

Chief, Security Research Staff

30 July 1953

Chief, Technical Branch

ARTICHOKE Conference, 15 July 1953

1. On Thursday, 15 July 1953, between 2:00 and 3:15 PM, an ARTICHOKE Conference was held in the SO Conference Room 2065 I Building. Present at this Conference were [redacted]

[redacted] representing SO; [redacted] representing TSS; [redacted] representing the Medical Staff; [redacted] representing the Director's Office and OSI; and [redacted] representing DDP.

2. [redacted] opened the Conference by introducing [redacted] as the DDP representative.

3. [redacted] stated the Sidetone Delay machine had been delivered by [redacted] of Chicago to [redacted] and [redacted] of the Technical Branch and others of SO had examined the machine. [redacted] stated that the examination had been of a general nature and [redacted] had agreed to turn the Sidetone Delay Device over to us as soon as the paper work was completed. [redacted] explained that after certain studies and tests were made by the Technical Branch IRB, the device would be turned over to TSS for their study and any tests they cared to make in connection with this device.

4. Several newspaper clippings which bore directly on ARTICHOKE matters were displayed. [redacted] then discussed the situation of a former Agency official who had become a chronic alcoholic and who, at the present time, was undergoing operative treatment in Dallas, Texas, for a possible brain tumor. This individual had called the Agency prior to the operation and warned that when given certain types of anesthetics (sodium pentothal) previously he had been known to talk coherently. The matter was taken care of by placing an SSD representative in the operation room and by bringing the various personnel participating in the operation under the Secrecy Agreement. [redacted] stated that the subject did talk extensively under the influence of sodium pentothal and revealed internal problems of the Agency. [redacted] added that he was acquainted with the details in the case.

[redacted]

53-186

5. [REDACTED] then commented that this type of thing had been a source of great concern to himself and others in operations work and stated he hoped that the ARTICHOKE efforts to produce some method that would perhaps guarantee amnesias on the parts of those knowing of Agency operations in vital spots would be successful. He stated that some individuals in the Agency had to know tremendous amounts of information and if any way could be found to produce amnesias for this type of information -- for instance, after the individual had left the Agency -- it would be a remarkable thing. [REDACTED] stated the need for amnesias was particularly great in operations work. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both explained that work was continually being done in an effort to produce controlled amnesias by various means.

6. [REDACTED] called attention to the fact that at the preceding conference, [REDACTED] had advanced the idea of testing new methods, new chemicals and new techniques (and combinations thereof) on certain carefully selected employees of the Agency, probably individuals in the Training groups. [REDACTED] pointed out also the matter was scheduled for discussion at this time. A discussion followed in which all hands were in agreement that if the testing could properly be protected and controlled and if it were thoroughly governed by the Medical Staff that the work would be of extreme value both from an experience point of view for those tested and from a research point of view for ARTICHOKE. [REDACTED] stated that it was his idea that staff employees (in Training) be carefully screened and that they be tested on a volunteer basis with any new or untried chemicals or techniques provided that the Medical Staff was given complete authority to determine whether or not such testing was safe. [REDACTED] insisted that protection of Agency personnel would be paramount in such matters and only after certification by the Medical Staff and the Medical Staff completely handling the chemicals or drugs in question could the testing then be carried out. It was suggested by agreement among all hands that the matter be taken up with certain key officials in the Training Branch as to whether or not they considered the matter feasible and sound and [REDACTED] stated he and [REDACTED] would approach the Training officials. It was further agreed that after this had been done and basic details ironed out, the matter should then be taken up at the proper level with the top administrative people of the Agency for approval.

53-187

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7

8. At this point in the conference, [redacted] distributed a paper entitled "ARTICHOKE; Restatement of Program" dated 16 July 1953 and signed by [redacted]. [redacted] explained that the paper had been prepared at the direction of [redacted] and was being distributed to all hands for their study and comment. [redacted] then stated that the paper set forth in general a restatement of the ARTICHOKE program and redefined certain proposed work in connection with the project. [redacted] stated he wanted to make certain that the ARTICHOKE mission was entirely sound and we were handling with the proper priority the various broad fields we were studying. [redacted] also stated he wanted to find out, in the opinion of those assembled, whether or not the work was going too far or not far enough or if it were properly in line. [redacted] stated it was his principal desire to make certain the entire ARTICHOKE group and all participating divisions completely and totally backed the ARTICHOKE work. [redacted] concluded by stating that he hoped at the next meeting we would have a full discussion concerning the ARTICHOKE work and that if any of the participating groups or individuals present had any ideas or suggestions that they would be taken up at this time.

9. Following [redacted] discussion, [redacted] stated that TSS was making successful progress in items of interest to ARTICHOKE. [redacted] stated that in connection with the [redacted] some progress was being made and [redacted] would work with the Surgeon General's Office in this connection. [redacted] further stated that [redacted] intended to talk with all doctors that he could reach that were involved in medical decisions in the case and [redacted] would attempt to assemble and study the medical histories. In addition, [redacted] will, in the future, approach the principal in the case if a proper and suitable cover can be established to permit [redacted] to do this.

10. [redacted] then briefly reported for OSI and discussed the matter of the communication contemplated with the [redacted] officials engaging in work somewhat parallel to that of ARTICHOKE. [redacted] explained in some detail the background of the [redacted] letter and then passed out copies of the OSI reply to the [redacted] officials for study by the group. During a general discussion that followed, [redacted] pointed

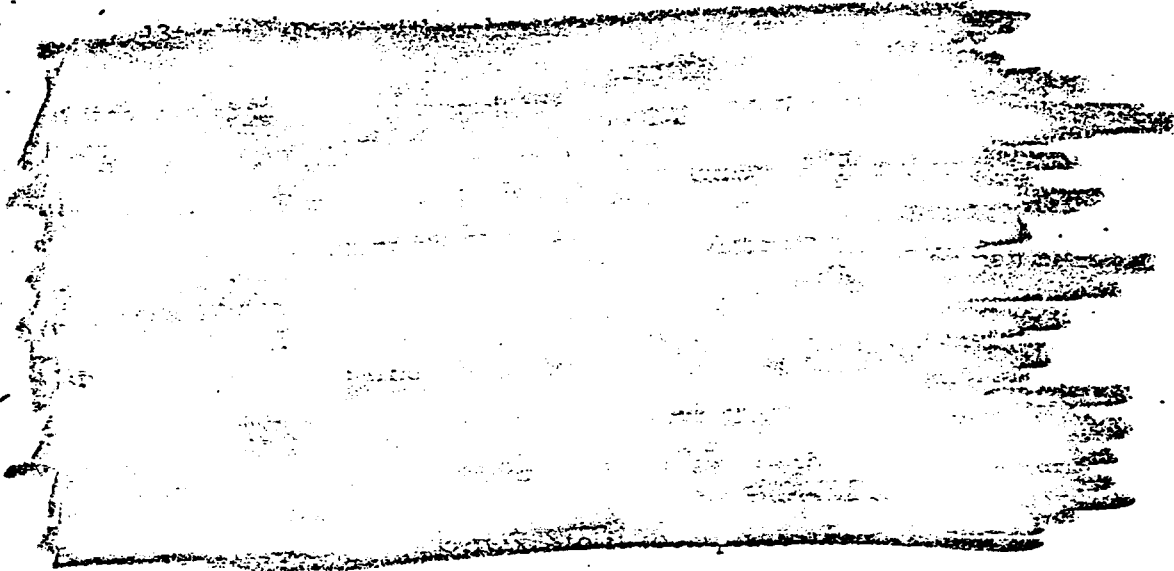
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53-188
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out that working with the [redacted] scientific people might be very advantageous since he stated that the [redacted] government permitted certain activities which were not permitted by the United States government (i.e. experiments on anthrax, etc.).

11. Following this, [redacted] stated that he felt that if the ARTICHOKE organization would set up a list of requirements for information, he would survey the possibilities of the transmission of these requirements to the various field stations and the various desks in the operations end. [redacted] also suggested that possibly a requirement sent to the Security Officers both in [redacted] and [redacted] might be productive of good results. [redacted] and [redacted] informed [redacted] they regarded his ideas as sound and would assemble a list of requirements and give them to him in the immediate future.

12. [redacted] discussed briefly certain interesting aspects of the delivery of food by the U. S. Government to East Germany with the possible charges of food poisoning, etc. which the Soviets would make against free food.



14. [redacted] made the concluding statement of the conference by pointing out that in general the ARTICHOKE work was quite well defined but often the "by-products" of ARTICHOKE experimentation and research would be of interest to many divisions throughout the Agency. [redacted] explained that where a discovery was made through the ARTICHOKE efforts and did not apply to the ARTICHOKE work immediately that discovery whether chemical or otherwise would be given at once to the properly interested division of the Agency.

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53-189

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15. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 after Thursday, 20 August 1953, had been selected as the time of the next meeting. The meeting will be held as usual in the SO Conference Room.

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53-190