

282
1 December 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dr. Willis Gibbons of TSS re Olson Case

1. All LSD is in Gibbons' safe for which he only has combination.
2. Preparing cables to field to find out who has custody and access. Atsugi and Manila. Issuance done only with Gibbons or Drum's concurrence and use only with DD/P approval. Bulline wanted work broadened to include biological as well as chemical.
3. Man in Bureau of Narcotics has some. Has good access to criminal types in N. Y.--George White--expert for Kefauver Commission and close friend of Halley. Now out of town. Got it from us.
4. Grants-in-aid to Dr. Harold Abramson, 133 East 58th. Dr. Robert Hyde, Boston Psychopathic Hospital. U. S. Public Service Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky (Dr. Harriss Isbell). Dr. Carl Pfeiffer, Department of Pharmacology, University of Illinois, School of Medicine, Chicago. Lilly has been trying to make it. Another trying by radioactive to see what part of body it works on. These are top secret. Learned. Got grant from a foundation to work through. Is overt. Use voluntary subject. Give us reports. Would go on normally but we insure it does. Abramson is a psychiatrist and his people are abnormal. Rest are normal.
5. Acquisition. Not classified as narcotic--organic chemical. Don't purchase it--because an experimental can't be sold in U. S. Has been doled out by Sandoz Co. of Basle. With one exception LSD has been given to us--Gottlieb and Lashbrook. Eli Lilly and Co. has given us some.
6. Correspondence and memorandum. Have file cabinet drawer full. Don't believe any reports addressed to Agency. DD/P has one memo on subject. Gottlieb's trip to Far East. Mentioned in reports of monthly progress-- is pseudo.
7. Lashbrook (TSS), Hughes (OP), Gottlieb (TSS), Alfred Ulmer (SI), Harold Cooper (PP) all have had it. De Florez, Gibbons, Drum and Roosevelt all know about it. Also Wisner, Helms, Barnes and Scott and Field of the I & R Staff.
8. Gottlieb had discussed use of something of this type with experts from Camp Dietrich and they had all agreed that an unwitting experiment would be desirable. The LSD was given to all of the ten at the camp except Walinovsky (who doesn't drink) and one other who has a heart condition, both of Camp Dietrich. About 20 minutes after giving the dose, Gottlieb told them what they had been given. They all agreed that it was an interesting experiment and there was no adverse comment. Only after Olson committed suicide was there any action adversely to the experiment itself.
9. According to Gibbons, Olson has a history of mental disturbances. Last summer he apparently told his wife that he was upset and she suggested he see a doctor. He objected to being made division chief because of a fear he couldn't do the job, and after receiving the job shortly thereafter asked to be relieved. On the Monday following the experiment he told Col. Ruethe that he expected to be fired or asked to resign. He then went up to New York with Lashbrook and saw Dr. Abramson. After several trips between New York and

Washington, Abramson finally came to the conclusion that Olson should go to the Chestnut Hill Sanitarium. On Friday night, November 27, Olson at dinner with Lashbrook in New York appeared to be completely rational and discussed the time they would have to get up in the morning to get the train, etc.

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General