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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Clandestine Services Requirement for
Research in the Life Sciences

1. Recently, reports from various sources on life science research in the Soviet Union have been called to my attention. These reports indicate a current preoccupation by an important sector of Soviet biological science with cybernetics, telepathy, hypnosis, and related subjects. Stimulated by these reports, I would like to pass on to you some thoughts on the possible significance of these activities to the Clandestine Services.

2. Prior to the creation of the Office of the DDS&T, a small group in TSD attempted to follow current research in the life sciences. Their particular interest was in the kind of scientific progress that indicated the feasibility of developing operationally useable systems. After ten years of following this subject, TSD's reading was that, with minor exceptions, the fields of hypnosis, telepathy, and general control of human behavior were not ready for operational applications.

3. I feel there is a need for a continuing search and reexamination of this somewhat esoteric (and perhaps scientifically disreputable) range of activities toward the end of useable techniques for the CS. TSD's current mission has been oriented away from this sort of basic research activity and towards close-in support of clandestine agent operations. In the light of the reports mentioned above, I am concerned that recent reported advances in these fields may indicate more potential than we believed existed. I can perceive operational applications, for the CS, in the areas of agent communication, interrogation, telemetry, and in the general area of control of human behavior, should breakthroughs in our understanding of these phenomena occur.

4. I am assuming that your research group is taking this area of activity under their cognizance and they will, through their contacts in TSD, bring to our attention any indications of practical

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utility that can be made of these techniques so that TSD can proceed toward specific operational applications.

5. I am happy to note that TSD and ORD are proceeding with a series of monthly meetings to developing an understanding in depth of CS requirements in these and other fields. This note is not meant to supplant such a series of discussions as it applies to behavioral activities. I merely want to reinforce the dependence of the CS on your office for these matters.

SGFOIA3


Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

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