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R . I . F . T . P O S T - I N C I D E N T R E V I E W

Dr. Rekha Malhotra // 70F-A2 Archivist

R.I.F.T. HQ // 70F-A2

DOCUMENT TYPEReconstructed
Timeline /
Composite Record**SUBJECT**Dr. Samuel Albert Kane, PhD -
Biology/Exobiology**DOC REF**RIFT-PIR-SK-
2024-011**LOG PERIOD**

05 JUN 2024

COMPILED BYDr. Rehka Malholtra, PhD
70F-A2 Archivist**CLEARANCE LEVEL**CLASSIFIED/TS/
R.I.F.T. EYES ONLY

The following constitutes a reconstructed chronological record compiled by R.I.F.T. Archivist Dr. Rekha Malholtra following a formal complaint filed by R.I.F.T. researcher Dr. Nathan Sinclair (#143D) regarding Dr. Samuel Kane's (#282D) conduct with asset #50F-i3.

Following the complaint, Dr. Kane was placed on an Incident Review panel personally overseen by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stewart Oberman.

The review resulted in Dr. Kane's mandatory temporary leave of absence from asset #50F-i3 for decontamination purposes, followed by his reassignment back to the aforementioned incubator as Co-Project Director under the authority the newly appointed Project Director, Dr. Sinclair.

07 April 2024 —

Dr. Nathan Sinclair visits asset #50F-i3 for a routine psychiatric evaluation.

17 April 2024 —

Dr. Sinclair submits forms FECC-14.A and FECC-14.B to R.I.F.T.'s Office of Internal Affairs for review, requesting for an Incident Review panel to be conducted on Dr. Samuel Albert Kane.

26 April 2024 —

A second FECC batch was filed by Dr. Sinclair. Dr. Sinclair's request is granted, pending the availability of R.I.F.T. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stewart Oberman.

5 June 2024 —

Dr. Stewart Oberman conducts Dr. Kane's Incident Review Panel. The following transcript is taken directly from the meeting, which has been recorded both by hand and via audio recordings. Said transcript and recordings have been filed accordingly via 70F-a2.

Transcript of Dr. Samuel Kane's 06/05/2024 Incident Review

Present Parties:

Incident Review Panel Overseer -
Dr. Stewart Oberman, Chief Executive Officer, #000D

Respondent -

Dr. Samuel Albert Kane, Project Director, #282D

Incident Review Panel Witness A -

Jacob Grunblatt, Legal, #064L

Incident Review Panel Witness B -

Serena Wu, Computer Engineering, #044C

Presiding Security Officer -

Jessica Emily Aarons, Security, #091S

Transcriptionist -

Rachel Stern, Internal Affairs, #062L

Rachel Stern:

Transcription has begun. Panel witnesses A and B, this is your official reminder that you are both present to provide Witness Obligation to this panel. As is protocol, neither of you are to intervene in the affairs of the panel, verbally or otherwise. Any party that does not abide by the established company by-laws of forum decorum is to be escorted out by the presiding security officer and will have their behavior marked on their corporate record. Head Panelist Dr. Oberman, you may proceed.

Dr. Oberman:

Thank you, Rachel. Dr. Kane, it's not often I attend an Incident Review panel, much less host one, but considering your history at this facility, I thought it best I oversee this one personally. As you can see, I've kept this panel as small as company policy permits; two witnesses, one security officer, one transcriptionist, and myself as head panelist. A matter of this potential severity deserves discretion, not an audience.

Dr. Kane:

I understand. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules for my sake.

Dr. Oberman:

Of course. Now, let us begin. Dr. Kane, this panel will address three matters. First, the inappropriate conduct and unauthorized privileges granted to asset 50F-i3. Second, the matter of your concealment of research. Lastly, unsanctioned experiments conducted via its PROXY system. We will take these in turn and begin with the first article on the docket, starting immediately. Dr. Kane, do you deny an inappropriate personal attachment to the asset?

Dr. Kane:

I've worked with asset 50F-i3 since 2015, when it was ten years old and Dr. Hawatori, my mentor, was still Project Director. I understood immediately how terrifying and dangerous this asset was. I treated it the way I was trained to treat any asset, but time and time again, I watched my mentor break protocol

to show it compassion. He believed 50F-i3 deserved to be treated with respect. To be shown joy, to be shown kindness. And I learned, because I watched it happen again and again, that the asset wasn't just more cooperative when treated with kindness. The experiments ran smoother. The results were better.

Dr. Kane:

I'm not saying any of this to hide behind Hawatori or to blame him for what I've done. I've made my own choices as Project Director and I stand by them. I know how this looks. I know what she's capable of better than anyone in this facility. I've read every incident report, I've seen what her Fourth Stage can do. I'm not asking you to forget that. But I am asking you to consider that, not including the accident during 'the catastrophe', in the nine years I've worked with her, she has never once used those abilities to hurt a single person under my supervision. If a nickname, cup of ramen, or box of crayons paid for out of my own pocket is what keeps that true, I don't see that as a violation. I see it as a worthwhile investment.

Dr. Oberman:

Wow. I will speak frankly Dr. Kane. I am moved by your honesty and passion. It is refreshing to see. You are undoubtedly Ishiro's successor. Like with Dr. Hawatori, I have no objections to your empathy toward the asset. I am absolutely willing to make exceptions to standard protocol for special meals and material rewards. I would even consider expanding the assets' budget for further quality-of-life changes, should your research prove they yield more desirable results for her.

Dr. Kane:

It does. Prove that, I mean. Thank you! The asset is-

Dr. Oberman:

"Her". Are you aware that you changed the assets pronouns halfway through your defense? I don't say that to embarrass you, but I'd be doing you a disservice if I didn't tell you what that looks like, sitting where I sit. Working well is not the same as thinking clearly. An asset capable of what 50F-i3 is capable of does not need to corrupt a man's judgment all at once. It can happen one kindness at a time, over nine years, until the person administering that kindness can no longer see where their empathy ends and its influence begins.

Dr. Kane:

Yes, I see how that looks. But wanting "her" to be treated more humanely isn't the same as losing my grip on what "she" is. I have never once lost sight of what the asset is capable of. I've dedicated years of study to understanding exactly that.

Dr. Oberman:

That leads me directly to the second issue on the docket: Concealment of Research. This Incident Review's forensics team has found evidence of your unpublished research as far back as December of 2023. If you're not suffering from noetic corruption as you claim, then your defense is that you consciously hid key data from R.I.F.T. of your own free will. Is that the stance you're taking?

Dr. Kane:

No, that's not what I'm trying to say at all. It- look. I run three other incubators, and if you look at my history of uploading research data, you'll find this is consistent across the board. I almost always publish "late" because I take the time to triple check my work and don't upload anything until it's perfect. Also, I never withheld anything from my team. Everything I found, I shared with them immediately.

Dr. Oberman:

Sharing your findings with your own team isn't the generosity you're presenting it as. Whatever you shared, you shared in a vacuum entirely of your own making. And yes, I've noticed that you're often late in uploading your work, though you rarely exceed two or three weeks. We're talking about a financial quarter's worth of hoarded research here. I hardly think that's a justifiable margin. Dr. Sinclair seems to think so too.

Dr. Kane:

(shouts) Sinclair!? Sinclair thinks the asset is a waste of resources! He told me the incubator should be terminated! Over research he doesn't understand! Without a single fucking conversation!

Dr. Oberman:

(pauses)

Dr. Kane:

I- sorry. You're right, three months is unjustifiable. I didn't realize I was so behind. I apologize. But this experiment is unlike anything I've ever conducted at this facility. I felt extraordinarily close to making 50F-i3, not only a viable incubator, but a thriving one.

Dr. Oberman:

Enlighten me. What does this experiment entail? I've skimmed what the digital forensic analysis team has recovered from the PROXY, but I'd like to hear it in your own words.

Dr. Kane:

It's about- uh, it entails reliably utilizing a fusion analog/digital medium to interface with the assets radio-waves in a controlled manner, enabling users access to recognizable, comprehensive signals across parallel realities and alternate universes.

Dr. Oberman:

Across realities? Fascinating. I must admit, that's an absolutely enthralling subject matter.

Dr. Kane:

It is.

Dr. Oberman:

Now, from what I know about 50F-i3, the entire incubator is a Faraday Cage, which means all electronics that interact with it run through one highly specialized system designed to handle the asset's unique properties. I am of course, referring to 50F-i3's PROXY system. With that in mind, I have to assume this 'fusion analog/digital medium' of yours has been running through that very system. This brings us to the third matter on the docket: unauthorized modifications and experimentation conducted on the incubator's PROXY system. Am I to assume the software recovered by the digital forensics team assigned to this panel is the same software you were using to conduct these experiments?

Dr. Kane:

Yes. That's the currently unpublished "Transdimensional Radio Interface". It's specially designed software, created to attune to the asset's frequencies.

Dr. Oberman:

The code is incredibly well written, and that's coming from me. It's very, very good. How and where did you acquire it?

Dr. Kane:

We got it from Dr. Andrei Petrov. He was an engineer assigned to 70F-a1, before the asset assaulted the facility. He wrote the program with the help of 70F-a1. Authorization for this project was signed by Dr. Adil Giles, who was the Chief Research Officer for our Quantum Physics department at the time.

Dr. Oberman:

"We?"

Dr. Kane:

Dr. Hawatori and I. He and Dr. Petrov were good friends.

Dr. Oberman:

I see. Andrei and I were good friends as well. He was a wonderful programmer; there weren't many I trusted to work on 70F-a1. It's a shame, what happened to him, Ishiro, and Dr. Giles that day.

Dr. Kane:

It's still hard to accept what happened. The lives lost in the catastrophe continue to haunt me. I'm sorry for your loss. I still wish I could have done more, stopped it sooner.

Dr. Oberman:

It is not your fault, Samuel. Yes, you were acting outside of protocol with 70F-a1, but how could you not? Something new and exciting was happening before your very eyes. We are scientists. We are inquisitors. You were not the only employee to treat 70F-a1 like a human, despite my orders dictating otherwise. You were, however, the only one who requested therapy and potential psychiatric care for 70F-a1 in the months before the catastrophe occurred. I denied both of you that request, and because I refused to see things as you saw them, you had

to kill your friend and I lost my magnum opus. The blood of the lives lost that day is on my hands Samuel, no one else's.

Dr. Kane:
(pauses)

Dr. Oberman:
(brief pause) Well. Enough dwelling on the past. Per aspera ad astra. Onwards and upwards. The authorization papers, the ones with Dr. Giles' signature, do you have them?

Dr. Kane:
The original copies were among the mass data loss we suffered after the catastrophe.

Dr. Oberman:
So, we're left with a situation where every witness to this authorization is deceased and unable to verify it. Not unlikely, but an unfortunate circumstance all the same.

Dr. Kane:
I understand the situation is tenuous. Even so, I'm asking you to trust me. Trust that these experiments will prove what I've believed all along, that 50F-i3 is worth every bit of this facility's continued investment.

Dr. Oberman:
I do want to see where this experiment, this incubator you've worked so hard on, goes. But these violations are severe, Dr. Kane. I do trust you. I do not believe you would do anything to intentionally bring harm to this facility. That doesn't change the fact that there must be consequences, and assurances that violations like these won't happen again.

Dr. Kane:
(nods)

Dr. Oberman:
Permanently pulling you from 50F-i3 was highly considered. Some were adamant about it. However, Ishiro made it clear that the asset requires emotional attention for growth. For an asset as "human" as 50F-i3, I am inclined to agree. There are not many at this facility who display empathy as genuinely as you do. However, I believe there is a significant likelihood of noetic contamination. I understand your disagreements with Dr. Sinclair, but he's an efficient worker with an acute eye for fine paperwork and financial viability. As much as you disagree with a coworker, physical violence is unacceptable.

Dr. Kane:
I understand.

Dr. Oberman:

I'm issuing a full year of cognitive decontamination from the asset while Dr. Sinclair takes over your responsibilities as Project Director. After your eventual and hopeful clearing by your assigned cognitive assessment team, you will be returned to the incubator in a tentative Co-Project Director position alongside Dr. Sinclair. During said period, you may work within the incubator providing you abstain from any and all contact with the asset. You are to be in a strictly managerial position and will not be fully reinstated until you've demonstrated, to my satisfaction, that you can work alongside someone you disagree with without incident. Samuel, that means Dr. Sinclair specifically. Show me you can collaborate with him professionally, and I'll consider reinstating you to full responsibilities on 50F-i3. Fail to do that, and this conversation we're having will be the last consideration you get.

Dr. Kane:

Yes, sir.

Dr. Oberman:

I'll expect detailed, timely uploads of your research involving the assets Transdimensional broadcasts and your use of the software Dr. Petrov wrote for you. Until you're fit to operate the software again, Dr. Sinclair will be assigned to run neurological and physiological experiments on asset 50F-i3. The project will be removed from the termination watchlist until further notice. Consider my leniency a 'thank you' for saving this facility from 70F-a1.

Dr. Kane:

Understood. Thank you.

— E N D O F D O C U M E N T —

RIFT-PIR-SK-2024-011 // Employee Personnel File // Dr. Nathan Sinclair, PhD

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