



THE BLACK VAULT

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H. B/6

TO: File

DATE: 14 November 1952

SUBJECT: PIULE

1. In October 1952, [redacted] and the writer attended a conference at [redacted] for the purpose of a general discussion concerning various drugs and to meet a [redacted] scientist by the name of [redacted] who was at that time [redacted] and reentering private practice as a chemist and research specialist [redacted]

2. [redacted] according to [redacted] had done basic research in the extraction of very active elements from Cannabis and was regarded by [redacted] as an outstanding young scientist. In a general discussion concerning possible drugs of interest to the [redacted] and Artichoke work, [redacted] stated that he felt that the Mexican plant known as Piule (not Peyote) was well worth exploring for its alleged narcotic effects. [redacted] stated that there was very little known about this plant and that it apparently was used by the Mexican Indians in early times as a sort of truth serum and also used for its intoxicating effect in their religious ceremonies. [redacted] stated that if the seeds or drug-producing parts of the plant could be obtained, he would gladly volunteer to extract the narcotic elements from the plant and determine whether or not these elements would be of value toward our work.

3. Consequently, after a discussion, [redacted] and the writer felt that since [redacted] had expressed interest (and by reputation [redacted] was an exceptionally competent scientist) that an effort should be made to track down the plant Piule and have it analyzed by [redacted] and by other competent bio-chemists. Accordingly, the writer laid the problem before [redacted] of OSI and requested that [redacted] begin preliminary research on this plant.

4. The writer told [redacted] to examine and trace down all possible information on Piule and if this preliminary report indicated that the plant had, in fact, properties of value to our work. We would begin full-scale research on the plant including the obtaining of the plant itself.

5. Thereafter, [redacted] began a systematic research and turned up considerable information which in [redacted]'s opinion and the opinion of the writer clearly warranted extensive research and obtaining of the plant.