

8-15
Boston

DRAFT
9 June 1953

A

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project NEULTRA, Subproject 8

1. Subproject 8 is being set up as a means to continue the present work in the general field of L.S.D. at [redacted] until 11 September 1954. B

2. This project will include a continuation of a study of the biochemical, neurophysiological, sociological, and clinical psychiatric aspects of L.S.D., and also a study of L.S.D. antagonists and drugs related to L.S.D., such as L.A.E. A detailed proposal is attached. The principle investigators will continue to be [redacted] all of [redacted]. C B

3. The estimated budget of the project at [redacted] is \$39,500.00. The [redacted] will serve as a cut-out and cover for this project and will furnish the above funds to the [redacted] as a philanthropic grant for medical research. A service charge of \$790.00 (2% of the estimated budget) is to be paid to the [redacted] for this service. B

4. Thus the total charges for this project will not exceed \$40,290.00 for a period ending September 11, 1954.

5. [redacted] (Director of the hospital) are cleared through TOP SECRET and are aware of the true purpose of the project. C

for Sidney Gottesman,
[redacted] A
Chemical Division/TSS

APPROVED:

Sidney Gottesman
Chief, Chemical Division/TSS

[redacted]

[redacted] PROGRAM [redacted]

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to continue research on problems critical to a clarification of the fundamental aspects of the stimulus-response relationship in biological systems. Studies will be conducted utilizing chronic animal preparations with permanent septal electrodes. Investigations will be conducted utilizing chronic electrode preparations coupled with selected classical types of conditioning. Studies will be conducted on the geography of the brain in selected species of animals to determine the locus in which stimulations will produce specific reactions.

A careful literature survey, especially of the Russian literature, of foreign research in this area will be conducted.

MKULTRA Materials and Methods

This 1955 CIA document reviews the Agency's research and development of a shocking list of mind-altering substances and methods, including "materials which will render the induction of hypnosis easier or otherwise enhance its usefulness," and "physical methods of producing shock and confusion over extended periods of time and capable of surreptitious use."

Approved for
by authority of 157078
dated June 1957

Approved for
by authority of 157078

DRAFT

5 May 1955

35-4-A

Subj

Draft

A portion of the Research and Development Program of TSS/Chemical Division is devoted to the discovery of the following materials and methods:

1. Substances which will promote illogical thinking and impulsiveness to the point where the recipient would be discredited in public.
2. Substances which increase the efficiency of mentation and perception.
3. Materials which will prevent or counteract the intoxicating effect of alcohol.
4. Materials which will promote the intoxicating effect of alcohol.
5. Materials which will produce the signs and symptoms of recognized diseases in a reversible way so that they may be used for malingering, etc.
6. Materials which will render the induction of hypnosis easier or otherwise enhance its usefulness.
7. Substances which will enhance the ability of individuals to withstand privation, torture and coercion during interrogation and so-called "brain-washing".
8. Materials and physical methods which will produce amnesia for events preceding and during their use.
9. Physical methods of producing shock and confusion over extended periods of time and capable of surreptitious use.
10. Substances which produce physical disablement such as paralysis of the legs, acute anemia, etc.

Approved for
by authority of 157078
dated June 1957

Approved for
by authority of 157078
dated June 1957

Approved for
by authority of 157078

11. Substances which will produce "pure" euphoria with no subsequent let-down.

12. Substances which alter personality structure in such a way that the tendency of the recipient to become dependent upon another person is enhanced.

13. A material which will cause mental confusion of such a type that the individual under its influence will find it difficult to maintain a fabrication under questioning.

14. Substances which will lower the ambition and general working efficiency of men when administered in undetectable amounts.

15. Substances which promote weakness or distortion of the eyesight or hearing faculties, preferably without permanent effects.

16. A knockout pill which can surreptitiously be administered in drinks, food, cigarettes, as an aerosol, etc., which will be safe to use, provide a maximum of amnesia, and be suitable for use by agent types on an ad hoc basis.

17. A material which can be surreptitiously administered by the above routes and which in very small amounts will make it impossible for a man to perform any physical activity whatever.

The development of materials of this type follows the standard practices of such ethical drug houses as ~~_____~~. It is a relatively routine procedure to develop a drug to the point of human testing. Ordinarily, the drug houses depend upon the services of private physicians for the final clinical testing. The physicians are willing to assume the responsibility of such tests in order to advance the science of medicine. It is difficult and sometimes impossible for ISS/OD to offer such an inducement with respect to its products. In practice, it has been possible to use outside cleared contractors for the preliminary phases of this work. However, that part which involves human testing at effective dose levels presents security problems which cannot be handled by the ordinary contractor.

Handwritten initials: "H. 2/10/57"

- 13

(6)

The proposed facility ^{at [redacted]} offers a unique opportunity for the secure handling of such clinical testing in addition to the many advantages outlined in the project proposal. The security problems mentioned above are eliminated by the fact that the responsibility for the testing will rest completely upon the physician and the hospital.

[redacted] will allow [redacted] personnel to supervise the work very closely to make sure that all tests are conducted according to the recognized practices and embody adequate safeguards.

- B

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(7)

08 OCT 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT: Destruction of Drug and Toxin Related Files

1. On your instructions, I have investigated the destruction of Agency records related to drugs and toxins. This investigation was conducted between 17-30 September 1975 and was limited to avoid interfering in any way with other ongoing investigations of this matter, including that of the FBI.

2. I discussed this matter with the following people:

Dr. Sayre Stevens, ADD/S&T

3. Summary Conclusions: The investigation focused on four areas:

a. Destruction of files related to MKULTRA and the continued existence of any such files or papers.

-- No existing drug-related MKULTRA material was located.

Dr. Gottlieb appears to have authorized destruction of MKULTRA drug-related files and may have been directed to do so by Mr.

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-- MKULTRA files formerly held in Records Center may have been destroyed on 30 January 1973 rather than 31 January 1973. The Chief of Records Center protested destruction of those files on 2 February 1973.

-- The investigation also uncovered material related to MKULTRA in the minutes of the CIA Research Board for 1953-1962.

-- No satisfactory explanation has been found concerning some MKULTRA material retired to Archives, not recorded as having been destroyed, and not yet located.

b. Destruction or continued existence of other files possibly related to drugs.

-- Three boxes of material formerly stored in Records Center were destroyed in January 1973 when the MKULTRA material was destroyed. One box of this material deals with environmental sampling for BW and CH manufacturing activity. OTS is currently attempting to identify the projects dealt with in the material in the other two boxes.

-- Some material dealing with the testing of drugs on human volunteers has been reviewed by OIG.

-- Approximately one safe drawer full of Dr. Gottlieb's papers was destroyed by his secretary at his orders in June 1973, shortly before he retired. No detailed description of this material is

17. The final stage of covert testing of materials on unwitting subjects is clearly the most sensitive aspect of MKULTRA. No effective cover story appears to be available. TSD officials state that responsibility for covert testing is transferred to the Bureau of Narcotics. Yet they also predict that the Chief of the Bureau would disclaim any knowledge of the activity. Present practice is to maintain no records of the planning and approval of test programs. The principal responsibility for the propriety of such testing rests with the MKULTRA program director and the Deputy Chief of TSD. The handling of test subjects in the last analysis rests with the Narcotics agent working alone. Suppression of knowledge of critical results from the top JED and CIA management is an inherent risk in these operations.

18. Final phase testing of MKULTRA substances or devices on unwitting subjects is recognized to be an activity of genuine importance in the development of some but not all MKULTRA products. Termination of such testing would have some, but an essentially indeterminate, effect on the development of operational capability in this field. Of more critical significance, however, is the risk of serious damage to the Agency in the event of compromise of the true nature of this activity. As now performed under Bureau of Narcotics auspices, non-Agency personnel are necessarily fully witting of the true nature and significance of their assignments, and of the sponsorship of CIA. Compromise of

this information intentionally or unwittingly by these individuals at some time in the future is a hazard that cannot be ruled out. A test subject may on some occasion in the future correctly attribute the cause of his reaction and secure independent professional medical assistance in identifying the exact nature of the substance employed, and by whom. An extreme reaction to a test substance could lead to a Bureau request for cooperation from local authorities in suppressing information of the situation. This would in turn broaden the circle of individuals who possessed at least circumstantial evidence of the nature of the activity. Weighing possible benefits of such testing against the risks of compromise and of resulting damage to CIA has led the Inspector General to recommend termination of this phase of the MKULTRA program. Existing checks and balances on the working level management of such testing do not afford the senior command of CIA adequate protection against the high risks involved.

19. [It does not follow that termination of covert testing of MKULTRA materials on unwitting U. S. citizens will bring the program to a halt. Some testing on foreign nationals has been occurring under the present arrangements. Various U. S. deep cover agents overseas would appear to be more favorably situated than the U. S. narcotics agents to perform realistic testing.] Finally, the operational use of the substances clearly serves the testing function in view of the lack of predictability of human reactions.

III. Current estimate of the MKULTRA/MKDELTA capability

20. The present Deputy Chief of TSD, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, in his then capacity of scientific advisor to the Deputy Director/Plans (DD/P), released a study (hereafter referred to as the Gottlieb report) on 21 April 1960, covering his six-month investigation of "Scientific and Technical Problems in Covert Action Operations". Appendix B of the report was entitled, "The Applicability of Special Chemicals and Biologicals to Clandestine Operations". The inspectors found this Appendix to be a carefully prepared and very useful treatment of the subject. The remaining paragraphs draw on the Gottlieb report, take account of developments since that date, and discuss management and funding aspects of MKULTRA.

21. The author opened his discussion with the question of what the operational returns had been from an eight-year program involving an investment of approximately \$100 million. He observed that the Clandestine Services had encouraged TSD on various occasions to develop and maintain the operational capability in special drugs and chemicals, but that TSD had received little or no guidance in directing the work and that the Clandestine Services had up to that time shown little inclination to use the end products operationally. He indicated that there had been approximately 100 operations over the eight years

6. The scope of MKULTRA is comprehensive and ranges from the search for and procurement of botanical and chemical substances, through programs for their analysis in scientific laboratories, to progressive testing for effect on animals and human beings. The testing on individuals begins under laboratory conditions employing every safeguard and progresses gradually to more and more realistic operational simulations. The program requires and obtains the services of a number of highly specialized authorities in many fields of the natural sciences.

7. The concepts involved in manipulating human behavior are found by many people both within and outside the Agency to be distasteful and unethical. There is considerable evidence that opposition intelligence services are active and highly proficient in this field. The experience of TSD to date indicates that both the research and the employment of the materials are expensive and often unpredictable in results. Nevertheless, there have been major accomplishments both in research and operational employment.

8. The principal conclusions of the inspection are that the structure and operational controls over this activity need strengthening; improvements are needed in the administration of the research projects; and some of the testing of substances under simulated operational conditions was judged to involve excessive risk to the Agency.

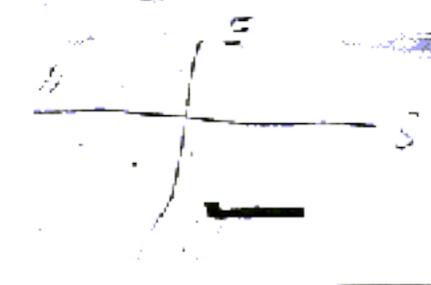
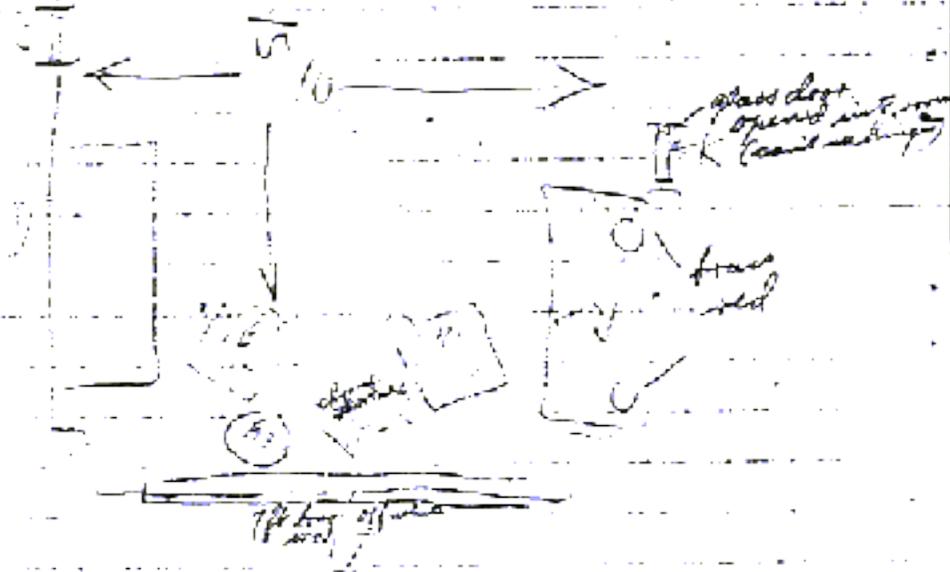
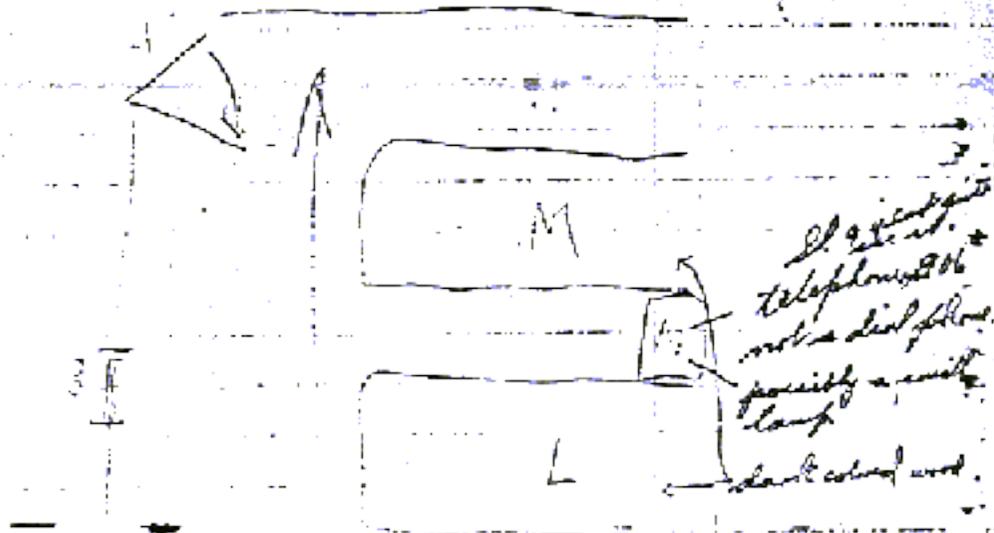
9. Attached for the signature of the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is a memorandum transmitting the report to the Deputy Director/Plans requesting a summary of action taken or comments on the recommendations contained therein.


J. P. Harbo
Inspector General

Attachments - as stated

5-13

(D) [redacted]





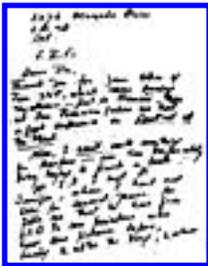
Document Gallery

The following documents were obtained by the authors in researching Acid Dreams: the CIA, LSD, and the Sixties Rebellion.

Shown here are correspondences between Jack Kerouac, Timothy Leary, and Aldous Huxley. Also included are a number of once-classified documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Though there is much that government censors have seen fit to keep secret even today, tantalizing glimpses of CIA-sponsored research into drugs are found amid the blacked-out names.

Click on any document for a close-up look at its contents.

Letters to Leary, Ginsberg



Aldous Huxley to Timothy Leary, June 1961

January 1960 letter from Jack Kerouac to Timothy Leary, describing his reactions to psilocybin mushroom extract



1978 letter from New York Times publisher C. L. Sulzberger to Allen Ginsberg concerning CIA activity in the southeast Asian drug trade.

Declassified: CIA Mind Control Documents



This 1954 document outlines CIA experiments in tolerance to LSD at the Addiction Research Center in Lexington, Kentucky

1954 memo from CIA Director Richard Helms affirming the Agency policy of using unwitting guinea pigs in drug tests



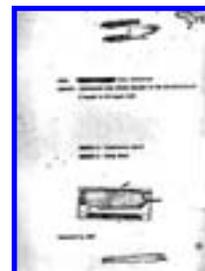
This Office of Security document outlines some strange behavior at the CIA.

In this 1953 memo, CIA director Allen Dulles takes stock of the LSD owned by the Agency



Memo outlining LSD as a "potential new agent for unconventional warfare"

This memo, provided to the CIA by a medical consultant, rather zealously suggests possible tactical uses of LSD against an enemy force





This memo, produced after a joint meeting of the Artichoke and Bluebird teams, describes the CIA's concern that human guinea pigs were becoming harder to come by for involuntary drug tests

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Aldous Huxley to Timothy Leary, 6 June 1961

In this handwritten letter, Huxley mentions meeting [Oscar Janiger](#) and Dr. "Jolly" West, a CIA MK-ULTRA operative.

3276 Scarsdale Drive
L.A. 900
Cal.
6.6.61
Dear Tim,
Thank you for your letter of
Jan 23rd, which came during
my absence -- first in Hawaii
then at San Francisco (where we had
a good conference on Control of
the Mind).
Alas, I can't write anything
for Harper -- am too desperately
busy trying to finish a book.
At S.F. I met Dr.
Janiger, whom I had not
seen for several years. He
tells me that he has given
LSD to 100 painters who
have done pictures before,
during & after the trip, & whose

efforts are being appraised
by a panel of art critics. This
might be interesting. I gave
him your address, & I think
you will hear from him.
I also spoke briefly with
Dr. Jolly West (prof of psychiatry
at U of Oklahoma Medical
School), who told me that he
had done a lot of work in
sensory deprivation, using
improved versions of John
Lilly's techniques -- but I
didn't have time to hear
the details.
You are right about the
hopelessness of the "Scientific"
approach. These idiots want
to be Pavlovians, not Lorenzian
Ethnologists. Pavlov never saw an
animal in its natural state,
arrived at the museum & put
only under display. The scientist
only sees the animal in the
subject's perspective. Aldous.

"Dear Tim,

Thank you for your letter of Jan 23rd, which came during my absence -- first in Hawaii, then at San Francisco (where we had a good conference on Control of the Mind).

Alas, I can't write anything for Harper's -- am too desperately busy trying to finish a book.

At S.F. I met Dr. Janiger, whom I had not seen for several years. He tells me that he has given LSD to 100 painters who have done pictures before, during & after the drug, & whose efforts are being appraised by a panel of art critics. This might be interesting. I gave him your address, & I think you will hear from him.

I also spoke briefly with Dr. Jolly West (prof of psychiatry at U of Oklahoma Medical School), who told me that he had done a lot of work in sensory deprivation, using improved versions of John Lilly's techniques. Interesting visionary results -- but I didn't have time to discuss the details.

You are right about the hopelessness of the "Scientific" approach. These idiots want to be Pavlovians, not Lorenzian Ethnologists. Pavlov never saw an animal in its

natural state, only under duress. The "Scientific" LSD boys do the same with their subjects. No wonder they report psychoses.

Yours,
Aldous

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"Dear Tim (coach)

I wrote yo stupid drunken letter, I mean postcard, addressed to Harvard Psychology Dept. which you may get. But Allen reminds me you want notes on my reaction to Sacred Mushrooms extract. Why not I make it in the form of a letter, here and now, without planning, and you can extract what you need for your article and researches. (Allen also suggested I send you my notes on Mescaline but I only have one copy now, will type it later for you, but in any case Mescaline is not the same as mushrooms, as you know)

You say that Montezuma was high on sacred mushrooms and therefore did not resist Cortez but I don't think that was the whole story, because under mushrooms I felt myself more in the mood for self-defense than I am usually (because of a vow of kindness in the spirit of Buddhism made soberly years ago, and also old teachings of sacred young brother who died in 1926). No, in fact on mushrooms I felt quite strong, quite angry in fact at the atheists for fighting Christianity (communism so-called vs. capitalism so-called, it says in the paper, but it's really atheism vs. gnosticism.) (right?)

Mainly I felt like a floating Kahn on a magic carpet with my interesting lieutenants and gods... some ancient feeling about old geheuls in the grass, and temples, exactly also like the sensation I got drunk on pulque floating in the Xochimilco gardens on barges laden with flowers and singers... some old Golden Age dream of man, very nice. But that is the element of hallucination in this acid called mushrooms (Amanita?) The bad physical side-effects involved (for me) stiffening of elbow and knee joints, a swelling of the eyelid, shortness of breath or rather anxiety about breathing itself. No heart palpitations like in mescaline, however. I felt that Donlin was asking for too many 'fives' all the time (in the trade they'd say he has an oil-burning habit, or is a "hog")---But under the sympathetic influence of the drug or whatever it is called I kept agreeing with all his demands. In that sense there's a lot of brainwash implicit in SM's. So I do think we took too much. Yet there were no evil side effects.

In fact I came home and had the first serious long talk with my mother, for 3 days and 3 nights (not consecutive) but we sat talking about everything yet went about the routine of washing, sleeping, eating, cleaning up the yard and house, and returning to long talk chairs at proper time. That was great. I learned I loved her more than I thought. The mushroom high carried on for exactly till wednesday Jan. 18th (and remember I first chewed the first pills Friday night the 13th). I kept it alive by drinking Christian Brothers port on the rocks. Suddenly on Friday the 20th (day of Inauguration) it started all up again, on port, but very mushroomy, and that was a swinging day, yakking in bars, bookstores, homes around northport (which I never do).

My report is endless, exactly. But here, remember what we were saying? "What? What did you say?" (to have a mumble repeated, the mumble being of excruciating importance.) And "Who are you?" "Are you sure?" "I'm not here." --- "What are we doing here?"--- "Where are we?"---- "What's going on?"---"Am I going to die?" --- "No" --- "I can't see you, you're a ghost" --- "You're the Holy Ghost" --- "walking on water wasn't built in a day" --- "We're just laying around here doing nothin" --- "Even if I knew how to break your leg (utilizing Zen koan about Baso (T'ang master d. 788)) "even if I knew how to break your leg I wouldn't do it?--- besides you haven't got a leg. Who said you had a leg? You? Who are you? I can't see you? You're not there! I don't see nuttin! I hate you! Why? Because I love you!" "I love you anyway."

We were at the extremest point of goofing on clouds watching the movie of existence. remember?)

Owing to the residue of Sacred Mushroom hallucination I woke up briefly the other quiet morning (Thursday 19th) feeling that everybody in my neighborhood was sleeping trustfully around me because they knew I was the Master of Trust in Heaven (for instance).

Everybody seemed innocent. Ladcadio became St. Innocent the Patriarch of Holy Russia. Donlin became the Paraclete, whom you waved over my head by an astounding show of physical strength (remember?) It was a definite Satori. Full of psychic clairvoyance (but you must remember that this is not half as good as the peaceful ecstasy of simple Samadhi trance as I described that in Dharma Bums). When I yelled out the window at the three Porto Rican teenage boys walking in the snow "Avante Con Dios!" I had no idea where the word "avante" came from, Allen said it meant "forward with." Clairvoyance there. I saw you, Leary, as a Jesuit Father. Donlin called you Doctor Leary. I saw Allen as Sariputra (the Indian saint). My old idea of St. Peter (about Peter Orlovsky) was strengthened. I saw Peter's sister Marie as Ste. Catherine. Bob Kaufman as a Michoacan Indian chief. I saw Communists all around us (especially that Ben Rosenbluth, and others). Pearl became a Lotus of indescribable beauty sitting there in the form of a Buddha woman Bhikkushini. When someone mentioned people being electricity I said "Consolidated Coils." Divine run-outs in my head, like when I went to pee I said to the toilet "It's all your fault!" and could never leave the group without feeling that they were still with me (in the toilet.) Finally told my mother "C'est la Sainte Esprit" and she agreed. My old conviction that nothing ever happened was strengthened (ow). I felt like a silly agnel (angel) but now I know I'm only a mutterer in old paths, as before. I kept saying, however, to all kinds of people "What an interesting person you are!" and it was true. Finally I said "I think I'll take a shit out the window" in desperation, it was impossible to go on in such ecstasy and excitement. Jokes were the Sacred Jokes of Heaven. The low dog of Dublin, Bob Donlin, was there by design, I'd say, to keep the good old Irish jokes going, otherwise we would all have been too serious, I say.

In sum, also, there is temporary addiction but no withdrawl symptoms whatever. The faculty of remembering names and what one has learned, is heightened so fantastically that we could develop the greatest scholars and scientists in the world with this stuff. (By the way, does Wm. Lederer the stuttering genius at Harvard, take it?) (He stutters with a method, most eerie). There's no harm in Sacred Mushrooms if taken in moderation as a rule and much good will come of it. (For instance, I remembered historical details I'd completely forgotten before the mushrooms, and names names millions of names and categories and **data**.)

well okay

Touch football sometime?

Jack

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April 11, 1978 letter from New York Times publisher C. L. Sulzberger to Allen Ginsberg



Dear Allen,

I fear that I owe you apology. I have been reading a succession of stories about CIA involvement in the dope trade in South East Asia and I remember when you first suggested I look into this I thought you were full of beans. Indeed you were right and I acknowledge the fact plus sending my best personal wishes.

C.L. Sulzberger

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Declassified: National Institutes of Mental Health "Addiction Research"



Dated 14 July 1954, this document outlines CIA experiments in tolerance to LSD at the Addiction Research Center in Lexington, Kentucky

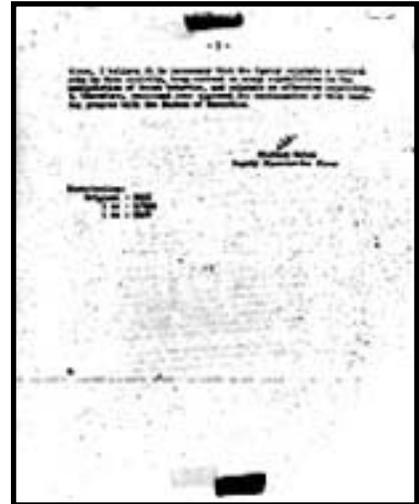
"Our experiments on tolerance to LSD-25 have been proceeding well, although I continue to be somewhat surprised by the results, which to me are the most amazing demonstration of drug tolerance I have ever seen. I have seven patients who have now been taking the drug for more than forty two days. One of these patients receives 1 mcgm./kg. daily, four receive 1.5 mcgm/kg. daily, and two receive 2 mcgm/kg. daily. All seven are quite tolerant to both the physiological and mental effects of the drug. We have attempted to break through this tolerance by administering double, triple and quadruple doses..."

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24771272144

Declassified: "Eyes Only"

CIA director Richard Helms told Congress the American public would have to take it on faith that the Agency would never use uninformed Americans as guinea pigs in drug tests. This three page memo from Helms, dated 17 December 1963, plainly contradicts that, spelling out in cold terms his approval of such programs, as implemented by the Bureau of Narcotics.



"Most of our difficulty stems from the fact that the individuals subjected to testing must be unwitting... In the circumstances of potential operational use of this technique, it is virtually certain that the target will be unwitting. Any testing program which does not attempt to approximate this real situation will result in a false sense of accomplishment and readiness...

It goes without saying that whatever testing arrangement we adopt must afford maximum safeguards for the protection of the Agency's role in this activity...

In considering possible alternatives to our present arrangement with the Bureau of Narcotics, we have considered contact with... police departments and prisons or prison hospitals. We have attempted several times in the past ten years to establish a testing program in an overseas setting, using indigenous subjects. In every case the necessity of making foreign nationals aware of our role in this very sensitive activity has made such options undesirable on security grounds...

While I share your uneasiness for any program which intrudes on an individual's private and legal prerogatives, I believe it is necessary that the Agency maintain a central role in this activity, keep current on enemy capabilities in the manipulation of human behavior, and maintain an offensive capability. I therefore recommend

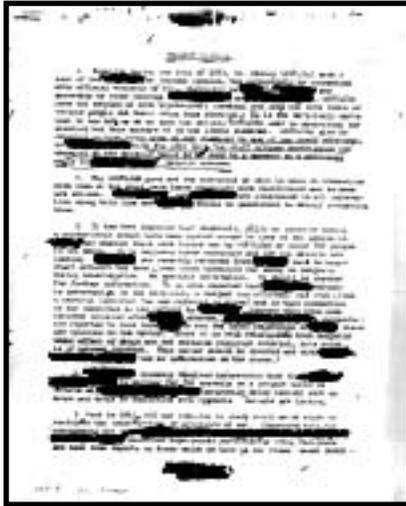
your approval for continuation of this testing program with the Bureau of Narcotics."

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Declassified: Keeping tabs on MKULTRA

In an attempt to keep tabs on their colleagues in the Technical Services Staff, the CIA's Office of Security issued this June 1954 memo, indicating the reckless abandon with which members of the TSS pursued their drug tests.



"Sometime during the fall of 1953, [Dr. Sidney Gottlieb](#) made a tour of the [text deleted] ... undoubtedly in connection with official business of TSS.... Gottlieb gave out samples of some psycho-genic chemical.... It is not definitely certain that it was LSD... but it appears to be the likely chemical. Gottlieb also is reported to have given some of the chemical to one of our staff officers with the idea that the staff officer would place the chemical in drinking water to be used by a speaker at a political rally....

There is some reason to believe that Gottlieb was present at the experiment which resulted in the death of an Army officer by suicide sometime around Thanksgiving Day in New York City. This Army officer allegedly jumped out a window to his death after taking LSD..."

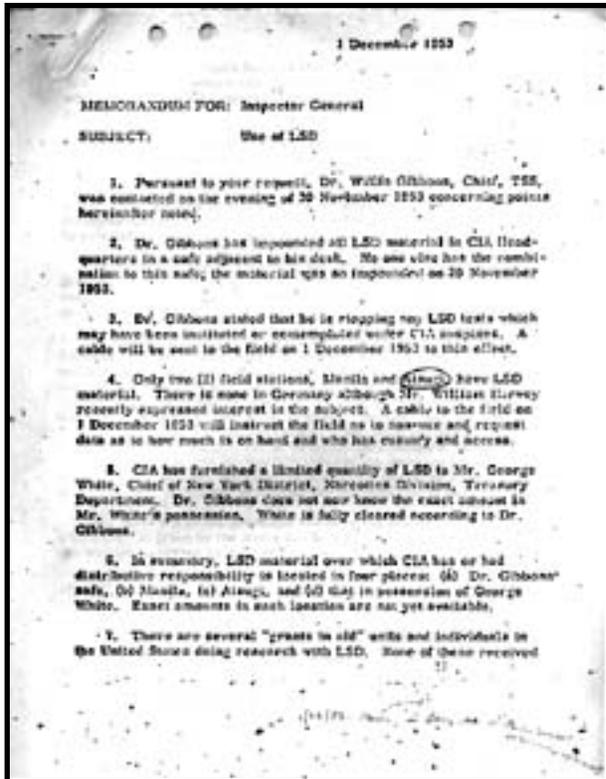
(At a three day retreat for a group of CIA and Army technicians in the secluded backwoods of Maryland, Dr. Gottlieb spiked the after-dinner cocktails with LSD. Dr. Frank Olson, an army scientist, had never taken the drug before and slipped into a deep state of depression and paranoia in the weeks following. His transfer to a sanitarium was arranged, and on his last night in New York Olson was checked into the Statler Hilton with a CIA agent assigned to monitor him. In the early hours of the morning, the troubled scientist plunged headlong through a closed window to his death ten floors below)

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241311472144

"Use of LSD" memo

This memo, dated 1 December 1953, would seem to be something of a clampdown on LSD testing within the Agency, following the Thanksgiving Day death of Dr. Frank Olson, an army scientist despondent in the weeks following his being dosed by [Sidney Gottlieb](#). It notes the location of all known LSD stocks, including those given to [George Hunter White](#).



MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT: Use of LSD

1. Pursuant to your request, Dr. Willis Gibbons, Chief, Technical Services Staff, was contacted on the evening of 30 November 1953 concerning points herinafter noted.

2. Dr. Gibbons has impounded all LSD material in CIA Headquarters in a safe adjacent to his desk. No one else has the combination to this safe; the material was so impounded on 29 November 1953.

3. Dr. Gibbons stated that he is stopping any LSD tests which may have been instituted or contemplated under CIA auspices. A cable will be sent to the field on 1

December 1953 to this effect.

4. Only two (2) field stations, Manila and Atsugi, have LSD material. A cable to the field on 1 December 1953 will instruct the field as to non-use and request data as to how much is on hand and who has custody and access.

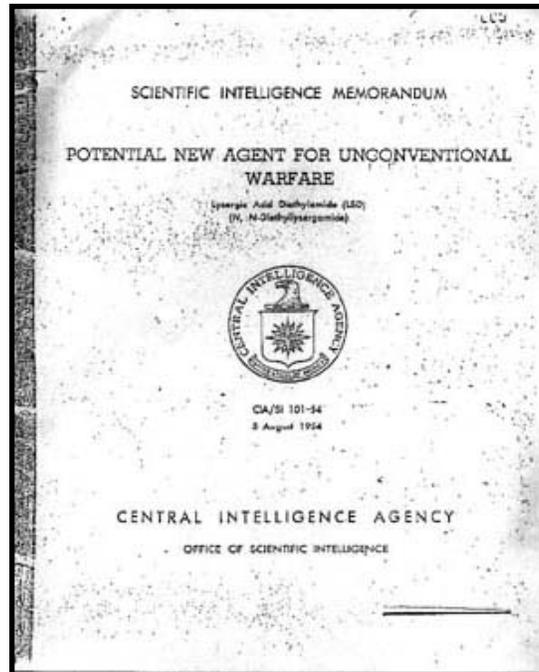
5. CIA has furnished a quantity of LSD to Mr. George Hunter White, Chief of New York District, Narcotics Division, Treasury Department. Dr. Gibbons does not know the exact amount in Mr. White's possession. While is fully cleared according to Dr. Gibbons...

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Declassified: Unconventional Warfare

Shown here is the cover page for a document addressed to Deputy Director of Plans, from Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence. Distribution list includes Allen Dulles, and states: "Because we feel the matter may be of concern to you, we are forwarding the attached memo, which discusses the intelligence implications of LSD"



POTENTIAL NEW AGENT FOR UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
"Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), a drug derived from ergot, is of great strategic significance as a potential agent in unconventional warfare and interrogations. In effective doses, LSD is not lethal, nor does it have color, odor, or taste. It is capable of rendering whole groups of people, including military forces, indifferent to their surroundings and situations, interfering with planning and judgement, and even creating apprehension, uncontrollable confusion and terror.

Of all substances now known to affect the mind, such as mescaline, harmine and others, LSD is by far the most potent. Very minute quantities (upwards of 30 millionths of a gram) create serious mental confusion and sensual disturbances, or render the mind temporarily susceptible to many types of influences. Administration of the drug produces in an individual such mental characteristics of schizophrenia

as visual or auditory hallucinations and physiological reactions of dizziness, nausea, dilation of the pupils, and lachrymation. Data, although still very limited, are available which indicate its usefulness in eliciting true and accurate statements from subjects under its influence during interrogation.

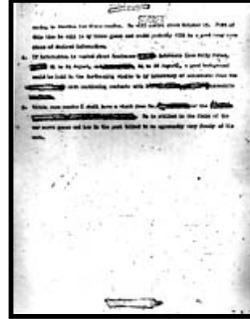
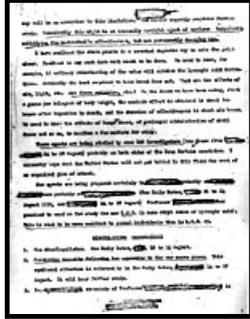
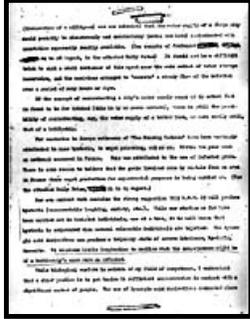
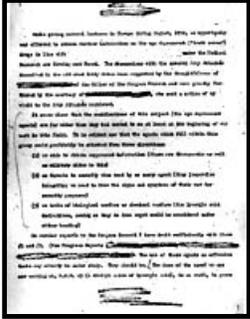
The basic material from which LSD is prepared is ergot and the Soviet Bloc has an abundant supply of it. The preparation of LSD has been published openly in considerable detail. Further, Sandoz Ltd., has made available free samples of it for clinical testing both in this country and in Europe. It is therefore assumed that this material is available to the Bloc inasmuch as no effective geographic limitation is known.

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Declassified: "Ego Depressants"

This September 4, 1952 memo summarizes possible uses of acid by a medical consultant to the CIA. The M. D., whose name is deleted, is especially zealous in suggesting strategic deployment of the hallucinogen.



"The use of these agents as offensive tools may already be under study. They should be. The dose of the agent we are now working on, LSD-25, is so small, one can calculate that the water supply of a large city could probably be disastrously and undetectably (until too late) contaminated with quantities readily available. It should not be difficult to sink a small container of this agent near the main outlet of water storage reservoirs, and the container arranged to 'excrete' a steady flow of the material over a period of many hours or days.

If the concept of contaminating a city's water supply seems or in fact is found to be far-fetched (this is by no means certain), there is still the possibility of contaminating, say, the water supply of a bomber base, or more easily still, that of a battleship.

Our own current work contains the strong suggestion that LSD will produce hysteria (unaccountable laughing, anxiety, etc). While our studies have so far been carried out in isolated individuals, one at a time, it is well known that hysteria is compounded when several vulnerable individuals are together. It requires little imagination to realize what the consequences might be if a battleship's crew were so affected. These agents are being studied by some 200 investigators, probably on both sides of the Iron Curtain. I earnestly hope that the United States will not get behind in this field for want of an organized plan of attack."

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Declassified: Artichoke - Bluebird Conference

This document recaps a meeting between members of the "Artichoke" and "Bluebird" teams. As evidence here, team members discussed the thorny question of how best to secure human subjects for drug experiments



TO: File

FROM: [name deleted]

SUBJECT: "Artichoke-Bluebird" Conference

On 21 December 1951, 10:30 AM, a conference relative Bluebird was held in the office of [name deleted]. Those present were [many lines deleted]....

[name deleted] stated that a very serious crisis had developed in the experimental work and that the experimental projects were running out of volunteers for drug and chemical experimentation... he complained that they could no longer continue to use their own people as guinea pigs since the work was hazardous and ill effects had been felt by many of the subjects. [name deleted] indicated that all agencies were looking toward the CIA to produce volunteer personnel for this type of experimentation...

The conference again discussed the use of alien subjects and all hands agreed that this presented the best possible means for human experimentation work. [name deleted] stated that one of the most acute and perplexing problems in this matter was the disposal of individuals after they had been treated by "Artichoke"....

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