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Allen W. Dulles Describes 'Warfare for the Brain'

By ARTHUR KROCK

WASHINGTON, April 15—The techniques and effects of organized mind perversion of individuals by Communist Governments, which the Chinese have given the name of "brain-washing," was the subject of a very informing speech just made by the chief of this Government's principal unit engaged in collecting such information and determining its accuracy. To Princeton University alumni, meeting last Friday at Hot Springs, Va., Allen W. Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, reviewed the process thoroughly and made this comment:

The Communists are now applying the brain-washing techniques to American prisoners in Korea and it is not beyond the range of possibility that considerable numbers of our own boys there might be so indoctrinated as to be induced, temporarily at least, to renounce country and family.

Soon this possibility will be tested at first-hand, after the exchange of prisoners of war in Korea. Already the Communists have broadcast what they represent to be the recorded voices of a colonel and a major of the United States Marine Corps, captured in July, giving (said Dulles) "in the greatest detail fictitious information regarding preparations for bacteriological warfare in Korea."

Even those who have read the novels of Koestler and Aldanov should find some new substance in the following quotations from and summaries of what Director Dulles said:

The human mind, "the most delicate of all instruments * * * is so finely adjusted, so susceptible to the impact of outside influences, that it is proving a malleable tool in the hands of sinister men. The Soviets are now [perverting it] as one of their main weapons in prosecuting the cold war."

In Hitler's Germany and Fascist Italy an attempt was made to standardize all human thinking, a process called by the Germans "gleichgestaltung," the leveling procedure. Its effect, while it may not have been permanent on the German mind, conditioned vast numbers of Germans to follow Hitler completely. Japan's thought control seems to have had little permanent effect, though it was highly efficient "in combating sedition" and constructing "apparent unity behind an intense nationalism"

Soviet 'Improvements'

But the Soviet experiment, which takes two forms, is very different. First, mass indoctrination for the purpose of getting a submissive response to any act by the rulers. This gives the appearance of "monolithic solidarity in the Soviet state" and the outward look of unity. Second, such treatment of selected individuals as to deprive them of the ability to state their own thoughts. "Parrot-like, the individuals so conditioned can merely repeat thoughts which have been implanted in their minds" by outside suggestion.

To apply this process it is first "necessary to close off with an impenetrable barrier the area within which the operation is to take place"—the Iron and the Bamboo Curtains. The periphery of these is now about 21,000 miles. Behind it are three zones—(1) a No Man's Land about a mile deep, mined, covered with barbed wire and cleared to reveal footprints; (2) an intermediate belt ten miles deep and completely depopulated; and (3) an area as much as 150 miles deep which can be entered only by those who have special passes issued by the Frontier Troop Administration. Maritime spaces, used by the fishing fleets, are as carefully guarded.

"It is hard for us to conceive how our own minds would operate if, say for the last twenty years, we had been given only one choice and heard only one message. I can only assure you of my firm belief that few of us would have withstood such treatment and kept an open mind."

The Perfected Technique

The brain-washing of individuals is designed "to turn them into humble confessors of crimes they never committed or to make them the mouthpieces for Soviet propaganda." The "confessions" of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary and those in the recent purge trials in Czechoslovakia are illustrations. But it is interesting to note the length of time between arrest and "confession"—rarely less than six months. "This is not because Communist 'justice' cannot move with rapidity when it wants to." The time is required for an impressive demonstration of effective brain-washing; "written confessions could be much more quickly exacted by torture."

Few have escaped from the ordeal to tell their story. But an American missionary in China who did described it to Dulles. He was interrogated for seventy-five days, mostly during the night hours, "by relays of brutal questioners, deprived of sleep and subjected to the effect of bright lighting during the day and physical torture during the night. No direct physical torture was applied. His mind

was broken down, and he went into court and gave what he now recognizes to be completely false testimony against one of his fellow-missionaries. * * * He gave this testimony with vigor and with what, at the time, was apparent complete confidence in its truth."

The C. I. A. has a copy of a Communist film "showing American boys—their identity is beyond doubt—standing before an investigatory group of Communists from Western Europe and the satellites and making open confessions, fake from beginning to end, giving details of the alleged dropping of bombs with bacteriological ingredients on North Korean targets. They describe their indoctrination in bacteriological warfare, give all the details of their missions, their flight schedules, and where they claim to have dropped the germ bombs. As far as one can judge from the film, the confessions are voluntary."