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A/B, 5, 90/5

June 22, 1954

THE MILITARY APPLICATION OF HYPNOTISM

A
TO: [REDACTED]

54 99

C
FROM: [REDACTED]

I choose two practical applications from many with which to illustrate my proposition:

1. The safeguarding of the messages entrusted to couriers. In deep hypnosis the subject, military or civilian, can be given a message to be delivered to say Colonel X in Berlin. The subject may then be sent to Berlin on any perfectly routine assignment. The message will be perfectly safe and will be delivered to the proper person because
 - a. the subject will have no memory whatsoever in the waking state as to the nature and contents of the message.
 - b. it can be arranged that the subject will have no knowledge of ever having been hypnotized.
 - c. It can be arranged that ^{no} one beside Colonel X in Berlin can hypnotize the subject and recover the message.

This hypnotic messenger, if I may use the phrase has in my opinion at least two very definite advantages over the ordinary courier. First he will never under any circumstance by a slip of the tongue divulge the true nature of his mission for the very simple reason that he has no conscious knowledge of what that mission may be. He is merely going on a routine replacement in say the Adjutant General's Office. This will be his story and the story which he believes.

Approved
Date JAN 1990

Secondly, if by any chance, he is picked up through a leakage of information from other sources the message is safe. No amount of third degree tactics can pry it loose, for he simply does not have it in his conscious mind. Even if the enemy suspects the use of hypnotism the message is still safe for no one can hypnotize him except this Colonel X in Berlin.

May I point out that this technique is one which can be demonstrated under experimental conditions where you wish and when you wish allowing a certain amount of time to train the subjects in question.

2. A specific counterintelligence technique to be used against enemy agents. This particular use of hypnotism would be more complicated and more difficult than the rather simple case which I outlined in the preceding paragraphs, but is, I assure you, quite practical. I will take a number of men and will establish in them through the use of hypnotism the condition of split personality. Consciously they will be ardent Communists, phanatical adherence to the party line, ready and eager to submit to any discipline which the party may prescribe. Unconsciously they will be loyal Americans just as grimley determined to thwart the Communists at every turn in the road.

These men again will have no knowledge of anything that occurs in the hypnotic state--will have no knowledge of ever having been hypnotized and can only be hypnotized by such persons as the original operator may choose. Consciously they will associate with the Communists and learn all the plans of the organization. Once every month or at such time is advisable they will be contacted by a member of our intelligence department, hypnotized, and as loyal Americans will tell what they know. This sounds unbelievable, but I assure, you, it will work.

Once again the advantages. Your hypothetical counter spy will be placed in a very difficult situation--amounting at best to social ostracism, at worst criminal prosecution. He will not disclose his true role for the very simple reason that he can not. Consciously he is a Communist and will not in a moment of weakness admit to his relatives or to his friends that he is anything but a Communist. Again, if through some leakage, he is suspected of being an informer his true role is safely guarded, locked in the unconscious and impervious to all assaults from the outside.

[REDACTED]

I consider myself an authority on the theoretical applications of hypnotism to warfare and would point out that it is a highly specialized subject. The average psychologist or even psychiatrist is as at much of a loss here as would be the average chemist or physicist if called on to supervise a very specialized project for which he had had no particular training. I claim that I can demonstrate all my particular contentions to the satisfaction of the government agencies and request the opportunity so to do.

In closing, may I make one very significant point. The Russian literature is hard to get and carefully avoids any mention of the topic in question. Those Russian articles which I have been able to get leave no doubt about the fact that the Russian is just as conversive about the field of hypnotism as are we.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

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