



THE BLACK VAULT

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27 April

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Record

1. The Undersigned called on [REDACTED] 26 April, concerning reports on [REDACTED], both of whom are reported to have been active in ergot research for [REDACTED]
2. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had contacted him approximately three weeks ago requesting as much data as possible on [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] also stated that [REDACTED] has some eight sources (more or less) reporting on ergot research. He stated the [REDACTED] were the only personalities involved in whom [REDACTED] had expressed a particular interest. He also stated that additional information concerning the [REDACTED] will be obtained in the normal course of events without our taking any further initiative.
4. Mr. [REDACTED] gave me a résumé of his knowledge of sources concerning ergot researches. He stated that several American firms are doing considerable work in this field for [REDACTED]. He further stated that [REDACTED] was particularly interested in this subject and was mainly responsible for stimulating the interest of [REDACTED] therein. He stated that apparently [REDACTED] had not been able to obtain as much information as he desired concerning the [REDACTED] program, but that [REDACTED] had criticized [REDACTED] reports on the ground that the information they contained was out of date. He stated that it was a matter of concern to [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] criticized [REDACTED] work because it was based largely on reports produced by [REDACTED] and that they were constantly interested in obtaining expert evaluations of materials they submitted.

5. On leaving, ~~██████████~~ the Undersigned will call on

~~██████████~~ and asked him to brief the Undersigned thoroughly on the interesting aspects of ergot research. The Undersigned told

~~██████████~~ that the Undersigned wished to continue an interest in this field where ~~██████████~~ left off. ~~██████████~~ gave the Undersigned a forty minute briefing on the subject. The technical content of

~~██████████~~'s briefing seemed to the Undersigned much sounder than the technical content of other conversations the Undersigned had had with him. He lacked embarrassment, perhaps because we were alone, and

described the production, distribution and use of ergot derivatives systematically and in some detail. ~~██████████~~ was obviously interested

in the use of ergot ^{for the} production of psychotic effects in individuals to a much greater extent than he was interested in possible use of this as a sabotage agent effecting large groups of people. He stated that the

principle difficulty in using ergot against large groups was the extreme difficulty of storing it in the ~~selective~~ form (the ~~selective~~ ^{form} is highly unstable). He stated that the great desirability of using ergot derivatives

in obtaining psychotic ^{effects} in individuals was the fact that it is ^{so effective} ~~effective~~ in extremely small doses and cannot be detected when the effects have worn off. ~~██████████~~ stated that his interest not only revolved

around the effort to get early warning-type information of possible Soviet use, but also to obtain, by research, information on ~~ergot antidotes~~ ^{ergot antidotes}

so that the United States would be prepared in event that ergot was ^{used} ~~utilized~~

aggressively against us.

~~██████████~~ further described ways and means of detecting the presence of ergot derivatives. He stated that organizations such as

the United States Pure Food and Drug Administration used animal indicators such as Ranunculus and certain other simple forms of life which have very characteristic reactions when they receive even the ~~smallest~~ ^{smallest} doses.

