



# THE BLACK VAULT

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A/B, IV, 7, 4

CHM (T) - Special Conference of August 1951

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On August 1, 1951, [REDACTED] attended the writer's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] attended a special conference at [REDACTED] between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. In addition to those mentioned above, there were present [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (reduced "fire-iron" machine), a close working associate

[REDACTED] and the writer attended this conference at the invitation [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the belief that the conference was to have been a report on polygraph operations on [REDACTED] had been very indefinite for. This, however, was not the case. The details follow:

[REDACTED] opened the conference by stating that he had been in charge of a project in [REDACTED] in which the [REDACTED] had used a polygraph operator along with a team of psychiatrists and psychologists on [REDACTED] stated that he had had for many years an interest in the use of the polygraph but that this recent [REDACTED] experience had demonstrated again to him that there was a wide division regarding the efficacy of the polygraph between the polygraph operators themselves and individuals who looked at the polygraph "from a scientific" point of view. He stated that he was asked to find out what the psychiatrists and psychologists on this [REDACTED] project did in connection with the polygraph operator as to whether or not the polygraph was effective - the polygraph operator maintaining that the polygraph was very effective and the psychiatrists and psychologists stating that it was much more less effective and that it was not useful in many ways for certain types of work. [REDACTED] also stated that he had found this to be universally true that polygraph operators stated that the machine was very effective and that scientists or doctors felt that it was less effective than the professionals thought it was. He stated therefore that he wanted to talk to the members of the conference and (1) get their opinions as to the machine's effectiveness and (2) to set in motion a project which [REDACTED] could handle to deliberately study and evaluate the effectiveness of the polygraph. He stated that this could be done by [REDACTED] probably through [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] pointed out, as did [REDACTED] to the writer, that they were in ignorance at the conference under too circumstances that the conference was to be a report on certain polygraph operations in [REDACTED] and that they could not commit themselves either side of [REDACTED] CIA was concerned. However, since their purpose was official and since the conference itself was of individuals of high security clearance, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] both having technical knowledge of the polygraph.

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early in the conference [REDACTED] [REDACTED] spoke briefly with [REDACTED] which he said had been run on his machine consisted of the standard card test. Following this, in a conversation, [REDACTED] admitted that all CIA employees were being run by [REDACTED] on the polygraph on a loyalty test apparently identical with that used at [REDACTED] and apparently on a contract basis at so much per head. [REDACTED] It appears is quite favorably impressed by [REDACTED] methods and is in no way familiar with the more important and subtle [REDACTED] techniques.

[REDACTED] (who arrived approximately one hour after the conference herein) pointed out that he has little technical knowledge of the polygraph itself but because of his work on various committees he had been requested to look into this type of thing and he exonerated himself to the effect that he had great interest in the polygraph or any other device having to do with the detection of deception. [REDACTED] Apparently was familiar with the [REDACTED] involved with projects like here having to do with machine for ascertaining deception.

[REDACTED] who was interviewed into the conference by [REDACTED] had no knowledge of the polygraph, having never seen one or having any idea of its operation thereof. He a recently considerable time was engaged in examining technical details of the operation of the polygraph in [REDACTED] And to a certain extent to [REDACTED] The conference developed that [REDACTED] had recently come aboard [REDACTED] and that at present he was cleared as far as "secret" clearance although apparently known personally both to [REDACTED] According to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to head up any project which is to be known as [REDACTED] and part of his work at this [REDACTED] will be to study methods and devices for the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that he could see no reason why the study of the polygraph and the effectiveness could not be pursued under the project [REDACTED] as he would specifically advise [REDACTED] to such work.

In the general discussion involving the polygraph, it became apparent that those claiming to have knowledge of the polygraph [REDACTED] were not thoroughly backgrounded in the use of the polygraph nor did they understand its application insofar as CIA was concerned nor were they aware of our involvement of the polygraph in various courts and that their approach to the whole situation was more on a scientific level than at the operational level. [REDACTED] to some extent were curious about any statistics available concerning the effectiveness of the polygraph and whether or not statistics that might be available were "valid" from a scientific point of view. They were also very curious about the training of operators, the several elements about the use of the polygraph, whether or not the Lester machine was the most effective in the field and other related items. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] appeared to be interested in best possible training only insofar that had been set forth in reference books such as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] pointed out that there are certain analyses of [REDACTED] process of polygraph clients have been made, although no statistical studies by tested individuals had ever been made owing to a lack of necessary equipment and a lack of time. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] pointed out that the top security officials of CIA regarded the polygraph work as highly effective but this use, of

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course, solely from a security point of view. [REDACTED] It is understood the opinion that CIA receives nothing by way of benefit from scientific studies on the evaluation of the polygraph if such research would be of value.

It was necessary for [REDACTED] to point out that there is a vast amount of difference between doing a polygraph as a security weapon and extracting it from a scientific point of view as to infallibility, etc.

The conference involved a discussion concerning other devices of detection of deception such as lie detectors, lie detection, the use of the CIA, the electro-encephalograph and some sonic-audio devices.

In the opinion of both [REDACTED] in connection with the primary of an exploratory nature and not a conference at all, and originally scheduled as a general meeting between [REDACTED] to consider the possibilities of [REDACTED] testing and evaluating the effectiveness of the polygraph and related devices for the benefit of the [REDACTED] and other interested agencies. [REDACTED] pointed out that interest was represented [REDACTED] and hence, CIA interests he could not commit himself as to specific CIA interests in the matter and suggested that [REDACTED] because these several matters at a conference at a future date with [REDACTED] personally. This [REDACTED] agreed to do. All hands agreed that it would probably be beneficial to have [REDACTED] an independent study of these matters. Both [REDACTED] pointed out that CIA security was at all times interested in obtaining the best possible device in their field and that our requirements or suggestions along these lines would be kept秘密 and that CIA security itself would be required to recommend to increase the effectiveness of their own polygraph techniques and polygraph machines.

The conference ended with the agreement that [REDACTED] should support [REDACTED] interest in relation to such a project and in doing so to be used talk with [REDACTED] and recommend that [REDACTED] be given authority to set up and activate such a project. [REDACTED] also agreed to talk to [REDACTED] concerning CIA interests in this matter.

For a matter of record during the discussion of the effectiveness of the polygraph and whether or not the polygraph could be "beaten", [REDACTED] wanted to know if any tests had been made concerning the use of hypnotics and/or narcotics both in connection with the polygraph and in connection with their recent use for interrogation purposes. Since the writer is specifically working on such a project he claimed [REDACTED] in some conversation along these lines but specific details were withheld in this connection; but the writer had no certain knowledge as to the extent that [REDACTED] had been brought into the "blacking project". Another fact, it is not known from the nature of the conversation whether [REDACTED] for circumstances [REDACTED] or whether his interests in this connection were of a general nature only. The writer merely pointed out to [REDACTED] that CIA security, of course, had an interest in such matters and was cognizant of the uses of such drugs as sodium amytal, secobarbital, etc. and that

research was being carried on in regard to a possible revision of regulations  
of these lines. It was also pointed out at this time to [redacted] that because  
of extremely severe security measures in connection with these matters that dis-  
cussions along these lines were hampered. The writer stated that he hoped in the  
near future under different circumstances to be able to discuss such matters with  
[redacted] officially since [redacted] claimed a rather keen interest in this  
direction.

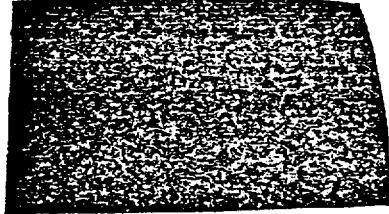
CIA COUNTERMEASURES: In the opinion of the writer and [redacted] our  
representation at this conference was unnecessary. A great deal of time was wasted  
in explaining elementary things and in academic discussions of the nature of the  
polygraph which had no bearing on [redacted] security, security matters or other  
elements mentioned above. [redacted] specifically pointed out that  
policy makers involving the use of the polygraph came from higher authority and  
that their only concern was in the specific operation in the use of that instrument.  
Both [redacted] held the position that the polygraph as used by  
security CIA is a very effective weapon from a security point of view. Both  
[redacted] however, clearly stated that CIA security was always  
interested in more effective instruments if such could be designed or any new  
devices or any new methods that could be introduced in the detection of deception.

INTERVIEWEE: [REDACTED]

A/B, II, 7, 5

SUBJECT: Meeting

Place: Office of [REDACTED] C  
 Time: 3:30 P.M., January 1968  
 Present: [REDACTED]



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1. [REDACTED] started the meeting by stating he had called it to discuss the polygraph as a valid device for detecting deception. He had encountered a great faith in it on the part of manufacturers and a great skepticism on the part of well-trained psychologists who were not active in using it.

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2. [REDACTED] then discussed a book on lie detection by [REDACTED] which states that experience has shown that a trained operator using a polygraph can determine the nature of the deception being practiced in 75% of the cases where detection is feasible. The lies examined will include the 1% of persons examined to whom they have no response to the polygraph questions. [REDACTED] stated that in running several thousand cases they have never encountered such a person.

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3. [REDACTED] stated that evaluation of the polygraph requires answers to the following questions:

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a. Has any studies been made as to its reliability in measuring the responses it is supposed to measure?

b. What limitations exists - The machine becomes stressed, but when do we stop getting false alarms responses. Studies have shown that fatigue responses are often confused with alarm responses. Designers of any new device will have to keep portability in mind. The 14-50% of the present Becker equipment is probably an upper weight limit.

c. Why is there such a difference in opinion as to the reliability of the polygraph? (refer to above)

d. Has any study scientifically evaluated one polygraph against another?

e. Has any one established a standardized degree of training for polygraph operators?



c. If the instrument is a valid detector, how can we increase the legal acceptance in civil courts of the findings? - The [redacted] is finding it much more difficult to keep the [redacted] a large number of operators.

b. [redacted] raised the question as to whether or not the polygraph could be used as a means of ascertaining intelligence due to its detecting responses.

5. [redacted] stated he felt a project that would be developed could be related to the one now under way for the [redacted] in which there is a basic study of the biochemistry of fatigue. Our interest in deception could be pin-pointed to the biochemical response of the nerves to stress. He stated that he knew [redacted] was interested in both these areas.

6. The encephalograph was mentioned. It was agreed that [redacted] probably would not be using it as [redacted] is not involved in [redacted] but [redacted] was making a very thorough investigation of it at present. There is some work now being done at [redacted] on the device, but under whose sponsorship it was not known.

7. Various related activities were mentioned as follows:

a. [redacted] mentioned a new drug called "Dexorit" which has been interested for some years in a device for determining nervous stress by regarding blood flow. He has expressed interest in the detection of deception.

b. There is a medical clinic in [redacted] which is specializing in the use of hypnosis in the treatment of nervous disorders.

c. [redacted] mentioned a new drug called "Decorti" which is better than scopolamine at making persons talk freely.

d. The existence of [redacted] was mentioned.

8. In conclusion, it was decided that:

a. A complete and scientific investigation of all polygraphic is in order. This should:

- (1) determine the best available
- (2) determine how it could be improved

b. [redacted] such an investigation is most properly within the scope of [redacted] and should be a part of the [redacted] which [redacted] is to give [redacted] in the near future.

c. [redacted] who is now a consultant for [redacted] on other matters will speak to [redacted] about expediting the assignment of the polygraph investigation project to [redacted].