



THE BLACK VAULT

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30 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: A meeting with [REDACTED]

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1. On 29 April, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] met with [REDACTED] to discuss his recent thoughts on the subject of human and social behavior in the light of his interests in electrically controlled systems. In substance, [REDACTED] recognizes a similarity in human and social behavior with electrical, mechanical or optical control systems which may be considered to be basically made up of three components, i.e., a measuring device, a communication channel and a control system. He suggested that human and social behavior might be disrupted, or at least sizably influenced over short or long periods, by effecting changes in the human or social analogues to measuring devices, etc.

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2. Although [REDACTED] did not feel that he could make concrete suggestions on how to effect the aforementioned components, he did philosophize and suggest that one might covertly influence human diet by modifying food supplies. This might be accomplished, he felt, by implanting chemicals or minerals in the soils, which in turn would be selectively absorbed by the vegetation and consequently digested by humans. Modifications in the human diet thus effect man's measuring facilities, such as his sensory organs, or his communication system, i.e., his nervous system, blood circuit, respiratory system, etc. In this regard most of his suggestions would necessitate an overt approach to the problem, being most readily accomplished during periods of war. However, when queried regarding covert application of his thinking, he suggested that an area might be similarly effected by relying on the winds or water supplies to covertly carry the implementing chemicals to the proper source. This would obviously be a long range program.

3. The thought of a long range program led [REDACTED] to state that he felt that scientists may be losing sight of measuring and observing events which evolve slowly in lieu of brief and rapid transients. Hence, many items might be influencing or disrupting human behavior in this country without our knowledge. Conversely, several of his graduate students were considering submicroscopic phenomena in the vegetable and the solid state.

4. When the conversation evolved into wider fields, [REDACTED] briefly discussed his research thinking with [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] insofar as it pertained to human communication systems and behavior. For example, [REDACTED] with his head exposed to a pulsating magnetic field, reportedly experienced numerous geometric patterns. They currently feel that

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perhaps sensory perceptions may be artificially stimulated in the blind, deaf, etc., with magnetic fields or related phenomena to reveal these unfortunate shortcomings. Research in this vein is to continue.

5. Already thought is being given to hearing aid systems without external batteries. Energy is to be obtained from randomly distributed R.F. Radio fields in the atmosphere, properly absorbed and rectified, using new developments such as selenium and germanium cells. This thinking can be readily extended and adopted to transceivers, wire-recorders, etc. without power supplies. The potential of such a development will aid and implement many operational requirements of this organization.

6. [REDACTED] was assured that his suggestions were very stimulating, and an expression of thanks and a request to consider similar talks in the future was extended to him.

Distr.: Orig. to: [REDACTED] A

AD/SI

Subject File - Genl. Memo

cc: [REDACTED] A