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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20307

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SGRD-UWI (340d)

28 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert Windrem, NBC Nightly News, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10112.

SUBJECT: Psychopharmacology papers for NBC

1. We do not now conduct, nor have we ever conducted, any research on the use of benzodiazapene antagonists or any other drug as weapons.
2. Included in the packet of documents gathered in response to NBC's Freedom-of-Information Act request are the following:
 - a.) Minutes from 1984 meetings of the Division of Neuropsychiatry's ad hoc Psychopharmacology Work Group. This collection of scientists (including Frank Jones) from the Division's 4 Departments was convened by the Director to evaluate the possible utility of current or near-future pharmaceuticals on the battlefield.
 - b.) A program and brief summary of a symposium on the topic of pharmacological optimization of performance (see 2a). This was basically a 2 day consultation effort by some top civilian researchers interested in drugs affecting sleep, cognition, strength, and anxiety.
 - c.) A set of 5 papers by Psychopharmacology Working Group members which were presented at the Ninth Psychology in the DOD Symposium, at the Air Force Academy in 1986. They were in essence the sole product of the Working Group, providing reviews of the scientific literature on what were facetiously called smart pills, strong pills, fear pills and sleep/wake pills. In a nutshell these reviews led to the conclusion that only the last of these was at a sufficiently mature state that adding the Division's meager resources might make a worthwhile contribution.
 - d.) A briefing describing the Division's initial steps in identifying a potentially useful hypnotic and a safe circumstance in which to recommend it. The Dept of Behavioral Biology proposed to carry out this work beginning in FY87.
 - e.) A description of the entire research program of the Dept of Behavioral Biology as of October 1988. This is the only lasting legacy of the Psychopharmacology Working Group

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f.) Several research "protocols", describing the actual experiments being conducted in the sleep/alertness area.

g.) Several reprints and abstracts from the scientific journals and meetings in which the work to date has been reported.

h.) A reprint of Frank Jones' in which he speculates on the possible use of drugs in future combat.

3. Prominent in many of these documents are the opinions of individual scientists. Few of these are held by all the scientists of the Division or the Working Group, and none are official positions of the Institute or the Army. We believe that good science requires the free and open exchange of ideas and opinions as well as data. For that reason we encourage our staff to present their data, conclusions, and speculations not only to their military colleagues and superiors but their civilian peers as well. Non-scientist readers should exercise the same skepticism as our scientist brethren.

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