



# THE BLACK VAULT

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A/B, 5, 221/3

Chief, Contact Division  
Att: Scientific [redacted] A

20 May 1954

Chief, [redacted] Office G

Cas. [redacted] B

Ref: [redacted] H-B/3

1. [redacted] was enthusiastic about the possibility of having his group test the effects of bulbocapnine and similar drugs which affect the psyche. On the other hand, he pointed out that he was not familiar with bulbocapnine and requested that we furnish him all available publications on its use. He was told that as far as our office knew, there have been no experiments with the hypnotic effects of bulbocapnine upon humans. He then asked for available literature describing experiments with animals.

2. During the course of the conversation he was advised that CIA was currently hampered by budgetary limitations on such research projects. At that point he stated that the "cost had not occurred" to him, and he stated that preliminary investigations of this type should not be expensive. He indicated that if the experiments appeared to be "interesting" there was a good possibility that they could be conducted without charge. If the preliminary investigations warranted more thorough studies involving large allocations of research personnel and facilities, then it might be necessary to renegotiate on the basis of partial reimbursement. This, he said, would depend on "how far you people want to go with this thing."

3. [redacted] was advised that the security aspects of this project were rather sensitive from a propaganda point-of-view and that for the time being no CIA or US Government interest in such experiments should be revealed to anyone. It was pointed out to him that with the increase in interest in the biochemical approach to psychiatry and the furor caused by Szymki's paper (on LSD-25) at the APA meeting in St. Louis, the investigation of the further effects of such drugs would appear to be a normal research undertaking by a group such as his. In other words, the impetus for the experiment would emanate from him personally. He agreed to this but stated that he would have to think the matter over and get some "ideas on how the thing should be operated." He expressed a desire to discuss the matter with either his [redacted] (security status Disapproved - 7 Jan 54) or with [redacted] currently working for [redacted] and [redacted].

[redacted] Luckil [redacted] was primarily interested in [redacted] therefore he was advised by [redacted] that [redacted] would be the best [redacted] could be let in on the actual experiments but need not be told that they were CIA inspired. Meanwhile [redacted] advised him to to confer with [redacted] on it until he received further word from our office. A security check on [redacted]

C

C

H-B/6

A

B/6

C is attached and it is requested that an affidavit be obtained as soon as possible. [redacted] has had experience in obtaining prisoner volunteers for such experiments and would be a great deal of help in setting up such a project. B/6

1. As matters stand now:

- C
- A
- a. [redacted] is enthusiastic. He wants more information on the drugs. (For this it would be ideal to present him with the list of the drugs in which OSI is interested. This list was described in the 1 May 1954 conference between [redacted] and [redacted].)
  - b. He has agreed to tell no one of our plans until we advise him otherwise.
  - c. It appears that this plan might provide the framework for a continuing inexpensive and completely confidential research operation.

C

5. Although this office does not have access to the scientific data necessary to evaluate the effect of these drugs, it should be brought out that [redacted]'s probable reservations (so far unexpressed) are concerned with the determination of the possibility of the permanent ill effects of these drugs in human subjects. It is hoped that the pharmacological properties of these drugs have been well defined and that some evidence is available on their experimental use on animals.

A

C

6. In this connection [redacted] ran across one rather discouraging comment on the potential of bullocarpine (see [redacted] attached). The source of this information was [redacted]'s staff (described [redacted] as a walking encyclopedia on experimental forensic medicine). In view of this report (the substance of which has not been called to [redacted]'s attention), it might be better if other drugs were considered along with bullocarpine in case the latter proves too dangerous. H-B/6

A

[redacted]

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A

[redacted]

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