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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 28, 2017

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.

FOIPA Request No.: 1371717-000

Subject: OLSON, FRANK

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 8 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the <a href="www.fbi.gov/foia">www.fbi.gov/foia</a> website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <a href="https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home">https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home</a>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing <a href="mailto:ogis@nara.gov">ogis@nara.gov</a>. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing <a href="mailto:foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov">foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov</a>. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy Section Chief, Record/Information Dissemination Section

Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

### **EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence:
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



# Federal Bureau of Investigation Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts Release

Subject: FRANK R. OLSON

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SUBJECT	FRANK R./OLSON		Spec Inv
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	article concerning captioned, wh	o has been identi	fied as the
	individual described in the Rock	ofollor Commission	n Penent
		erefrer commission	<u>π report</u> Was ≈ S
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	and who subsequently jumped to h	is death from a No	ew York hotel
	on 11/28/53. The article further	r reports that the	e Detective n to
	who investigated the apparent su		
			70 475
	Dalen of our New York Office (NY		on's with b7C
	"important positions" with the U.	S. Government.	<b></b>
			J / 1
	Our files reveal in 19	53 Mr Olson was	a civilian
* 5			
1000	researcher in biological warfare		
	According to the "New York Times		
	Mr. Olson's death, New York Police	ce Detective James	s W. Ward
×.,	said that "due to the important		
	deceased and Lashbrook (who accord		
	Statler Hotel) with the U. S. Gov		
2	case were related to FBI Agent Go	eorge Dalen by tel	Lephone."
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	at the time of Mr. Olson's death	Review of	Bureau
.` L	was negative regar		
	of information from	The file does	on tain
,	information regarding the current	t whereabouts of	however,
	in December, 1962, inquiry was ma	de of the Bureau	hy the
	pre-employment investigation unit		
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	last known residence address (9/5	59) was	
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OPTIONAL FORM NO 10

0-106

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall RE: FRANK R. OLSON b7C b7D Review of the October through December, 1953, was negative regarding any reference to Mr. Olson's death, or reported contact with SA Review of FBIHQ files and references concerning captioned subject, and variations of subject's name, resulted in nothing relative to reported contact or Mr. Olson's death. Review of FBIHO files and references concerning b7C New York City with Mr. Olson on 11/24/53 and who was also attached to the Fort Detrick facility), was negative as concerns Mr. Olson's death, or reported contact with SA New York teletype 7/11/75 (copy attached) details check of NYO files regarding subject, and extent of press inquiry concerning reported contact of with New York files contain no information identifiable with Olson, Attached for information is copy of "New York Times" article of 7/11/75. ACTION: None. For information.

## Detective Said Scientist Had 'Severe Psychosis'

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

A civilian scientist who had unwittingly participated in a Central Intelligence Agency drug experiment had been diagnosed as suffering from "severe psychosis and detusions" before he plunged to his death from a 10th floor window of the Statler Hotel in mid-Manhattan 22 years ago according to a police report of the incident.

The report said that the sound of the was a constitute worked for the Defense Bureau of the War Department.

"They again visited the doctor and as a result of this bisit Olson was advised to enter a sanutarnum as he was suffering from severe psychosis death from a 10th floor window of the Statler Hotel in mid-Manhattan 22 years ago according to a police report of the incident.

The report said that the said worked for the Defense Bureau of the War Department.

"They again visited the doctor and as a result of this bisit Olson was advised to enter a sanutarnum as he was suffering from severe psychosis.

It was at that point—apparently wrote.

biological warfare at Fort Detrick, Md., had spent four days in the city undergoing psychiatric analysis immedi-ately before his death and that days in the city undergoing the detective reported.

That evening, Detective ward reported, Mr. Olson and arrangements had been made for him to enter the Chesinut the Cafe Rouge of the Statler to Rouge.

the cafe Rouge of the Statler Hotel and returned to Room 1018A at approximately 9:30 Mr. Olson's wife, Alice, and their three children said in an interview with The New York Times on Wednesday that they had not learned the circumstances of Mr. Olson's death until last month when the Rockefeller commission disclosed that C.I.A. files showed a suicide had occurred during a 10-year agency program of administering the drug LSD to unsuspecting subjects to learn its effects. its effects.

backyard of the Olson home in Frederick, Md., yesterday, the detective reported, family repeated its intentions. Detective Ward said that his ful death" of their father and husband.

According to the police report written by Detective James Son. W. Ward, who retired in 1970, Mr. Olson had come to New York on Nov 24, 1953 with Col. Vincent Ruwet, who was also attached to Fort Detrick, and checked into the Statler Hotel.

Mr. Olson was examined twice by Dr Harold Abramson dow. He said he saw Olson go thad been one of the first Americans to study the effects on bean a drawn shade." people of the powerful mind-altering drug LSD, the report said. Then Mr. Olson and colonel Ruwet returned to Washington on the morning of lov 26.

### Detective's Report

Then, on that same afteroon, the police report connued, Mr. Olson returned to the death a suicide, in his reew York, accompanied this Bort, said that an autopsy had
not by a man who identified been performed by the autopsy
man as Robert Lashbrook.

The report said that the 27th—that arrangements were scientist, Frank R. Olson, a made for Mr Olson to enter high-level civillan researcher in Chestnut Lodge under the su-27th—that arrangements were pervision of "a Doctor Fort,"

Mr. Lashbrook told Detective Plan to Sue C.I.A. Wards that he had called the hotel operator and "at this learned that Olson had ackyard of the Olson home in jumped out of the window," the

to sue the C.I.A. for several report was based on informa-million dollars for the "wrong-tion given to him by Mr Lashbrook but that he had verified the facts in interviews with Colonel Ruwet and Dr. Abram-

> The detective's account, however, was at odds with a description of the death given Wednesday in a statement by the Olson family in which they said that "Olson's widow was later told that her husband's escort was awakened about 130 A.M. to see Olson going at a full run toward the win-

Reached yesterday, Colonel Ruwet refused to comment on the death saying, "I'm seeking legal counsel, not because I've done anything wrong but I've got to know where I stand legally," since the Olson's have made clear they are going to

Dominick J. Dimaio, who determined that the cause of death was "multiple fractures.

Detective Ward said in his report that "due to the important positions held by the deceased and Lashbrook with the U.S. Government, the facts of this case were related to F.B.I. Agent George Dalen by telephone." The detective made no mention of the C.I.A. and efforts to reach him yesterday were unsuccessful.

Dr Abramson began working with LSD in 1951, two years before Mr. Olson's suicide and

two years before Sandoz Pharmadeuticals began distributing the drug to American research-

The doctor's secretary said yesterday that Dr Abramson would not comment about the Olson case or his early work with LSD.

In 1959, Dr Abramson told a scientific meeting on LSD that at the outset many of his colleagues opposed his work with the drug, regarding him as "a sort of psychiatric Dracula"

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"Rumors were brought to me became increasingly apprehenof succides caused by LSD," he became increasingly apprehensaid to the published processor, was actually suffering from an
ings of the meeting, adding that LSD reaction, and knowing it
"I must say that the same case would soon be over, he relaxed,
was repeated in different anec."
His account stimulated Dt.
Sidney Cohen, psychopharma-

wan nad committed suicide following LSD, but he conceded that it is essential that that "extremely violent reactions do occur under LSD" and advised that large doses should be given only if a hospital is nearby

Dr Abramson, who worked with the drug for more than a suicide immediately thereafter

decade was particularly interested in its potential for unraveling the possible brochemi-cal bases for mental illnesses. Prior to his LSD studies, which initially involved persons be saw in his private practice as a osychiatrist. Dr. Abramson had heen a psychological consultant for the United States Depart-

ment of the Army.
The doctor told the 1959 enced an adverse reaction following unwitting exposure to LSD, which he may have acci-dentally inheled or absorbed through the skin while conduct-

ing an experiment on snails
Suffering from the start of a
cold, the doctor related, "I began to fantasy that I had a
visus encephalitis I decided I
was going to die" He said he

dotes for several years"

His account summared the did not say that he had Sidney Cohen, psychopharmapersonal knowledge of anyone colgist at the University of California in Los Angeles, to

with the drug for more than a suicide immediately thereafter decade, was particularly because she had no awareness of why she was becoming

psychotic.

In an interview yesterday, Dr Cohen said that a suicidal impulse can result from LSD when "things change inside and out and the person thinks he is going mad on when some unconscious material is uncovered that is ferrilly stress." The doctor told the 1959 ful and causes the person meeting that he himself experirelease previously represedemons in the mild as we as cause terrifying hallucin trons.

Dr. Abramson, who was bo in 1899 and studied medic at Columbia University, is author of more than 200 perfessional publications, including a book on the une of La in psychotherapy and alcoho ısm

Much of the LSD research done by him and others in the done by him and others in the ninefeen-fifties was sponsored by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. Many who conducted LSD research were stimulated to do so by the early findings of Dr Abramson.

The doctor currently maintains practices in Manhattan and on Lory Island and the standard on t

and on Long Island and 18-a consulting research psychia-trist at State Hospital in Central Islip and director of re-search at South Oaks Proching tric respital in Amityville.

NR Ø11 NY PLAIN

3:11 PM URGENT 7/11/75 PJS

TO DIRECTOR

FROM ADIC NEW YORK (66-7479)

ATT: INTD

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ATT : EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

FRANK R. OLSON, DECEASED EMPLOYEE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ARMY,

NOVEMBER 1953:

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING.

RE BUREAU TELCALL TO NEW YORK JULY 11, 1975 AND NEW YORK TELCALLS TO BUREAU.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS NEWSPAPER AND NEW YORK TIMES

NEWSPAPER, BOTH DATED JULY 11, 1975, IN REPORTING ALLEGED

SUICIDE OF FRANK R. OLSON, SET FORTH IN ARTICLES THAT NYCPD

REPORT FILED BY DECTECTIVE JAMES W. WARD INDICATED REPORT

FORWARDED TO FBI. SPECIFICALLY, DAILY NEWS STATES THAT WARD

FORWARDED INFORMATION TO FBI AGENT GEORGE DALEN. NEW YORK TIMES

SPECIFICALLY STATES DETECTIVE WARD SET FORTH IN HIS REPORT THAT

"DUE TO IMPORTANT POSITIONS HELD BY THE DECEASED AND LASHBROOK

GOBERT LASHBROOK, IDENTIFIED AS CONSULTANT CHEMIST FOR DEFENSE

BUREAU OF WAR DEPARTMENT) WITH THE P.S. GOVERNMENT, THE FACTS

OF THIS CASE WERE RELATED TO FBI AGENT GEORGE DALEN BY TELEPHONE".

FILES OF NYO CONTAIN NO IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING FRANK R. OLSON. ALL REFERENCES TO THIS NAME ARE

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Assoc Dir ---Dep -A O -Adm --Dep -A D -Inv.\_\_ Asst Dir Admin Comp Syst Ext. Affairs Files & Com Gen Inv iden Inspection mount Plan & Eval Sper Ing Training Legal Coon - -Telephone Rm. -Director Sec'v

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NY 66-7479

PAGE TWO

SUBSEQUENT TO NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT NOTING OLSON DECEASED

NOVEMBER FIFTYTHREE. ONE REFERENCE DATED NINETEEN THIRTYSEVEN

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HEADQUARTERS CHECK.

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AGENT HAVING ENTERED ON DUTY WITH BUREAU
• FROM
ADIC RECEIVED TELCALL FROM NY DAILY
NEWS, WHO INDICATED THAT IN REVIEWING NYCPD REPORT CONCERNING
OLSON'S SUICIDE, DETECTIVE SET FORTH THIS REPORT WAS SUPPLIED TO
SA OF THE FBI. AT TIME OF CALL, WAS
INFORMED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE LOGICAL FOR FBI TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION INTO SUCH A MATTER DUE TO LACK OF JURISDICTION
AND THE ONLY CONCEIVABLE ACTION THAT WOULD BE TAKEN WOULD HAVE

BEEN TO FORWARD ANY SUCH REPORT, IF IN FACT RECEIVED, TO THE

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NY 66-7479	
PAGE THREE	
INTERESTED EMPLOYING AGENCY WHICH IN THIS INSTANCE WOULD	
HAVE BEEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ARMY. WAS ADVISED,	
HOWEVER, THAT A CHECK WOULD BE MADE AND HE WOULD BE FURTHER	
CONTACTED. IS GOING TO BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO	b7C
RECORD OF ANY REPORT HAVING BEEN RECEIVED AND FORMER SA	]
IN ADDITION TO	b7C
IS MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. NYO INDICES	
CONTAIN NO REFERENCES TO THESE NAMES.	
NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN BY NYO.	

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SMD FBIHQ CLR