

Bureau of Narcotics Tied To C.I.A.'s Drug Program

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 7—The Central Intelligence Agency's secret drug program included efforts to test mind-distorting chemicals on unsuspecting persons "at all social levels, high and low, native American and foreign," according to a document that Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, made public at a hearing today.

The surreptitious tests on Americans and foreigners done through an informal arrangement "with certain cleared and witting individuals in the Bureau of Narcotics in 1955," the three-page C.I.A. document said.

The number of persons given drugs under this program was not disclosed.

"The particular advantage of these arrangements with the Bureau of Narcotics officials has been that test subjects could be sought and cultivated within the setting of narcotics control," the document said. "Some subjects have been informers or members of suspect criminal elements from whom the bureau has obtained results of operational value through the tests."

Great Significance

"On the other hand," the document continued, "the effectiveness of the substances on individuals at all social levels, high and low, native American and foreign, is of great significance, and testing has been performed on a variety of individuals within these categories."

Neither the nationality nor the identity of anyone subjected to these tests was made known.

A member of Senator Kennedy's staff said the three-page statement was an official C.I.A. document, but that it would not be identified more explicitly.

The agency's tests of hallucinogenic drugs were done in a 10-year period, from 1953 to 1963, according to testimony today from C.I.A. officials. Most of the records of this work were destroyed in 1973.

The officials testified at hearings on human experimentation that are being held jointly by the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee and the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Kennedy is chairman of both subcommittees.

In testimony today, Sayre Stevens, the C.I.A.'s deputy di-

rector for science and technology, said the agency had had an interest in behavioral studies since its establishment. The interest was heightened in the late 1940's and early 1950's, he said, because of the "brainwashing" of American servicemen taken prisoner during the Korean War and of bizarre public confessions, such as that of the late Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary.

There were indications, Mr. Stevens said, that the Soviet bloc was using drugs to achieve such effects.

Studies Broadened

After initial tests on Americans who knew they were getting hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD, the C.I.A. studies were broadened to include unwitting subjects. It had become clear that a person who knew he was getting a drug would respond differently from the person who had no idea why his mind was suddenly behaving strangely.

One unwitting drug subject, Frank R. Olson, a Government scientist, died in the early days of the effort. Nevertheless, the program continued for a decade.

In preparing for the testimony today, the C.I.A. sent the Senate subcommittees three sets of material: public testimony, a memorandum marked "confidential," and another marked "secret."

Senator Kennedy said there were serious discrepancies between the different versions. He also criticized the agency what he said was its slowness in providing information and the fragmentary nature of that information.

Mr. Kennedy and Senator Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, also criticized the agency for its failure to question Dr. Sidney Gottlieb on the drug program.

Dr. Gottlieb, a biochemist believed to have been a major figure in the studies, is no longer with the C.I.A. In testimony today, Carl Duckett, the agency's department director for science and technology, said the C.I.A.'s investigation of the drug experiments did not extend to persons who were no longer employed by the agency.

Hunt and Libby Cited

In earlier testimony today, Dr. Edward M. Gynn, a former C.I.A. medical officer, said he was approached in March 1972 by E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, who wanted to obtain mind-distorting drugs from him. (SEE RFA, 7 NOV)