Dr. Manfred Guttmacher Dies at 68; Psychiatrist at Trial of Jack Ruby

Baltimore, Nov. 8 (AP) Manfred S. Guttmacher, internationally known for his work in relating psychiatry and criminal law, died here yesterday of leukemia. He was 68.

Dr. Guttmacher championed the cause of psychiatric science in the courtroom, and this led him into many noted court cases.

He testified at the 1964 murder trial of Jack Ruby — who was convicted of slaying Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission identified as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

In a report to the United Nations in 1948, Dr. Guttmacher said, "no man should be sentenced in a criminal court without the judge first obtaining a full social history of the accused."

The report was made after he helped a UN commission study the cause of crime, prevention of crime and treatment of offenders. He recommended that the World Health Organization establish a "scientific legal institute" in all large municipalities.

Dr. Guttmacher was a leading opponent of the M'Naghten test for insanity, and predicted earlier this year that it would be abandoned by most states within 25 years. The M'Naghten rule, which holds that the test of insanity is the ability to distinguish right from wrong, has been part of English law since 1843.

In 1954, at Dr. Guttmacher's urging, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit adopted a new legal test of insanity and cited his efforts.

The court cited Dr. Guttmacher's thesis: "The science of psychiatry now recognizes that a man is an integrated personality and that reason, which is only one element in that personality, is not the sole detriment of his conduct."

Dr. Guttmacher was the chief medical adviser to the Supreme Court of Baltimore since 1930. He published hundreds of papers and books on psychiatry and crime.

In 1946, after serving four years in the Army Medical Corps, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work with the neuro-psychiatry consultants division of the Office of the Surgeon General. He was cited for rendering "services of great value in preventive psychiatry and in the salvage of manpower."

In 1952, while touring the Far East as a civilian consultant to the U.S. Surgeon General, he inspected front-line psychiatric work on the Korean battlefield.

Surviving are his wife, Dr. Carole Guttmacher, a child psychiatrist; a brother, Dr. Alan Guttmacher, president of the Planned Parenthood-World Population, and four sons, Dr. Jonathan of Boston, Richard of the Washington D.C. area, and Laurence an Alan, both of Baltimore.