

'CIA Aide

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Destroyed

Drug Data'

Washington

The staff of the Rockefeller commission concluded that the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency's testing of LSD destroyed the drug program's records in 1973 to hide the details of possibly illegal actions, commission sources said yesterday.

These sources said the chief of the program, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, 57, a biochemist, was personally involved in a fatal experiment in November, 1953, in which the commission has said a researcher was surreptitiously given LSD, a potent mind-altering drug.

The researcher, Frank R. Olson, jumped to his death from a New York City hotel room less than two weeks later after reportedly showing symptoms of anxiety.

The Rockefeller commission staff, on the basis of its investigation, concluded that, 20 years after Olson's death, and ten years after the LSD experiments were purportedly halted, Gottlieb ordered the destruction of all the records of the program, including a total of

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152 separate files, commission sources said.

The Rockefeller commission previously reported the destruction of records on the LSD experiments but did not mention Gottlieb by name.

The record destruction came shortly after other records had been destroyed by Richard Helms, then CIA director, these sources said. Gottlieb retired from the agency a few months after Helms left in January, 1973, they said.

According to CIA sources, Gottlieb now lives in the Far East.

Intelligence sources said that Gottlieb joined the CIA in 1951, though he had done national security work be-

fore that. He was a close associate of Helms and was promoted to be head of the technical services division of the covert operations branch of the agency, these sources said.

The CIA's experiments with such hallucinogens as LSD stemmed from World War II concerns over how agents could resist torture in interrogation and could defend themselves against drugs being used by enemy intelligence services.

The experimenting was a closely held secret even within Gottlieb's unit.

The Rockefeller commission report said the testing of hallucinogens was halted in 1963 by the CIA's inspector general.

But intelligence sources said experiments with "exotic drugs" continued after

the internal ban and that this may have been reflected in the records that were believed to have been destroyed.

The tests included drugs that would enable a person to baffle a lie-detector test by a polygraph machine. One source said, however, that these drugs also had a serious effect on the emotion of the person who took it!

According to Press accounts, the family of Frank Olson found a "tentative" list of persons who might have attended the session in 1953 at which Olson was said to have been given LSD. On the list are the names Dr. S. Gottlieb, Dr. R. Lashbrook, Dr. A. Hughes and Dr. H. Bortner.

New York Times