



THE BLACK VAULT

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A/B, 3, 61/2

13 April 1953

Chief, Security Research Staff

Chief, Technical Branch

Interviews with Cleared Contacts

1. On Monday, 6 April 1953 at 10:30 AM [redacted] and the writer interviewed [redacted]

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2. [redacted] was cleared for Secret contact since he is in charge of bringing into the United States botanicals and related items of all types from all over the world that are to be grown in the United States. [redacted] proved very co-operative and set up a means whereby botanicals held in countries outside the United States for us can be easily passed through customs, quarantine, etc. and dispatched to [redacted] and the writer with the least possible delay. [redacted] gave us very valuable information, made certain technical arrangements for bringing in botanicals and provided special advice as to various laws existing for the importation of certain botanicals and other related items.

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1. On Monday, 6 April 1953 at 2:00 PM [redacted] and the writer interviewed [redacted] at his office in [redacted]

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For many years, [redacted] has been with the [redacted] and in view of his knowledge of chemicals and drugs and his large technical staff, it is deemed essential he be contacted at the Secret level in connection with the ARTICHOKA program.

2. [redacted] displayed a great interest in the ARTICHOKA work and stated that he and his men had considered on a number of occasions the questions that arose from such things as the Mindacry trial. He stated he felt his organization could be of great assistance to the ARTICHOKA work. He stated that he had several men whom he wished to have cleared so he could try the problems specifically on their behalf. [redacted] and his [redacted] are specialists attached to [redacted] and are in a very excellent position to assist in chemical and drug research along the lines of ARTICHOKA. [redacted] receives a sample of [redacted] and information on [redacted] every [redacted]

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only produced drug in the United States and is widely acquainted with the pharmaceutical houses all over the country and their productions. [redacted] felt he would be a valuable assistant in the work.

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3. [redacted] and the writer talked with [redacted] for about one hour and explained to him certain aspects of the REICHER program for his consideration. [redacted] was extremely cooperative and expressed a willingness to assist in any way going so far as to offer the use of certain of his extremely valuable technical services and specialists in the handling and testing of various drugs and chemicals.

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1. On 7 April, Tuesday, at 10:00 AM, [redacted] and the writer interviewed [redacted] who is in charge of [redacted]

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[redacted] is essential to any operation having to do with the importation of botanicals and related items into the United States since all seeds, leaves, bark and plants, etc. [redacted]

[redacted] very quickly understood the nature of the problem and stated that he would assist in every way possible to facilitate and expedite the importation of botanicals for our needs. He even went so far as to arrange a method whereby incoming botanicals would be given absolute protection and would not be subject to normal fumigation processes that might possibly destroy the usefulness of the plant for propagation purposes. [redacted] has been with [redacted] for a great many years and gave us some very excellent advice in the manner of importing botanicals whether for chemical analysis or growing purposes and it is believed in the future that any botanical material coming into Washington for our use will receive high priority treatment and will be protected against injury, loss, etc.

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2. On Friday, 10 April 1953 at 10:30 AM, [redacted] and the writer interviewed [redacted]

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[redacted] is of extreme importance in the REICHER work in that he is the individual who is able to arrange for the growing of every plant imported into the United States whether it is to be grown under glass in greenhouses or in open cultivation in tropical areas such as Florida.

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2. [redacted] immediately understood the problem involved and requested that [redacted] and specialist in the growing of medicinal and certain special type groups be cleared since [redacted] should have the actual growing of such botanicals in his charge. [redacted] explained the various means whereby this Agency could arrange for the growing of special botanicals and informed us that he had grown certain types of narcotic plants to assist the nation in stockpiling drugs. [redacted] stated that he had been cleared at the Top Secret level for this type of work.

CA

3. [redacted] at the conclusion of the discussion which lasted about one hour, took [redacted] and the writer on an extended tour [redacted] and showed [redacted] and the writer a great number of rare plants being grown for medicinal and experimental work. In addition, [redacted] stated that he would make available for complete inspection his fifty year old file of plants of all kinds that had been grown in or sent to [redacted] for research and experimentation purposes. This file, which is not generally well known, may prove an invaluable source of information particularly in the tracing and locating of rare plants.

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1. On Monday, 13 April 1951 at 10:00 AM, [redacted] and the writer interviewed [redacted]

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[redacted] is a well-known pharmacologist and has held the teaching rank of professor in pharmacology and physiology in a number of well-known American universities. [redacted] proved very co-operative and stated he would do all in his power to see to it that new and unusual chemicals and information concerning same were given to the ARTICHOKE program for experimental purposes. He stated he had a vast number of contacts in all the pharmaceutical houses in the United States and he would immediately start lining up individuals who are specialists in the ARTICHOKE type of work who should be contacted in this connection.

B/6

2. [redacted] requested that [redacted] of his staff be cleared so that he [redacted] could talk with [redacted] concerning classified matters. He stated that [redacted] had a fine mind and he knew a great deal about new drugs and had the ability to test drugs in an outstanding manner.

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[redacted] is directly in charge of the vast laboratories of [redacted]. At the conclusion of about one hour's discussion, [redacted] and the writer on a tour of the various laboratories of [redacted].

[REDACTED]
this laboratory's assistance and explained that at all times there were [REDACTED]

3. For the record, it should be noted that [REDACTED] who is an authority on alcohol made careful notes of various items that he wanted to research out in connection with our work. He was extremely courteous and helpful and is believed will produce a great deal of assistance in the immediate future in this work.

A [REDACTED]