

A/B, 1, 38/5

Report of Special Meeting held in

File: Foreign Contacts

H-B/1 [redacted] on

1 June 1951

SUBJECT: Matters relating to CIA Project "Bluebird"

KFB - Under Sec. Defense

Those Present: [redacted] H-B/1

C [redacted]

E [redacted] H B/1

C [redacted]

United States OK. LV. IN.

A [redacted]

A Note: [redacted] attended as a consultant to CIA. Due to the illness of [redacted] who

was to have represented the [redacted] also represented that agency.

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1. The Agenda:

No formal agenda was prepared for the meeting. It had previously been described as an informal get-together of representatives from the [redacted] to discuss the subject. At the meeting the informal atmosphere prevailed and all matters related to the influence or control of the minds of individuals were discussed. These matters ranged from the specific subject of means for extracting information to the broadest aspects of psychological warfare and propaganda.

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2. Background:

CIA interest in the specific subject of devising scientific methods for controlling the minds of individuals had previously been indicated to [redacted] through his contacts with [redacted] formerly [redacted]. After his departure from CIA and while with the [redacted] [redacted] has continued these discussions with [redacted]. Further U.S. interest in this matter has been indicated to [redacted] by [redacted] of the [redacted]. In addition, [redacted] discussed the matter briefly with [redacted] of the [redacted] prior to becoming associated with CIA in connection with the present project.

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[redacted]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
C Since [REDACTED] was visiting in [REDACTED] took the opportunity of getting together with representatives of those agencies which had previously indicated an interest in the matter. Thus an invitation was extended to both the CIA and the [REDACTED] in the U.S. B

During the meeting it became apparent that [REDACTED] was specifically interested in: C

a. Determining what programs of this nature, both research and operational, are going on in the U.S.

b. Determining whether there is sufficient importance to the matter to warrant limited attention by the [REDACTED] Research Establishment. H-B/1

c. If the matter is important, determining the types of research programs to be established in [REDACTED] H-B/1

d. "Converting" [REDACTED], who apparently had strong reservations as to the value of projects of this nature. C

e. Establishing a program for future coordinated action on these matters by the [REDACTED]. H-B-1

3. Discussions:

a. Discussion of programs of this nature in the U.S.

A (1) [REDACTED] explained that because of [REDACTED] previous activities, CIA has an interest in any developments along this line which might be useful to us. As far as programs in the U.S. are concerned, there are many independent activities which are closely related, but no over-all program has been established to our knowledge. [REDACTED] agreed that this was the situation with respect to the [REDACTED] also, and that we would be most interested in knowing their plans on the subject. A B

(2) As anticipated the [REDACTED] representatives made repeated reference to specific cases and, in particular, the [REDACTED] case. We explained that this case was widely publicized and full reports have been published in the newspapers. Actually, as far as the U.S. Government is concerned, [REDACTED] had been offered the facilities of the [REDACTED] for his rehabilitation, but because of the attendant publicity, no effort has been made to interrogate him. This will undoubtedly continue to be the case because: H-B/1 H-B-6 B-6

a. Complete information on the subject is available in the newspapers and

b. His prominence prevents any direct approach.
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(3) The [REDACTED] seemed content with this explanation H-B/1, although somewhat disappointed. They suggested:

a. Attempts to find out through [REDACTED] whether B-6 any permanent personality changes have occurred in her husband.

b. Psychiatric consultation during his rehabilitation. [REDACTED], who is a practicing psychiatrist and acquainted with psychiatrists at the [REDACTED], seemed amazed that this is not part of [REDACTED] treatment and that B-6 we are not exploiting the opportunity. I attributed this either to a carefully timed probe based on some actual information [REDACTED] possessed, or to a suggestion made in all sincerity. At any rate I thanked him for the suggestion). C

b. Discussions on Importance of Project:

(1) These discussions were complicated by repeated and lengthy excursions into the broader aspects of psychology as it pertains to control of groups or masses, rather than control of the mind of an individual. While the [REDACTED] representatives were anxious to stay on the subject, [REDACTED] announced at the outset that there was nothing new in the whole business from what was practiced during the inquisition days and there was little hope of achieving any profound results through research. He was obviously much more interested in the broader aspects of propaganda and political warfare particularly as it applies to penetration of communism into trade unions, etc., and means of blocking such penetration. At the close of the meeting, however, [REDACTED] was evidently impressed with the idea and agreed as to its importance from a research standpoint. The others present had been convinced prior to the meeting and had little difficulty in reaching a common understanding that this is a vital field in the defence of the Western Powers. H-B/1 C

c. Programs to be established in [REDACTED] H-B/1

(1) The [REDACTED] representatives had obviously discussed H-B/1 several programs which they were anxious to explore, once the value of the research had been established. These programs are:

a. Political Warfare.

Research into the psychological factors causing the human mind to accept certain political beliefs aimed at determining means for combatting communism and "selling" democracy. This program was suggested by [REDACTED], a consulting psychologist. While it is not directly related to the subject of project "Bluebird", it follows the primary interest of [REDACTED] and the strong feeling of the [REDACTED] representatives as to the importance of the broader aspects H-B/1

of the matter. Certain aspects of the research will closely parallel "Blindbird" research. It will be carried out through various statistical and theoretical approaches resulting in hypotheses which can be published and thereby attract the comment of experts throughout the three countries. Later on clinical research will be adopted to further test the hypotheses.

b. Control of the Individual Human Mind.

Research into the means whereby an individual may be brought temporarily or perhaps permanently under the control of another. This project was suggested by [redacted] who is prepared to undertake it immediately should it be approved. [redacted] has had previous experience in this type of research and expects a grant from the [redacted] in the near future for experimentation with animals on the factors which influence behavior. While this grant will not permit human experimentation he feels that such experimentation can be tied in. He proposes theoretical approaches - further development of hypotheses through research on animals - and finally human experimentation in those areas found promising.

(2) It was indicated at the close of the meeting that both of the projects will be written up for consideration by the [redacted] and will probably be approved. *A-B/1*

d. "Conversion" of [redacted]

(1) As noted above [redacted] had strong views on the value of the approach to the "mass" or group problem but little sympathy with the "individual" problem. The proposal to establish the "political warfare" project (noted above) met with his enthusiastic approval. The second project intrigued him and after lengthy discussions he became quite enthusiastic on this also. [redacted] agreed to put some of his scientists who have been working on both problems in touch with the [redacted] and it is believed that coordinated [redacted] programs will result. *A-B/1*

e. Further coordinated action in the three countries:

AA (1) [redacted] and [redacted] explained to [redacted] that this stage of the problem was obviously one of pure research and that the U.S. programs could best be developed through the US. [redacted] Since [redacted] will meet with [redacted] and [redacted] in [redacted] during the latter part of the week (June 6-8), we agreed to brief [redacted] on the subject. *A-B/1*

(2) As a basis for further action it was agreed that:

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a. A follow-up meeting of representatives from the [redacted] would be held in the near future, probably in Washington during July, 1951 - exact date, time and place to be determined by [redacted] and [redacted] during their coming meeting. C

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b. [redacted] will assemble all available information on individuals who have been in the hands of Soviet or Satellite interrogators. This information to be exchanged and to be used for further contact with individuals where necessary, the ultimate use of the data to be in assembling statistics for research.

c. The [redacted] programs are relatively firm and will undoubtedly go forward on the basis outlined above. As the U.S. programs are developed under the [redacted] they can be tied in where they are of mutual interest. H-B/1 B

4. Conclusions and Recommendations:

a. The [redacted] representatives were fully acquainted with the problem and were carefully selected to provide a balance of scientific competence to the discussions. [redacted], in particular, indicated a keen understanding of the "Bluebird" problem, and was obviously interested in conducting research programs in connection with it. With the backing of [redacted] should provide a center of interest and activity which will be of the utmost value in the testing of various hypotheses as to control of the human mind. H-B/1 C

b. All present agreed that there has been no conclusive evidence, either from reports on Soviet activities or in Western research, to indicate that new or revolutionary progress has been made in this field. The Soviet pattern is remarkably similar to the age-old methods of interrogation - with only minor refinements toward inducing cooperation. At the same time, full investigation of all Soviet cases is essential and basic research in the field is most important because of the importance of this matter in connection with cold war operations. Even though no radical discoveries are made, even small gains in knowledge will justify the effort expended.

Handwritten notes:
is [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

c. No mention was made of the operational intelligence aspects or the actual use of new discoveries by the Western Powers. The aims of the meeting were primarily toward defining areas of pure research with no consideration of any immediate operational developments.

d. Because of the above, U.S. interests can best be served by channeling our contacts through the [redacted] [redacted] because of the close relationship between [redacted] and [redacted] this can be handled quite conveniently and a clear separation between the intelligence and the research aspects can be established. It will B H-B-3

It is necessary to brief [redacted] on the over-all aspects of the intelligence program. It will also be necessary to supply [redacted] with intelligence of such types as can be used in his program and exchanged with the other countries. This will be worked out within the agency in the same manner as is done in connection with other research problems. C

In return we can expect [redacted] to cooperate fully by setting up U.S. research programs which will further the over-all project. He will also serve as an excellent channel for keeping us advised of [redacted] developments. H-B/1 C

H-B-1 The existing [redacted] projects and any others sponsored by the Intelligence Agencies are not a part of the research program outlined above and need not be discussed, or their existence indicated to the [redacted] and the [redacted]. We will thus have two separate but compatible research programs underway, one under the control and coordination of the [redacted] and through that agency with the [redacted]. The other will be under the control and coordination of CIA working with the other intelligence agencies. Should the need for coordination with foreign intelligence agencies develop, this will necessarily be laid on through intelligence channels rather than the [redacted] one. B

[redacted] A

[redacted]