

367

DATE: 1/11/50

TO: SAC, [redacted]

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: Use of Office of Unconventional Agents for C/S Contact

REF: [redacted]

1. In connection with SAC [redacted], we have been advised by the Chief, CC that C/S [redacted] would be willing to undertake an investigation of meprobamate.

2. The source, Dr. [redacted], incumbent Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology and Chairman of the Department at [redacted] College of Medicine, [redacted] is well qualified in pursuing this inquiry on the effect of the drug on the central nervous system.

3. Following toxicity studies on monkeys, Dr. [redacted] plans to evaluate the drug on convicts incarcerated at the [redacted] State Penitentiary located at [redacted], approximately 125 miles from [redacted]. He believes the study, which would entail the purchase of the animals and care and his transportation, could be accomplished for a maximum of \$500.00.

4. In that financial assistance for this project could be of considerable value in the assay of potential psychogenic drugs, it is recommended that Dr. [redacted] be advanced \$500.00 to cover required expenses.

*Give the authority to spend up to*

[Large redacted block]

*Approved*

[Redacted signature]

5/1/50

367  
 DAS 5399  
 30 July 1956

88

Schizophrenic Agent

Case No. [REDACTED]

Background:

Bulbocapnine, the alkaloid of Ditchman's breeches (*Corydalis cava*) has received attention in various countries, including Russia. The most obvious effect recorded as a result of fairly large doses, was catatonia or stupor. Smaller doses caused symptoms resembling those of delirium. Recent Russian studies dealt especially with the effects of bulbocapnine on higher divisions of the Central Nervous System and the cerebral cortex. Dr. [REDACTED] had offered to test the substance on man, but unfortunately died before he could complete his studies. Enclosed is a copy of a preliminary report from Dr. [REDACTED] and a copy of the translation of a recent Russian publication.

Requirements:

We desire to have certain psycho-chemical properties tested on man, using the bulbocapnine which we were fortunate to obtain from [REDACTED] a sample being enclosed herewith. More bulbocapnine is available, if needed.

Among the queries we should like to include the following:

- Loss of speech, if any, in man, indicated in one case by Dr. [REDACTED]
- Loss of sensitivity to pain, if any.
- Loss of memory (observed in a single case by Dr. [REDACTED]).
- Loss of will power, if any.
- Increase in toxicity in persons with a weak type Central Nervous System.  
(see Page 21, No. 6, of Russian manuscript)
- Effects on man, compared to effects on animals as recorded in conclusions.  
(see pages 20 and 21 of Russian manuscript)

January 1957

M/SI Mr. [REDACTED] (Dr. [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]  
 Chief, Collection Staff, . .

This requirement pertains to National Priority Objective 140-D-5, (1) A.1.1. and  
 collection priority 7.

THE SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ATTACHED MATERIAL SHOULD BE CARRIED THROUGH AND NOTION 1

368

ACTION SHEET

TO	
External Research Project	DATED 11/17/56
Chief, Administration Branch	TO
Investigation and Report on Bulbocepinine	
DEADLINE DATE	FOLLOW-UP DATE

DIVISION ROUTING

TO	DATE	ACTION REQUIRED	INIT.	COMMENTS*
.. Ch/Admin.	11/5/56		ni	Approved in principle 5 November 1956
.. Executive	11/17/56	Review	cd	<p>DAO/P. 2 do not participate in the work. ...          to be + ...          the slope? ...</p>
.. [unclear]	13/1/56		[unclear]	
.. [unclear]	14/1/56		[unclear]	
.. D/SI	14/1/56	Approval	[unclear]	<p>This is part of our support to          Article 29          Recommended it be OK'd.          Recommended approval in principle, as          undrafted.</p>
.. Budget Officer		Reproduction		

INSTRUCTIONS: Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered in accordance with the number in the "TO" column.

\* If comments bear a higher classification than the attached material, the security classification of this sheet be changed.

FORM NO. 75-3 REPLACES FORM 30-19, WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL SUPPLY IS EXHAUSTED

56-604