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14 December 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ATTENTION: 

SUBJECT: Request for Finished Intelligence Evaluation of Bloc Country RD on Psychopharmacology

1. While weapons of mass destruction continue to exist, and will continue to exist for the foreseeable future, there is reason to hope that they will never be used in a major conflict between nations. The bulk of our intelligence effort is directed toward ensuring ourselves that this in fact will be the case. Meanwhile other potential weapons, less destructive and more subtle in effect, are being developed which could be used in hostile confrontation involving small groups and individuals.

2. About two decades ago psychopharmacology came into being as a new science beginning with the startling, and until then, unimaginable, LSD. This was followed shortly by the tranquilizers and then a host of compounds classified as incapacitants. At the present time research in psychopharmacology is an active, on-going enterprise in nearly all the major countries of the world. There is clear evidence that the Soviet Union and the Eastern European Bloc countries have an as yet undetermined, but certainly more than casual, level of effort under way in psychopharmacology research. This includes research in natural toxins as well as in artificially created compounds.

3. As you are aware, this Agency is undertaking to monitor, and where appropriate, to expand on U.S. developments in this area through its Project OPEN. What is needed is a parallel effort directed at the Bloc Countries to monitor, evaluate, and predict their new developments.

4. As you might surmise, the Agency's involvement in this area is very closely held. If your office undertakes the task of developing this new area of intelligence production, I believe that satisfactory limits could be placed on the distribution of your reports.
5. I would be very pleased if you would give this request your most serious consideration.