

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OGC 76-1581  
29 March 1976

Kairys, Rudovsky & Maguigan  
Law Offices  
1427 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Dear Mr. Rudovsky:

Thank you for your note of March 3 in which you advised that you had no objection to release under the Freedom of Information Act of any of the documents released by CIA to the Olsons.

Further review of Agency files in response to Freedom of Information requests has surfaced a document which was overlooked in responding to your inquiries last summer. This document appears to be a summary of other information contained in documents previously released to the Olsons, and it is similar to another document of the same date which was released. Nevertheless, in order to make your records complete, we are enclosing this document.

Please accept our apologies for not providing this document earlier.

Sincerely,

*Bernard G. Makowka*  
Bernard G. Makowka  
Office of General Counsel

Enclosure

OGC: BGM: ab

Distribution

Orig - Addressee

1 - OLC

✓ 1 - OGC Subj: OLSON, Dr. Frank R. (case filed)

1 - BGM signer

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Approved for Release  
Date 29 FEB 2008

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On 23 November 1955, around 0230, a civilian employee of the U. S. Army Chemical Corps located at Camp Biestrich, Maryland committed suicide by jumping from a window at the Statler Hotel in New York City. The Army civilian and six (6) other individuals from "Special Operations," a part of the Army Chemical Corps at Camp Biestrich, along with three (3) individuals from CIA had attended meetings at a location near Black Lake during the period 18-19 November 1955. These meetings, which took place once or twice a week, were to discuss matters of mutual interest between this unit of the Army Chemical Corps. On 19 November, according to a report made by an Agency employee present to the then Director of Security of the Agency, it was decided to experiment with the drug, LSD. A very small dose of LSD was placed in a bottle of cointreau and eight (8) of the ten (10) persons present had a drink. Two (2) of the individuals present did not drink the cointreau since one (1) was a teetotaler and the other had a heart condition.

Files of this Agency reflect a conflict with respect to the administering of the LSD since a memorandum written by the then Inspector General of the Agency indicates that the individuals present were not told that the drug was LSD until some 20 minutes after its ingestion. However, this memorandum does indicate that an Agency representative had discussed the possibility of continuing use of the drug and that Army representatives had agreed that this would be a valuable experiment.

After the ingestion of the drug, a definite effect was seen on the group in that they became boisterous and "happy." The Army civilian, who later committed suicide, complained of wakefulness that evening.

On 24 November 1955, it was reported that the Army civilian appeared mentally depressed and he was taken to New York City to be treated by a psychiatrist. He was treated five (5) or six (6) times in New York City during the week prior to 23 November and on 27 November it was decided that he should be placed in a sanitarium for treatment. He was to be admitted to the Chestnut Hill Sanitarium near Rockville, Maryland. On the night of 23 November 1955, he and an Agency employee stayed overnight at the Statler Hotel in New York City since they could not get plane reservations to Washington until the next day. It was in the early morning hours of the next day that the Army civilian committed suicide.

... according to this individual's own  
... he had been delusional for a long period of time  
... inordinate guilt feelings regarding his pension and  
... disability pay and had been so depressed and agitated in  
... of 1953 that his wife felt he should see a doctor.

On 9 December 1953, it was determined by the  
... that the death of this individual had resulted from  
... out of an experiment undertaken in the course  
... official duties for the U. S. Government.

An investigation of this incident was conducted in 1953  
... by the Inspector General of the Agency and the Director of  
... Central Intelligence reprimanded the Agency employees involved.