

Report Says C.I.A. Agents Picked Up Bar Patrons for L.S.D. Experiments

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

For nine years, beginning in 1954, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency randomly picked up unsuspecting patrons in bars in the United States and slipped LSD into their food and drink, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities disclosed in its final report, released yesterday.

These experiments were part of a far-ranging effort by the C.I.A. and the United States military to develop chemical and biological warfare agents. The experiments, the committee said, resulted in "massive abridgements of the rights of American citizens, sometimes with tragic consequences."

Two deaths can be attributed to these programs, the committee said. It added, "other participants . . . may still suffer from residual effects," for many of the individuals were unaware of what chemical they had received, there was usually no medical supervision and, afterward, there were no follow-up studies to determine long-term effects.

Ending a 15-month study of the intelligence community, the Senate committee made the following recommendations with regard to experimentation on humans:

¶No experiments should be conducted without consent of each individual in writing, with a disinterested third party as a witness and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects for Biomedical and Behavioral Research.

¶The jurisdiction of the com-

mission should be extended to cover the Central Intelligence Agency and the other intelligence agencies of the United States Government—which so far have conducted experiments on humans with virtually no outside supervision.

¶The director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense should continue to make determined efforts to find those who were administered LSD in the Government experiments and to provide follow-up examinations and treatment, if necessary.

The United States intelligence community began investigating mind-altering drugs in the late 1940's and early 1950's as officials became concerned that the Communist powers had started using chemical and biological agents in interrogations, brainwashing, and in attacks designed to harass, disable or kill allied personnel, the committee reported.

However, the committee said, "The defensive orientation soon became secondary as the possible use of these agents to obtain information from or gain control over enemy agents became apparent."

These experiments had been closely guarded secrets until the Rockefeller Commission reported in June that a man later identified as Dr. Frank Olson had died after having unwittingly been given LSD in a C.I.A. experiment. Details of Dr. Olson's death and the wider involvement of the C.I.A. and the military began to emerge as journalists and some members of Congress started their own investigations.

In the late 1950's, the com-

mittee said, the Inspector General of the C.I.A. wrote that precautions had to be taken not only to protect operations from exposure to enemy forces "but also to conceal these activities from the American public in general.

"The knowledge that the agency is engaging in unethical and illicit activities," the Inspector General said "would have serious repercussions in political and diplomatic circles and would be detrimental to the accomplishment of [the agency's] mission."

A member of the Senate Intelligence Committee staff estimated that thousands of Americans had been involved in the experiments and that millions of dollars had been spent, but he said it was impossible to be precise in these areas and equally impossible to learn many details of the experiments conducted by the C.I.A. because a large number of records on the agency's drug programs were destroyed in 1973 by Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, one of the principal officials in the experiments, on the verbal order of Richard Helms, who later became director of the agency.

In the tests on unsuspecting subjects, the committee indicated that the C.I.A. had sought to learn the effectiveness of LSD on "individuals at all social levels, high and low, native Americans and foreign . . ." A committee staff member said these experiments were conducted in bars in two major cities—one on the East Coast, one on the West—and at least one cocktail party on the West Coast.