



THE BLACK VAULT

This document was obtained from The Black Vault, an online database of declassified government documents. This particular record is housed in the MKULTRA/Mind Control Collection, a compilation of more than 20,000 pages declassified by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The entire collection is free to download and online at:

<http://mkultra.theblackvault.com>

A/B, 2, 32/5

8 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Artichoke Cases, June 1952, [redacted]

1. Between 4 June 1952 and 18 June 1952, an I&SO team, composed of [redacted] to the Agency Medical Staff; [redacted] attached to the Medical Staff; [redacted] I&SO [redacted] and Messrs. [redacted] [redacted] I&SO Staff Officers, applied Artichoke techniques to two operational cases at [redacted] and a nearby safe area in [redacted]

2. In both of the aforementioned cases, the subjects were professional-type agents and both spoke basically [redacted] language. Neither spoke English. The first case involved a medium or low-grade agent, [redacted] who had gained access to certain secret Agency installations and who had given Agency and [redacted] officers varying stories concerning his background. The second case involved an individual of [redacted] extraction who had previously worked for the [redacted] and who had been turned over to this Agency for possible use and to remove him as a problem for the [redacted] [redacted] This second individual was of a much higher type than the first case referred to, having apparently a considerable amount of intelligence experience and allegedly having knowledge of [redacted] underground activities. Both subjects had been held in solitary confinement for

A

F

H/B-3

several months prior to the application of the Artichoke technique and both subjects had had ample opportunity to solidify and memorize stories concerning their activities prior to the application of the Artichoke technique.

3. Of unique interest in this connection is the fact that in both cases, a deep hypnotic trance state was obtained through an inexperienced interpreter, including the production of amnesia in both subjects.

4. From an operational point of view, both cases were handled in more or less the same manner, with specific differences, however, noted below. Each subject, upon being brought to the safe house, was informed by the case officer or the interpreter (by pre-arrangement) that, before any further activity could be decided upon for the subject, it was necessary to give them a complete physical and psychiatric examination to assist in the general assessment of their future capacities. This cover, which was excellently maintained by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] (case officers) proved to be entirely successful in the administration of the Artichoke techniques in each case.

5. In the first case (using a very light dosage of sodium pentothal coupled with a highly controlled hypnotic technique), the subject was placed in a hypnotic trance and held in that state for approximately one hour and forty minutes during which time he was extensively interrogated by [REDACTED] (the case officer involved) and [REDACTED]. At the termination of this interrogation, the subject was removed from the hypnotic trance after having previously been given post-hypnotic suggestions for total amnesia. Since amnesia, in Artichoke operations, is of vital importance, it should be noted that, in the opinion of the

medical officers and all individuals engaged in the application of the Artichoke technique, a total amnesia was obtained in this case, insofar as it could be determined at that time. Subsequent retesting of this individual relative to this amnesia will be recommended.

6. In the second case, the same techniques mentioned above were applied. As a result, a deep hypnotic trance was obtained and the subject was interrogated under this control for almost one hour and a half. However, in this case, careful interrogation of the subject indicated that a partial amnesia only was obtained, probably due to the fact that questioning was continued too long, although rechecking of the subject indicated that a good amnesia was apparently obtained for the earlier and more important parts of this interrogation.

7. Since it was determined by all hands that additional information was desired from the second subject, it was decided to try another Artichoke technique on the following day -- this time holding the combined medical-hypnotic technique in reserve and attacking the subject with full medication. Results of this Artichoke technique (heavy dosages of sodium pentothal coupled with the stimulant Desoxyn) produced an exceptional interrogation, including a remarkable regression, which lasted approximately two hours and fifteen minutes and produced, insofar as the Artichoke team was able to ascertain, a total amnesia for the entire period.

A 8. In connection with the above cases and for matter of record, both case officers involved, [REDACTED] (Case #1) and [REDACTED] (Case #2) expressed themselves to the effect that, from their points of view, the operations were entirely successful. From a technical point

of view, the Artichoke team members felt that the operations were fully successful and demonstrated the effectiveness of the combined chemical and hypnotic approaches in these cases. In both cases, the subjects talked clearly and at great length and furnished information which the case officers considered extremely valuable.

9. For matter of record, the hypnotic inductions were made by [REDACTED], I&SO consultant, working through [REDACTED], who carried out the difficult combined role of interpreter-hypnotist in an excellent manner. Technical arrangements, which were extremely complex and included multiple intercommunication systems and full tape recordings of the entire proceedings, were handled by [REDACTED] of I&SO. Security arrangements, including a multiple guard system and transportation and control of the subjects, were handled by the office of [REDACTED] under the personal direction of [REDACTED] and were outstanding in every respect.

A

10. A full technical report involving all details of the Artichoke operations is being prepared by this office and will be completed in the immediate future. If, however, additional details are presently desired by your office, I&SO will be pleased to furnish them immediately.