

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AB, 5, 90/4
DATE: 29 January 1954

TO : Chief, Security Research Staff

FROM : Chief, Technical Branch

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] HR. [REDACTED]

Hold for [REDACTED]

1. Reference is made to our discussion concerning [REDACTED] and his various interests, particularly including his work in the field of hypnosis. As you know [REDACTED]

and popular writer on a number of subjects.

2. The writer has examined all the written material in detail which you forwarded in connection with [REDACTED] case and for your information, this material may be broken down into three categories as follows:

1) Educational Material [REDACTED] has written extensively in the field of education, testing, child psychology, college teaching, memory training, etc. His technical writings cover many fields and in general they are written more or less in a "popular" manner.

2) Popular Writing - In this field, [REDACTED] has made a number of contributions to commercial magazines and company magazines. In general, these subjects are of the "popular" type and have to do with such standard items as tolerance, how to get along with people, how to relax, personality traits, etc.

3) Hypnosis - [REDACTED] has been writing on hypnosis and related subjects [REDACTED] A very careful examination of his work fails to reveal anything new from our point of view and his writings in the field of hypnosis in general can also be regarded as of the "popular" type. (The writer has read [REDACTED])

In connection with 3) above, the writer very carefully examined the typewritten manuscript submitted by [REDACTED] in connection with possible military uses of hypnosis. This is very similar to his [REDACTED]

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C ... article on hypnosis which appeared [REDACTED]

thoughts are not new and if his material appears to be somewhat sensational, it is only because individuals who might read it are not particularly familiar with the subject. While [REDACTED] cannot in fact prove much of his material, the writer and his associates will support most of his allegations and ideas on the basis of their experimentation.

3. On the basis of the material at hand, the writer feels that those in the Training Division who are interested in this field should be referred to your Office for general discussions in these matters since your Staff has worked in this field for over three years, is familiar with the literature and has worked with and has continuously been in contact with professional consultants in hypnotism. It is believed that your advice, and recommendations and assistance, should be considered before any outside Agency activity be undertaken in this direction.

C In compliance with your request, we have written to [REDACTED] for information and his views in the above matter and his reply should be here in the immediate future.

A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A/B, 5, 90/5

June 22, 1954

THE MILITARY APPLICATION OF HYPNOTISM

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED]

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 ^{no} 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.

Secondly, if by any chance, he is picked up through a leakage of information from other sources the message is safe. The 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]

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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

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

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- 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.
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- c) [REDACTED] proposal 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]

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[redacted] an outstanding authority on metabolism and has done very authoritative work on LSD and mescaline. His papers are quoted and used continuously. [redacted] stated that he could be routed through [redacted] either coming or going to [redacted].

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H-816

11) [redacted] stated that there were two doctors [redacted] at the [redacted] in [redacted] who had done very advanced work along lines of interest to ARTICHOKE. The writer advised [redacted] he did not think Security would support an unofficial visit to [redacted] a man of [redacted] reputation. This opinion was confirmed by a statement from [redacted] that Security could not authorize such a trip unless on official business.

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3. The writer regards [redacted] offer as extraordinarily generous in that not only will he pay out of his own personal funds the necessary expenses to visit various important contacts in [redacted] but that he has stated he will take annual leave while making these visits on behalf of this Agency. The writer feels the work of these individuals and organizations is of major interest to the ARTICHOKE program and that consideration should be given to the advancement of some small sum of money to [redacted] to assist him in making such visits as he can on behalf of the Agency. The writer also feels that if visits are authorized to any of the above individuals or organizations, [redacted] should be allowed to take them, not on annual leave, but in regular course of business.

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4. The above mentioned matter is referred to you for your consideration as a strict Security problem and also for your consideration as a proper subject for ARTICHOKE discussion at the regular Conference on Thursday, 22 October 1953.

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[redacted]

[redacted]