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A/B, IV, 7, 4

TO : [REDACTED] *
BY : [REDACTED] R
SUBJECT: Special Conference of August 1954

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On August 6, 1954, [REDACTED] and the writer with [REDACTED] attended a special conference at [REDACTED] between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. In addition to those mentioned above, there were present [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] discussed the [REDACTED] a close working associate [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and the writer attended this conference at the direction [REDACTED] in the belief that the conference was to have been a report on polygraph operations on [REDACTED] and been very valuable for. This, however, was not the case. The details follow:

[REDACTED] opened the conference by stating that he had been in charge of a project in [REDACTED] in which the [REDACTED] had used a polygraph operator along with a team of psychiatrists and psychologists on [REDACTED] stated that he had had for many years an interest in the use of the polygraph but that this recent [REDACTED] experience had concentrated again to him that there was a wide discussion regarding the efficacy of the polygraph between the polygraph operators themselves and individuals who looked at the polygraph from a "scientific" point of view. He stated that he was asked to find out what the psychiatrists and psychologists on this [REDACTED] project did not agree in the use with the polygraph operator as to whether or not the polygraph was effective - the polygraph operator maintaining that the polygraph was very effective and the psychiatrists and psychologists stating that it was much more less effective and that it was not useful in any way for certain types of work. [REDACTED] also stated that he had found this to be universally true that polygraph operators stated that the machine was very effective and that scientists or doctors felt that it was less effective than the professionals thought it was. He stated therefore that he wanted to talk to the members of the conference and (1) get their opinions as to the machine's effectiveness and (2) to set in motion a project which [REDACTED] could handle to deliberately study and evaluate the effectiveness of the polygraph. He stated that this could be done by [REDACTED] probably through [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] pointed out, as did [REDACTED] and the writer, that they were in attendance at the conference under the impression that the conference was to be a report on certain polygraph operations by [REDACTED] and that they could not commit themselves to any side as far as CIA was concerned. However, since their presence was official and since the conference itself was of individuals of high security clearance [REDACTED] cooperated fully in discussions, particularly [REDACTED] both having technical knowledge of the polygraph.

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course, solely from a security point of view. [redacted] has expressed the opinion that CIA receives little or no benefit from future scientific studies on the evaluation of the polygraph if such research could be of value.

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It was necessary for [redacted] to point out that there is a vast amount of difference between using a polygraph as a security weapon and examining it from a scientific point of view as to infallibility, etc.

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The conference involved some discussion concerning other devices of detection of deception such as instruments for measuring the wave length of the eye, the electro-encephalograph and some sonic-audio devices.

In the opinion of both [redacted] the conference was primarily of an exploratory nature and was not a conference at all and originally scheduled as a general meeting between [redacted] to explore the possibilities of [redacted] testing and evaluating the effectiveness of the polygraph and related devices for the benefit of the [redacted] and other interested agencies. [redacted] pointed out that there are no [redacted] and hence, CIA interests he could not commit himself as to specific CIA interests in the matter and suggested that [redacted] discuss these general matters at a conference of a future date with [redacted] personally. [redacted] agreed to do. All hands agreed that it would probably be beneficial to have [redacted] make an independent study of these matters. Both [redacted] pointed out that CIA security was at all times interested in obtaining the best possible device in these fields and that any improvements or corrections along these lines would be well received and that CIA security itself could be engaged in research to increase the effectiveness of their own polygraph techniques and polygraph machines.

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The conference ended with the agreement that [redacted] would support interest in setting up such a project and in doing so he would talk with [redacted] and recommend that [redacted] be given authority to set up and activate such a project. [redacted] also agreed to talk to [redacted] concerning CIA interests in these matters.

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For a matter of record during the discussion of the effectiveness of the polygraph and whether or not the polygraph could be "broken", [redacted] wanted to know if any tests had been made concerning the use of hypnosis and/or narcotics both in connection with the polygraph and in connection with their general use for interrogation purposes. Since the writer is specifically working on such a project he engaged [redacted] in some conversation along these lines but specific details were withheld in this connection since the writer had no certain knowledge as to the extent that [redacted] had been brought into the "Third" project. Another one, it is not known from the nature of the conversation whether [redacted] was discussing "Third" or whether his remarks in this connection were of a general nature only. The writer merely pointed out to [redacted] that CIA security, of course, had an interest in such matters and was cognizant of the uses of such drugs as sodium amytal, scopolamine, etc. and that

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research was being carried on in several areas security matters of view along these lines. It was also pointed out at this time to [redacted] that because of extremely severe security measures in connection with these matters that discussions along these lines was hampered. The writer stated that he hoped in the near future under different circumstances to be able to discuss such matters with [redacted] officially since [redacted] showed a rather keen interest in this direction.

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SECURITY MATTERS: In the opinion of the writer and [redacted] your representation at this conference was unnecessary. A great deal of time was wasted in explaining elementary things and in academic discussions of the value of the polygraph which had no bearing on [redacted] security matters or other elements mentioned above. [redacted] specifically pointed out that policy matters involving the use of the polygraph came from higher authority and that their only concern was in the specific operation in the use of that instrument. Both [redacted] held the position that the polygraph as used by security CIA is a very effective weapon from a security point of view. Both [redacted] however, clearly stated that CIA security was always interested in more effective instruments if such could be designed or any new devices or any new methods that could be introduced in the detection of deception.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

A/B, IV, 7, 5

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Hoeting

Place: Office of [REDACTED]
Time: 3:20 P.M. 20 August 1955
Report: [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] started the meeting by stating he had called it to discuss the polygraph as a valid device for detecting deception. He had encountered a great faith in it on the part of operators and a great skepticism on the part of well-trained psychologists who were not active in using it.

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2. [REDACTED] then displayed a book on lie detection by a [REDACTED] which states that experience has shown that a trained operator using a polygraph can determine the nature of the deception being practiced in 75% of the cases where deception exists. The book contains a list of persons supposed to exist who have no response to the polygraph indicators. [REDACTED] stated that in running several thousand cases they have never encountered such a person.

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3. [REDACTED] stated that evaluation of the polygraph requires answers to the following questions:

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a. Have any studies been made as to its reliability in measuring the responses it is supposed to measure?

b. What limitations exist? - The machine measures stress, but when do we stop getting pure stress responses. Studies have shown that fabric responses are often confused with stress responses. Designers of any new device will have to keep portability in mind. The H5-507 of the present Hoeting equipment is probably an upper weight limit.

c. Why is there such a difference in opinion as to the reliability of the polygraph? (refer to above)

d. Has any study scientifically evaluated one polygraph against another?

e. Has any one established a standardized degree of training for polygraph operators?

[REDACTED]

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4. If the instrument is a valid indicator, how can we increase the legal acceptance in civil courts of the findings? - The [redacted] is finding it such a good indicator that he is [redacted] a large number of operators at [redacted]

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5. [redacted] raised the question as to whether or not the polygraph could be used as a means of measuring intelligence due to its detecting responses.

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6. [redacted] stated he felt any project that would be developed could be related to the one now under way for the [redacted] in which there is a basic study of the biochemistry of fatigue. Our interest in deception could be pin-pointed to the biochemical response of the nerves to stress. He stated that he knew [redacted] was interested in both these areas.

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7. The electrodermograph was mentioned. It was agreed that [redacted] probably would not be using it as [redacted] was making a very thorough investigation of it at present. There is some work now being done at [redacted] for the device, but under whose sponsorship it was not known.

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8. Various related activities were mentioned as follows:

a. [redacted] has been interested for some years in a device for determining nervous stress by measuring blood flow. He has expressed interest in the detection of deception.

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b. There is a medical clinic in [redacted] which is specializing in the use of hypnosis in the treatment of nervous disorders.

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c. [redacted] mentioned a new drug called "Demerol" which is better than scopolamine at making persons talk freely.

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d. The existence of [redacted] was mentioned.

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9. In conclusion, it was decided that:

a. A complete and scientific investigation of all polygraphs is in order. This should:

- (1) Determine the best available
(2) Determine how it could be improved

b. [redacted] such an investigation is completed within the scope of [redacted] and should be a part of the [redacted] which is to give [redacted] in the near future.

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c. [redacted] who is now a consultant for [redacted] on other matters will speak to [redacted] about expediting the assignment of the polygraph investigation project to [redacted]

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