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CIA giving love potions to informants?

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A CIA official connected with a "safe house" in New York City where potential informants were seduced by prostitutes purchased a rare African love potion from a Pennsylvania chemical firm, the Philadelphia Bulletin reported yesterday.

The Bulletin, which based its information on CIA records released under the Freedom of Information Act, said the spy agency purchased two pounds of Yohimbine hydrochloride — enough for 200,000 doses — from

the Pedlow Nease Chemical Co. of Lock Haven 25 years ago.

The drug, used for centuries by African natives to increase their sexual powers, was purchased for \$205 by Dr. Robert V. Lashbrook, who was the chief aide to Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a biochemist in charge of the CIA's experiments with LSD and other behavior-modifying drugs.

Lashbrook's job was to monitor and approve materials for "Operation Midnight Climax," a project involving CIA-hired

prostitutes in an apartment on New York's Bedford place.

The Bulletin said potential informants were drugged and seduced by the prostitutes while agents made recordings and took pictures through two-way mirrors.

During questioning before Sen. Edward Kennedy's health and scientific research subcommittee last year, Lashbrook admitted visiting the house and knowing that drugs and prostitutes were involved in the operation.