

MARCH 1979

CULT OF INTELLIGENCE

Bizarre CIA Human Mind Control Experiments

Over the years, the Central Intelligence Agency has benefitted from the insights and contributions of psychiatry and the behavior sciences.

William Colby - CIA Director - 1973

... it was fun, fun, fun. Where else could a red-blooded American boy lie, kill, cheat, steal, rape and pillage with the sanction and blessing of the All-Highest?

CIA Employee - 1971

The magnitude of the atrocities perpetrated by the Third Reich stunned a world that had sought to forget the horrors of wars.

The photographs burned their way into the mind — piles of bodies that reminded one of stripped cattle carcasses, mountainous piles of shoes, grinning soldiers watching as Jews were being shot or beaten to death.

Behind the names of key Nazis — Kaltenbrunner, Heydrich, Himmler, Eichmann, Goering — were the doctors. An elite medical profession that had been called in to utilize the heaving masses of humanity that the Third Reich sought to wipe from the face of the earth.

Already targeted for the ovens of Dachau and other death camps, Jews, Slavs, Unionists, Catholics, Gypsies and other "cults" that threatened the purity of the Third Reich were offered for "experimentation."

The atrocities and the terror were beyond comprehension. A world asked "Why?" and the perpetrators were charged. So

Records of the experiments, no one knows how many, were transferred to Washington, D.C. under the auspices of the Office of Strategic Services — later to be transformed into the CIA.

Whether by design or by accident, drug/surgical experimentation continued. This time it would take 30 years before the world would learn of a program that had spent millions of dollars to achieve "mind controls" or to "depattern" people and put them under the direction of the Intelligence agencies.

Pulling together key doctors and psychiatrists, the CIA quickly instituted its research programs. Spurred by horror stories of "brainwashing" in the Korean War (which explained to a stunned America why a few of its fighting men had "confessed" to war crimes) the agency began a "mind race." The CIA picked up where the Nazi psychiatrists left off. The difference was that American technology was more advanced by the 1950's when the program officially began.

CIA DEATHS

It took only a few years before the first known deaths occurred at the hands of CIA psychiatric drug experimenters. The record of "willing subject," Harold Blauer's final minutes is cold and terse:

Prenarcosis: apprehensive, considerable persuasion required; injection administered at 9:53 a.m.

Postnarcosis: 9:59, subject so restless (he) has to be restrained by nurse — out of contact with reality — arms flailing — sweating profusely.

10:01, rapid oscillation of eyeballs.

10:11, body rigid all over.

10:15, stimulant administered.

10:20-11:45, deep coma.

11:50, artificial respiration administered.

12:15, doctor pronounces subject dead.

12:30, hospital authorities notified.

3:30, body transferred to morgue.

Dr. James Cattell of the New York Psychiatric Institute, one of the doctors directing the CIA "experiment," would later tell investigators, "We didn't know whether it was dog piss or what it was

we were giving him."

*ORIGINAL SCIENTOLOGY
CIA 2005.1 FOIA
Orig under Scientology*

A few months later, Frank Olsen, a CIA employee, would jump to his death while under the influence of CIA LSD slipped into a drink without his knowledge.

"FUN, FUN, FUN"

While no one outside of the CIA is certain how many were killed or permanently scarred by the Agency's experiments, there was no concern in the CIA. One official boasted:

"I was a very minor missionary, actually a heretic, but I toiled wholeheartedly in the vineyards because it was fun, fun, fun. Where else could a red-blooded American boy lie, kill, cheat, steal, rape and pillage with the sanction and blessing of the All-Highest?"

The recipient of the letter was Sidney Gottlieb, Chief of the CIA's Chemical Division which had directed the experimentation for a number of agency mind-control programs which were later to be most widely known by their code name, MK ULTRA.

Like the Nazis who had only a few years before seen their work as a "holy mission", CIA officials insisted that the responsibility for controlling people had fallen upon the Agency's shoulders.

Nineteen years after Nuremburg, CIA Deputy Director for Plans Richard Helms, who would take control of the spy agency two years later in 1966, argued that, "For over a decade the Clandestine Services has had (sic) the mission of maintaining a capability for influencing human behavior despite the deaths of Blauer and Olson which had yet to be honestly revealed to the American public, Helms urged that the

CONTINUED

experiments ideally should be done on unwitting subjects, those who did not know or suspect that they were the target of a mind-control drug or technique, often in cooperation with drug companies.

Chemical compounds rejected by the pharmaceutical industry because of undesirable side effects were also examined as "candidates" for testing, according to a February 28, 1966, CIA memo. The particular project was to have been headed up by an unnamed doctor who had been highly recommended by an official from the Food and Drug Administration. Overseas drug firms were also contacted in the CIA's search for the "perfect" mind-control.

As early as 1952, CIA agents overseas were experimenting with techniques that had then been known by the code name ARTICHOKE. In a heavily deleted memo dated January 25, 1952, CIA problems with one of their agents in another country were described.

The case involved "a 29-year old (deleted)" who had been the "head of a small political party based in (deleted) and ostensibly working for (deleted) independence." Described as "young, ambitious, bright (elementary college education), a sort of a man-on-a-horse type but a typical (deleted) political," the CIA became interested in a rumor that a foreign intelligence service had sought to make him a double-agent.

"Accordingly," the memo continued, "a plot was rigged in which (deleted) was told he was going to be assassinated and, as a 'protection', he was placed in custody of the (deleted) Police" who threw the young man in prison. After six months, the memo stated, "the (deleted) authorities decided that (deleted) was a nuisance and they told our people to take him back. Since our people were unable to dispose of (deleted) they flew him to (deleted) here, through arrangement, he was placed in a (deleted) as a psychopathic patient."

After several months, hospital authorities began to complain they wanted "to get him out since he is causing considerable trouble, bothering other patients, etc." He was not a "psychopathic personality," the report stated.

"Disposal" was proposed "by the simple process of sending him to a friend in (deleted)" but the idea was rejected. An "Artichoke approach" was raised "to see if it would be possible to reorient (deleted) favorably toward us. This operation, which will necessarily involve the use of drugs is being considered by (deleted) with a possibility that (deleted) will carry out the operation presumably at the (deleted) hospital in (deleted)."

The memo warned that only a doctor should administer the drugs and that "reconditioning" could take 30-60 days. The memo proposed another meeting to decide the young man's fate. What occurred is not known.

"DISPOSAL" OF AGENTS

The "disposal" of agents was an early problem for the CIA mind-control experimenters. A 1954 memo listed two agents who were "disposal problems" for the CIA, "one because of his lack of ability to carry out a mission and the other because he cannot get along with (deleted), the chief agent of the project."

The report urged that "Anything that can be done in the ARTICHOKE field to lessen the security risk will be helpful since the men must be disposed of even at maximum security risk. The urgency of consideration of this case is due to the fact that one of the men is already somewhat stir crazy and has tried to escape twice."

The ARTICHOKE team was told to try and keep the two men where they were "for the next two or three months while we are determining the effect of the treatment and while we are working out alternate disposal possibilities, depending upon this effectiveness."

It is not known what happened to the two men.

Experiments with hypnosis represented "a potential breakthrough in clandestine technology," according to a 1960 memo. Methods were being sought that would "induce deep trance in an unwitting and unwilling subject" within seconds and "produce indefinitely durable amnesia concerning the trance" as well as "indefinitely

lasting control of (the person's) future behavior" including "behavior in conflict with the subject's normal pattern."

The project was given maximum security in 1960 and it was urged that "in order to keep up the momentum of the staff consultant's enthusiasm and the level of his skill," that the agency "provide him as much opportunity to practice as possible."

Some psychiatrists' practices were established by the CIA for information and experimentation. Many were placed in Washington, D.C.

One CIA psychiatrist, Dr. Bernard M. Malloy, was secretly employed as Chief of Psychiatric Staff of the CIA's office of Medical Research, which had prepared the psychiatric profile on Daniel Ellsberg. Dr. Malloy's link to the CIA was not known by his patients, but *Freedom* was supplied with information that disclosed Malloy was treating key political figures in a private practice while in the secret employ of the CIA. Agency Director William Colby praised Malloy as a "very capable and effective psychiatrist" and stated that Malloy "and other Agency psychiatrists (had) prepared the study on Dr. Ellsberg at the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence."

As LSD and other drug experiments were being conducted, Colby blessed his mind control experimenters.

"Over the years, the Central Intelligence Agency has benefited from the insights and contributions of psychiatry and the behavior sciences."

A few years later, MK ULTRA would be partially exposed and the actual causes of Harold Blauer and Frank Olson's deaths revealed.

For some, the words of William Faulkner would ring all too true: The past is never dead, it is not even past. **NEXT: Move from the bizarre world of CIA "mind control".** △