

A/B, I, 27, 2

Chief, Contact Division  
for Scientific Branch  
Chief, Office

8 January 1952

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Case \_\_\_\_\_

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1. As recommended in Case \_\_\_\_\_, we have discussed the uses of nicotinic acid and its compounds with \_\_\_\_\_ who is head of the Department of Pharmacology at the \_\_\_\_\_ Medical School in \_\_\_\_\_ was most cooperative and made the following comments on the subject:

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2. The common use of nicotinic acid is as a vitamin; it is used principally as a preventative for pellagra (a skin affection with severe constitutional and nervous symptoms) in the southern part of the US. Its therapeutic action in these cases is in developing a psychosis and dilating the blood vessels.

3. Since nicotinic acid is a peripheral dilator of blood vessels, it might also be used in the treatment of frost bite but there is no published indication that this type of therapy has ever been developed anywhere.

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4. The staff of the \_\_\_\_\_ Medical School Pharmacology Department has done much work on using a combination of nicotinomid with pricine for the treatment of schizophrenic patients. Pricine is a nicotinic acid inhibitor (B 45) and, although very lethal in animals, is not poisonous for human beings. The nicotinomid-pricine combination produces a shock reaction which does not involve convulsions. Experiments in this have been made on patients at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital in \_\_\_\_\_ but are no longer being carried on because of the lack of funds and the difficulty in travel between the medical college laboratories and the hospital.

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5. \_\_\_\_\_ did not know of other doctors or laboratories in the US or abroad who were working with this nicotinomid-pricine combination or other nicotinic acid compounds. He could not recall having seen any publications on this subject.

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6. This office believes that it might be advantageous to discuss Case \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman of the Bio-Chemistry Department of the \_\_\_\_\_ where we understand research in nicotinic acid is also being done but, because of the sensitivity of the matter, we will not do so until further advised by you.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Contact Division  
 Attention: Deputy Chief

DATE: 25 Jan 52

G FROM : Chief, \_\_\_\_\_ Office

H SUBJECT: Case \_\_\_\_\_

A Re: Memo by \_\_\_\_\_, same subject, dated 24 Jan 52

1. The nicotinomid and pricine combination is not a compound. The two separate drugs are given simultaneously in the treatment of schizophrenic patients. Since it is not a compound, there is no spectrophotometric curve.

2. The nicotinomid and pricine combination is given in oral capsules in doses of three milligrams of pricine and 100 milligrams of nicotinomid twice a day. The effect of this dosage is seen over a period of days; there is no seizure, rather gradual improvement. The shock produced is not in the form produced by electric shock treatment. It is in the form of a metabolic change rather than a loss of consciousness. There is no amnesia, therefore. The metabolic change is manifested by a lowered body temperature, paleness, goosebumps all over the body, a slowing of the pulse to approximately 40, a lowering of the blood pressure to approximately 90 over 60. Since the patients are schizophrenic, they do not realize they feel badly and often walk around in this condition without being aware of discomfort. One patient who was accidentally given a dose of the drug combination every hour for part of one day did tell the nurse that he preferred other types of treatment.

C 3. There are no case histories on experimentation with nicotinomid and pricine since none of the experiments have been completed. So far, only 12 patients have been given this treatment. \_\_\_\_\_ claims that 20 to 100 cases would have to be tested before any case histories could be released even to a closed group. This projected research has recently been delayed by bad weather, which prevents the doctors from traveling to the hospital, but, more important than this, the death of one of the patients who was under the nicotinomid and pricine treatment has made it necessary to slow down the experiments somewhat even though the death is not believed to be due to the drug treatment. Experiments will be renewed in the spring.

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C 4. Re paragraph 2 of the subject memo, our \_\_\_\_\_ resident agent will contact \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ maintaining the same security classification on OSI's interest. Meanwhile, OSI may be interested to know that the \_\_\_\_\_ is working with nicotinic acid, rather than nicotinomid, and the effect of this drug on psychoses as well as using it in the treatment of pellagra which results from a deficiency of nicotinic acid. \_\_\_\_\_ of the

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\_\_\_\_\_ has, according to \_\_\_\_\_, treated 20 psychiatric patients with nicotinic acid, using its blood-vessel dilating properties in her treatment. These patients, \_\_\_\_\_ emphasized, were merely psychiatric, not schizophrenic and not confined.

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5. In discussing his experiments with nicotinomid, \_\_\_\_\_ also mentioned other experiments, which may be of interest to OSI, although they do not deal with nicotinic acid or nicotinomid. \_\_\_\_\_ reports that the \_\_\_\_\_ Medical School is studying the production of epilepsy in patients by administering semicarbazide in capsule form. This treatment has been used on six patients - three men and three women. The three men have developed epilepsy; the three women have not but have developed central vomiting instead. This seems to us to have little to do with OSI's current interest but since there appeared to be some association for \_\_\_\_\_, we are sending it along in case OSI also sees some connection.

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## Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

A TO : \_\_\_\_\_, CSI

DATE: 13 February 1952

FROM : Chief, Contact Division, OO

H SUBJECT: Case \_\_\_\_\_

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman of the Department of Bio-chemistry and Dean of the Graduate School, was contacted but could add little to the information already furnished. He referred the OO/C representative to \_\_\_\_\_ Professor of Pharmacology in the Medical School.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ provided the enclosed reprint of an article which appeared in the August 1945 issue of the \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Journal on the use of nicotinic acid in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. This is the extent of his research with the acid. He in turn referred our man to \_\_\_\_\_, also of the Medical School faculty. \_\_\_\_\_, who is Professor of Neuro-Psychiatry, provided the enclosed reprint of an article written by \_\_\_\_\_ on the use of the acid in the treatment of certain depressed states. \_\_\_\_\_ has continued to conduct research on this subject at the \_\_\_\_\_ State Hospital but \_\_\_\_\_ is now using succinate acid rather than nicotinic acid because, as \_\_\_\_\_ states, it has substantially the same effect as the latter and is more easily administered. \_\_\_\_\_ promised to give us reports of two additional studies on the same subject, and these will be forwarded when received.

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Encl. - Two reprints as described above