

[REDACTED]

Director of Central Intelligence

30 April 1948

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The Use Of Hypnosis Is An Aid In Interrogation

1. In the September, 1947 issue of The Reader's Digest, there is an article entitled "Do As You're Told," which describes the interrogation by the use of hypnosis of a Nazi submarine captain. This article was a reprint from a similar but more elaborate article in Collier's. I have seen two other articles on the same subject and have read a scientific treatise on its use.

2. One of the outstanding features of this method is that when properly used the person hypnotized has no memory of having done anything but gone off to sleep. There is also almost no chance of there being any proof of its having been applied.

3. Therefore, in my opinion, we would be safe to use it in this country in carefully selected cases under carefully planned safeguards with lucrative results. This is naturally a delicate operation and one in which not more than one other than the operator himself and the victim should participate. The place of interrogation will usually have to be in a private home.

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4. I might modestly claim in passing to have had a close association and great interest in the business of interrogation throughout the war, and I am confident that a failure to exploit this technique means the loss of a great deal of valuable information. For that reason I recommend that I be granted authority to proceed carefully to experiment in this field with the aid of a professional now employed in [REDACTED]. I further request that there be no third party participation in this work any more than there is any such participation in [REDACTED] most delicate and secret projects.

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