

GALLERY
September 1979

CLA 4-01 ~~SECRET~~
Society of ~~Psychiatry~~ MIND STAT
Control

Article appeared
on page 51, 99

Did Timothy Leary and the CIA work hand in hand to create the "turn-on, tune-in, drop-out" drug culture of the Sixties? Or was Leary a pawn in the CIA's ruthless attempt to deceive America's youth?

HOW THE CIA PLANNED THE DRUGGING OF AMERICA

By Walter H. Bowart

STAT
STAT

Walter Bowart first became interested in the government's clandestine mind-control program after a childhood friend, having returned from his Air Force tour of duty suffering from amnesia, was able to determine after intensive hypno-therapy that he had been a mind-control victim. "David" had been used in intelligence operations, performing tasks without his own knowledge. Then his awareness of the events had been erased. David's story touched off Bowart's lengthy research into nearly thirty-five years of CIA experiments and operations known as MKULTRA. Long before the CIA made a partial confession of its ruthless pursuit of the means to control the human mind, Bowart was piecing together bits of the story. In his book, Operation Mind Control, he chronicled the activities of what was perhaps the best-kept secret since the atom bomb. Many civilian scientists and military and government workers violated all known codes of medical ethics, and the law, in the MKULTRA experiments that, declassified CIA documents eventually proved, were conducted on unwitting human guinea pigs.

The CIA MKULTRA documents vividly expose:

- the use of doctors, psychiatrists, and military chaplains to hypnotize unsuspecting individuals by a disguised technique;
- the administering of 149 separate mind-warping drugs to tens of thousands of people, both military and civilian, many of whom thought they'd volunteered for harmless experiments, many of whom were totally unsuspecting;
- the rewarding of prison inmates with heroin for participating in experiments with mind-affecting drugs;
- the programming of individuals, through drugs, hypnosis, and various behavior modification techniques, to carry messages locked within their minds behind post-hypnotic blocks;
- the programming of individuals to kill upon hearing a specified cue, like a "Manchurian Candidate," then having killed, erasing their memories by the use of ultrasonics, drugs, hypnosis, or other

soon after Leary began giving lectures on what were the first glimmerings of the "psychedelic Sixties." He visited at the 2,000-acre Millbrook estate from which Leary and his followers operated under organizations known as International Federation for Internal Freedom (IFIF), Castalia Foundation, and the League for Spiritual Discovery (LSD). These organizations did little to further scientific research. Their major accomplishment was to make LSD a household word and to encourage people to try the drug.

Among Bowart's research papers was a CIA memo that directed agents to contact Leary and his partner, Richard Alpert (now Ram Das), who were then operating as IFIE. The CIA wanted to find out if its own personnel were taking acid with Leary's group and apparently to determine what IFIF and Leary really knew about the mind-bending properties of LSD, a drug the CIA was then covertly experimenting with. Other documents indicated that Leary had received money channeled by the CIA through various government agencies. In all, he received eight government grants from 1953 to 1958, most of them through the National Institute of Mental Health, now known to have been one of the conduits for research under the MKULTRA program.

In Leary's book, High Priest, he described getting a note at Harvard from the Department of Legal Medicine asking his help in an experiment to test the ability of psychedelics to "rehabilitate" prisoners. "The problems are hopeless. Criminals never change. The atmosphere is dreary and the academic rewards are slim," Leary wrote. "But when I found this little piece of paper in my box requesting an appointment from two officials from the Department of Legal Medicine, I chuckled all the way to my office because this was just the chance I was looking for."

In 1962 Leary published a paper, "How to Change Behavior," which described his innovations in a psilocybin "rehabilitation program" conducted with, among others, inmates of the Concord State prison. While the paper talked of drug-induced satori (a Zen Buddhism) and other aspects of Leary's high-minded philosophy, and

definite parallels between his experiments and the MKULTRA experiments.

Leary had made many great contributions to his profession, but those contributions were, by 1965, already being eclipsed by his colorful and brazen-faced public stand on the benefits of uncontrolled use of LSD. The turning point in Leary's professional life came in 1962 when he was asked to resign from Harvard University for allegedly giving LSD to undergraduate students. He claimed to be the "high priest" of the LSD cult, and wrote the book of that name, attesting to the drug's universal benefits. Leary drew such public notice that the attention of the authorities soon followed. Eventually he was arrested in Laredo, Texas for possession of a half-ounce of marijuana. He was convicted of failing to pay the federal tax on marijuana, among other things, and sentenced to thirty years plus a \$40,000 fine. That conviction was later overturned by the Supreme Court.

After a number of raids on the Millbrook estate, other arrests followed. Years of dogged pursuit by the authorities eventuated in Leary's trial and conviction in California on another marijuana charge and his incarceration at Vacaville California State Medical Facility, a prison where some of the CIA MKULTRA research was conducted on inmates. In 1970 he escaped and fled to Algeria where he joined revolutionary black author Eldridge Cleaver, also a fugitive. After Leary found he could no longer get along with Cleaver, he went to Switzerland, and then from country to country in Europe, dodging extradition. Finally in early 1973, U.S. agents captured him in Afghanistan and he was returned to prison.

When Bowart found Leary's name among CIA documents in the MKULTRA file, he began writing letters to him in prison. He questioned Leary about his involvement with the CIA. Bowart asked Leary if he had, wittingly or unwittingly, dealt with the CIA during his creation of the "psychedelic Sixties." From prison, Leary denied ever having anything to do with the CIA. But after he was out of prison, his story changed.

Bowart, and later showed up at his door, he said he wanted to explain himself more fully about the letters they'd exchanged. Now, Leary said, he