Introduction
MEMORANDUM FOR BOB ROLAND  
ACTING DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  

Interrogation of Suspected Sylvanian Operatives

The Agency’s stated priority is the reacquisition and demobilization, deconcatenation, detention, and debriefing of the stated targets [Marx, Groucho; Marx, Chico; Marx, Harpo]. Appended to counsel’s response to Agency’s request is Agency’s report on the previous series of interrogations, conducted 13 April to 18 April, 72nd year of Firefly.

I.

You indicated that the standard “State Room” detention chamber reserved for series such as this one would not be used in the present series of interrogations. You indicated orally that the interrogations of detainee Marx, Chico and detainee Marx, Harpo were initially essayed using standard “State Room” protocol. You indicated orally that detainee Marx, Chico was shown to be effective in interpreting otherwise unclassifiable information extracted from detainee Marx, Harpo, but that information thus obtained was shown to be uniformly faulty.
[Detainee Marx, Chico reports that he no say Paul Tee, he don’t even-a know any Paul Tee—he say Rufus T.: Rufus T. Firefly.]

You indicated that “Coffin” style detention chambers would be used in all phases of the suspects’ detention. Use of “Coffin” detention chambers [also known as “Bucket” or “Can” chambers] has been determined most effective in the case of detainees showing marked proclivities toward prevarications while under interrogation, and in the case of suspected double operatives and the irretrievably deceased. You indicated orally that all such standards applied in the present series of interrogations, resulting in counsel’s approval of the recommendation re: “Coffin” detention chambers.

[Detainee Marx, Chico reports that he no-a smoke, so he no have-a the coughin’ but you-a go right ahead, he don’t-a mind.]

The “Coffin” detention chamber, under Section 2340A of title 18, United States of Freedonia Code, is under no circumstances to be used punitively: detainees are to be removed and debriefed at irregular intervals, to prevent the risk of possible contamination or liberation. Sessions are to be scheduled in advance and kept to an absolute minimum, to prevent the unnecessary risk of exposure in transportation. Counsel advised that exposure can lead to deterioration of information and detainee, and that invasion by “bugs” or “worms” rises in direct proportion to the number of sessions requested in the series. Counsel further advised that certain recreational activities are absolutely forbidden in close proximity to “Coffin” detention chambers to protect against contamination, deterioration, and liberation. You indicated that detainees were questioned re: “bugs” and searched, prior to the series, and that all personnel were required to forgo the game of pinochle during the period of detention.

[Detainee Marx, Chico reports that he got-a peanuts, all the time he got-a peanuts; that’s-a what you want but that’s-a not what you want, unless that’s-a what you want and if that’s-a what you want, why you say nothing; all-a the time, you say nothing—he ask-a you something, you say nothing. Detainee Marx, Harpo, questioned separately and simultaneously, removed administrator’s headgear and attempted to set fire to it.]
No communication between detainees, in contravention of protocol “Garbo” (see below), may be allowed to take place while the detainee is secured in the chamber. All chambers must be kept at a minimum tenebrosity level of 99.99 per cent shadow and an absolute quietus is strongly advised. You indicated orally that detainees in the present series repeatedly contravened the protocol, possibly utilizing a code unknown to you; counsel has appended the reported contraventions to the present report in the order you reported they occurred during the detention period.

[Detainee Marx, Chico reports that he no have-a the cold, it’s-a just sniffles. Detainee Marx, Harpo produced State Department 11-536-9-12 (“Polka-dot handkerchief”), possibly weaponized, smuggled into detention site by unknown source. Pending investigation.]

Measurements of chambers to be used in this series and in all such should run as follows, as per C.I.A. benchmarks: no more than four feet deep, no more than five feet four inches long, no more than two and a half feet abreast.

[Detainee Marx, Groucho reports that he would give one hand and at least half a foot a breast, depending on the girl, and depending on how cold the tape measure was.]

These chambers are set into pneumatic apparati and should be set on a maximum 85-degree, minimum 82-degree from plumb incline for maximum effectiveness, to prevent detainees from reclining fully and/or comfortably. Bracketed sprockets allow for manipulation of the chamber after the detainee has been administered.

[Detainee Marx, Groucho reports that he could go for a sleeper cell right now, he hasn’t slept a wink, hell, he doesn’t even know Wink, and besides, he doesn’t go for men; it looks like [administrator doesn’t] either, maybe [administrator] could start, or maybe [administrator] could just go, and forget all about the men.]

Evidence suggests that pressure on the heel while held in this position causes chronic, fulgurant pain in the detainee when so held for the recommended 24 out of 28 hours. Musculature of the leg must be kept tensed in this position to relieve the pressure on the calcaneus, reducing the likelihood of the contravention of auxiliary protocol(s) and retarding decomposition and atrophy.
[Detainee Marx, Harpo, repeatedly attempted despite reprisal to effect forced transport by depositing his right femoral appendage into any and all extended grasping devices.]

Protocol for administering detainees is as follows: detainees are anesthetized, hooded, blinkered, and interceptors are placed over the ears. Lorazepam, a habit-forming amnesic sedative, is usually indicated; when withdrawn, 89 per cent of subjects experience mild-to-severe insomnia. Detainees are then entered into the chamber using the “Reel,” a conveyor that delivers the reclining detainee into the chamber without risk of contravening protocol “Garbo” (see below). Detainees are thus rendered in optimum state “fully-awake-sleep.” It has been found that the protocol is 15% more effective when the detainee has been anesthetized prior to sealing the chamber. Under Section 2340A of title 18 of United States of Freedonia Code, detainees may be held so immobilized for as much as 86 per cent of time under detention, or 24 out of 28 hours, with an upper limit of 28 out of 28 hours, provided detainees are given inadequate or nonexistent nutriment, a median ambient temperature of 55 degrees Fahrenheit is maintained, and all such periods occur consecutively.

[Detainee Marx, Groucho reports that he could go 29 out of 28 hours if you gave him a head start and a broken clock; oh, and while you’re at it, he wants to see his lawyer; more than that, though, he wants to see the Cubs win one; more than that, though, he wants to see his wife again; more than that, he wants to see your wife again.]

You indicated the protocol would be followed at the upper limit of Section 2340A of title 18, U.S.F. Code. Counsel recommended that, for extended periods under this protocol, intervals of physical activity are necessary to prevent livor mortis, if the detainee is not to be later cast in wax or dehydrated and preserved for the harvesting of relics. Counsel recommended musical performance in light of the particular talents of the detainees.
II.

You indicated that several auxiliary protocols would be employed in the interrogation of the present group of detainees:

[Detainee Marx, Chico reports he knows a pro to call, but she-a charge too much.]

Under protocol “Garbo,” round-the-clock surveillance of the detainee is necessary when approaching or exceeding the upper limits, to prevent the detainee from entering N2 NREM sleep. Under C.I.A. norms, the tilt of the chamber and the consequent discomfort of the detainee combined with the insomnia-inducing effects of the withdrawal of the sedative are often enough in themselves to prevent restful repose. Some detainees have shown the ability, after several days’ acclimation, to progress to N2, even N3 NREM sleep by turning over onto their fronts and resting their anterior halves against the chamber wall. This has been found to be deleterious to the success of the interrogation; even N2 NREM sleep has been shown to increase resistance to questioning and facility in fabrication of faulty information.

You indicated that adequate staff had been acquired, shifts established, and auxiliary protocols put in place to insure that the objective would be met.

[Detainee Marx, Groucho reported that he met an objective once; he thought she was game, so he took her back to his dressing room and slipped into something more comfortable—her; that’s when she objectived; it took him an hour just to straighten at the waist.]

After 72 continuous hours under the protocol, detainees often report hallucinations of a luminous nature, begin to converse with absent parties, show signs of livor mortis, and progress rapidly to advanced stages of decomposition. Counsel advised that, when directed, this can be useful as a deterrent. If this progress is left undirected, however, detainees will typically resist questioning from the interrogator or respond with bad intelligence. Detainees often begin to show listlessness and dementia after just 28 continuous hours of the protocol.

[Detainee Marx, Chico reports that it’s a-nice da-met-ya too, but he no have-a da list; anyway, there was-a nothing on it, he already got-a everything he need.]
III.
Protocol “Victor Frankenstein,” the delivery of small bursts of low-level electrical impulses to the scalp of the detainee, has been found to prevent detainees from progressing to N2 NREM sleep, and to alleviate listlessness and dementia in detainees so affected. You indicated orally that this protocol was employed on detainee Marx, Gummo. You indicated orally that the detainee responded positively to the first series of such impulses, entering the “cataphrenic” or “schizotonic” state in just 32 hours. You indicated orally that a further series caused the detainee to “foam at the mouth” and you further indicated orally that the detainee suffered sudden systole, possibly as a result of the intensity of the electrical impulse used. You indicated orally that the chamber used was scheduled to be delivered to DOJ Hardsite USF-DOJ-A-0001, Region 01, Codename Lethe. In light of detainee Marx, Gummo’s possible palpitation, section 2341B of title 18 U.S.F. Code indicates discontinuance of the use of such impulses pending counsel’s recommendation.

IV.
Use of protocol “LB Mayer” has been shown to be effective as an aid to the gathering of actionable intelligence. Under protocol “LB Mayer,” the detainee is asked to maintain contact with chamber ceiling using only the tips of his/her fingers. The use of protocol “LB Mayer” has been shown to reduce the detainee’s sensitivity to pain and increase the detainee’s ability to go without REM sleep, while providing the interrogator with a verifiable method of monitoring the detainee’s state of consciousness when under hood and otherwise inert. Reversal of chamber doors to allow the administrator to discipline detainees observed in direct violation of the protocol may be undertaken at the discretion of counsel. You requested orally the reversal of chamber doors.

[Detainee Marx, Groucho reports that he hasn’t had this much fun since his tailor fell asleep while fitting him for a pair of pants with a rattlesnake and a staple-gun.]
You indicated orally that, subsequent to administrator’s removal of State Department 11-536-9-09 (“Bicycle horn”), detainee Marx, Harpo became apathetic, refused communication and ceased to respond to interrogation. In light of this total resistance, you indicated orally that experimental protocol “Camera Obscura” was to be tried. This protocol, the rapid occultation of brilliance and tenebrosity in the detention chamber, is believed to extract actionable intelligence from even the most intransigent of detainees. Because of the perceived threat of epileptic seizures, even in otherwise normal, deceased subjects, this protocol is experimental and is not approved under Trentino Convention standards and is thus not acknowledged by the USF DOJ. We counseled you that this protocol might only be undertaken at administrator’s prerogative and without your knowledge or our knowledge of your knowledge. You indicated orally that you acknowledged our counsel, and did not acknowledge any such knowledge of any such protocol being undertaken, to the best of your recollection.

Whether or not protocol “Camera Obscura” was employed, the detainee [Marx, Harpo] responded favorably to the introduction of an unnamed protocol administered at the discretion of the administrator. As a direct result of the employment of this unnamed protocol, the identities of co-conspirators [those already under detention] were revealed, as was the location of at least one actionable site [Canine patrol prevented the scout team from entering the site, and the detainee [Marx, Harpo] was placed back under questioning]. Subsequently, use of this protocol was extended to the other detainees [Marx, Gummo excluded]. Results are as shown in the appended report, below.

VI.

1) Detainee Marx, Harpo: gave information after 65.5 hours of protocol “LB Mayer.” Information shown to be faulty. Returned to cell. Detainee suffered uncontrollable spasms of the leg, resulting in predilection to be passively transported: anesthesia
necessary to restrain detainee and replace hood. Employed protocol “Garbo,” 27 hours. Attending physician reported that detainee suffered from complete failure of reflexes, extreme hunger and unquenchable thirst, decreased capacity to feel pain, sleeplessness, sensitivity to light, satyriasis.

[Detainee Marx, Chico reported no, that’s-a how he always is.]

Gave information after 1.5 hours of unnamed, experimental protocol. Information verified. Possible actionable intelligence. Pending investigation.

Present whereabouts unknown.


Results pending investigation.

(3) Detainee Marx, Chico: gave information after 2 hours of protocol “LB Mayer.” Initial information could not be verified. Subsequent information was determined to be faulty. Gave information after 17 hours of protocol “LB Mayer.” Named co-conspirators: his aunt Lou, his uncle Lou, your uncle Lou, your mother too, his brother Harpo [target already under detention], his brother Groucho [target already under detention], his father, his mother, his father’s mother, his mother’s mother, his mother’s brother, his brother’s brother, his other brother, his brother from another mother, the Smothers Brothers, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, the Seven Dwarves, Sleeping Beauty, Sleeping Ugly, Whaddya Got. Information could not be verified. Employed protocol “Garbo.” Gave information after 26 hours of the protocol. Unintelligible. Information could not be verified. Gave information after 36 hours of the protocol. Unintelligible. Information could not be verified. Detainee returned to holding cell. Attending physician examined detainee and pronounced him unresponsive but in good health. Detainee returned to protocol “Garbo.” Employment of unnamed, experimental protocol is uncertain.

Present whereabouts unknown.
(4) Detainee Marx, Groucho: gave information naming coconspirators after .5 hours of protocol “Garbo.” Information led to arrest of Marx, Harpo and Marx, Chico. Gave information after 1 hour of the protocol. Information led to arrest of Marx, Gummo. Gave information after 82 hours of the protocol. Information implicated Attorney General Roland, could not be verified. Employed protocol “LB Mayer.” Gave information after 4 hours of the protocol. Information could not be verified. Gave information after 8 hours of the protocol. Information could not be verified. Gave information after 1.5 hours of unnamed, experimental protocol. Information led to discovery and attempted disabling of incendiary device State Department 11-536-9-134 (“Cigar”), possibly smuggled in by detainee during arrest.

[Detainee Marx, Groucho, questioned as to the nature of the incendiary device’s trigger, requested while you’re at it, two fingers of Scotch, a more comfortable chair, and some better company, oh and a steak, medium rare, whereupon detainee Marx, Chico, being questioned simultaneously and also under protocol “Garbo,” requested two hard-boiled eggs. Detainee Marx, Harpo, also being questioned simultaneously and under protocol “Garbo” activated State Department 11-536-9-09, possibly used as a detonator, whereupon detainee Marx, Groucho reported make that three hard-boiled eggs, whereupon all detainees were apparently liberated. No co-conspirators have been identified as yet, nor have the means of liberation.]

Present whereabouts unknown.

Site USF-DOJ-B-0009, Region 53 has not been compromised.

VII.

Based on the foregoing, counsel concludes that the protocols and procedures followed were commensurate with Sections 2340A and 2341B of Title 18, USF Code. Counsel recommends that, upon reacquisition of the targets, primary search of the targets be conducted under the supervision of staff urologist, proctologist, zoologist, and psychologist. Counsel has recommended that staff use of off-site materials be
eliminated at all hardsite facilities, as a precaution against contamination of such facilities. Counsel has recommended discontinuance of unnamed, experimental protocol at all sites, pending review. Counsel is forwarding the contents of this file and counsel’s response, excepting those portions blacked out in the present memo, to the One and Only Firefly for review.

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Assistant Attorney General