

21 June 1952

TO : [REDACTED] - EQEN ALONE
FROM : [REDACTED] A [REDACTED] D/H [REDACTED] D/H [REDACTED]
SUBJECT : ARTICHOKE Techniques - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

1. The ARTICHOKE techniques were applied to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] through [REDACTED]. Although I did not attend the sessions with [REDACTED], I have discussed the results of the [REDACTED] tests fully with [REDACTED] and the ARTICHOKE psychiatrist, and I was present during the tests of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is preparing a full report on the [REDACTED] tests, and I intend to do the same on the [REDACTED] tests as soon as an interrogation based on the results of these tests can be completed. For your own information and for whatever action you may wish to take towards recommending that [REDACTED] push the development and acceptance of these techniques at Headquarters, I am submitting in this memorandum a brief review of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] tests and then my own observations and suggestions.

2. The combination hypnosis-sodium pentathol technique used on [REDACTED] was considered to have been completely successful by everybody concerned. There was no doubt on the part of the team psychiatrist, the hypnotist, or [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] was completely under the influence of the technique. His answers to the questions put to him while he was under the influence completely confirmed the information given by him in his normal interrogation, and there was no doubt that he was answering spontaneously and truthfully. Of even greater interest for our purposes, however, is the fact that the team succeeded in obtaining 100% amnesia. In other words, [REDACTED] remembers nothing about what was said to him or what he said to his interrogator while he was under the influence of the technique. He also remembers nothing about what happened to him, except that during the "medical examination" he showed considerable nervousness and was given a sedative which put him to sleep. What happened during the "sleep" is a blank in his mind. It is, of course, possible that if he falls into the hands of a [REDACTED] interrogator, he will be able to describe his medical examination, but it will sound like nothing more than a medical. He will not be able to describe anything else. The [REDACTED] might draw the conclusion that the sedative given to him was a "truth serum", but they will have no hint that hypnosis, which is the more important part of the technique, was used.

3. The combination hypnosis-sodium pentathol technique was only partially successful in that [REDACTED] was able, at least during the latter part of the questioning, to control his thoughts to some degree. One reason for the lack of complete success may have been that the hypnotist had to work through an interpreter and had difficulty establishing rapport with his subject.

It is true that the hypnotist worked through an interpreter.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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In [redacted] case too, but [redacted] is on a much higher intellectual level than [redacted] and required more direct and intensive contact than can be obtained through an interpreter. Another reason was that the many unknown factors in [redacted] case necessitated extensive questioning, which went beyond the safety point for retention of control of his mind. At any rate, the fact that [redacted] was able to volunteer information at one point and was able to remember two of the questions put to him made it evident that he was not "under" as deeply as could be desired and that complete amnesia as to what had taken place was not obtained. It was decided, therefore, to try the application of sodium pentathol, omitting the hypnosis. From a technical point of view, the results of this were perfect. [redacted] was regressed to the period [redacted] when he was on his mission for the [redacted] and he gave considerable information concerning his contacts in the [redacted]. He also indicated clearly that he had been betrayed to the [redacted] although we were not able to determine exactly what the betrayal had consisted of because of two factors: (1) the time limit on the questioning; (2) the regression was almost too perfect from an intelligence point of view, and since he accepted the interrogator as an old friend in the [redacted]. I
 [redacted] his frequent answer to pertinent questions was, [redacted], why are you asking me this? You know all these things. [redacted] also blocked at several key points in the questioning. The psychiatrist considered it possible that this blocking on key issues was the result of four years of living a cover - and/or that [redacted], allegedly a member of an internal [redacted] resistance group, had been deceived by [redacted]. D/H
 (All this will be covered more fully in the final report on [redacted]) The net take from the ARTICHOKE tests of [redacted] consisted of a considerable number of new interrogation leads, which should be followed up by detailed interrogation. As to the amnesia obtained on the sodium pentathol test, [redacted] remembers only that he had a "bad dream". He remembers nothing about the details of what took place during this "dream" and was more than a little puzzled. In the psychiatrist's opinion, [redacted] will never be able to recall what he said or what was said to him. (For security reasons, however, the fact that complete amnesia was not obtained makes controlled disposal to the [redacted] mandatory, and action has been initiated in [redacted]) F
 In summary, it may be said that the ARTICHOKE techniques were about 50% successful on [redacted] and might well have been much more successful if they had been applied in 1950. From the viewpoint of determining the value of these techniques in operations, I consider it justifiable to state that the regression alone proves the operational value of the techniques, as will be explained below. D/H

4. Observations: The following comments are based on my observation of the techniques as used on [redacted] and on my detailed discussions with the hypnotist and the psychiatrist, as well as with [redacted] members of the team. D/H

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a. A brief statement of the methods used will clarify some of the questions which may have been raised by the paragraphs above.

D/H

If the hypnotism technique fails, the next step is to use a pretext similar to those already described to inject pentathol and depend on the effects of this alone, omitting the hypnosis. In ~~the~~ case, this was successful. There is no basis for predicting the degree of success with either technique in any given case. The techniques are still officially considered to be experimental; unofficially it is the opinion of the ~~team~~ members of the team that there have been enough experiments to justify giving the green light to operational use of the techniques. G

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b. The techniques described above, in the barest detail, are applicable to a variety of operational purposes, although again it must be stressed that there is no way of predicting the degree of success we could expect by using the techniques on any given individual. Briefly, these purposes are as follows:

(1)

(2)

(3)

c.

[REDACTED]

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5. Knowing me as you do, you are probably aware that I am not easily convinced and that when I have reservations about something I have to have a solid reason for doing away with the reservations and putting acceptance in their place. You may therefore be assured that when I recommend that ARTICHOKE be accepted by [redacted] as an unquestionably worthwhile operational aid, this is not a recommendation which is made on impulse. I discussed ARTICHOKE at length with the visiting team, observed the techniques in use, and am convinced, as is [redacted] that if [redacted] decides to make use of ARTICHOKE, recognizing clearly that there will be many a failure but also that every success with this method will be pure gravy, we shall be taking a long step towards accomplishing our operational objectives. If you accept this recommendation, then I suggest that you send a dispatch to [redacted] stating that both of the [redacted] officers who worked with the ARTICHOKE team here have recommended a more extensive operational use of ARTICHOKE and suggesting that [redacted] follow this up with [redacted]. It might well be pointed out in the dispatch that ARTICHOKE is particularly useful in [redacted] because the minds of the personnel with whom we deal are conditioned by superstition and a greater degree of responsiveness to suggestion than is true of the western mind.* Expressions of interest from the field are of great assistance to the [redacted] personnel who wish to push this project forward as rapidly as possible.

6. I should like to discuss this with you and also hear your reaction to the recommendation above.

* Both these factors make for a greater degree of success in applying the techniques.