



THE BLACK VAULT

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Chief, Contact Division

7 February 1962

FOR :

Chief, [redacted]

H Case [redacted], Crocodile Gall Bladder

1. We have approached the problem of picking up a Tanganyikan crocodile's gall bladder from two points of view. The first is to have one of our [redacted] buddies in Tanganyika find, capture and eviscerate a native crocodile on the spot and then try to ship its gall bladder and/or other poisonous viscera to the United States in a condition which will permit analysis of the poisons contained. The second alternative would be to acquire a crocodile on the spot in Tanganyika through a licensed collector and ship the live animal to the United States through the [redacted] Department of Herpetology.

2. [redacted] visited with Dr. [redacted], Curator of Herpetology at [redacted] Zoo, and discussed the possibility of acquiring a live crocodile of the Nile variety in Tanganyika and shipping the animal to the zoo. Dr. [redacted] informed [redacted] that he thought it would be possible to pick up a medium size Nile crocodile from Tanganyika through a licensed collector. The cost of such an animal would be in the neighborhood of two hundred dollars. An adult animal, weighing up to three hundred pounds would be a little more expensive. Dr. [redacted] feels that the only sure way of getting the gall bladder to the United States intact is in the live crocodile, since temperature and climatic conditions as well as shipping delays under poor refrigeration conditions would make it almost impossible to deliver the bile or gall bladder in an unchanged condition. Dr. [redacted] will be happy to arrange for the purchase of a crocodile whenever he gets the go ahead signal from us.

3. On 1 February 1962 [redacted] and [redacted] discussed the matter of getting the gall bladder and related innards directly from Tanganyika. [redacted] has written to [redacted] a former contact of this office and to [redacted], MD, a former [redacted] who are both now in Tanganyika. We are quite sure that [redacted] can provide us with the details concerning methods and techniques employed by the witch doctor in preparing

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Case [redacted] Crocodiles Gall Bladder

C the poison. He and [redacted] will probably be able to collect more data concerning other natural poisons derived from other reptiles and/or vital organs. We have asked [redacted] to develop the necessary information concerning any special preparation of the gall bladder prior to shipment.

4. One of the main difficulties of getting the gall bladder and/or other vital organs to the United States is that the shipment must proceed from independent Tanganyika through British controlled Kenya. British colonial law forbids the handling of toxic materials derived from sick Tanganyikan crocodiles of the Nile variety.

J I 5. Perhaps we can ship the material through the [redacted] from that point. [redacted] should be able to develop an acceptable shipping plan. Please advise.

[redacted] A

[redacted] A

[redacted]