

6 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Incidence of Alcoholism in the Agency

25X1A9a

1. In reviewing our available information, it is not possible to establish a major trend in incidence of cases comparing CY 1966 to CY 1965. First of all, we do not have a sound data base. We keep book on certain categories of examinations through the old-fashioned but reliable method of a mark on the wall. We do not keep data on disease entities since to do so exceeds current capabilities. Secondly, information in regard the alcoholic incidence is notoriously unreliable and is one of the problems an organization faces in attempting to cope with the subject.

2. We have reviewed certain categories of examinations with the following results:

a. Medical Returns from Overseas

CY 1965 - Alcohol mentioned in 3 out of 5 cases.

CY 1966 - Alcohol mentioned in 7 out of 12 cases.

b. Fitness for Duty

CY 1965 - Alcohol a factor in 9 out of 47 cases.

Period 1 July 1965 to 31 December 1966 - Alcohol a factor in 10 out of 40 cases.

c. Medical Disability Retirement

CY 1965 - Alcohol a contributing factor in 4 out of 68 cases.

CY 1966 - Alcohol a contributing factor in 4 out of 36 cases.

3. Despite the absence of convincing figures, there are observations that contribute to thoughtful considerations:

a. There is no doubt that our medical experience impresses us that the incidence of problem cases is on the increase.

SUBJECT: Incidence of Alcoholism in the Agency

b. The incidence of alcoholism in the general population increases with age and levels off at 3 per cent in any given organization. Perhaps this figure does not apply to this Agency. It must be observed, however, that a variety of factors promote the use of alcohol by participants in our business.

c. There were two deaths last year directly attributable to alcohol. Both were incidental to acute excesses and not the result of slow deterioration. There may have been others, wrapped up in our accident statistics.

d. There is no evidence, sufficiently impressive, that the problem cases associated with alcohol have in any way abated.

SIGNED

JOHN R. TIERNIE, M.D.

JOHN R. TIERNIE, M. D.

Director of Medical Services

OMS/JRT:mam

Distribution:

Orig & 1-Addressee

1-Chairman, Committee on Alcohol

2-O-D/MS Files