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Staff evidence analysis
By: Henry Sachs
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Doc. NO.: NO-203

Title and/or general nature: Brack's Report re: X-Ray Sterilization

Date: 22 March 1941

Source (Location of original, etc.): Berlin Document Center

Language: German

Persons Firms or Organizations Involved: Oberdienststellenleiter (Department Head) Viktor Bra

To Be Filed Under These Reference Headings: Same as above Experiments on Human Beings

Summary (Indicate page nos.):

This document consists of a 1-page coverletter and a 2-page report that Brack sent to Himmler. On the basis of experiments concluded Brack states the following: Sterilization with powerful rays is possible but will then result in castration. The danger of this method lies in the fact that other parts of the body are also affected since an adequate protection by lead is not possible. In order to prevent the victims from realizing that they are being castrated Barck suggests the following procedure. Under some pretext, the intended victims are to be lined up in front of a counter behind which the X-ray technician will sit and operate the apparatus. Without much installation, about 150 to 200 persons could be sterilized daily while 20 installations could take care of 3000 to 4000 persons a day. Brack estimated the cost of one such installation at 20,000 to 30,000 marks plus the construction cost of a building since adequate safety measures for the attending personnel would have to be built in.

He warns that it is impossible to take these measures without having those who were so treated finding out sooner or later that they had been sterilized or castrated by x-rays. He concludes his letter by asking Himmler what further action should be taken.

The document is classified "top secret" .
Set: No-204, No-205, No-206, NO-207, No-208

Translation of Document No. NO-203
Office of U.S. Chief of Counsel

Viktor Brack
Reichsamteiler
(Crossed out)
Oberdienstleiter

Berlin, 25 March 1941
To the

Reichsfuehrer-SS and
Chief of the German
Police

Top Secret

Berlin SW 11
Prinz Albrecht Str. 8

(handwritten): ½ read + 5, V.41

H.H (handwritten initials)

Dear Reichsfuehrer:

Enclosed herewith for your information is the result of the investigations into the possibility of sterilization or castration respectively by means of X-rays. I request your instructions as to what further theoretical or practical steps, if any are to be taken in this matter.

Heil Hitler!

Brack (Signature)

Enclosure

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Report on Experiments concerning X-ray Castration

The experiments in this field are concluded. The following result can be considered as established and adequately based on scientific research.

If any persons are to be sterilized permanently, this result can only be attained by applying X-rays in as dosage high enough to produce castration with all its consequences, since high X-ray dosages destroy the internal secretion of the ovary, or of the testicles respectively. Lower dosages would only temporarily paralyze the procreative capacity. The consequences in question are for example the disappearance of menstruation, climactic phenomena, changes in capillary growth, modification of metabolism, etc. In any case, attention must be drawn to those disadvantages.

The actual dosage can be given in various ways, and the irradiation can take place quite imperceptibly. The necessary local dosage (herd-dosis) for men is 500-600 r, for women 300-350 r. In general, an irradiation period of 2 minutes for men, 3 minutes for women, with the highest voltage, a thin filter and at a short distance, ought to be sufficient. There is, however, a disadvantage that has to be put up with: as it is impossible unnoticeably to cover the rest of the body with lead, the other tissues of the body will be injured, and radio-logic malaise, the so-called "Roentgenkator", will ensue. If the X-ray instantly is too high, those parts of the skin which the rays have reached will exhibit symptoms of burns - varying in severity in individual cases - in the course of the following days or weeks.

One practical way of proceeding would be, for instance, to let the persons to be treated approach a counter, where they could be asked to answer some questions or to fill in forms, which would take them 2 or 3 minutes. The official sitting behind the counter could operate the installation in such a way as to turn a switch which would

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Activated the two valves simultaneously (since the irradiation has to operate from both sides.) With a two-valve installation about 150-200 persons could then be sterilized per day, and therefore, with 20 such installations as many as 3000-4000 persons per day. In my estimation larger daily number could not in any case be sent away for this purpose. As the expenses for such a two-valve system, I can only give a rough estimate of approximately 20.000-30.000 RM. Additionally, however, there would be the cost of the construction of a new building, because adequately extensive protective installations would have to be provided for the officials on duty.