



NS News Bulletin

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The Education of an Evil Genius

Part 8

Officer Training

The training of promising young officers later became one of my most important and rewarding tasks. These “youngsters” already had a lot of experience. They had proven themselves. Now we were taking their training up a notch.

One day they will have to be *better than we are now!* - Because the enemy will also get better over time.

This training often took place during an actual underground mission. “Under live fire” as it were.

Here are some of my teaching techniques:

Stop! Listen! Learn!

Amidst the hectic activity and rushed conversations, I suddenly stop. I turn to the trainee, look him in the eye and say: ***“Stop! Note This! Remember this! I will explain later! Reference XYZ.”*** Then I do or say something *apparently trivial, perhaps even downright silly!*

I do this several times over the next days or even weeks.

By this point, I have already started to connect at least some of the dots for him. He is starting to see a pattern. There is a method to my madness. And this madness is all part of a larger plan.

Remember when I did [whatever] and gave it the reference name XYZ. This is WHY I did it. I had foreseen this possibility, even though it seemed very remote back then, and deliberately taken this specific action as a precautionary measure. It was NOT just a coincidence or accident.

This kind of demonstration proved to be a very effective training technique!

It was infinitely superior to the “trick question”, where the student has to guess which answer the “teacher wants”.

Obviously, I could not have known the future! This was not a “rigged” match. The fact that I had made such a big deal about the specific action in question already at the time – namely before I could have possibly foreseen that this or that would happen - proved that I wasn’t simply making it all up after the fact just to “look smart”.

This really drove the point home. Dramatically proved the importance of the point. And made it very easy to remember it.

Up a Notch

I would also constantly point out variables and assess - and later re-assess - their magnitude.

I would say something like this:

Let us think about the possible ramifications of this new piece of information... Potential risk factor A is now greater. Earlier it was the size of a pea. Now it is the size of a marble. It will not become dangerous until it reaches the size of a basketball. It is not dangerous yet, but it is growing. We must watch it.

Later I might say the same, but replace *pea* with *marble*... and *marble* with *golf ball*. Then add: “It has just gone up *one notch*”.

Or, if it was now the size of a *baseball*, that it had gone up *three notches*.

Whoppers

I often use examples involving *huge exaggerations*. The reasons include:

First, this makes the point very *clear*.

Second, this dramatizes the *importance* of the point.

Third, this makes it obvious that the example is *NOT to be taken literally*.

Note: This can even have *legal* ramifications. For example, if I'm quoted out of context in a courtroom.

This is more important than the average person may realize. I know this from my own experience.

District attorney: *Your honor, the defendant is such a bloodthirsty monster that he even threatened to have his enemies BOILED IN OIL!*

Defense Attorney: *I object! This is taken out of context. The very next sentence was "And stranded on a desert island with their mother-in-law for six months!"*

Fourth, this humor helps to *lighten things up* and lower the stress level.

Fifth, it is simply part of *my style*. My "subset of insanity" as it were.

The example is followed by an indication of the scale of magnitude of the exaggeration. There are three levels:

Level One

I say: *Naturally, this is an exaggeration!*

(Yes, this is obviously impossible!)

Level Two

I say: *I am exaggerating SOME, but NOT AS MUCH as you probably think!*

(A **remote** possibility exists.)

Level Three

I say: *I am exaggerating a LITTLE, but NOT NEARLY AS MUCH as you probably think!*

(This is a **definite** possibility.)

These three levels sometimes correspond to the 5%, 50%, 95% used in "game theory". This is very useful in strategic planning, where there are many unknown variables at play.

Even a seemingly minor detail can tip the scales. This can result in a sudden and radical change of course.

The Opponent

Infiltration of the Police

Repressive regimes have a disadvantage. They do not know what people *really* think, because people are afraid to openly say it. This is also true for government officials. Even for policemen.

The police have a tough job! They risk their lives to protect honest citizens from criminals.

Imagine how a policeman feels, when he is pulled off a criminal case just to raid or arrest non-violent dissidents?

Imagine how he feels, when he sees a hardened criminal released on a technicality...and then sees a non-violent dissident convicted only because the judge *stretched* – or even *ignored* (!) – the law?

Or a “thought crime” is punished more severely than a violent crime?

Or a criminal gets out of prison early on parole, whereas a dissident almost always has to serve his full sentence?

Ideology aside, this is one reason why many policemen at least turn a blind eye.

It is always hard to keep a secret. Especially if many people know it. But it is *even harder* in *this environment*.

As a result, large-scale operations against us inevitably fail. It only takes one person to tip us off. This is easy to do without risk.

The biggest mass raids I recall took place while I was in Europe. The media hailed the raids as a huge victory for the police. I later gained access to the actual government files. The amount of material actually seized was tiny compared to our annual production.

Furthermore, even the few people actually convicted only got fines. NO jail time at all!

I commented at the time:

I would be happy to send a portion of each production run directly to the political police headquarters. This would save taxpayer money. I would even let the police “intercept” a LARGER portion of our shipments than they do now. In exchange, I simply ask that they make a big fuss about their great victory after each delivery. The resultant publicity is worth a lot more than the cost of the material sacrificed.

Something akin to this is already a common practice with large-scale drug dealers, I’ve been told.

* * * * *

While visiting a friend in a medium sized city, there was a knock on the door. A friend of his came in and took a seat across from me.

First, my friend introduced the other man to me. He was the local chief of police. Then he introduced me.

This police chief instantly knew who I was. He jumped up from his chair so fast that it actually startled me. Then he shook my hand heartily and exclaimed: *It's an honor to meet you!*

Police Mentality

A friend of mine, Wally, had defected from the Eastern Block, where he had been an officer in the police. His father was a general in the police. He related his father's story to me like this.

Between the World Wars, his father was a policeman in a democratic regime.

When the Germans occupied his country, they asked him two questions:

First, do you want to remain a policeman?

His answer was yes.

Second, will you obey orders?

Again, his answer was yes.

He remained a policeman during the German occupation.

When the Russians came, they asked him the same two questions. And he gave the same two answers.

He remained a policeman. Eventually, he rose to the rank of a general in the police!

I do not recall whether or not he was in the "criminal police" or the "political police". This may sound odd, but I don't think it makes much difference.

Another friend of mine complained that he encountered the same political police agents in three subsequent regimes. Despite the fact that all three regimes were of a totally different, and reciprocally hostile, ideological stripe! (The Weimar Republic, the Third Reich and the so-called Federal Republic of Germany.)

Again, this may sound strange, especially to Americans. But it is worth keeping in mind.

The same policemen who once defended the U.S. Constitution might one day obey orders from a government that "defends democracy" by throwing critics and

dissidents in prison!

This has already happened in both Eastern and Western Europe. It could happen in America, too.

* * * * *

On the lighter side, I once witnessed the following scene. This same Eastern European and another man, a Central European, both of whom had noticeable accents, were sitting at a table in a restaurant. They were discussing weapons. An American sitting at the same table was embarrassed by this. He wondered what the people at the surrounding tables were thinking.

But he did get his revenge. The Europeans had asked about the vintage of the wines before making their selection. When the waitress turned to him, he said he wanted milk. But he did have one question: *Miss, can you please tell me the vintage of the milk?*

* * * * *

This American also had a half-amusing, half-grisly experience during a Thanksgiving Day feast.

A former auxiliary policeman in Eastern Europe described some of the things he had witnessed firsthand. This included human bones littering a railway. The result of cannibalism.

The American lost his appetite.

* * * * *

Many older Eastern Europeans would simply not discuss anything sensitive in a room with a telephone. Even if it was on the receiver. Their American-born teenagers laughed at this. Years later, the same children, now middle-aged, learned it is indeed possible to listen in even if the phone is on the receiver!

“Limited Political Warfare”

First: We appealed to the government.

All we demand is freedom. Freedom of speech. Freedom of assemble. Freedom to form our own parties and participate in the democratic process. If people want

to vote for us, then they should be able to do so. If they do not want to vote for us, they don't have to.

You say you outlaw us, because we are a "threat to democracy". YOU are the threat to democracy!!!

If we try to work legally within the framework of your ambiguous "laws", you simply ban our organizations anyway. If we work in the underground, we're already "illegal" from the start. We face stiffer penalties, but we are harder to find.

Even if forced underground, we limit ourselves to non-violent resistance. We have no desire to hurt anybody. We want to convince people, not kill them. We also do not want to give you the "terrorism" excuse. But you label us as "terrorists" anyway, even when your own police confirm this is not true!

We are determined to remain non-violent. But it is obvious that, as oppression increases, more individuals will act on their own out of sheer desperation. – YOU are the cause, not us! We actually discourage terrorism, both because we offer a non-violent alternative and because we use our influence to urge restraint!

If we gain freedom, we will gladly abide by the "rules of democracy".

If we gain power through a non-violent revolution, we will offer our former opponents generous immunity.

If one day your oppression triggers an armed uprising, then all bets are off! Nobody has any control then!

We are willing to die for our cause. Are you?

How many of YOUR employees are willing to die for your regime?

How many of YOUR so-called "leaders"?

We knew the government would not give us freedom without a struggle. We were simply doing everything within our power to keep it a *non-violent* conflict.

Second: We informed government officials as *individuals*.

There are three kinds of government officials:

First, those who are, let us say, less than enthusiastic and thorough. Obviously, these reasonable officials have nothing to fear from us.

Second, those who are conscientious, but not excessive. These by-the-book officials also have nothing to fear from us.

Third, those who are downright excessive. These zealots will not be forgotten. They will stand trial. Unless we grant a blanket amnesty, presumably in exchange for some concession by the government.

Generally, an official has a certain *degree of leeway*. We must strive to assess

this accurately and act accordingly. If we ask *too much*, he is unable to comply and forced into a deadlock. We must always strive to *loosen*, not tighten, the bonds between the individual official and the government.

I have on occasion had a candid, heart-to-heart talk with a government official one-on-one.

Many times, we managed to find a reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to an issue.

Other times his face turned white...

These occasions were rare. The risk of a backfire and potentially serious escalation were usually too great. *Positive reinforcement* is generally best. Even *negative reinforcement* is more safely achieved through *humor*.

Police Informants

When I gained access to extensive government files on police informants, I was amazed at how pitiful they were in both number and quality.

One fellow claimed he was my close personal friend. His description of my physical appearance was WAY off! Nonetheless, he managed to collect his informant salary for over a year. He even got the government to pay for multiple trips to foreign countries!

Occasionally, an informant's identity is revealed through a simple bureaucratic blunder. This is understandable. The paperwork is sometimes so massive that one almost needs to be locked in a cell for at least a few weeks to read it all!

Fortunately, I have enjoyed such an opportunity! I had plenty of time to thoroughly study extensive files on a big case that was very close to my heart. The information alone would have been well worth, say, a year of my life. Not to mention the sheer joy and the laughs!



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