

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, OTS

SUBJECT : Drug Files

1. Early in 1973, Dr. Gottlieb, then C/TSD, called [redacted] and me to his office and requested that we review our Branch holdings and assure him that there were no extant records of the drug research program which had been terminated many years before. Dr. Gottlieb explained that Mr. Helms, in the process of vacating his chair as DCI, had called him and said, in effect, "Let's take this with us," or, "Let's let this die with us."

2. [redacted] carried out the files review for our office and reported its completion to me and to Dr. Gottlieb. I have no recollection of any records having been surfaced other than those he has reported in his own memorandum. A similar review was requested of [redacted] of TSD/CB.

3. As to my reactions at the time, I remember feeling that it was unrealistic and perhaps futile to presume that institutional memory can be erased by purging files; but I felt that Mr. Helms' effort (as expressed by Dr. Gottlieb) was an entirely honest and essentially altruistic one, and in no way malicious or extra-legal. Essentially he was taking notice that he and Dr. Gottlieb largely personified the always-controversial drug research program; and since it was long over he wanted them to take the onus and responsibility away with them in their retirements - not leaving it as a burden or an albatross for those who came after them. There were no related investigations taking place at the time, and no relevant caveats on reduction of files. Mr. Helms seemed to be saying "it was our bath; let us clean the tub."

[redacted]

Senior Psychologist
OTS/BAB

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