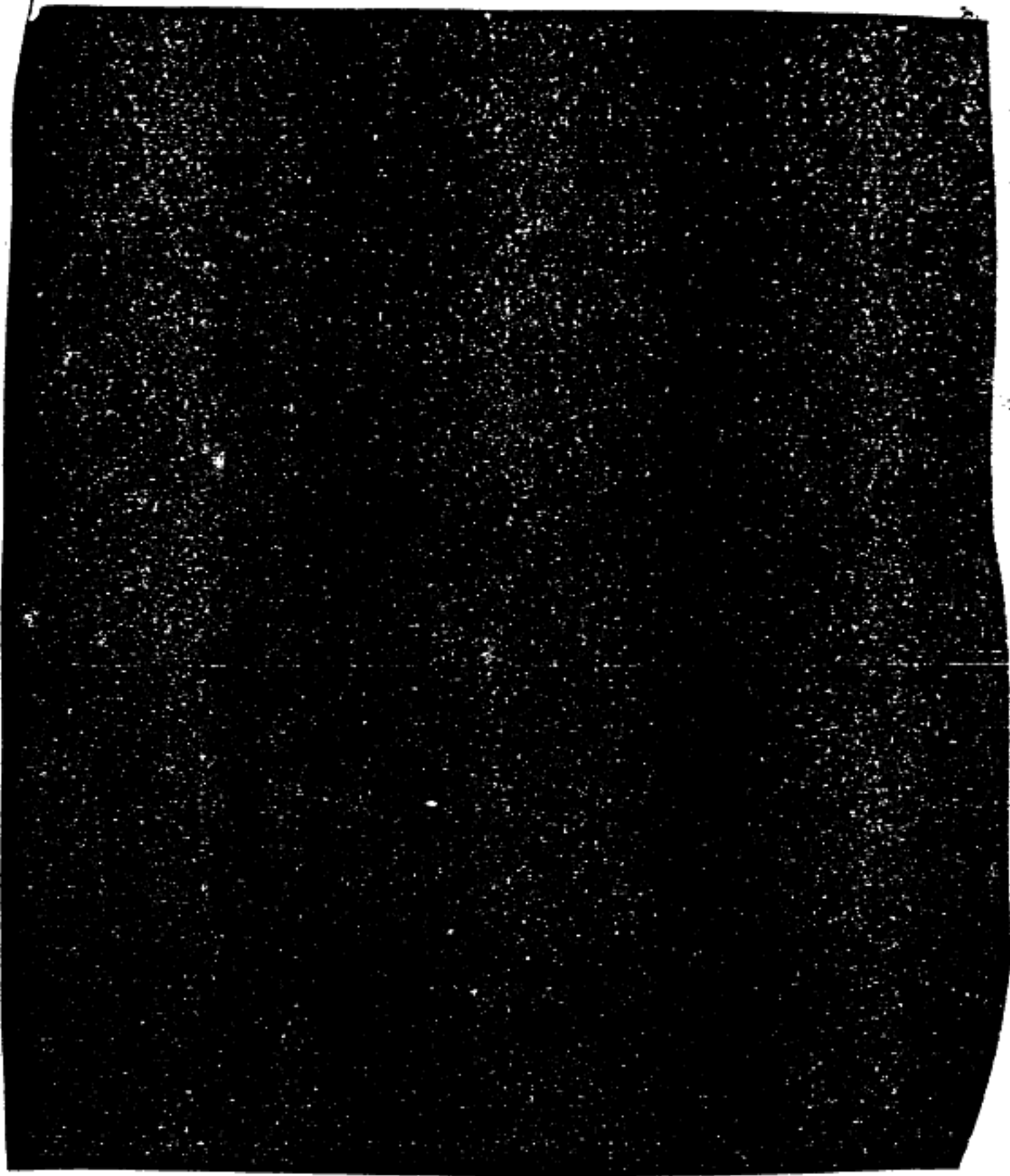
(8) True and Stephenson, op cit pp 252-262

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[redacted] discussed at various times his work and interest in the SI and H techniques. He claimed that most of his present work was along the lines of hypotherapy which involves post-H suggestion, but admitted that his experience with drugs, gases, etc., in conjunction with SI and H was somewhat limited, although he was familiar with much of the literature (U.S. and foreign) in these fields.

[redacted] admitted that since he had been in the U.S. he had induced H conditions in at least several hundred individuals, male and female (in all age groups). [redacted] demonstrated successfully some of his operating methods before the B officers on the 19th, 20th and 21st. e

For matter of record [redacted] was briefed on the security aspects of B work and cautioned against all and any discussion outside concerning these matters. [redacted] signed the standard secrecy agreement. e

### III. GENERAL PROPOSALS

On the basis of [redacted] apparent ability, relatively simple and easy cover, background, personality and interest, it is proposed that [redacted] be either directly employed or contractually employed by IASS for the specific purpose of engaging in guided research, testing, and experimentation along SI and H lines under the general direction of the Director of IASS and under the immediate direction of B. e

### IV. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

- A. It is proposed that [redacted] be brought to headquarters immediately and formally interviewed by [redacted] [redacted] interview to include basis of arrangements, cover, locations, salary, operational funds, and securing of PHS).
- B. It is proposed that [redacted] be given a full and detailed Polygraph examination by [redacted] on material prepared by [redacted]
- C. It is proposed that immediately a full field investigation be started on [redacted] to include checking of all names, places, squadrons, etc., mentioned by him (HIGH PRIORITY). A

exo

C

D. It is proposed that immediately after [redacted] has been given full security clearance he will be thoroughly briefed, given all necessary funds and instructed to begin research and testing along lines set out in 5 (below).

E. It is proposed that after a minimum of time to permit [redacted] full opportunity to satisfactorily become operational, B officers and trainees will (under suitable cover) participate in and assist with the research and testing for purposes of training and experience.

V. BLUEBIRD - SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

Set out below are specific problems which can only be resolved by experiment, testing and research as proposed in the paragraphs above. These are not in any sense all of the problems B is considering, but are merely typical and point up the need for practical research.

1. Can we "condition" by post-H suggestion agency employees (or persons of interest to this agency) to prevent them from giving information to any unauthorized source or for committing any act on behalf of a foreign or domestic enemy?

2. Can we in a matter of an hour, two hours, one day, etc., induce an H condition in an unwilling subject to such an extent that he will perform an act for our benefit? (Long range).

3. Can we create by post-H control an action contrary to an individual's basic moral principles?

4. Could we seize a subject and in the space of an hour or two by post-H control have him crash an airplane, wreck a train, etc.? (Short, immediate activity)



5. Can we by SI and H techniques force a subject (unwilling or otherwise) to travel long distances, commit specified acts and return to us or bring documents or materials? Can a person acting under post-H control successfully travel long distances?

6. Can we use SI and H to combat fatigue, produce extreme mental effort?

7. Can we guarantee total amnesia under any and all conditions?

8. Can we "alter" a person's Personality? How long will it hold?

9. Can we design tests to determine whether or not an enemy agent has been conditioned by SI and H or any other method?

10. Can we detect SI and H by use of SI and H (regression)?

11. Can we make a "conditioned" subject reveal by SI and H specifically how they were conditioned (drugs, torture, fatigue, hostage pressure, techniques)?

12. Can we devise a system for making unwilling subjects into willing agents and then transfer that control to untrained agency agents in the field by use of codes or identifying signs or credentials?

13. How long can we sustain a post-H suggestion-unaided-with reinforcement?

14. What would be fastest way to induce SI and H conditions - with drugs - or without any mechanical aids?

15. Can we devise a standard simple relatively fast technique for inducing SI and H conditions that can be used by untrained agents (with or without drugs)?

16. Is it possible to find a gas that can be used to gain SI control from a gas pencil; odorless, colorless; one shot, etc.?

17. What are full details on "sleep-inducing machine"?

18. How can sodium A or P or any other sleep inducing agent be best concealed in a normal or commonplace item, such as candy, cigarettes, liquor, wines, coffee, tea, beer, gum water, aspirin tablets, common medicines, coke, tooth paste?

19. How effective can the "carotid artery technique" be made? Can it be used while subject is unconscious? Is it faster than other techniques?

20. Can we, using SI and H extract complicated formula from scientists, engineers, etc., if unwilling? Can we extract details of gun emplacements, landing fields, factories, mines?

21. Can we, while a subject is under SI and H control, show them a map and have them point out specific items, locations, etc., on the map? Can we also have them make detailed drawings, sketches, plans?

Could any of the above be done under field conditions and in a very short space of time?

A/B, IV, 10, 9

15 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for [REDACTED]  
Assistant Director for [REDACTED]  
Security Officer/CIA  
Chief, [REDACTED] TSS

6

SUBJECT: Research Projects

1. Attached is an outline of some research projects we are considering in connection with Project Artichoke.

2. I would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have with respect to these or other projects which you may feel we would want to consider.

A

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cc: Deputy Director [REDACTED]  
Deputy Director [REDACTED]

(Intelligence)  
(Plans)

Attache: Outline of projects

A

A

Approved for [REDACTED]  
Date [REDACTED] 1952

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PROJECTED : TANGH PROJECT FOR PROJECT ARTICHOKE

	<u>Research Organization</u>	<u>Principal Researcher</u>	<u>Cost (approx.)</u>
A.	B	C	H B/3
	[REDACTED]		
	PURPOSE: To develop electric shock and hypnotic techniques for Artichoke use.		
B.	B	C	H B/3
	[REDACTED]		
	PURPOSE: To develop drug techniques for Artichoke use.		
C.	B	C	H B/3
	[REDACTED]		
	PURPOSE: To develop drug techniques for Artichoke use.		
D.	To be selected	-----	H B/3
	PURPOSE: To develop neuro-surgical techniques for Artichoke use.		
E.	To be selected	-----	H B/3
	PURPOSE: To develop new psychological techniques based upon work going on at [REDACTED] use in Project Artichoke.		
F.	To be selected	-----	H B/3
	PURPOSE: To develop new rapid screening and selection techniques for use in connection with Project Artichoke.		

Total research contemplated - [REDACTED] H B/3  
Initiation date: As soon as contract arrangements are completed. H B/3  
Funds: [REDACTED]  
Duration of Projects: One year with option to continue or expand if justified by results.

A/B, III, 6, 7

25 February 1952

A [Mr. R. L. Bannerman]

A [Mr. Morse Allen]

C [redacted] Interview With.

C 1. On Thursday, 21 February 1952, the writer had an extended interview with [redacted]

A The conversation lasted from 3:00 PM to approximately 6:30 PM. The interview was laid on through the Contact Branch and introductions were made through [redacted] of the New York City Contact Office. No difficulties were encountered in this matter.

C 2. [redacted] is a professional hypnotist of exceptionally good reputation. He apparently has other means and has been a professional engineer and accountant. His apartment is in a deluxe apartment neighborhood in [redacted] and is in exceptionally good taste. [redacted] resides there with his sister.

C 3. [redacted] is about six feet tall, wears horn-rim glasses, has a strong, aggressive look, and, physically, is quite impressive. He appears highly intelligent, was courteous, amiable, and co-operative throughout. Before getting to cases, the writer fenced with [redacted] for approximately three-quarters of an hour, talking generally about hypnosis and not disclosing positive security interests. After establishing in the writer's mind that [redacted] was competent and thoroughly understood the meaning of secrecy, the writer opened up and discussed positive matters. Set out below are a series of questions and answers which cover, in substance, the details of the interview with [redacted]

Q: What are your experiences in general with hypnotism?

A: I have been a professional hypnotist for at least 15 years. At present, I am employed on a very confidential basis two days a week working in the [redacted]

[redacted] I also work constantly

C [redacted] work at a [redacted]

[redacted] and I work continuously with all types of patients at [redacted] I am not teaching hypnotism now, but I have taught many individuals hypnotism in the past.

A Q: What part, do you think, did hypnotism play in the [redacted] and other show trials by the USSR and their satellites?

A: In my personal opinion, hypnosis possibly combined with [redacted]

[REDACTED]

duress, and possibly drugs, is how the "confessions" were brought about. I have long been interested in these trials and I believe it entirely possible to bring these things about through these techniques. It would take a great deal of continuous application and study of the individual to produce these results but the enemy has plenty of time and is capable of using any methods.

Q: Can you obtain information from an individual, willing or unwilling, by hypnotism?

A: Definitely, yes. Many of the medical cases I work on are involved in obtaining personal, intimate information and through hypnotism, I have been quite successful in obtaining this. If an individual refuses to co-operate with hypnosis, the doctors with whom I work use drugs, always sodium amytal.

Q: Do you think that this system would be useful in obtaining information from a recalcitrant, obstinate, and entirely unco-operative individual?

A: Yes, definitely. That is the only way to approach this type of individual, but even at that you would have to study your individual psychologically and the matter would require great skill. All people have to be approached in different manners as far as hypnotism goes, but if you could gain their confidence or at least indicate so, they would clearly understand you were not hostile to them and your battle would be more than half won.

Q: How far do you think individuals could be controlled by hypnosis?

A: This is a very difficult subject. Post-hypnotics will last twenty years and will be very strong if re-enforced from time to time. However, if direct control is wanted, and particularly without re-enforcement, perhaps twelve hours would be the most you could expect and even then a possibility exists that the person under hypnosis might suddenly be awakened by some external stimulus.

Q: Have you ever had any experience with drugs?

A: Yes, many times. I have worked with doctors using sodium amytal and pentothal and have obtained hypnotic control

after the drugs were used. In fact, many times the drugs were used for the purpose of obtaining hypnotic control.

Q: Were any other drugs used? Do you know any "new" drugs or are there any "wonder" drugs that can be used in this business?

A: No. I have known doctors to try other drugs but they do not have any success and almost without exception in my work, sodium amytal and pentothal are the weapons used. If I had to tackle a case, tough and unwilling, I would rely on sodium amytal. I do not know of any "wonder" drugs. I do not believe they exist and none of the psychiatrists and doctors I work with use anything but those I have mentioned.

Q: Have you ever heard of hypnosis being used in connection with electroshock?

A: No. I am familiar with the electroshock convulsion and coma but I have never attempted to obtain hypnotic control thereafter and have never heard of anyone doing this. However, some of my friends who are psychiatrists constantly use electroshock and I have complete access to their work. I shall make some experiments along these lines in the near future and when I see you again, we will discuss the results of this.

Q: Are there any individuals you might know who would be worthwhile in contacting along these lines?

A: Offhand, I cannot think of anyone except [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is perhaps one of the outstanding [REDACTED] in the country, thoroughly understands drugs and is well acquainted with my work. As far as hypnotists are concerned, I do not believe there are five competent professional hypnotists in the U. S. today and I have nothing but contempt for the college professor who talks about hypnosis. Only the professional who can handle hypnosis in front of the public and on a large scale is capable of really giving first-rate advice or information on hypnotic work.

Q: Would you be willing to act as a consultant to this Agency? [REDACTED] was fully informed that the writer was making no



offers and in no position to recruit personnel. This offer was being made in general terms.)

A: Yes, I feel that we are at war and if I can be of any help whatsoever, I shall be glad to give my time. If you need me on any given case, I will be glad to come.

Q: Would you accept pupils for private coaching?  
(Same explanation as above.)

A: Yes. I think I could train an individual or at least give him a substantial background in two weeks, working out with him three times a week.

Q: Do you have any ideas that hypnotism could be used as a weapon?

A: Yes, I have thought about this often. It could certainly be used in obtaining information from recalcitrant people particularly with drugs. Furthermore, it can be used as a morale factor and in addition, it could be used as a recruiting source for special types of work. I will explain the last two. You have large D.P. camps in Europe and Asia. You have to entertain these people. A good professional hypnotist is a good entertainer. Using mass hypnotic methods, he could drive home thoughts that would be of great benefit to our side. Individuals that he gained control of through hypnotic influence could be converted to strong supporters of our viewpoint through suggestion. The opposite of this, of course, would hold true. Furthermore, along these lines, a good hypnotist running hypnotic shows for entertainment would pick up a great many subjects, some of whom might be exceptionally good subjects for us. These subjects could easily be tabbed and put to our use.

Q: Have you ever been able to produce hypnosis without an individual's knowledge?

A: Yes, through the relaxing technique and on rare occasions been able to produce hypnosis against a person's will. However, you cannot count on this and to attempt to attack an individual who did not want to be hypnotized alone would be almost an impossible task. In that type of case, I would use sodium amytal and/or sodium pentothal.



Q: Do you have any special techniques that you think are valuable?

A: All techniques are valuable. I use about eighteen different approaches to individuals ranging from fear to anxiety, to deception, etc., etc. All individuals are different and a hypnotist always studies his subjects carefully, psychologically and otherwise, before attempting hypnosis with them. Only skilled professional hypnotists have proper training and work at it often enough to be skilled hypnotists. I would be glad to show you all my techniques when we have time to discuss them.

There is a peculiar and somewhat dangerous technique involving pressure on the carotid artery. The technique of using pressure on this artery is largely a matter of timing. Pressure in the right place cuts off the flow of blood to the brain, apparently causing a rapid coma-like condition -- during this condition, hypnotic control can sometimes be obtained. The technique is not easy to learn. I have tried it only a few times but it has been successful.

Q: How effective are post-hypnotics; over what distances and time can they be effective?

A: Properly used post-hypnotics will last twenty years. They can be made more effective by re-enforcement from time to time. Post-hypnotics are not affected at all by time or travel or distance away from the person who placed the post-hypnotic. As a rule, post-hypnotics should be 100% effective in good subjects and they would certainly be more effective than a person operating under direct hypnotic control, since a person in a hypnotic trance can suddenly be brought out of it for various reasons, particularly after many hours, while a post-hypnotic will always remain strong.

Q: Can individuals be made to do things under hypnosis that they would not do otherwise?

A: This is a muchly debated subject and, in my opinion, as a general rule, no individual will do anything against his moral code or upbringing under a hypnotic trance they would not do otherwise. However, it should be remembered that by the proper type of conditioning and a very intelligent and understanding approach using psychology, individuals could be taught to do anything including murder, suicide, etc. This would be difficult, but I believe it could be done by a careful process of

conditioning a person psychologically while under a hypnotic state, setting a stage for the act as it were. I do not have much faith in test experiments in colleges because they are, by their very nature, experiments or tests. I do believe that you could carry out acts that would be against an individual's moral feelings if they were rightly, psychologically conditioned. Of course, it would not be as much of a problem to have an immoral person commit an immoral act or a murderer commit a murder, since by their nature they would have no hesitancy to do such a thing in their normal life.

I do not know of any drugs that would do this under any circumstances, but I do feel that the [redacted] and other familiar cases in which individuals confessed to crimes which they could not have possibly committed was brought about by hypnosis, as I mentioned before, and lengthy psychological conditioning. The question itself, of course, is one that has been debated a great many times but is difficult to actually arrange a "practical" test.

Q: Do you have any special techniques or ideas for detecting if an individual is under hypnosis or not?

A: Yes, I have several methods for detecting this and if I see you again, I will go over them in detail with you. There are certain tests that I make which I think are very effective. Along this same line, I also use several methods for detecting when individuals are faking or play acting with me or feigning hypnosis.

Q: Do you have any system for detecting good hypnotic subjects, particularly not along the lines of stage entertainments?

A: No particular system, but there are certain techniques that I apply in looking for good subjects. Most of these are basically standard tests and are, undoubtedly, known to you. (Reference was made to standard tests for suggestibility, all known to the writer.) In this connection, when I see you again, I will show you some of the methods I use along these lines.

Q: Can hypnosis be broken by another hypnotist if specific instructions have been given to a subject to prevent this?

A: I have been able to do this, but this is not easy and requires a great deal of time and effort, but I believe that

[REDACTED]

that almost any hypnotic control can be detected and broken if sufficient time and a careful psychological approach are used.

Q: Does alcohol assist in the obtaining of hypnosis in a subject?

A: I do not believe it helps. There are many other more important aids to hypnosis than a social drink or two. The first of these I believe would be anxiety, another would be fear, third might be exhaustion. However, in many cases, alcohol does make individuals more pliable and in that sense might have some results.

Q: Do you have any material that you think might be of interest to me along these lines?

A: Yes. As you know, an individual who has been hypnotized makes a very excellent courier. They can be given messages while under hypnosis which they themselves do not know and only an individual knowing the code can get this message from this courier. Even assuming that the post-hypnotic control could be broken or the individual hypnotized, it could still be protected perhaps as follows:

A person could be regressed to a certain time and date and then given the message and unless the person who subsequently gained control of the subject regressed the subject to the correct date and time set out, he could not get the message. Even more secure would be to move the individual forward. If he were moved from thirty years of age to thirty-five years of age at a given date and time and then given the message, unless the individual could guess the age, the time, and date in the future, he could not obtain the message.

In my opinion, the use of this hypnotic technique is valuable from your point of view. Certain it is that by hypnotic control over an individual you can extract information probably better than any other known way. Furthermore, in good subjects you can create complete amnesias which should be helpful. In addition, as I mentioned above, I think this technique could be used on a mass scale as I explained both as a morale factor or for propaganda purposes. Some people in the Army I know are giving thought to these items, but whether it can ever be sold at the top-level, I cannot say. I think it would be very valuable.

I will try when I return from my trip to contact a number of individuals, psychiatrists, and doctors that I know and without discussing any reasons, obtain from them any information that they may have on new drugs or techniques. I do not believe that there are any new drugs and I do not believe there is anything such as the "wonder" drugs which will produce instant talking when given to an individual. I believe our hypnotic capacities are as good as the [REDACTED] and I also believe that they have no "wonder" drugs or any other drugs we do not know about. The only thing they have is plenty of time and they care nothing for normal conventions.

C For matter of record, [REDACTED] professed great interest in this type of work stating that in his opinion, it had long been neglected by our Government. He stated he would contribute time and effort if he were called upon to do so and volunteered to assist in any case if he were called upon for assistance.

A MORSE ALLEN

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A/B, 3, 7/1

②

For : Chief, Contact Division  
Scientific Branch, [redacted] and [redacted]  
Chief, [redacted] Office

4 March 1952

A G

[redacted] and [redacted], "History of Hypnotism"

1. A book published in 1948 by [redacted], Inc., entitled "Hypnotism" by [redacted] with [redacted] on page [redacted] contains the following:

"Today every military doctor and nurse is trained in hypnotism. The [redacted] have used hypnotism to an amazing extent in healing amnesia cases. Their psychologists use it for traumatic cases. Hypnosis has indeed become the [redacted] paramount weapon in the treatment of war neuroses."

A

Will you please advise whether Dr. Yeager has any interest in our finding out what facts, if any, the authors have to support the statements contained in the above quotation? Such an investigation would undoubtedly be time-consuming and we do not wish to embark upon it unless we have some assurance that the results might be of value to CIA.

2. This book on pages [redacted] and [redacted] also contains the following statements which may be of interest to [redacted] as well as OSI:

G

"[redacted], a successful author of books on [redacted] and the [redacted] went one step further. He has declared:

H

"I can hypnotize a man--without his knowledge or consent--into committing treason against the United States. If I can do it, so could psychologists of other nations in the event of another war."

"Professor [redacted] is absolutely right. I, too, could produce hypnotic secret agents and so could hundreds of others trained in the science of hypnotic suggestion. I would be surprised if many secret services are not now actually employing hypnotic methods for some of their underground activities."

"Soon after World War II had started, [redacted] was called to [redacted]. He was asked by intelligence officers about the possibility that [redacted] and [redacted] secret services might be planning to use hypnotism to obtain information."

(b) (3)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: JUN 2004

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[redacted] then made a most provocative and controversial statement when he told United States Intelligence officers:

H "Two hundred trained ~~foreign~~ operators, trained in the United States, could develop a unique, dangerous army of hypnotically controlled agents."

[redacted]

1/16

A

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[redacted]



Chief, Contact Division  
For : Scientific Branch,  
Chief, Office

A/B, 37/1  
4 March 1952

A G

1. A book published in [redacted] by [redacted] Inc., entitled [redacted] by [redacted] with [redacted] on page [redacted] contains the following:

"Today every [redacted] military doctor and [redacted] nurse is trained in hypnotism. The [redacted] have used hypnotism to an amazing extent in healing amnesia cases. Their psychologists use it for traumatic cases. Hypnosis has indeed become the [redacted] paramount weapon in the treatment of war neuroses."

A Will you please advise whether [redacted] has any interest in our finding out what facts, if any, the authors have to support the statements contained in the above quotation? Such an investigation would undoubtedly be time-consuming and we do not wish to embark upon it unless we have some assurance that the results might be of value to CIA.

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"Soon after World War II had started, [redacted] was called to [redacted]. He was asked by intelligence officers about the possibility that [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] secret services might be planning to use hypnotism to obtain information.

10  
332

[REDACTED] then made a most provocative and controversial statement when he told United States Intelligence officers:

H "Two hundred trained [REDACTED] operators, trained in the United States, could develop a unique, dangerous army of hypnotically controlled agents."

A [REDACTED]



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : [REDACTED]  
 Via : Mr. R. L. Bannerman  
 FROM : Mr. Morse Allen  
 SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Interview With

DATE: 11 March 1952

A  
A18, IV, 214, 2

52-41

1. Reference is made to my memorandum dated 6 February 1952 requesting permission to interview [REDACTED] in connection with the Artichoke problem.

2. On 7 March 1952, [REDACTED] was interviewed from 10:00 AM to 11:50 AM by [REDACTED] and the writer in [REDACTED]

3. Although [REDACTED] is a fully cleared Agency employee and holds a responsible position in [REDACTED] and the writer discussed random subjects with [REDACTED] until it was established that he was competent, had a general interest in Artichoke type work, and appreciated the necessary secrecy involved in this type of discussion. Having established these premises, [REDACTED] was interviewed along Artichoke lines. [REDACTED] after having been given a brief resume of the Artichoke work, stated that, whereas he was interested in the problem, he wanted it clearly understood that he felt morally opposed to the application of these techniques insofar as he personally is concerned. He stated, however, that he recognized the fact that we are at war and the [REDACTED] are using Artichoke techniques and even more brutal methods for obtaining their ends. He stated that while he could not carry out such techniques as injecting drugs into an individual, he, nevertheless, felt that he could quite legitimately study the problem from a scientific point of view and from the point of view of one who is attempting to understand how the [REDACTED] obtained the results they did in cases like the [REDACTED] trial.

4. [REDACTED] thereafter, discussed at considerable length certain views that he holds on the psychological conditioning of individuals and how individuals could be conditioned to achieve most any result provided time enough were taken and the individuals were studied in a clinical psychological manner. He suggested that, whereas psychologists and psychiatrists work toward the restoring and building up of a personality, it is obvious that the reverse of this would be true -- that a personality could be changed, intense mental confusion could be produced by deliberately attacking an individual along psychological lines.

5. [REDACTED] stated that, whereas he had studied the [REDACTED] case, it had never occurred to him that he would ever consider using these techniques from an Agency point of view, but he felt that as far as he was concerned, he would gladly assist by attempting to figure out from a [REDACTED] point of view how they conditioned men like [REDACTED] before their trials.

Approved for [REDACTED]  
 Date [REDACTED] 11/13/52

6. [REDACTED] and the writer talked at considerable length about possible uses of hypnotism in connection with the Artichoke work and, in general, it may be said that [REDACTED] felt that there was a positive use for hypnotism. He agreed that individuals under hypnotism will give information, but he pointed out that it could not always be regarded as accurate, since fantasy and even hallucinations are present in certain hypnotic states. A

7. [REDACTED] stated that he had observed some work done with drugs and he, himself, had participated in attempting to extract information from individuals by drugs and hypnosis. In this connection, [REDACTED] and the writer did not attempt to immediately pump [REDACTED] for technical information or studies, since it was felt that additional interviews with [REDACTED] will be held in the immediate future.

8. [REDACTED] throughout the interview, was entirely co-operative, appears highly intelligent, and obviously was intensely interested although he insisted that morally he could not carry out any of the Bluebird ideas although he recognized the necessity for such activity.

9. The writer very carefully pointed out to [REDACTED] that the reason for this interview was not to obtain information from [REDACTED] but rather to present a series of problems to him and let him think of them and consider them in his mind. [REDACTED] was also specifically asked to consider any projects that he thought might be valuable or individuals who could be contacted and who would have information of interest to us.

10. [REDACTED] stated that the problem was of considerable interest and that he regretted that he was unable to put full and immediate attention to it, but promised that he would give the matters discussed very serious thought and would call [REDACTED] or the writer when he had culled the various matters discussed over in his mind and applied what knowledge he had in these connections. A

11. [REDACTED] and the writer feel that [REDACTED] efforts will be profitable and both are of the impression that [REDACTED] understands the need for secrecy in this type of work.

12. For matter of record, it should be noted that in order to ask [REDACTED] to come over to this office [REDACTED] explained that the reason for the interview was in connection with the fact that [REDACTED] knew [REDACTED] and his work at [REDACTED] C

*W. H. Allen*  
W. H. ALLEN

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

FROM :

SUBJECT: I &amp; I

A/B, III, 6, 9  
DATE: 25 Mar. 52

1. You have asked me to put down in writing some of my ideas on how I would go about getting expert help on hypnotism. Above all, I would rely upon proven experimental psychologists who have their feet on the ground on this subject and who have done plenty of research work on hypnotism.

2. The most extensive and careful series of experiments on hypnotism were carried out by [REDACTED] over a ten-year period. He began his work while he was still at the [REDACTED] and finished his studies after he transferred to the [REDACTED]. His book, entitled [REDACTED] is a carefully documented research classic which is a "must" reading for anybody who professes to be even seriously interested in the subject. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] is no longer interested in hypnotism and moreover he has become quite feeble, but his two principal research assistants are still active in psychology and would prove particularly valuable as consultants on a research project on hypnotism. They are [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] before he became a psychologist. He is an extremely competent, broad-minded, and non-dogmatic scientist. At the present time, he serves as a [REDACTED]. He has plenty of experience in research, experimental, clinical, and business psychology. I would certainly trust his judgment on any problem dealing with hypnotism or drugs. An indication of his writing and thinking can be obtained from a recent article entitled [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] I believe more than [REDACTED] has maintained an active interest in hypnotism since their research days with [REDACTED] is the inventor of a test of suggestibility which was given considerable emphasis in [REDACTED] book. The test has been used by other experimenters, who have published about it in the literature.

D From time to time [REDACTED] writes articles on hypnotism, or contributes chapters to text books on the subject. I have seen him hypnotize on many different occasions and I know that he is very effective in producing all sorts of hypnotic phenomena in his subjects.

0, D 5. I am sure that both [REDACTED] would be glad to cooperate with you on such a project. I think that they would make a good team of advisers.

D

[REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

200

29 October 1952

A/B, 3, 2, 80

52-239

Between the last indicated date (9 April 1952) and mid-October 1952, [redacted] and the writer conducted Artichoke experimentation in [redacted] on two separate trips. The first trip was in June and the second trip extended from mid-August to early September. In view of these trips and in view of the additional work and confusion resulting from preparations for the trips, it was agreed by all hands in both instances to abandon the H experimentation during the summer.

After returning from [redacted] and the writer held a series of conferences concerning the H experimentation with [redacted] and [redacted] Bannerman and it was decided that the experimentation should not only begin again, but it should be broadened and the experiments made more complicated and more of an operational type. [redacted] Bannerman supported these proposals and stated that he was certain that [redacted] would now give consent to more complicated experiments, particularly due to the fact that I&SO was now to completely control the Artichoke work and that OSI was no longer to be the controlling influence.

[redacted] and the writer agreed to conduct work along two separate lines. The first would be a continuation of basic experiments with new personnel and the second involving the more advanced type of work with thoroughly experienced individuals, particularly in regard to travel and operations involving long-range control both as to time and to space. It was also agreed that H experimentation would begin at once.

(See following.)

MORSE-ALLEN

since told [redacted] the inter-  
war

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

VIA: AIR

DISPATCH NO. [REDACTED]

SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

[REDACTED]  
CLASSIFICATION

DATE: JAN 22 1954

TO: [REDACTED]

ATTN: [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]

Senior Representative [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: GENERAL Security

SPECIFIC: ARTICHOKE Report

54-10

1. Herewith report of ARTICHOKE Team on first assignment. Considering the speed with which we had to operate, I believe it went extremely well. We were ready when called upon for support, even though the operation did not materialize.

2. I have left blank certain identifying information which is known to [REDACTED] A

[REDACTED]

## ENCLOSURE:

Report of ARTICHOKE  
Team (3 copies)

22 January 1954

## Distribution:

1, 2 &amp; 3 - Addressee

[REDACTED]  
CLASSIFICATION



Attachment # /

ARTICHOKE

B/3

1. The ARTICHOKE Team visited [REDACTED] during period 8 January to 15 January 1954. The purpose of the visit was to give an evaluation of a hypothetical problem, namely: Can an individual of \*\*\*\*\* descent be made to perform an act of attempted assassination involuntarily under the influence of ARTICHOKE?

2. PROBLEM:

a. The essential elements of the problem are as follows:

(1) As a "trigger mechanism" for a bigger project, it was proposed that an individual of \*\*\*\*\* descent, approximately 35 years old, well educated, proficient in English and well established socially and politically in the \*\*\*\*\* Government be induced under ARTICHOKE to perform an act, involuntarily, of attempted assassination against a prominent \*\*\*\*\* politician or if necessary, against an American official. The SUBJECT was formerly in [REDACTED] employ but has since terminated and is now employed with the \*\*\* Government. According to all available information, the SUBJECT would offer no further cooperation with [REDACTED]. Access to the SUBJECT would be extremely limited, probably limited to a single social meeting. Because the SUBJECT is a heavy drinker, it was proposed that the individual could be surreptitiously drugged through the medium of an alcoholic cocktail at a social party, ARTICHOKE applied and the SUBJECT induced to perform the act of attempted assassination at some later date. All the above was to be accomplished at one involuntary uncontrolled social meeting. After the act of attempted assassination was performed, it was assumed that the SUBJECT would be taken into custody by the \*\*\* Government and thereby "disposed of." Other than personal reassurances by [REDACTED] means of security involving the [REDACTED]

B/3

B/3

COPY # 1 B/3

Attachment # 1

project, techniques, personnel and disposal of the SUBJECT were not indicated. Whether the proposed act of attempted assassination was carried out or not by the SUBJECT was of no great significance in relation to the overall project.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS:

a. In answer to the hypothetical question, can an individual of \*\*\*\*\* descent be made to perform an act of attempted assassination, involuntarily, under ARTICHOKE, according to the above conditions, the answer in this case was probably "No" because of the limitations imposed operationally as follows:

(1) The SUBJECT would be an involuntary and unwitting SUBJECT.

(2) We would have none, or, at most, very limited physical control and custody of the SUBJECT.

(3) Access to the SUBJECT is strictly limited to a social engagement among a mixed group of both cleared and uncleared personnel.

4. The final answer was that in view of the fact that successful completion of this proposed act of attempted assassination was insignificant to the overall project; to wit, whether it was even carried out or not, that under "crash conditions" and appropriate authority from Headquarters, the ARTICHOKE Team would undertake the problem in spite of the operational limitations.

### ADDENDUM:

Two main problems presented itself in relation to answering the above hypothetical question.

a. Security: Insufficient consideration was given to the fact that any leakage of ARTICHOKE through performance of the proposed problem would jeopardize the entire future application and proposed activity of the ARTICHOKE Team in the area.

B/3



COPY # 1 B/3

Attachment # 1

b. It was the unanimous opinion of all ARTICHOKE members that unless the ARTICHOKE Team had more detailed access to the operational plan it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to carry out the assigned mission. E

\* simulated only

E This would be made available when  
and if required - A

COPI  
A/B, 5, 90/5

June 22, 1954

THE MILITARY APPLICATION OF HYPNOTISM

A  
C  
TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: [REDACTED]

54 99

I choose two practical applications from many with which to illustrate my proposition:

1. The safeguarding of the messages entrusted to couriers. In deep hypnosis the subject, military or civilian, can be given a message to be delivered to say Colonel X in Berlin. The subject may then be sent to Berlin on any perfectly routine assignment. The message will be perfectly safe and will be delivered to the proper person because
  - a. the subject will have no memory whatsoever in the waking state as to the nature and contents of the message.
  - b. it can be arranged that the subject will have no knowledge of ever having been hypnotized.
  - c. It can be arranged that <sup>no</sup> one beside Colonel X in Berlin can hypnotize the subject and recover the message.

This hypnotic messenger, if I may use the phrase has in my opinion at least two very definite advantages over the ordinary courier. First he will never under any circumstance by a slip of the tongue divulge the true nature of his mission for the very simple reason that he has no conscious knowledge of what that mission may be. He is merely going on a routine replacement in say the Adjutant General's Office. This will be his story and the story which he believes.

RECEIVED  
DATE 12/18/54

Secondly, if by any chance, he is picked up through a leakage of information from other sources the message is safe. No amount of third degree tactics can pry it loose, for he simply does not have it in his conscious mind. Even if the enemy suspects the use of hypnotism the message is still safe for no one can hypnotize him except this Colonel X in Berlin.

May I point out that this technique is one which can be demonstrated under experimental conditions where you wish and when you wish allowing a certain amount of time to train the subjects in question.

2. A specific counterintelligence technique to be used against enemy agents. This particular use of hypnotism would be more complicated and more difficult than the rather simple case which I outlined in the preceding paragraphs, but is, I assure you, quite practical. I will take a number of men and will establish in them through the use of hypnotism the condition of split personality. Consciously they will be ardent Communists, phanatical adherence to the party line, ready and eager to submit to any discipline which the party may prescribe. Unconsciously they will be loyal Americans just as grimley determined to thwart the Communists at every turn in the road.

These men again will have no knowledge of anything that occurs in the hypnotic state--will have no knowledge of ever having been hypnotized and can only be hypnotized by such persons as the original operator may choose. Consciously they will associate with the Communists and learn all the plans of the organization. Once every month or at such time is advisable they will be contacted by a member of our intelligence department, hypnotized, and as loyal Americans will tell what they know. This sounds unbelievable, but I assure, you, it will work.

Once again the advantages. Your hypothetical counter spy will be placed in a very difficult situation--amounting at best to social ostracism, at worst criminal prosecution. He will not disclose his true role for the very simple reason that he can not. Consciously he is a Communist and will not in a moment of weakness admit to his relatives or to his friends that he is anything but a Communist. Again, if through some leakage, he is suspected of being an informer his true role is safely guarded, locked in the unconscious and impervious to all assaults from the outside.

C [REDACTED]  
I consider myself an authority on the theoretical applications of hypnotism to warfare and would point out that it is a highly specialized subject. The average psychologist or even psychiatrist is as at much of a loss here as would be the average chemist or physicist if called on to supervise a very specialized project for which he had had no particular training. I claim that I can demonstrate all my particular contentions to the satisfaction of the government agencies and request the opportunity so to do.

In closing, may I make one very significant point. The Russian literature is hard to get and carefully avoids any mention of the topic in question. Those Russian articles which I have been able to get leave no doubt about the fact that the Russian is just as conversive about the field of hypnotism as are we.

Respectfully submitted,  
C [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

COPY

COPY

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

A/B, 5, 90/6  
DATE: 15 July 1954

TO : Chief, Security Research Staff

FROM : Chief, Technical Branch

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] C 54-103

1. I have examined [REDACTED] proposals and I feel that I should make the following comments:

- C
- a) The idea of a courier that has been hypnotized is not new and I am absolutely certain [REDACTED] did not invent this idea. We ourselves have carried out much more complex problems than this and in a general sense I will agree that it is feasible. However, there is no proof whatsoever that the hypnosis cannot be broken by another competent hypnotist ([REDACTED] feels this is possible) and the entire test has not yet been subjected to actual field conditions (long travel, time, etc.).
  - b) As far as third-degree tactics are concerned, we do not know as yet what happens to an hypnotized individual under the third-degree or plied with chemicals of various types. Whether or not he will disclose hypnotic material or indicate he possesses same has not been determined. Again this is a test that we hope to carry out in the future, as you know.
  - C
  - c) [REDACTED] proposed that a subject "will have no knowledge of ever having been hypnotized" is debatable. In regard to this, we are not yet certain but possibly through the use of subtle chemicals and/or a very careful cover, it might be done. It is conceivable it could be accomplished if the subject were not unduly suspicious, extremely naive or very stupid but again this point is questionable.
  - d) [REDACTED] proposal about using hypnotized individuals as counteragents is also not new and we, of course, have discussed this many times. Whether or not it can in fact be demonstrated we are not sure and it is hoped that the field tests we are working on may help us along these lines.
- [REDACTED]

C  
e) [redacted] proposals are, of course, lacking in details and I am quite certain he has never carried any of these things out except in laboratory type experiments. We, of course, have been able to produce these results but again only in laboratory experiments and I assure you we would not be as emphatic about the success of these things as [redacted]

C  
f) I think it very important that if [redacted] does come to Washington you and I should have the opportunity to discuss at length and in detail his ideas.

C  
g) If you will recall, [redacted] among others long ago proposed the courier idea and in some ways [redacted] believes that given sufficient time and the opportunity for "correct training", he could condition individuals for these purposes if certain conditions were met. [redacted] as you also recall is not greatly impressed by [redacted]

A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

5 May 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Hypnotism and Covert Operations

1. I apologize for submitting a document as long as this one. The subject is highly controversial and even this treatment, which may appear long, is abbreviated.

2. Frankly, I now distrust much of what is written by academic experts on hypnotism. Partly this is because many of them appear to have generalized from a very few cases; partly because much of their cautious pessimism is contradicted by Agency experimenters; but more particularly because I personally have witnessed behavior responses which respected experts have said are impossible to obtain. In no other field have I been so conscious of the mental claustrophobia of book and lecture hall knowledge. I don't think we have enough evidence to say positively that hypnotism is a practicable covert weapon, but I do say that we'll never know whether it is or not unless we experiment in the field where we can learn what is practicable (materially and psychologically) in a way that no laboratory worker could possibly prove.

3. Even the terminology of hypnotism is in confusion. I have used terms like "suggestibility", "catalepsy" and "fascination" because they seemed to me descriptive, but these are argued to be inaccurate in current journals. As an example of the confusion, ~~Mr. Morse Allen~~ and I spent the better part of two days arguing with an academic practitioner of formidable reputation before we discovered that his vehement and perplexing disagreement with what we knew to be facts was based on semantic hair-splitting and congealed pig-headedness.

4. If you decide that the ~~DD/P~~ should pursue this subject further, I suggest that you meet with ~~Mr. Morse Allen~~ and myself to discuss the first recommendation of the attached paper.

Attachment

Distribution:

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# HYPNOTISM AND COVERT OPERATIONS

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The consultant referred to above, who has participated in Agency operations as a member of an Artichoke team, feels that narco-hypnosis as he knows it is not as effective as it might appear at first glance to be. He feels that the stupor which ensues does not in every case permit as deep a stage of hypnosis, is very difficult to control and, further, certain post-hypnotic phenomena, of great value in clandestine work, may be lacking. (3) On the other hand, he agrees that drug-assisted hypnosis is essential in CIA work.

### 3. Awakening

There is no recorded instance in which a hypnotized subject has failed to awaken. Not one subject in a hundred will "sleep" beyond the hypnotist's suggestion, "In a moment I am going to awaken you. You will feel fine, happy and cheerful. There will be no ill effects--no headache, drowsiness, stiffness or other discomfort. I am going to count to three, and at the count of three I will snap my fingers and you will be completely awake. One--you are sleeping much more lightly. Two--almost awake now. Three--(snap!)--you are wide awake!"

If for any reason a subject does not desire to awaken (usually connected with a wish to continue the pleasure and comfort of release from anxiety and worry which accompanies hypnosis, apparently), there are several other techniques to be tried.

3. [REDACTED] and some other psychiatrists do not agree, at least insofar as the therapeutic use of narco-hypnosis is concerned. D

[REDACTED]

But suppose that while under Hypnosis <sup>a subject</sup> subject is told that a loved one's life is in danger from a maniac and that the only means of rescue is to shoot a person designated as the maniac? Three expert practitioners (two from universities and the Agency consultant quoted above) say that there is no doubt on the basis of their experience that in such circumstances murder would be attempted. The only requirement is that the proposal be put "in a form and manner acceptable to the subject." Most modern authorities feel that a subject will carry out any suggestion which he can rationalize within the framework of his moral code.

(Currently, there is a murder trial in [redacted] in which the murderer has been judged to have been under hypnosis at the time of the crime. He has been retried, released and the hypnotist tried and convicted. The case is now under appeal. The comment of the three knowledgeable informants was that the hypnotist must have been a rank amateur to have been found out since any experienced operator would have known how to suggest away the fact that he had arranged the crime.) H

## II. APPLICATION OF HYPNOSIS TO COVERT OPERATIONS

Obviously, disguised pre-testing and induction are necessities for the use of hypnosis in clandestine operations. Without at least the second of these I am unable to see that any covert hypnotic technique

[redacted]

requires operational experimentation. The possibilities are not only interesting, they are frightening. A kind of double-think Orwellian world of hypnosis, while unlikely, is not utterly fantastic. One thing is clear: we really do not know within what limits "belief" may be changed by hypnosis.

Based on what I have read, I judge that the [REDACTED] H [REDACTED] use an elaborate conditioned-reflex procedure in their "brain-washing". Even so, hypnosis may be able on the one hand to pre-condition a subject against the pressures, or after the fact to help undo the damage.

#### Analogous Case #1

One of the foremost U.S. laboratory experimenters with hypnosis on one occasion (1939) "converted" a campus atheist to a devout believer. The same operator was on the point of trying a similar experiment in reverse with a divinity student when the university authorities forbade further tests. Before the "conversion" to religion through hypnosis had been erased by negative suggestions, the subject had for over two weeks given every sign of being a dedicated religious convert. He was restored to his former disbelief. I know of no way of estimating how long the hypnotically-imposed orientation would have endured; but once implanted, of course, circumstances tended to reinforce it. Given a subject who could be converted at all, the new orientation might become permanent, the experimenter felt.

2. As part of their indoctrination procedure, CIA staff personnel might be tested for hypnotic susceptibility. Actually, it appears to be easier to hypnotize large numbers of people than a single subject, for the best subjects go "under" quickly

[REDACTED]

the statements in this paper are justified: (DCI, D/DCI, [REDACTED])

G DD/P, [REDACTED]

2. Authorize development in detail of the field-oriented operational program sketched above.

G 3. Select one DD/P Division as an initial test area and designate a single individual in the operational chain-of-command as director of the program.

4. Set as a re-appraisal date either one year from the time the first team arrives in the test area or sooner if the director of the program feels that the test program has failed or is failing.

A/B, 5, 90/8

B

February 6, 1957

57-1

A

~~Dear Mr. Morse:~~

Since the international situation is in its present state, I feel the need for positive action in the military application of hypnotism is imperative. In a field such as this you need an individual, such as myself, who has lived with the problems of hypnotism and its military implications for many years.

I am very fortunate in having with me this year [redacted]

This man [redacted] received his [redacted]

He is thoroughly familiar with hypnotism at the theoretical level and has, above all things, the imagination and energy to carry on research work in this field.

Please look over the enclosed proposal and give me your reaction. The hypnotic messenger technique is relatively uncomplicated. There are several other projects which I could submit to you for consideration which are, in my opinion, even more important than this but involve much more complicated techniques.

Since the time is short between now and this summer, we certainly appreciate your immediate consideration of this matter.

Cordially yours,

C

[redacted]

A

~~Mr. Morse: Allen~~

[redacted]

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

31 JAN 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project ARTICHOKE

ARTICHOKE is the Agency cryptonym for the study and/or use of "special" interrogation methods and techniques. These "special" interrogation methods have been known to include the use of drugs and chemicals, hypnosis, and "total isolation," a form of psychological harassment.

A review of available file information obtained from Office of Security resources failed to reflect a comprehensive or complete picture of the ARTICHOKE program as participated in by the Office of Security. Fragmentary information contained in a variety of files previously maintained by the Security Research Staff (SRS) reflected several basic papers which described, in general terms, the program known as ARTICHOKE. Information contained therein indicated that prior to 1952, the Office of Security had studied the use of drugs and chemicals in "unconventional interrogation." These studies were evidently coordinated with the Agency unit which was then called OSI. OSI at that time apparently was the coordinating unit within CIA.

One paper reflected that an Office of Security team as early as 1949-50 experimented with drugs and hypnosis under a project called BLUEBIRD. This paper also reflected that by 1951 actual interrogations utilizing drugs were conducted by a combined team of Office of Security and Office of Medical Services personnel, but few details were available.

File information indicated that in 1952, overall responsibility for Project ARTICHOKE passed from OSI to the Office of Security. References to operational use of drugs as an aid to interrogation since that time were found in various files, but few details concerning these experiments were reflected. A memorandum, subject title: Project ARTICHOKE, dated 21 November 1952, by Mr. Sheffield EDWARDS, reflected

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(1187)

transfer of control of Project ARTICHOKE from OSI to the Office of Security. The memorandum indicated that I&SO (Office of Security) should call upon the research and support facilities of the CIA Medical Staff and the Office of Technical Services as required. Responsibility for the evaluation of foreign intelligence aspects of the project were to remain with OSI.

Morse  
Allen

The unit within the Office of Security which apparently coordinated Project ARTICHOKE activities was SRS, with Mr. ~~James~~ for many years the focal point. Details of Office of Security involvement in individual Project ARTICHOKE operational utilizations were found in very few instances. A reference in an SRS log (1951-67) reflected, however, that SRS had been involved in the experimentation and use of hypnosis "from the start." In the same reference, it was stated that "SRS has examined and investigated numerous unusual techniques of interrogation including psychological harassment and such matters as 'total isolation.'" The SRS log referred to above, which covered a period from 1951 to 1967, indicated that, as of 1967, "the term ARTICHOKE is not in general use now, and drug interrogation is conducted from the recommendation of an Agency committee of which the Chief, SRS, is the Office of Security representative." No record was found which reflected when or if overall responsibility for Project ARTICHOKE was transferred from the Office of Security to any other Agency component.

One of the few areas where detailed information was available was concerned with hypnotic experimentations. A log of hypnotic experiments conducted by Office of Security personnel was reviewed. The log reflected that numerous (probably several hundred) experiments with hypnotism were conducted in Agency buildings, apparently utilizing the staff employee volunteers as subjects. In some instances, representatives from Agency components other than the Office of Security were present. The log reflected hypnotic experimentations during 1951, 1952, and 1953. It could not be determined from available file information when the hypnotic experiments actually began or were caused to be ceased. No record was located which reflected hypnosis utilized as an actual operational tool in the field. In connection with hypnosis, it appears that SRS utilized an Agency employee, one ~~James~~, as an informant in various societies dealing with hypnotism to keep abreast of current developments in the field.

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Few references were found pertaining to the area of "total isolation" as an interrogation aid. A memorandum pertaining to this subject, dated 21 March 1955, was written by Mr. [REDACTED] of SRS to the Director of Security. The paper discussed "total isolation" techniques as an operational tool of potential. Another paper (a sterilized version, probably written by an element of the Department of Defense) dated 16 March 1955, reflected the results of "total isolation" experiments on six volunteers, all members of the U.S. military. No reference was found to any additional experiments in this field, nor was any reference found which reflected actual use of this technique in an operational situation.

As far as the experimentation and/or utilization of various drugs is concerned, references to a few instances were located, but little detail was available, and it was clear from the files that much of the detailed information probably was maintained by Agency units other than the Office of Security, i.e., the Office of Medical Services and the Office of Technical Services.

Among the instances where details were located in which drugs were used in an operational environment under the auspices of Project ARTICHOKE, were the following:

(a) In 1954 three subjects were interrogated by a Project ARTICHOKE team utilizing drugs of an unspecified nature. The three subjects were identified as [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] in a memorandum dated 13 January 1955, with a cover sheet signed by Mr. [REDACTED]. The interrogations took place in [REDACTED], and the memorandum mentioned injections of "solution #1" and "solution #2," but these drugs were not further identified. It was noted in the memorandum that the cases were handled "under straight drug techniques -- hypnosis or narco-hypnosis was not attempted."

(b) A memorandum dated 20 January 1959 to Mr. [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] indicated that a field request had been made for a "P-1 interrogation." The writer [REDACTED] identified a "P-1 interrogation" as one using LSD. Approval was granted on 27 January 1959 by the initials [REDACTED], "presumably Mr. [REDACTED]." No further reference to the case could be found, thus no details were available.

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(c) A series of cables between ~~██████████~~ and Headquarters in 1955 requested ARTICHOKE interrogations for nine persons. No disposition in this instance was found, however, a transmittal slip affixed to the materials dated in 1960 indicated that the ARTICHOKE interrogations probably did not actually take place in ~~██████████~~ at that time.

(d) A memo contained in the security file of ~~██████████~~ reflected that an ARTICHOKE team was dispatched to ~~██████████~~ in June 1952 to conduct ARTICHOKE interrogations on ~~██████████~~. No further reference to this operation was noted, and no disposition could be found.

(e) In the case of ~~██████████~~, ~~██████████~~ operation in ~~██████████~~ drugs were utilized in the interrogation which took place in ~~██████████~~. Again, details of the operation were not available. However, an interview with the Office of Security representative who participated in the interrogation revealed that a form of LSD was used in this instance. In this case, approval was granted by Headquarters for the ARTICHOKE interrogation. A memorandum dated 6 July 1960, signed by Mr. ~~██████████~~, Deputy Director of Security, reflected that approval for use of drugs in this case was granted at a meeting of the Drug Committee on 1 July 1960 and cabled to ~~██████████~~.

As stated earlier, little detail was available in file information concerning the conduct of actual cases utilizing Project ARTICHOKE techniques. It appears obvious, however, that the few cases noted above were only a small part of the actual utilization of ARTICHOKE techniques in the field. For one thing, almost no information was available for the period prior to 1952, so that Project BLUEBIRD experiments and operations were not noted specifically. In addition, annual reports of accomplishments found in SRS log materials reflected a substantial amount of activity in the Project ARTICHOKE area. The review for 1953-1954 stated in part that SRS had "dispatched an ARTICHOKE team for permanent location in an overseas area." The review for 1954-1955 stated in part that SRS conducted numerous ARTICHOKE experiments and "prepared and dispatched an ARTICHOKE team to an overseas area to handle a number of sensitive cases."

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Review of file materials consistently reflected that the Office of Security exercised caution in the utilization of drugs under the ARTICHOKE Program. Although it is apparent that SRS for a number of years was engaged with certain other Agency components in research and operational work with hallucinogenic drugs, the work was apparently conducted under strict controls. As previously stated, no information pertaining to when or if control of Project ARTICHOKE was transferred from the Office of Security to another Agency component was located. Apparently, SRS at one time maintained an inventory of ARTICHOKE materials which contained numerous drugs of all types including LSD-25. A memorandum dated 14 October 1957 requested authorization for SRS to transfer ARTICHOKE materials and apparatus to Dr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of Medical Services. The memorandum was written by Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and approval to transfer the materials was granted by Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ on 17 October 1957.

*Wrote  
M. Linn*

In the review of file information contained in SRS materials, one incident which occurred in November 1953 appears worthy of note. Although it was not clear from file information whether or not the incident occurred under the auspices of Project ARTICHOKE, the incident did involve use of LSD in an experimental exercise. One Frank OLSON, a civilian employee of the Department of the Army, committed suicide a week or so after having been administered LSD by an Agency representative. Details concerning this incident apparently will be reported in a separate memorandum, but it appears that the drug was administered to several unwitting subjects by a Dr. GOTTLIEB, at that time a branch chief in TSS (now OTS). A short time after the LSD was administered, the subjects were told that they had been given LSD. On the day following the experiment, OLSON began to behave in a peculiar and erratic manner and was later placed under the care of a psychiatrist. A few days later, OLSON crashed through a window in a New York hotel in an apparent suicide.

A memorandum dated 1 December 1953 from the IG Staff caused the impoundment of all LSD materials. Information contained in the above mentioned files reflected that the drug had been administered without the prior knowledge or approval of the Office of Security or the Office of Medical Services.

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