



# THE BLACK VAULT

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Security Research Staff

DATE: 16 November 1953

FROM : Chief, Technical Branch

A/B, III, 1, 4

SUBJECT: ARTICHOKE Conference, 22 October 1953.

1. On Thursday, 22 October 1953, between 2:00 PM and 3:25 PM, an ARTICHOKE Conference was held in the SO Conference Room, 2065 I Building. Present at this Conference were

[REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] opened the Conference by introducing [REDACTED] who is to represent [REDACTED] in the future, replacing [REDACTED] who is leaving the United States.

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3. [REDACTED] then pointed out the known facts in the alleged offer of the [REDACTED] to sell ten (10) kilos of LSD. A general discussion followed which resulted in an agreement of all hands that:

- 1) The Agency should purchase the LSD if possible and as soon as possible.
- 2) Purchase price estimated to be \$240,000 or less.
- 3) [REDACTED] to handle methods and details of purchase, cover, etc. for the purchase operation and to conduct same.
- 4) [REDACTED] to present the purchase plans to the proper Agency officials and obtain necessary support (fiscal or otherwise) and authorization for the operation.
- 5) [REDACTED] offer to assist in any way possible in connection with 4) above was accepted and [REDACTED] agreed to work out details in the immediate future.

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For matter of record, it should be noted that it was agreed by all hands that the purchase of this material was a risky operation but since the dangerous potentials of the chemical were known and the

[REDACTED]

amount offered of such size the purchase was regarded as sound if for no other reason than a preclusive situation.

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4. [redacted] then pointed out that [redacted] was leaving for [redacted] the following week on personal business and had volunteered to visit some manufacturing firms and noted [redacted] specialists in connection with ARTICHOKE. [redacted] had offered to make these visits on his own time and if necessary at his own expense, provided he had prior approval from Security and the ARTICHOKE Conference. [redacted] read a list of the firms and individuals that [redacted] had proposed to visit. After some discussion, it was decided in view of the pending LSD transaction in [redacted] that it would be unwise to permit [redacted] to conduct any business along ARTICHOKE lines in [redacted] or elsewhere in [redacted] at the present time although his generous offer was greatly appreciated. [redacted] stated that if it was later decided that the contact of these firms and individuals appeared essential to the ARTICHOKE problem, [redacted] could be sent officially on this business from Headquarters, Washington.

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Note: [redacted] was informed of the ARTICHOKE Conference decision in this matter on Friday, 23 October 1953 by [redacted]

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5. [redacted] then briefly re-introduced the subject of the aims and the functions of the ARTICHOKE program and announced that drafts of a paper in this connection would be given to all ARTICHOKE Conference members for their study prior to the next ARTICHOKE meeting. In addition, [redacted] stated a draft of the proposal for an experimental project using specially screened trainee volunteers would also be given to the ARTICHOKE Conference members at the same time. [redacted] requested all members to examine the drafts, make any notes, corrections, additions, etc. and be prepared to discuss the proposals at the following ARTICHOKE Conference.

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6. [redacted] explained in greater detail the proposal for the use of trainee volunteers. [redacted] pointed out that such research would be of benefit in two main areas:

- A. It would very clearly demonstrate to certain select Agency personnel the effects of chemicals, hypnosis and possibly other elements, etc. upon themselves and their associates.
- B. It would give the ARTICHOKE members an opportunity to study the reactions of good subjects under more or less ideal and very