



# THE BLACK VAULT

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5 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security  
SUBJECT : Project ARTICHOKE

1. PROBLEM:

How to provide the medical research required in support of Project ARTICHOKE.

2. ASSUMPTIONS:

None.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

- a. Project ARTICHOKE is research in nature.
- b. The research required is essentially medical.
- c. The sensitive nature of the project demands Agency control.

4. DISCUSSION:

Facts a and b are self-evident. Fact c may be somewhat forgotten in view of recent project developments. However, the time is not too long past when the project was considered Top Secret and only discussed through rigid control procedures. The need for control and secrecy has not diminished with a lower classification.

The need for control is not only inherent in sensitivity, it is also a product of project requirement. Project needs are those peculiar to intelligence and research incidental thereto must be directed toward operational needs. Experimentation in the hands of those unfamiliar with field requirements will, at best, be inappropriate.

The need for control should not be compromised by budgetary considerations. The mere fact research facilities might conceivably perform experimentation without reimbursement does not permit the Agency to relinquish its control or authority even for the sake of economy. The expensive needs of this project must be faced and paid for by this Agency if the project is to succeed on behalf of the United States Government.

5. CONCLUSION:

The Agency must establish and maintain rigid standards and procedures of control of Project ARTICHOKE. It can only accomplish this by establishing its own research program.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

H-B/3  
It is recommended that the Agency attempt to establish at an [redacted] whose endowment and key personnel stem from the Agency. The project and allied Agency needs could thus be served with complete control, legal performance, and appropriate cover.

A

[redacted]  
Chief, Medical Staff

[redacted]  
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