



# THE BLACK VAULT

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MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

-Subject: Rauwolfia

*B* In a conversation at \_\_\_\_\_ with  
*C* \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in connection with ARTICHOKE and  
*C* other matters, the conversation at one time turned to the  
*C* matter of Rauwolfia. \_\_\_\_\_ remarked something to the  
effect that Rauwolfia had a strong potentiating effect in  
connection with alcohol or when \_\_\_\_\_ used with alcohol.  
*C* \_\_\_\_\_ so far as the writer remembers attributed this to  
*Be*

*A*  
31 January 1955

11/10/54

SUBJECT: Rauwolfia Serpentina

reportedly

This is a native Indian plant which has remarkable psychogenic qualities. Many United States chemical houses including Squibb and Ciba are attempting to bring out chemical extracts from this plant or to synthesize the drug. Some of the trade names being used are Reserpin and Serpasil.

The drug apparently has amazing, relaxing, sedative qualities. It is reported that in animals it will convert a violently aggressive dangerous condition to a completely docile one. It is reported that dangerous apes have been rendered harmless in very short periods of time by use of this drug. There is however very little information on its use except although there is probably some information available in India in this connection.

dangerous in humans

A [redacted] and [redacted] are  
examining local [redacted] material  
on this and [redacted] will check  
this out at the Amer Psychiatric  
Assoc Convention at St Louis  
3-7 May 54