

A CIA Notebook

In the CIA's Operation CHAOS files — the information compiled over seven years on American dissidents — was one on Grove Press, Inc., according to the Rockefeller commission. The company first came to CIA attention when it published a book by Kim Philby, the British counter-spy. But the simple act of listing Grove Press in the files apparently made any information on the company of interest to the CIA. Accordingly, CHAOS analysts spent some of their time clipping reviews of a movie produced by Grove Press — "I Am Curious, Yellow."

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CIA experimentation with the drug LSD led to the death of a government employee who became an unwitting guinea pig, according to the Rockefeller commission report on CIA activities. Fearful that Russian and North Korean Communists were developing methods of behavior modification that could be used clandestinely against Americans, the CIA in the late 1940s began testing LSD, among other drugs.

In 1953, an employee of the Department of the Army assigned to the drug project was given LSD without his knowledge. He developed "serious side effects" and was taken to a New York hospital for psychiatric treatment. But within several days he jumped from his tenth floor window and died. The CIA's general counsel ruled that the death had occurred in the line of duty, so that his family could receive survivors' benefits. "Reprimands were issued" by the CIA director to the two CIA employees who had given the LSD, the report says. LSD experimentation was not ended until 1967.

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When President Ford appointed Ronald Reagan to the commission to investigate CIA activities, it was seen as a clever way of defusing criticism from a potential critic of the commission's work and rival for Ford's own job. So it is perhaps noteworthy that in the brief biographies of the commission members that appear at the beginning of the commission report, Reagan is de-

scribed this way: "Ronald Reagan, political commentator, former President of the Screen Actors' Guild and former Governor of California."

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Part of the reason for the creation of Operation Chaos, according to the Rockefeller Commission, was that the FBI under Director J. Edgar Hoover was not providing the White House with the kind of intelligence it wanted on dissidents in the United States. Hoover appears throughout the report as stumbling block. Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, for example, asked for CIA help in getting some material from the FBI because Mitchell "was experiencing some difficulty in obtaining cooperation within his own department." In 1970 Hoover broke off all but formal, written contact with the CIA because, the report says, he was angry with Director Richard Helms for refusing to order a CIA officer to tell Hoover which FBI agent had given him information about Hoover's agency.