

1953  
CIA Man Found Dead  
In 32d Street Home;  
Note Implies Suicide

Administrative Post  
Paid Him Over \$10,000  
A Year; Police Cautious

An administrative official of the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency was found dead today in his fashionable Georgetown home.

The body of James S. Kronthal, 41, of 1662 Thirty-second street N.W. was found about 10:30 a.m., but it was nearly 1 p.m. before homicide police, exercising unusual caution, would give out details.

Lt. Lawrence Hartnett of the homicide squad said Mr. Kronthal's body was stretched fully clothed except for a coat on a bed in the larger of two second-floor bedrooms.

Note Implies Suicide.

On a bed stand police found an empty clear-glass vial and a page-long, handwritten note "indicating likely suicide." Lt. Hartnett said. He refused to divulge the note's contents a standard police practice.

A spokesman for the CIA said only that Mr. Kronthal was employed in an "administrative capacity." He refused to say whether it involved the handling of matter involving the national security. His salary was more than \$10,000 a year.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald went to the home to assist in the investigation. He refused to comment on the cause of death pending an autopsy this afternoon.

Found by Other CIA Men.

Two other employees of CIA, Gould Cassal, 43, of 3445 Thirty-eighth street N.W., and McGregor Gray, 31, of 4501 Walsh street, Chevy Chase, Md., discovered the body after Mr. Kronthal failed to report to his office.

An hour earlier, a maid had begun her work downstairs, unaware Mr. Kronthal was dead.

One policeman said death apparently occurred about 12 hours before the body was found. There were no marks of violence.

Agency Works With Police.

The CIA was working closely with the police in the investigation.

Following close-lipped practice, the CIA revealed little about Mr. Kronthal. He had worked at the agency "two or three years."

A native of Deal, N. J., he was born August 21, 1912. He was graduated from Yale University in 1934 and obtained a degree from Harvard University in 1941.

Police said he had relatives living outside the city, but none in this vicinity.

1953  
Certificate Waits

CIA Officer  
Found Dead,  
Vial Nearby

An "important" administrative officer in the hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency was found dead in his Georgetown home yesterday, with an empty vial beside his body.

Police said the circumstances and a page-long letter to a friend pointed to suicide.

The body of James S. Kronthal, 40, of 1662 32d st. nw., was found about 11 a.m. by two friends from CIA.

Police said the maid, Mrs. Lavinia Thomas, of 2813 N st. nw., arrived as usual at 8:30 a.m. at the attractive, white brick home where Kronthal lived alone. She found a brief note from Kronthal, asking her not to disturb him because he wanted to sleep late. She went about her work.

When Kronthal failed to report to his office, CIA telephoned the house and asked that he be aroused. Police said Mrs. Thomas called out and got no answer, but hesitated to disturb her employer because of the note.

According to police, Gould Cassal, of 3445 38th st. nw., and McGregor Gray, of 4501 Walsh st., Chevy Chase, came to investigate. Police said they found Kronthal's body, full-clothed except for a coat, on a day bed in his second-floor bedroom. An empty vial was on the floor.

Homicide Lieut. Lawrence Hartnett said investigators found a hand-written letter to a male friend indicating Kronthal was "mentally upset because of pressure connected with work."

An autopsy indicated Kronthal died between 10 p. m. and midnight Monday. Actual cause had not been determined last night.

Dr. A. Magruder MacDonald, District coroner, withheld a death certificate pending chemical analysis.

Kronthal, believed to have been unmarried, was a former assistant instructor at Harvard and a former Army captain. He entered the State Department in March, 1947, and served as an attache in Bern, Switzerland. Records show he left the department in May, 1952.

According to customary practice, the CIA declined to say when Kronthal joined the staff. A spokesman said he served in an "administrative capacity" and his job was "important."

Kronthal was born in Deal,



JAMES KRONTHAL.

Police Await Report  
By Chemist in Death  
Of Intelligence Man

The cause of the death of James S. Kronthal, Central Intelligence Agency administrative officer, will remain a mystery until police receive a report on a chemical analysis.

Mr. Kronthal, 40, was found dead yesterday morning on an upstairs bed in his Georgetown home at 1662 Thirty-second street N.W.

On the table near the bed was a handwritten note which Lt. Lawrence Hartnett said may have explained the case with words that Mr. Kronthal was "mentally upset because of pressure connected with work."

On the same table was an empty glass vial. Unable to determine what had been in it, Coroner A. Magruder McDonald ordered the chemical analysis, which may not be completed before next week.

Following its practice, the CIA revealed nothing of Mr. Kronthal's work there the last two or three years except that he was in an administrative capacity. His salary was more than \$10,000.