10-21-2001
Please censor the names of the interviewees for the final version. This draft should be locked.

October 9th, 2001
12:00 PM
Interview of Dr. ~~Richard Rosen &~~ Dr. ~~Wendy Troy~~
Special Agent CIA
[redacted] Secretary, USDTO / "Goon"
[redacted], Under Secretary, USDTO / "Lookalike"
Special Agent William McCarthy, CIA
Dr. Wendy Troy, University of [redacted]

Goon: Uh, did we get that 4 page report from [redacted]? I think you gave him - is that correct?

McCarthy: Yes, that's right.

Goon: Well, if you've had a chance to go through, um, we should be good.

McCarthy: Sure. Folks?

Troy: I - uh, yes.

Goon: So we're all aware of what this machine is capable of?

(Collective): Yes.

Goon: We're gonna have to go - we'll be fairly in-depth with this. Is that all right Mr. Rosen, Ms. Troy?

Rosen: That's all right. Where should I begin?

McCarthy: Why don't we get our qualifications, uh, get them out of the way first?

Goon: For the record, yes. I'll start?

McCarthy: Sure.

Goon: My name is [redacted], I am currently the Secretary of Temporal Operations for the USDTO. Alias, "Goon."

McCarthy: Special Agent William McCarthy, CIA.

Lookalike: [redacted], Under Secretary, USDTO. Alias is "Lookalike."

Troy: Dr. Wendy Troy, chief faculty member of the Physics Department at [redacted]

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Rosen: Dr. Richard Rosen, I'm faculty at the Mathematics Department at [redacted] and inventor of [redacted].

McCarthy: Good, that's uh, done with now. Mr [redacted] - Goon, uh, pardon. You wish to start?

Goon: OK. Richard, can I call you that?

Rosen: Sure, that's fine.

Goon: Richard, let's uh, start by telling us what you do. Your branch of mathematics, "[redacted]" was it called?

Rosen: Yes, I - It's a proprietary development in mathematics. It was built on the shoulders of giants, really. [redacted], some others. They all, uh, dabbled in it, you know?

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Goon: And what is it exactly?

Rosen: It's, uh, a system used to calculate - eliminate variability. Or, perhaps, better predict it. That's why it's called "[redacted]", after the Butterly Effect, uh, I'll assume everyone here knows that?

Lookalike: Let's - Why don't you, uh, state it for the record.

Rosen: Sure, uh, well - well you can imagine a butterfly beats its wings in one spot, and uh, that little gust of wind triggered a series of events that leads to like a cyclone - hurricane, or something else crazy. It's a thought experiment, really, to show that you can't predict the future because there's so many endless variables. It's impossible.

Goon: But you found a way around it, yes?

Rosen: Yes.

Goon: Elaborate.

Rosen: My math, while novel, isn't revolutionary. I suspect, I think perhaps it might be discovered in other places too. It relies on concepts that already exist, I just connected all the dots. Uh, the works of [redacted] and [redacted] among others.

Goon: Bill, did you see, uh, did you get that dissemination request sent in?

McCarthy: I got it sent in, yeah. They're on it.

Goon: Richard, you shouldn't worry too much. There's been efforts done by the DTO and CIA to, uh, quell this theory from bubbling up elsewhere. We don't want others getting an apparatus like yours. I hope you understand our concern.

Rosen: What about the Russians or Chinese?

Goon: We can't really prevent their researchers from finding this information. But the info - they're decades behind us in this field, if our guys are anything to go off of. Tell us, uh, when did you begin work on predicting the future?

Rosen: Right when I realized what [redacted] could do. It could predict everything.

Goon: Even individuals?

Rosen: Individuals are far harder to parse, but, uh, yeah. It takes energy and a hell of a computer, but yes. It can do that. It's better at societal trends, though.

Goon: But it can predict individual actions?

Rosen: Yes.

Troy: With difficulty, I should clarify. It's rough...

Goon: Sure - glad we got that - write it down, that's good stuff. OK. Let's see - Troy, what was your role in this?

Troy: I helped build the APA, that -

Goon: Could you clarify for the record what the APA is?

Troy: Sure. The Artificial Prediction Apparatus, uh, we call it the Apparatus for short.

Goon: So you were an expert working on this program?

Troy: I - yes, I wouldn't say expert, per se. I was only one of many.

Goon: But you were the leader of the project, yes?

Troy: Yep. (as of 2000),

Goon: Could you describe your APA - Apparatus device?

Troy: It's a bit complex.

Lookalike: No worries, we have all day.

Troy: It's a powerful computer, uh, the tenth iteration of our first prototype in '99. It can predict the future - it uses some of the most advanced quantum work the field of physics and computer science have ever seen. Uses Dr. Rosen's math to do its work.

Goon: Tenth iteration? How did you make so many improvements in the span of two years?

Troy: The first was rudimentary but we used it to predict itself. Uh, sort of a way of predicting the most optimal way to build a second version, third version, so on. It improved on itself - exponentially.

Lookalike: You're telling us that - you're saying you built new ones based on the designs the initial rudimentary one gave you?

Troy: We still had to do most of the work for versions two and three, four was easier. By six it gave us most of what we needed to know. Using the 9th, we sort of - predicted - what the tenth iteration would be like in 2001. About two months ago now. ← Pre - WTC attack. Failed to prevent?

Lookalike: How did - you see, the Apparatus was invented by you, no?

Troy: Yeah.

Lookalike: Then who invented the later iterations? It predicted they would be invented, when, and what they would look like, uh, it was not by whom or how.

Troy: It invented itself, perhaps. It isn't a sentient algorithm like what other folks are researching. And so it only gave us the future - the future where it had, uh, given us the future that showed us how to make - the future.

Lookalike: What?

Troy: Have you heard of, like, a bootstrap paradox?

Lookalike: No.

Troy: Say you find a time machine - in a box in the woods. You then go back in time, uh, put it in a box, and leave it in the woods. Where you found it in the future. If you put it there and later picked it up, how did it get there to start with?

Lookalike: Someone else put it there to start.

Troy: That someone else was you, in the past.

Lookalike: What?

Rosen: I - I think Wendy means to say, in a roundabout way, just, we were fated, in a way, to build better iterations.

Goon: There is no such thing as fate. You aren't bound by this machine's predictions.

Rosen: Of course. But it is easier to think of it, uh, like that.

Goon: "That way" is a mistake. We can't resign ourselves to the whims of the future.

Rosen: If - if I may interject, uh, Troy is right to say that it may as well be fate. With the early prototypes, it could never predict, say, if I were to rip my shirt off and scream bloody murder - in this moment right here. That would be too unexpected, so yes, I could have escaped that prediction. That fate, if you will. But the latest iteration is so accurate, it can predict even the unpredictable.

Goon: How can something predict the unpredictable?

Rosen: Dunno. Half of the mechanisms we used to build our latest iterations not even our best engineers understand. We're just building what it tells us is most optimal, see, uh, we're still reverse-engineering what it gave us. All we know for now is - is that it works.

Goon: How can you trust this technology? How do you know its safe?

Rosen: We… this won't we passed on to the university, will it?

Goon: You won't need to worry about them anymore.

Rosen: Uh, what does that mean?

Lookalike: We're hiring your team, effective immediately.

Troy: What? Do we have a choice in this?

Lookalike: No, you don't. But on the bright side, you've just got the funding of the US defense department.

Troy: How do you mean?

Lookalike: Your research is paramount to our security as a nation.

Rosen: You think we could predict wars? Nuclear strikes?

Goon: That, in the most extreme cases. But it would be nice to prevent another World Trade Center or something of that degree.

McCarthy: Or just economic trouble.

Rosen: Is this ethical? I mean…

Goon: The USDTO is concerned with the safety of America. Is that not as ethical as it gets?

Rosen: I don't know. I don't like it.

Troy: This is… I don't know.

Goon: Back to what we were saying, uh, safety-wise. Dr. Rosen?

Rosen: Well, seeing the university is like… not a concern anymore, I suppose I can say that we have no fucking idea. Look, the ethics of this were questionable from the start. It - we had some faculty resign when the Apparatus began to show its true ability by the fifth iteration.

Goon: Resigned? Could you tell us who exactly you're referring to?

Rosen: What, so you can track them down and kill them?

Goon: No, Richard, we just want their smarts.

Rosen: They would never work on the Apparatus again. Their position was clear.

Goon: Please list their names.

Rosen: No.

McCarthy: Dr. Rosen, you are being interviewed by the United States Department of Temporal Operations. Your compliance is mandatory. Please list their names.

Rosen: I don't remember. ?

Goon: Don't remember, or won't remember?

Troy: Hey - if I may interject, uh, can't you just check the department records? Their employment should all be there. Right?

Goon: McCarthy, remind us what happened to the uh, records in the APA project at [redacted].

McCarthy: It's gone. Records confirmed to have been burned. Rosen suspected.

Goon: Gone. Know about that, Dr. Rosen?

Rosen: No.

Goon: Of course, I wouldn't expect you to. It was probably just a documentation error, I suppose. Someone threw away the records by accident.

Rosen: I want a lawyer.

Troy: I'd like one too.

McCarthy: Folks, this isn't an interrogation. That won't be necessary.

Troy: Sure feels like one. I know my rights.

Lookalike: Please, gentlemen, uh, and women - let's continue this like civilized people. We don't need to bring in litigation.

Rosen: Lawyer.

Goon: Is that your final word?

Rosen: Lawyer.

Troy: Lawyer.

Goon: Jesus. Get your lawyers. We'll reconvene later and continue this.

Further interview may be found in archives. Date 10-10-2001

Notes: Please replace names with aliases. not just Goon and Lookalike. Secrecy is paramount and any revelation of identity would be catastrophic beyond what our dissemination teams could counteract.