

CIA ~~SECRET~~

Merry-Go-Round

SFChronicle

MAR 4 1976

CIA Drug Testing



WXP FILED CIA (D)

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THE Central Intelligence Agency has hushed up the death of another man who was administered too much medication under a super-secret program code-named MK ULTRADELTA.

The case is similar to that of Dr. Frank Olson, who leaped to his death from a New York City hotel window three weeks after the CIA dosed him with experimental LSD.

Olson was assumed to be the only victim of CIA drug testing. But last December, an anonymous caller told us about another drug death from a CIA program bearing the mysterious cryptonym MK DELTA.

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WE CHECKED with our CIA sources and obtained some top-secret CIA documents. We discovered that Senator Ted Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), was conducting a parallel investigation and had succeeded in getting other documents declassified. From these records and from testimony before Kennedy, we have put together this much of the picture:

The late CIA director Allen Dulles in April, 1953, approved two related projects — MK ULTRA for testing new drugs and MK DELTA for using them in covert operations.

Olson's death in November, 1953, upset some CIA medical experts who tried to cancel the MK drug programs. But the internal CIA files show that higher CIA authorities considered the fatality "just one of the risks" of

scientific experimentation. The dosing of unwitting victims, therefore, continued.

Subsequently, there was another death. It was discovered by Dr. Edward Gunn, then a CIA physician, when he walked in on half-a-dozen CIA colleagues unannounced.

"There were conversations which stopped shortly after I entered the room," Gunn has sworn. But he heard enough to learn that the CIA "had trouble with an individual . . . in a foreign country" whose agents were conducting a drug project "in collaboration with our people."

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THE VICTIM, Gunn explained, had been given "some medication and had, shall we say, a fatal outcome." The former CIA doctor, now retired in Hilton Head, S.C., said that he couldn't recall who had attended the meeting except for the late CIA security chief Colonel Sheffield Edwards.

It was Edwards who in later years passed on the order for recruiting an assassination team to "eliminate" Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

The full extent of CIA drug poisonings may never be known. For in the early 1970s, the limited MK records were destroyed reportedly on the orders of then-CIA Director Richard Helms.

Footnote: The CIA refused to comment on the MK drug programs.