

SECRET ONLY

21 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

1. A discussion was held today with Mr. [REDACTED] on various methods (some of them in the experimental stage) of inducing involuntary replies to questions, certain forms of amnesia, and temporary degrees of mental derangement, etc. It was brought out that there is no real evidence whatsoever that the Chinese Communists, or even the Russians, are using these techniques in interrogation of POWs. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he was certain that in many of these fields the Russians were as advanced as we, but he agreed that at this time no positive action should be taken to prepare [REDACTED] service personnel against any specific scientific interrogation techniques.

2. Mr. [REDACTED] agreed to keep me constantly informed of developments in this field, and of any intelligence reports pertaining to Communist use of these methods.

3. In the course of the discussion there came to light several possible channels for experiment and inquiry into the use of drugs as a means of effecting escape from a prison camp, or a border crossing. He suggested that this matter be discussed with [REDACTED] and that certain specific experimental requirements be put on paper and addressed to [REDACTED]. For example there is a pill, now in production, which will induce an extroverted and fraternizing attitude in a given individual, yet will have no effect upon his motivation for withholding secrets. Such might be highly valuable in an interrogation, especially if the interrogator were an Oriental. Another possibility is a drug (in powder form, also in production), a minute amount of which suffices to put a man to sleep for a considerable period of time, and when he wakes, he has no idea whatsoever of how he fell asleep or when. The dosage required is so small that the air around the prison guard could be contaminated with the drug merely by waving one's hand, in which a small amount of this powder has been placed, in the guard's face.

4. It is my recommendation that both of these possibilities be looked into further.

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