

Special Feature

The Case of Patricia Campbell Hearst

Sept. 30 — Present lurid newspaper accounts portraying Patricia Hearst as contradicting her sworn affidavit by maintaining in effect that she is still a revolutionary contain this germ of truth: in her present circumstances it is quite lawful and highly probable that she is slipping back and forth between the approximation of the real Patricia reflected in her affidavit and the gun-toting terrorist "Tania" and related pseudo-identities manufactured by her tormentors in the CIA and LEAA.

Patricia Hearst is the victim of a highly professional "hard" brainwashing job — essentially the use of a combination of well-known, voluminously documented psychological techniques, including sensory deprivation, electroshock, chemotherapy, Pavlovian conditioning, computerized belief restructuring, etc. to effect programmed behavior modification. In essence, the normally neurotic young student Patricia Hearst was subjected to a total psychological assault which virtually wiped out her mature ego-identity. Then she was given a set of one or more psychotic pseudo-identities — Tania, et al. — superimposed on the trapped, agonized remnants of the real person. It is entirely possible she was programmed to kill, and did kill.

The degree of psychological sophistication and hardware required to perform that hideous operation are such that it could only have been carried out by U.S. intelligence agencies under the direction of the National Security Council, as this newspaper has asserted since March, 1974. Patricia Hearst was not merely "threatened," "coerced," or "terrorized;" she was clinically brainwashed.

The purpose of the operation was to create a dramatic "terrorist" story whose wide publicity would serve to facilitate the manipulation of the population into accepting police-state measures, simultaneously smearing working-class organizers by portraying the terrorists and their sympathizers as "leftists."

Our authority for these statements as an organization rests on a scientific comprehension of mental functioning approached only by a relatively small number of qualified psychoanalysts, and demonstrated in practice by our successful deprogramming of Labor Committee members Konstantin George and Christopher White after their brainwashing at the hands of NATO intelligence agencies during 1973.

The Affidavit

The point is made to forestall unwarranted conclusions that our argument is based on accepting as unconditional literal truth the affidavit submitted by Patricia and her parents in support of their request for bail. While the affidavit, viewed in a proper scientific context, is powerful evidence demonstrating the brain-

washing, individual particulars in it may well be deliberate inaccuracies and falsifications induced by the brainwashers themselves. It is especially vital that the Hearst legal counsel and others trying to provide Patricia Hearst with competent medical care and get to the bottom of the affair do not become disoriented upon that point; moreover, if it is fully comprehended by investigators, even those statements picturing her as "acting of her own free will" — in Rolling Stone, etc. — actually further confirm the brainwashing.

To take a prominent example — Patricia's affidavit records her belief that her captors kept her locked in a closet for "an interminable length of time, which seemed to her to be weeks." In fact she spent no more than two to ten days actually locked in the closet; that is all the time required to induce psychosis in a person of her age and background.

The basic technique involved in this initial phase of brainwashing is known as sensory deprivation. Subjects are placed in a controlled environment where all sensory stimuli — sound, light, smell and touch — remain constant or are altogether eliminated. In simple blacked-out soundproof rooms "little by little their brains go dead or slip out of control," as one brainwasher has reported. Another psychologist comments, "Even in 24 hours, all the horror phantoms of childhood are awakened..."

Phase Two

Patricia's report that "When the blindfold was removed, she felt as if she were on some LSD trip; everything was big and distorted" corresponds to that phase after the initial softening up process when to proceed with the brainwashing, her captors would necessarily have had to rely on "psychological techniques and hardware" — drugs, shock, etc., beyond the scope of the already brainwashed zombies of the Symbionese Liberation Army.

The efficacy of such "aversive conditioning" techniques as electroshock is demonstrated by such instances as the case recorded by a Detroit psychiatrist who used it in combination with persona-stripping techniques to reduce a female adult to a state of infancy in which she gratefully accepted bottle feedings. The woman was then allowed to "grow up" into a new identity with a different name.

Preparing the new identity is frequently accomplished by such Pavlovian methods as showing the victim sexually stimulating filmstrips of men and-or women while simultaneously administering electric shocks to the genitals; or conversely, rewarding the victim when he or she responds erotically to, say, the image of a sheep on the screen.

The dynamic of self-aggravating terror and isolation which is the hallmark of this conditioning process is evident in Patricia's repeated statements in the affidavit that she felt as if "no one cared if she lived or died...her mother and father had abandoned her..." By March 9, a month after her kidnapping, she had addressed her parents on tape, "How would you feel if you had been written off the way I seem to have been? I'm starting to think no one is concerned about me any more."

Such statements indicate that brainwashers had reduced Patricia, by repetitive attacks of the character "You're shit, no one could love you, etc." in conjunction with such self-degrading torture as that described above, to the most abject infantile dependency. At approximately this point, the affidavit reports "she could stand for only 60 seconds or so and would then fall to the ground."

In this second stage of the conditioning process, it is highly probable that certain programming features were introduced to block the process itself from Patricia's memory. This can be accomplished easily with the aid of certain drugs. It is also possible to induce the subject to go into the programmed state whenever a certain stimulus is present. Thus, the radio which the affidavit mentions as constantly playing throughout the first weeks of Patricia's ordeal, could have been linked in her mind to the closet so that whenever she heard the radio she was convinced she was again locked in the closet, cowering in her own excrement.

"Little Me"

These refinements of brainwashing technology are only the means to "get at" the psychological potential for manipulation inherent in virtually anyone.

Long before the kidnapping, her brainwashers had worked up a detailed psychological profile of Patricia Hearst, mapping the repressed hatred mixed with guilt she harbored toward her parents — probably especially toward her mother. Tapping this guilt would help the brainwasher convince Patricia that she had been abandoned by exploiting her feeling she deserved to be. After all, hadn't she wished her mother were dead, etc?

It is not necessary to have a detailed psychological profile of Patricia Hearst in order to understand the basics of the process. Because individuals in bourgeois society view themselves as an epiphenomenal "little me" hidden beneath a persona-mask they show the outside world, the mere stripping away of this persona produces feelings of fraud and guilt. "I'm really this worthless creature."

This infantile ego, a set of fixed responses, vestigial remains from early childhood, can as the stripping process proceeds, be manipulated into acts of repeated and increasing self-degradation with horrifying predictability. As the Labor Committees have demonstrated, the mental processes characteristic of this infantile ego can be fully replicated on a computer (Gallagher, Artificial Intelligence, The Campaigner, Vol. 8, No. 7).

Thus the very acts of tape recording the appeals to her parents, of having her photograph taken in front of the seven-headed cobra of the Symbionese Liberation Army, for example, may well have been used both to produce the guilt and provide the "model" for conditioning Patricia to her new identity as Tania.

"Tania"

Under the extreme pressure of a controlled aversive environment in which Patricia was informed over and over again by her captors that "we are everywhere," and that she would be murdered if she attempted to leave the "safety" of the terrorist underground, her participation in the bank robbery as reported in the affidavit constitutes the probable culmination of such a self-feeding process of degradation. It was probably the extreme stress crystallized by that event which pushed Patricia Hearst over the edge into her new pseudo-identity Tania. In psychoanalytical terminology Patricia developed a reaction formation.

The essential mechanism of this process is best illustrated by reference to the phenomenon of prisoners' identification with the guards in Nazi concentration camps, first described by psychologist Bruno Bettelheim. Ultimately Jewish prisoners in the camps would actually fight to wear clothing and insignia in imitation of the SS.

With the preconditioning outlined above, sex was probably used as a complementary trigger setting off Tania as an independent identity. At the point when Patricia felt her real mother was utterly beyond reach, the offer of a surrogate mother, the chance to satisfy her now thoroughly infantilized appetite for affection through sexual relations with a member of the group, would have served to confirm Patricia in her new identity. Her reported affairs with now dead SLA member William Wolfe (Cujo) and present stories that she was living with Steven Soliah at the time of her arrest should be viewed in that light.

The Choice

The reader should now be in a position to assess the Rolling Stone source's claim that Patricia "voluntarily" joined the SLA; at the point of psychological death, Patricia Campbell Hearst may well have begged the monsters who destroyed her mind for the privilege of living out her life as a zombie. She may have pleaded for the opportunity to act out their insane "revolutionary" scripts.

Patricia's partial liberation from this nightmare was achieved only when "her mother, her father and her sisters hugged and kissed her" after her capture. This portion of her affidavit has the overwhelming ring of truth and corresponds precisely to the Labor Committees' clinical experience with brainwashing; when contact with the real parents and real life circumstances prior to the brainwashing is re-established, the controlled environment is broken.

But before deprogramming, the brainwashers' control can also be reestablished by returning the victim to the terror of the controlled environment. The conditions under which Patricia Hearst is currently being held — not only her detention in the aversive environment of a jail, but the deliberate attempts being made to enhance her paranoia typified by the trick of recording her conversations, then publicizing them in the press, placing SLA member Emily Harris in the next cell and otherwise doing everything possible to retrigger Tania and related identities and then torture Patricia with her own contradictions — will, if she does not receive treatment by one of the relative handful of psychoanalysts capable of handling her deprogramming, result in her total mental collapse. Her attorneys have already reported a deterioration in her condition.

In fact, the intelligence agencies in charge of Patricia Hearst's case are doing their best to ensure that she is turned into a psychotic vegetable. Of the three psychiatrists appointed by the court to conduct in-depth examinations of Patricia, at least one, L. "Jolly" West, is a certified brainwasher himself.

West, who heads the Psychiatric Department at the UCLA medical school, is notorious as an advocate of lobotomy, electroshock, and other methods of menticide; his status as a Nuremberg criminal is so well known that the LEAA has been unable to go through with its planned massive brainwashing complex under Jolly's

direction because of the bitter opposition his name evokes.

Defense Strategy

A competent legal defense strategy for Patricia Hearst must include (1) a vigorous search for competent, humanistically-oriented psychoanalysts to begin deprogramming; (2) continuing efforts to free her from the controlled environment of prison where she is further victimized by Nazi Doctors and menticidal medical practices; and (3) a political defense which goes directly for the jugular by naming the National Security Council, the CIA, the LEAA and U.S. intelligence services as criminals guilty of menticide against Patricia Hearst. Evidence already in the public domain, including the Labor Committee's year-and-a-half old exposure of the test-tube manufacture of the Symbionese Liberation Army and its leader Donald De Freeze at the LEAA's Vacaville, Cal. correctional facility and the identification of CIA agent Colton Westbrook as the key figure in the operation made more than a year ago by independent investigator Donald Freed, provides a sound starting point for a comprehensive public investigation.

Every man, woman and child in the USA has a reason to support such a defense for Patricia Hearst. It is not only a matter of elementary human justice; without nailing the murderers ultimately responsible for this crime, National Security Council head Kissinger and his boss Nelson Rockefeller, no one of us is safe.

