

# Ex-CIA Aide Set to Talk Of Drug File

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A former senior CIA official who disappeared after ordering the destruction of most of the intelligence agency's files on its illegal drug testing program recently has surfaced here and is believed preparing to be called for testimony on CIA drug activities, according to government and other legal sources.

The sources said Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, who headed the CIA's Technical Services Division and was in overall charge of the agency's drug tests until his retirement in 1973, returned here recently and has retained former Senate Watergate Committee counsel Terry Lenzner as his lawyer. Lenzner declined last week to either confirm or deny that he had been retained to represent Gottlieb.

Gottlieb, 57, was responsible for overseeing the destruction of 152 files covering virtually all of the CIA's drug testing, including some on unsuspecting individuals which the Rockefeller Commission on the CIA called "clearly illegal," commission sources said.

In its June report, the commission noted that it was forced to work from limited information because of the destruction of the files. It did not name the person responsible for getting rid of the documents, but a senior commission source said recently that Gottlieb had been the one in charge of the file destruction.

"No one would take responsibility for those files being destroyed and we asked questions right up to the top," said the commission source. "Gottlieb was in charge of their destruction, but we never learned whether he received his orders from someone even higher."

The Rockefeller Commission source said the commission's investigators attempted to reach Gottlieb for questioning but were told by the agency that he was out of the country and was unavailable. Gottlieb was believed to have been in India during the Rockefeller investigation although The Washington Post has learned that his mail was

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being delivered to an address in the Denver area during that time.

The Justice Department, looking into information compiled by the Rockefeller Commission for possible illegalities, has not yet sought to question Gottlieb, it was learned last week.

The CIA's testing of drugs on persons who were not aware of the tests was one of the few specific actions of the agency, which the commission's 299-page report labeled illegal.

Commission sources said in most cases they were not able to gain specific names of persons who were given drugs, such as LSD, because of the missing files. The sources said they also were unable to learn whether behavior-influencing drugs were administered to anyone outside the U.S. by the CIA.

The one specific example of a drug being administered by the CIA to an unsuspecting person was described by the commission—without any person being named—as occurring in 1953.

In that instance at least three CIA

agents, including Gottlieb, were with a group of Army scientists during a gathering in Western Maryland when the scientists were unknowingly given LSD. One of the scientists, Dr. Frank Olson, apparently suffered a mental breakdown after the episode and, according to the CIA, jumped to his death from a New York City hotel window nine days later.

Olson's family never was told that he had been given the drug and learned the details of the incident only after publication of the Rockefeller Commission report. The family has announced its intention to sue the CIA and has received an apology from President Ford, along with a promise that it would be given all the available documents concerning the affair from the CIA.

A CIA spokesman declined last week to comment on Gottlieb's reappearance here. A spokesman for the Olson family also declined comment but the family has said in the past that it would like to interview Gottlieb about his role in Olson's death.

One of the CIA agents at the West-

ern Maryland meeting where Olson got the LSD has since died and a second, Robert Lashbrook, has retired from the intelligence agency. Lashbrook told The Post that he was not responsible for giving the drug to Olson or the other scientists, but he declined to say who did authorize administering LSD to the unsuspecting scientists. The Rockefeller Commission said all the CIA agents at the meeting were reprimanded by the agency.

Rockefeller Commission sources said Gottlieb, who holds a Ph.D. in chemistry, operated the CIA's secret drug testing program in the years following Olson's death, although the Olson incident apparently caused the agency to bring in psychiatrists on its testing after the scientist's death.

According to the commission's report, all testing of "potentially dangerous substances" on unsuspecting persons was halted in 1963. A senior staff source on the commission said last week that the records ordered destroyed by Gottlieb may have contained evidence of such testing through 1973.

The destruction of the CIA's drug files and Gottlieb's disappearance before the Rockefeller commission investigation compounded the CIA's earlier cloak of secrecy surrounding its drug activities and prevented commission investigators from obtaining many specifics about the drug tests, according to a commission source.

Even within the agency there apparently was a preoccupation with secrecy about drugs. In 1963, the CIA's Inspector General prepared a report on more than 100 pages on the agency's technical services division which handled, among other things, some of the drug testing. An addendum to the overall report—separate and with a higher security classification—was made about the drug program.

In their book this year about the CIA, John Marks and former agency official Victor Marchetti note that a staff officer preparing a compendium of all agency research ties to various universities specifically was told to leave out any mention of research programs involving the use of drugs.

One CIA-funded research project in

volving drugs was conducted from 1964 through 1967 at the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences in Houston. The CIA took pains to disguise its financing of the project by using the Air Force as a cover and results of the tests were given to a private West Coast company that also functioned as a CIA cover, according to Dr. Neil Burch, director of the Texas program.

It is not known whether Gottlieb was connected with the Texas research, but Rockefeller commission sources said he was in charge of much of the CIA's drug test research during the 1960s.

According to former CIA agent Lashbrook, the agency was particularly concerned in the 1950s and 1960s that LSD and other drugs might be used by American officials abroad. Lashbrook said the CIA also was interested in the possibility of using various drugs on foreign officials.

Before he joined the CIA in 1951, Gottlieb worked for three years as a research associate at the University of Maryland. A university spokesman

said last week that the school terminated its official connection with Gottlieb when he joined the intelligence agency. Other former associates of Gottlieb said that as late as 1957 he used the university as a personal cover at a national conference of the American Chemical Society in Miami.

According to one source who was a former CIA agent, Gottlieb also was one of several contacts the agency maintained on an informal basis with the Army's drug research program at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. The civilian director of the Army's program has denied that any liaison existed between the CIA and the Army at Edgewood.

Gottlieb also was reported to have worked closely with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs during the 1960s. After his retirement from the CIA in 1973, Gottlieb worked for a short time as a consultant to the BNDD's successor, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and helped reorganize the DEA's department of science and technology.