

25 January 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Medical Staff

SUBJECT: PROJECT ARTICHOKE
Evaluation of I&SO role

1. Organization of ARTICHOKE.

The organization of the project as gained from the files of I&SO, knowledge of Agency organization, and material gleaned from many conversations, is as follows:

OSI under [redacted] has been named coordinator for the project. [redacted] specifically has been charged with the liaison of the project. OSI thus becomes the focal point for all information from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans' Administration, CIA, FBI, Treasury Department, and private contractors. It is also OSI's responsibility not only to receive material but to receive new ideas, evaluate them, decide which warrants further study and then to assign the research to the appropriate investigator. Upon receipt of intelligence information concerning the project it is the duty of OSI to disseminate the material to the interested parties. As a further ramification of the discovery of new ideas, OSI should have the responsibility of aggressively pursuing possible sources of information pertaining to this subject.

Once OSI has received material that is valid, they in turn pass the information on to the ARTICHOKE team of I&SO for implementation. The I&SO team is, therefore, dependent upon OSI for the new developments but also upon the overseas stations to supply them with case material to evaluate under field conditions the developments they have been given.

It becomes obvious that OSI controls the entire project because of its strategic position in the project of receiving all information and controlling its dissemination.

2. Mission of the PROJECT.

The mission of the project can be stated briefly in four parts:

- (1) The evaluation and development of any method by which we can get information from a person against his will and without his knowledge.
- (2) How can we counter the above measures if they are used against us?
- (3) Can we get control of an individual to the point where

he will do our bidding against his will and even against such fundamental laws of nature such as self-preservation?

(4) How could we counter such measures if they were used against us?

3. Organization and Task of ARTICHOKE Team of I&SO.

I&SO has set up the following as their theoretical structure of permanent teams to apply the ARTICHOKE methods. The team will consist of three members; a trained interrogator who is skilled in all the techniques of advanced interrogation, a technician whose task it would be to maintain all the technical equipment necessary for the operation of the team, such as recorders, polygraphs, etc., and a physician who would be trained in the techniques involved, to supply medical support. At present the team consists of _____ who is the present chief of the team under the direction of _____ and is the interrogator for the team. His technical assistant is _____.

The task of the I&SO team would be to implement the measures developed and handed down from OSI. Such implementation would necessitate the maintenance of an up-to-the-minute knowledge and ability to use the various techniques as they were developed. The team would have to be ready on a moments notice to travel to any part of the earth to apply the techniques where they were needed. The team would, of course, have the responsibility of reporting to OSI the efficacy of the various methods used and the suggestion of practical applications as they pertained in the field.

It is obvious that there is an avid interest on the part of I&SO in this project since it would make their task of security of the Agency a much simpler one if efficient methods were discovered.

4. Evaluation of the Present Team Members.

_____ the present team chief, is an investigator of twenty years experience with Civil Service. He has been thoroughly trained in the use and limitation of the polygraph, received four days of instruction from a professional non-M.D. hypnotist in New York City, and has read extensively in the overt material on hypnosis. He has had no scientific background other than that that dealt directly with his work in criminology. He has had extensive contact with the communists in this country and knows their methods. It is not known whether he has a college degree.

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He is not an unusually intelligent man but has a vivid imagination that would be most valuable in the pursuit of this project. He has on several occasions created antagonism in his co-workers because of tactless management. He tends to be cautious and conservative. His long government service has soundly grounded him in the ramifications of intra-Agency politics.

He has apparently become a rather able hypnotist, but is hampered in his efforts by his lack of confidence which it is felt stems from his scientific void. He firmly believes that we can get information from the opposition and protect our own personnel from certain aspects of interrogation through the use of hypnosis. There is ample evidence that unethical actions can be accomplished through the use of hypnosis in our controlled situations. His present accomplishments have been elementary, however. He states that part of the reason that he has not accomplished more has been the fact that he has been restricted in his activity by his directors.

It is felt by the writer that ~~_____~~ is a valuable adjunct to the ARTICHOKE team because of his long investigative experience, his knowledge of standard police methods, but that it is too much to expect him to produce scientific results in regard to hypnosis and related subjects. It would be better to have a man assigned full time to direct the scientific pursuits of the team who was well qualified in psychological fields and related subjects.

~~_____~~ is the technician of the team and is a man of unusual mechanical ability and aptitude. He has no college education, is being trained in the use of the polygraph and has been through the same four day course in hypnosis in New York City. He is also avidly interested in the potential value of hypnosis, is decidedly less cautious than ~~_____~~ and tends toward unscrupulous use of this technique.

He was a member of the team before ~~_____~~ was given the control of the team, and resents the fact that he was not given the job. He was unduly critical of ~~_____~~'s efforts and stated on several occasions to the writer that "I guess I talk too much." He has a marked inferiority because of his small size, his lack of education, and his low level position in the team. It was a simple matter for the writer to exploit this feeling and it is felt that he provides fertile soil for exploitation by the opposition. In view of these findings, it is the firm conviction of the writer that his activity should be relegated to the technical only and that he should be cut out of the sensitive advances in the ARTICHOKE PROJECT.

5. Activities of the Present Team.

The present team is carrying out various technical tasks as requested by security, but very little actual effort in their office is going into the pursuit of ARTICHOKE research. They are spending two

evenings a week for about two hours developing their hypnotic techniques. Their accomplishments in this field have thus far been purely elementary and offer no proof that hypnosis can be induced against a person's will, or that extended control can be acquired through conditioned hypnotic control. They are at the present time occupied with making a motion picture to demonstrate what they have done with hypnosis as a weapon to help them win support from their directors.

During the day there was little discernible activity of any kind directed toward any constructive program along ARTICHOKE lines. It was stated by that they actually had no program in regard to their hypnotic experiments, but were for the time being content to develop and "perfect" their hypnotic techniques.

It appeared to the writer that there was active endeavor in the direction of bringing political pressure to bear against OSI so that they could force OSI to release all the material that was forthcoming to them. This seemed to be their major effort.

6. Present anticipated and real lines of attack of the ARTICHOKE PROJECT.

(1) Drugs.

It remains the dream of the interested agencies that a drug is imminently forthcoming that can be given a person orally without his knowledge that will result in his revealing anything the interested party would like to know, and that the person would have complete amnesia for the event. There are extensive projects going on now at ~~Harvard University, Princeton University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, and many more~~, Army Chemical Warfare Research Center and many more, all dealing with the development of drugs for this purpose. To date there has resulted a remarkable void in regard to results that would comply with the above criteria. Most of the projects are being approached from a basic research point of view and are, therefore, long term projects, in the terms of years.

(2) Polygraph.

The polygraph has proved to be the most reliable method discovered to date and there are several projects directed toward furthering the perfection of this instrument.

(3) Hypnosis.

There is no known hypnosis research being conducted for ARTICHOKE purposes in the United States today, except

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([REDACTED])

what is being done by the members of the **ARTICHOKE Team**. There is evidence that unethical actions are definitely within the realm of hypnosis and it has been proven by the present team that a hypnotized person can be made to lie to the polygraph through direct hypnotic control or through post-hypnotic suggestion and that the physiological changes usually found on the polygraph when that same person prevaricated out of the hypnotic state would not appear.

The use of hypnosis with drugs, after electric shock, during sleep, auditory stimulus, visual stimulus, after physical duress such as forced wakeful state all remain to be evaluated for this purpose.

It is believed by the writer that in this realm remains the greatest potential for this field.

(4) It is known that there is expressed interest in electro-psycho-therapeutic techniques, psycho-surgery, supersonic radiations, and extra-sensory perception, but to the writer's knowledge there is little more than the interest. There is obviously a tremendous untapped field of scientific knowledge and research in these various endeavors.

7. Suggested reasons why the project has failed to produce positive results.

[REDACTED]

From the writers viewpoint on the I&SO team it is necessary to view the entire project since the success of this team is dependent upon what is produced in other areas. Admittedly, some of the conclusions are based upon inference derived from relatively minor verifiable facts and the writer's position on the periphery of the focus of the project limited the obtaining of irrefutable facts to support his thesis. The items are listed and discussed in what the writer considers to be their order of importance.

(1) Lack of new developments.

The development of new techniques and the dissemination of the information concerning these developments is the responsibility of OSI. We must assume from the lack of new material that there has been a lack of adequate exploitation of material in the field on the part of OSI. It was stated by OSI that there was no research on hypnosis or related subjects going on in the United States. This certainly is not true and very recently Menninger Clinic was conducting research in the therapeutic value of hypnosis in psychiatry.

At a recent meeting attended by the writer, it was stated by the representative of OSI that he thought it was a good

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idea to make a research project of all the people who had been in the hands of the Russians in order to obtain interrogation material directly pertaining to this project. This seemed so elemental to the writer that he had previously concluded that such a step would be automatic at the time that the persons were first contacted. This again points up the apparent inadequacy of OSI to seek material in the strategic places.

(2) Lack of liaison and cooperation.

There exists a glaring lack of cooperation among the various intra-Agency groups fostered by petty jealousies and personality differences that result in the retardation of the enhancing and advancing of the Agency as a body. It was evident that there was very little new material in the files of I&SO, and it is known that for over a period of two weeks there was nothing forthcoming from OSI. The fact that there was little information of value in the files is due to two facts; first, on the admission of one of the members of the I&SO team, the files of the office were sterilized before the assigned medical officer was permitted to have access to them, a fact that points out that I&SO could not even cooperate with the Medical Office whose support they were attempting to win; secondly, the fact that OSI was not forwarding material to this Office of I&SO. There may be some reason for that in that the same member of the team told the writer that he knows that on several occasions, material was watered before I&SO would hand the material on to OSI. Such mutual distrust and foolish coveting of material can only serve to deter the project.

It is interesting to point out that as proof of the fact that I&SO was withholding information from the Medical Office that there was not one note in the files about the research on hypnosis or any advances made that I&SO was visibly carrying on.

(3) Failure to get scientifically trained personnel in key positions in the project.

As was candidly stated by members of both OSI and I&SO, they were hampered in their efforts to evaluate and make the appropriate professional contacts because they lacked; first, the scientific know-how to approach these problems, and secondly, the professional prestige to meet members of the medical and scientific professions on a common level. There is a crying need for a scientifically trained man on the operational level of both offices. This is a purely scientific field that eventually resolves itself into an almost completely medical field, hence, it is doubtful that any real progress can be made until professional scientific personnel are made members of the controlling levels of the operation. As it now stands, there is no staff full time scientific personnel to evaluate and coordinate.

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(4) Lack of Medical Staff Support.

It was clearly stated by OSI and I&SO that they would both be able to function much more effectively and with more prestige if the Medical Office actively supported this project. The sudden upsurge of cooperative attitude when the Medical Office indicated interest in the project is ample evidence of the fact that the Medical Office could play an active and effective part in advancing the project. It was stated by I&SO that they felt that as soon as the Medical Office took an active part in the project, they would begin to get cases from overseas posts. Contact during the pursuit of this report has revealed that the Medical Office is held in the highest regard largely because of its stability and soundness, and the general feeling that any decision that emanated from it is well-founded.

(5) Reluctance of the Overseas Stations to Refer Cases to the Team.

It is noteworthy that the team has had access to few cases, far less than would be indicated by the concern of operational men regarding the credibility of certain of their agents. It is felt by the writer that the reason for this is that the overseas people realize that if the team worked on their people there would automatically open a direct route to check on the overseas operations from Washington; in the same vein, the information obtained might reveal breaches of accepted technique and policy that would not enhance the operational staff's position. There are several facts that can be presented to verify this. Following their recent trip to General Smith the team was congratulated in a letter from General Smith for their excellent results but were unable to find out just how efficacious the team had been from the operational people.

The team members state that they uncovered many operational blunders on the part of the field stations. We can only theorize as to why the team was not given the opportunity to interrogate Vogeler, and the four fliers downed in Hungary, but we do know that they were not given that chance.

(6) Too Rigid Control by Security.

To queries as to why the team members were not attempting to progress in their thesis of hypnosis, their reply was that the directors of the Security Office would not permit them to follow several suggestions, such as the use of pris-

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oners for such research, and had even limited the area of their research to a relatively narrow field. It is felt by the writer that even with the limited knowledge of the team members they could have advanced in their research had they been given a freer hand. This rigid control was apparently fostered by two things; first, a fear that through operations for such research, criticism of the government interest in such activities might, if discovered, result in irreparable political repercussions; secondly, there apparently exists a lack of confidence in the team members on the part of the directors of the team.

8. Recommendations.

The following recommendations are respectfully submitted for your consideration as steps to remedy the stagnant state of the project:

(1) Until such time as there is active, accurate and working liaison between the concerned intra-Agency offices, and extra-Agency groups there will be negligible progress. It is suggested that the Medical Office with the support of IASO recommend that a high level control of the project be set-up, to consist of civilians with no service affiliation, who are scientifically well-qualified, and who would be full time, to coordinate, evaluate and direct the ARTICHOKE PROJECT. They would be isolated from all other functions in the Agency and have only this administrative function. They would be under the control of the Deputy Director of the Agency only.

(2) It is suggested that a two-man team be set up to consist of an M. D. trained in psychiatry and related subjects, and a research pharmacologist. These people would be full time and their task would be to systematically investigate all universities of major importance and such industrial laboratories as ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ for material relevant to the ARTICHOKE PROJECT. These people would be thoroughly briefed on the aims of the project, and would be charged with forwarding information of value to the above stated control through pre-arranged communication channels, as soon as it was discovered.

(3) It is recommended that an M. D., a psychiatrist preferably who is well-qualified in related subjects be assigned to take over the leadership of the present ARTICHOKE Team.

(4) It is recommended that the present team with the addition of the physician be relieved of any duties other than those

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pertaining to the project and that this team would then tour the various places where research was in progress to be kept completely up to date on the developments and the use of these developments in the field. This team would then serve to assist the investigators to reproduce the field conditions under which the various methods must work, and thus serve as the practical consultants of the Agency for the projects.

(5) It is recommended that an immediate survey be made of all the results that OSI has accumulated by competent scientists, in order that this might be made available to the present team for immediate use and possibly as the best thing we have available to the field stations.

(6) It is suggested that IASO exert every effort in an attempt to surmount the obstacles to pursuing research of hypnosis and allied subjects in the United States.

(7) It is sincerely believed by the writer that the active support of the Medical Office of this project would enhance the production of positive results, as exemplified by the recent sudden change of attitude of OSI. It would be highly advisable to have a physician assigned to the team to prevent catastrophe that could well occur without his consul.

9. Summary and Opinion.

There is ample evidence in the reports of innumerable interrogations that the Communists are utilizing drugs, physical duress, electric shock, and possibly hypnosis against their enemies. With such evidence it is difficult not to keep from becoming rabid about our apparent laxity. We are forced by this mounting evidence to assume a more aggressive role in the development of these techniques, but must be cautious to maintain strict and inviolable control because of the havoc that could be wrought by these techniques in unscrupulous hands. It is the writer's opinion that the general project deserves complete support, if not active participation.

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