

# Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC



**Jenny HOLZER (b. 1950)**

*Water Board*

A rare complete suite of six hand-made, compressed papers, each in its original paper sleeve

35 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 27 <sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. (90,5 x 70 cm)

2012

Each verso signed and inscribed "Jenny Holzer," "Water board," and "Einmalige Auflage, 2012"

The set contains the following titles:

- "P7 Water board 0000090"
- "P8 Top Secret 23"
- "P9 Top Secret 24"
- "P10 Top Secret 32"
- "P11 These enhanced Techniques"
- "P12 Enhanced Techniques"

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## PROVENANCE

Peter Karbstein, Düsseldorf

## EXHIBITED

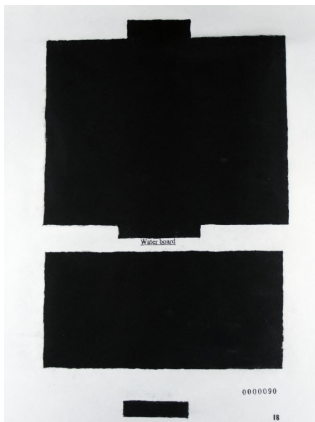
*Aktivismus*, Summer 2022, The Lone Star Gallery Akim Monet Fine Arts, Dallas

## NOTES

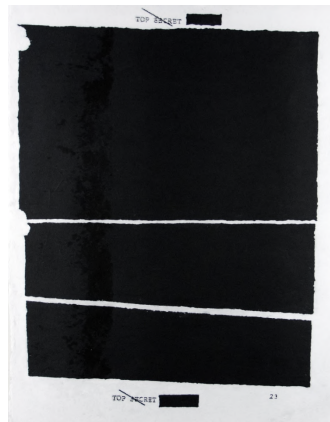
The complete set of six sheets was not printed, but assembled from different stocks of paper through which the artist processed several CIA documents.

In an elaborate process in the Berlin paper atelier of Gangolf Ulbricht, the writing itself was not printed, but obtained from black fiber mass, most likely in small sets.

Each piece is an assemblage of paper: Holzer removed the blacked-out portions of the papers and pasted a black sheet to the back, creating a layer of depth and giving dimension to the works beyond that of a standard print.



"P7 Water board 0000090"



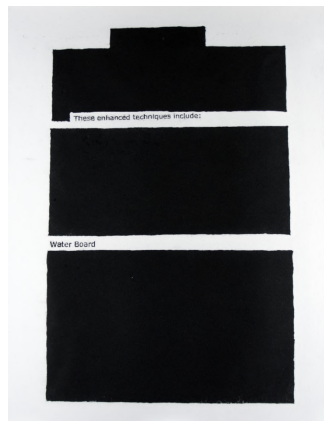
"P8 Top Secret 23"



"P9 Top Secret 24"



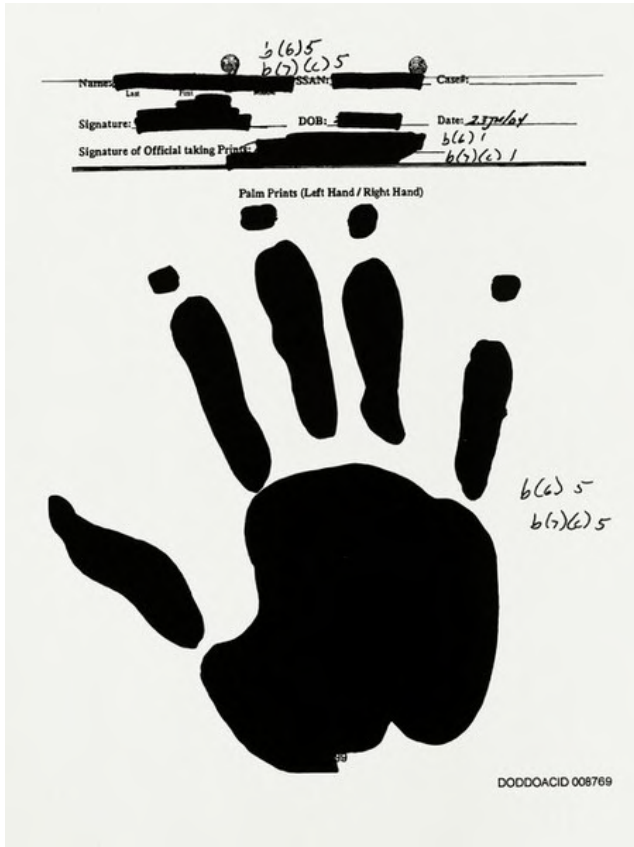
"P10 Top Secret 32"



"P11 These enhanced Techniques"



"P12 Enhanced Techniques"



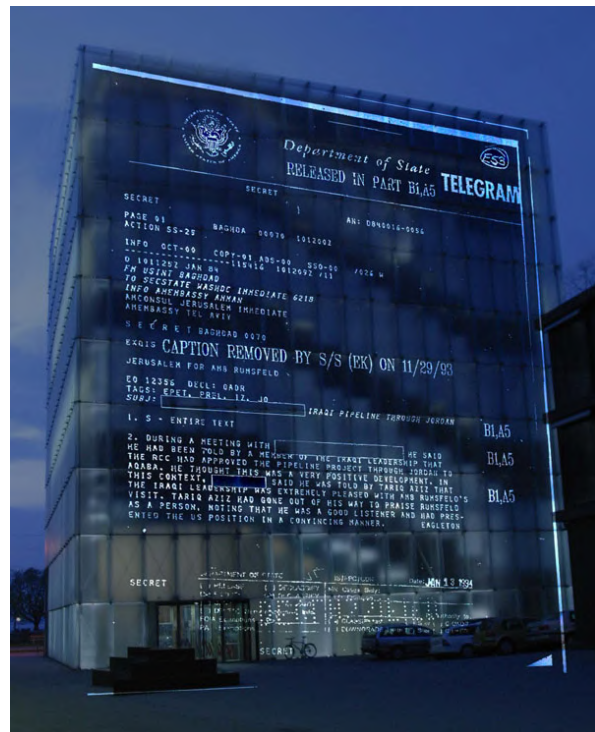
Throughout her career, Jenny Holzer has engaged the public consciousness through her text-based art. Beginning in 1977 with *Truisms*, a series of witty and salient aphorisms posted in public spaces, Holzer has never shied away from sensitive material. She has mined declassified U.S. government documents for the series *Redaction Paintings* meticulously silk-screened works that depict blacked-out handprints of American soldiers accused of committing crimes in Iraq.

The idea for the *Redaction Paintings* came in 2004 when *Wired* magazine asked Holzer to imagine a new landing page for Google's search engine. "I wanted to see secrets," she remembered, "a different secret every time I logged on." She went looking and found a letter on *thesmokinggun.com* in which Enron founder Kenneth Lay thanked the then governor of Texas George W. Bush for a gift of art. Searching more widely, she trawled the websites of the National Security Archive, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She focused on documents about the Middle East, and when she found something of interest, she painted it.

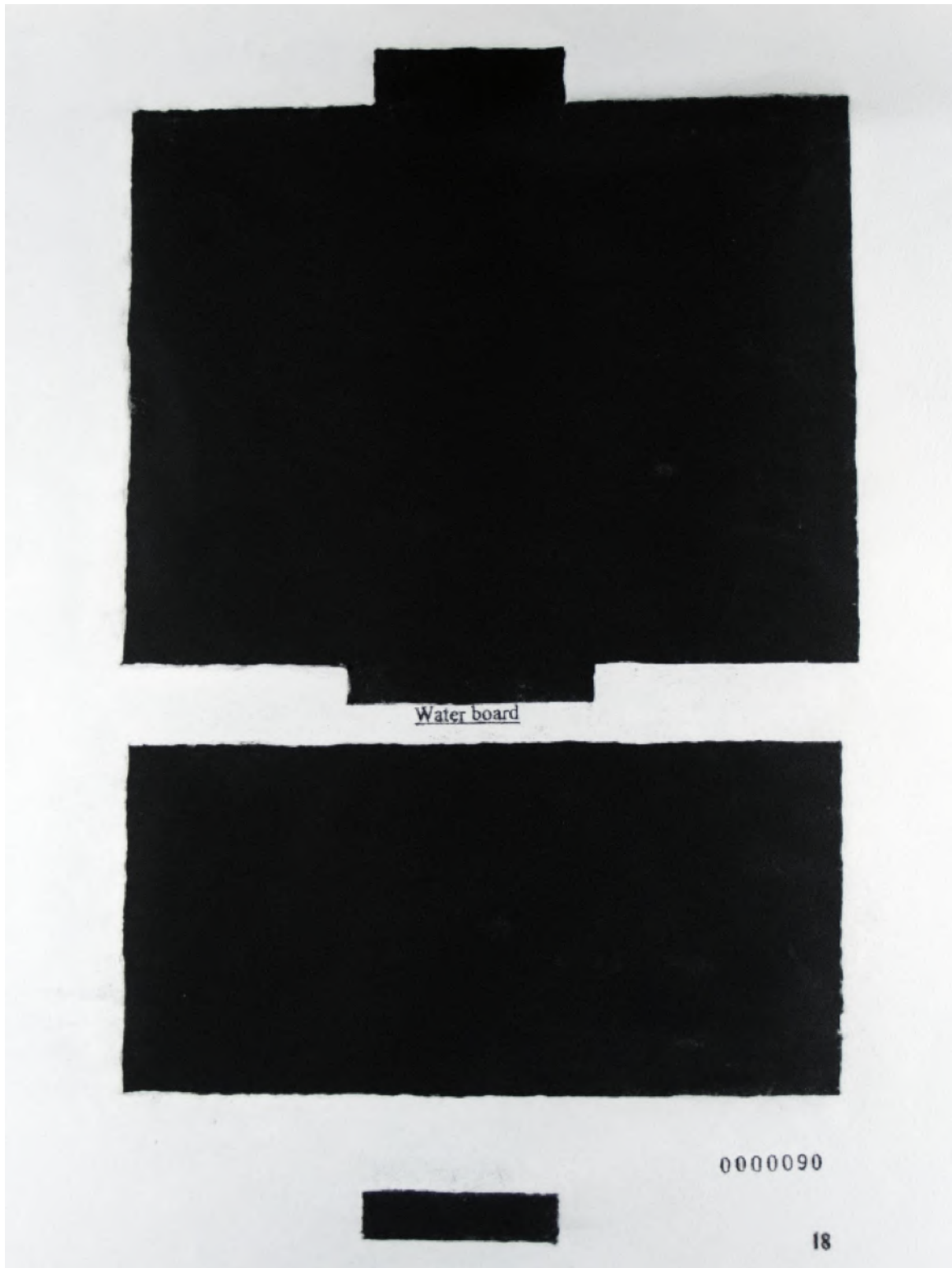
"DODDOACID", 2007 Nga.gov, 2022, [www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.152280.html](http://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.152280.html).

Holzer first began using former secret texts obtained by the National Security Archive through the Freedom of Information Act (primarily on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, especially Iraq), as well as an essay by the archive's director, Thomas Blanton, titled "The World's Right to Know," from the July/August 2002 issue of *Foreign Policy*, in her celebrated Xenon projections in Bregenz, Austria and elsewhere, which scrolled enormous light-filled images of documents up the sides of buildings and embankments.

"Jenny Holzer." Gwu.edu, 2014, [nsarchive2.gwu.edu/holzer/](http://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/holzer/).

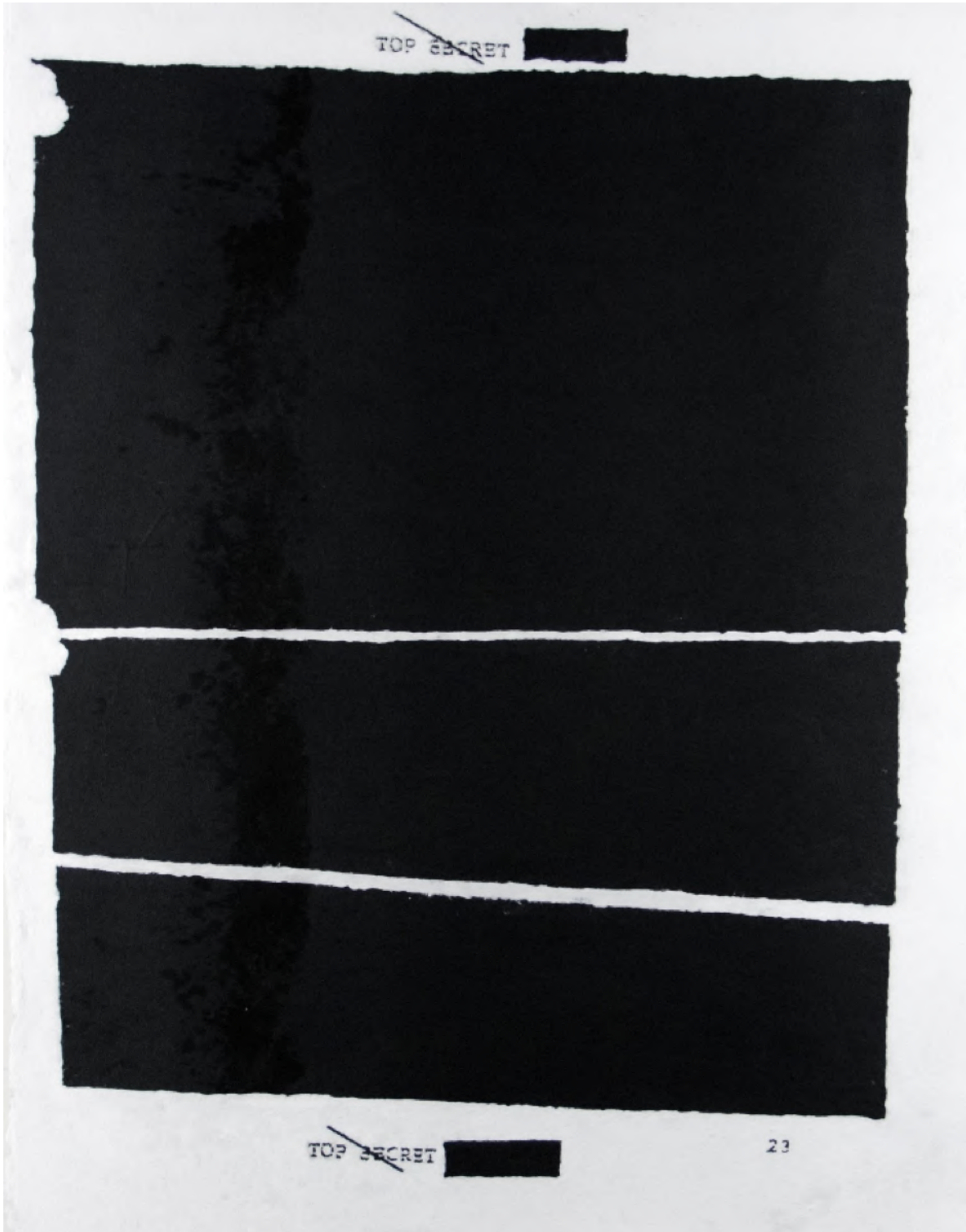


Xenon for Bregenz, image © 2004 Jenny Holzer, courtesy ARS, NY

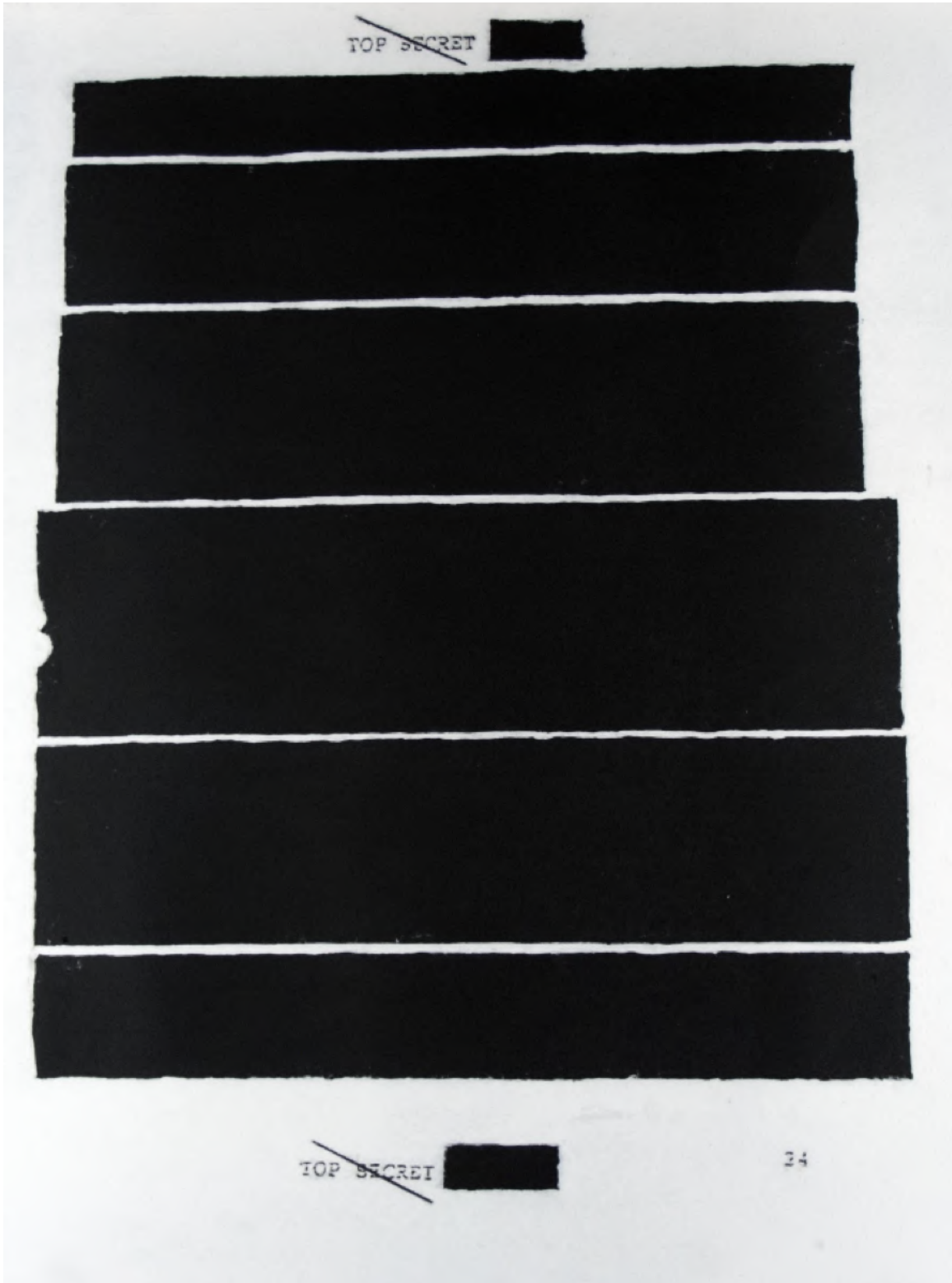


"P7 Water board 0000090"





"P8 Top Secret 23"



"P9 Top Secret 24"



"PIO Top Secret 32"



These enhanced techniques include:

Water Board

"P11 These enhanced Techniques"





"P12 Enhanced Techniques"



Example of a signed verso: "P8 Top Secret 23"