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21 April 1948

SUBCONSCIOUS ISOLATION

During the second World War great advancements were made toward the project of Positive and Counter Intelligence techniques. Great advancements have also been made toward the project of security systems of key installations and classified projects. Despite all the advancements that have been made, certain intelligence techniques have been neglected and much classified information has been divulged due to one rather unpredictable element. This element is the personnel involved in Positive and Counter Intelligence and also employed on special projects of highly classified nature. Information can be divulged either knowingly or unknowingly by those involved. Through the application of subtle and indirect methods of interrogation an espionage agent can obtain much information from an individual who is not acquainted with interrogative procedures. A loose word which seems of no significance to its speaker may be the missing portion of the nearly completed jig saw puzzle of the enemy agent. This type of indiscretion can usually be corrected if approached properly. One of the more successful approaches is to educate key personnel to recognize subtle interrogative techniques. This educational program requires comparatively little time or effort on the part of personnel involved. These subtle interrogative approaches are aimed at the extraction of information from the conscious memory, and for this reason are comparatively a small problem.

This brings forth an interrogative procedure about which little is known in this country. In this procedure instead of attempting to extract information from the conscious mind, the interrogator proceeds to

SECRET

break down conscious resistance, and thus gain control of the subconscious mind. Once this is accomplished unlimited information can be extracted from an individual without conscious awareness as to what is taking place. It can be easily seen that here might be a man whose conscious loyalty could not be excelled, yet who, subconsciously, is as dangerous as an enemy espionage agent at large and exposed to a wealth of secret information.

One should not look at the ability to isolate the subconscious mind as a supernatural power possessed by a choice few. This potential lies, unfortunately, within a large percentage of the people of the world. In this country we have subjects such as medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and criminology which employ Subconscious Isolation to various degrees. Due to our present code of ethics, as a nation, we have not mastered the use of Subconscious Isolation for purposes of espionage activities against other countries. This is not so with many other countries. These countries have taken great strides to master Subconscious Isolation (SI) for motives other than the aid of humanity. It is this use against which we must be continuously alert.

There are many techniques which can be employed to produce a state of "SI". One of the common techniques is the application of drugs that will paralyze the conscious will to resist, (such as truth serum). The subconscious is isolated to the extent that the person does not consciously remember what he has said or done. Another common technique is that of the controlled distraction of, or complete eradication of the conscious sense of awareness or perception. This is accomplished by focusing a persons complete attention on a controlled distraction or thought to the exclusion of all others. The subconscious mind at this point is sensitive

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to suggestion. Another less common method is the conversion of natural sleep to a state of "SI". Controlled stimulation of any strong emotion will also produce a sensitized subconscious mind, and finally a complete state of isolation. The treacherous fact about the afore-mentioned methods is that they can all be administered in a surreptitious manner. The state of "SI" can be established and terminated without any knowledge of the person involved.

The foremost question in most minds concerns methods to combat the use of "SI". In order that we might combat the use of "SI" we must first know what we are attempting to fight. This can be accomplished only through an indoctrination course which introduces key personnel to the fact that such a science as "SI" does exist. Once they have been convinced of its existence they must know how to recognize any attempt at its use. They must be made cognizant of some of the more common techniques, both direct and disguised. Once the attempt at a technique is recognized, it is easily combated by evading mental conditions conducive to "SI". The common methods of drug application should be explained. Rules should be outlined for the avoidance of subjection to medical and psychiatric care from strangers. A few minutes of such indoctrination might easily prevent the possibility of important personnel falling prey to an attempt at the application of "SI". This prevention in turn can eliminate much risk of compromising valuable secrets.

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The writer of this report has accumulated his knowledge over a seven year research period. This research has involved the actual infliction of the state of "SI" on hundreds of subjects. Detailed interrogations have been conducted. Classified information has been extracted. The most expedient counter measures have been developed through this positive application in the research laboratory. Much of this research has been witnessed by psychologists, psychiatrists, sociologists, and doctors.

It is sincerely hoped that the Counter Intelligence Corps will feel free to employ the services of the author of this article as a consultant in any cases involving the suspected use of Subconscious Isolation by any unfriendly country.

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G. C. BACKSTER, JR.

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Below are listed the names, authors, year written, publishing companies and addresses of three well recognized books on hypnosis. These books treat the subject in a scientific manner and cover the elementary phases necessary as a foundation for the more advanced applications under discussion:

HYPNOSIS AND SUGGESTIBILITY  
Clark L. Hull 1933  
D. Appleton - Century Co. Inc.  
New York: London

HYPNOANALYSIS  
Lewis R. Wolberg, M.D. 1945  
Grune & Stratton  
New York City

WHAT IS HYPNOSIS  
Andrew Salter 1946  
Richard R. Smith  
New York City

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