

9/30/65

MEMO TO DR. EDSALL:

In early July I went to Washington concerning some interviews. One of these was in the offices of Representative Mastenmeier. While I was with him he suddenly changed the topic of the conversation (he knew of some of my previous interests and associations) and with great agitation and concern requested that I act as a messenger to the executive of the FAS and also he perhaps thought the American Friends Service Committee. At this time he had already received a letter from Dr. Sidel on behalf of the P. S. R. requesting information on a rumor they had heard concerning a supposed contract let by the D. O. D. on the use of B. W. and C. W. in Vietnam. (Rep. Kastenmeier had cooperated with the FAS before and was under the impression that the FAS had a large Washington office). He stated plainly that the substance of the rumor which had reached Dr. Sidel was common knowledge "on the hill." He suggested, or requested, that the FAS "make a study on what could be done via public pressure and arousal to stop the letting of such contracts and studies." (I wrote down the aforementioned). Before I left I categorically asked if I understood him correctly in what he was asking I do, and he replied yes. I returned to Boston and informed Drs. Rich, Meselson, Feld, Sidel and Doty, and reached Dr. Bergmann when he returned from Europe. (Dr. Edsall was then abroad).

In the following weeks Dr. Sidel's group learned some information concerning the "Traveler's" research contract.

In the first week in September it was subsequently learned while again in Washington that the Research Analysis Corporation (R. A. C.) had had a contract for some months concerning the use of various methods of special warfare, in particular strategic situations, in Vietnam. The source could hardly be doubted, and named the office from which the contract and study was requested. This study was not limited to B. W. and C.W. it concerned the feasibility of any and all procedures. B. W. and C. W. being amongst these.

This letter will be delivered to Dr. Edsall, and a copy to Dr. Meselson. Further details will be given via telephone, and to Dr. Sidel.

The writer ~~regrets~~ that this letter be selectively restricted in distribution, as at the moment he would not like the information to be able to be traced to him. Unfortunately, it seems difficult to avoid this, if the above information is used, for a simple reason not indicated here. Further, I believe it might cause unpleasant pressure on Rep. Kastenmeier were his role known to other parties.