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# Behind the Doors of CIA 'Safe Houses'

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The CIA set up a pretty fair imitation of a brothel in San Francisco, complete with prostitutes, rococo French furnishings and two-way mirrors, to carry out mind-control drug experiments.

The operation was disclosed in testimony and documents during a Senate committee hearing yesterday on the CIA's clandestine experiments in the 1950s and '60s. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., led the questioning of three CIA witnesses which produced most of the disclosures about the operation in San Francisco.

Using documents provided by CIA Director Stansfield Turner, Kennedy brought out that the agency kept so-called "safe houses" in New York and San Francisco for eight or nine years. The object appeared to have been for CIA operatives to encounter a cross-section of people from all social levels and entice or invite them to come to the "safe houses" where they could be drugged and observed.

Under questioning by Kennedy, Turner acknowledged that certain tests were conducted at the houses on individuals selected at random but he said he did not know how many.

**KENNEDY SAID** the code names chosen by an operative for the safe-house operations were Midnight and Climax. Kennedy said the operative was called Morgan Hall, which probably was not his real name, and that Hall has been dead for two years. Hall, according to Kennedy, had two additional agents working with him, but Turner said it has not been possible to identify them.

The mastermind of both operations apparently was Dr. Sidney Gottlieb. Kennedy said Gottlieb's name appears on every document about tests on human behavior, and two former CIA officials testified Gottlieb was in charge.

Senators said they would call Gottlieb to testify again after Turner declared he could not draw any conclusion about what was going on in the two safe houses.

"He'd know the drugs that were used and the volume and how they were administered," Kennedy said. But Kennedy recalled that Gottlieb has testified before and has what he called a "fuzzy" memory.

Kennedy gave a graphic description of how the bedroom of the San Francisco house was decorated, based on CIA vouchers connected with the human-behavior experiments.

**"IN THE BEDROOM,** I understand, there were elaborate decorations," Kennedy said. "There was one French can-can dancer's picture, three framed Toulouse Lautrec posters with black silk mats, red bedroom curtains and red metallic panels." Kennedy added that two-way mirrors were used in the safe houses, and Turner confirmed this. Sources said happenings in the CIA houses also were photographed and conversations tape recorded.

The senators were unable to obtain any direct testimony that the prostitutes were hired by Hall and the CIA to administer drugs to the unwitting subjects of the experiments. But sources who have seen the classified CIA documents said there was a strong circumstantial case that this was what occurred.

John Gittinger, a former CIA psychologist, acknowledged that he had been to the San Francisco safe house. He said that Hall had used prostitutes and provided informants because the CIA needed information on sex acts. Gittinger, a veteran of 26 years with the agency, said he had interviewed some of these people as part of the project from 1956 to 1961.

**GITTINGER SAID** he went to the

California safe house because he was a psychologist trying to develop anthropological data on overseas cultures. His original work was on the Chinese culture, the witness said. In those days, he said, little was known about drugs and the CIA did not have much information about how people reacted to drugs.

"And the prostitutes were able to slip drugs to people?" Kennedy asked.

"Some of them had that knowledge," said Gittinger. "I have no direct knowledge, but Gottlieb would know."

Members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Health subcommittee holding the joint hearing believe some \$100 checks, handed over by the CIA, were used to pay persons who took part in the drug experiments. The names on the checks have been deleted, sources said, but there appears to be little doubt that this is how the prostitutes were paid.

What was not made clear was whether any of the test subjects ever knew they were being used in a CIA drug experiment or whether the prostitutes knew they were working for the spy agency.

**ANOTHER FORMER CIA official,** who was allowed by the committees to use the pseudonym of "Philip Goldman" to protect his identity, was described by Kennedy as the monitor of the safe-house experiments. Goldman said he disbursed the money spent on the San Francisco project and collected the receipts. But he said he has literally washed all details out of his mind and would be able to do no more than verify the accuracy of documents.

Goldman said he understood the two-way mirrors were to be used by federal narcotics agents.

Earlier Turner said that the CIA now has the names of 185 nongovernment researchers and assistants who worked on 149 CIA human-behavior projects. He said 80 institutions are now known to have been used by the CIA for experiments, both with and without knowing the CIA was involved. Kennedy suggested that Turner inform universities, foundations and other organizations if they had been used by CIA without being aware of it.

Turner also testified drug tests were done on criminal sexual psychopaths at a state hospital without their knowledge.

He said most of the people and institutions involved in the CIA drug programs had not been aware of it.