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STAUDADD FORM NO. 64

Ossice Memorandum • United States Government

TO

Files

DATE:

3 February 1953

FROM :

SUBJECT:

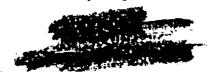
Lysergic Acid (LSD)

- l. Lysergic Acid is a synthetic chemical having similar molecular structures of various ergot derivatives. As is well-known, ergot is a rust which affects rye during its growth. Also well-known is the fact that ergot has certain properties which produce mental derangement, mental and physical disorders, and in certain forms can produce death. Ergot, however, has very valuable medicinal value, particularly in connection with treatment of women before and after childbirth and in curing certain types of migraine headaches.
- 2. Lysergic Acid (LSD) has, up until recently, been produced by the SANDOZ Chemical organization whose main headquarters are at Pasel, Switzerland. The synthetic ergot (LSD) was developed by a Dr. Hoffman, who is the chief researcher for Sandoz. One of Dr. Hoffman's many outstanding assistants, and apparently a protege of Dr. Hoffman's, is. Dr. Rudolph Bircher also a Swiss National.
- 3. For many years, it has been well-known that various doctors, psychiatrists, scientists in various countries in Europe have been experimenting with ergot or Lysergic Acid. This has been, as far as is known, almost always purchased from the Sandor organization which sells chemicals to the world. This experimentation generally is of a psychiatric nature but there have been certain indications that some countries, and possibly the Soviet Union, have considered the use of Lysergic Acid for either chemical warfare, psychological warfare, or military purposes.
- h. Since the unusual properties of erget and have importantly Lysergic Acid have been known to ARTICHOKE for some time, the development of this chemical has been of intense interest.
- 5. In connection with this, the writer learned long ago that

 (one of the outstanding researchers
 in the field of narcotic, hypnotic and soporific chemicals and drugs)
 was doing research work in Lysergic Acid and was reportedly advocating
 its study and uce. Subsequently, hade several trips to

 Europe and during these trips to Durope he visited numerous individuals
 and discussed Lysergic Acid with them and spent a considerable amount
 of time with officials of the Candon Company including

 The property of the Candon Company including the property of



6. Over a month ago, this office received a disputch through the (Contact Division which Endicated that above) was then visiting the United States, apparently for the purpose of visiting Sandow's New York representatives and having general discussions concerning Sandos's productions (particularly lysergic Acid). The information forwarded to this office indicated in a not too specific manner that the strip had some military significance but this has never been checked out. This dispatch indicated that was in contact with and and that would apparently spend some time either at the home of in the company and the desired some authorization to proceed in an attempt to "pumb" of for information concerning proceed in an attempt to "pump" Lysergic Acid and other pertinent related information. Since it was indicated after consultation between the could possibly could possibly could more information from that than anyone else, a very general authorization was given to him to attempt to obtain from such information that he thought portional. The results of this have not yet been made available to this office. It should be noted for the record that in the last in as far as is known a consultant to this Agency but is a Consultant to the of the contract for many thousands of dollars for research purposes. The writer is not certain whether or, e not this Agency in any way is indirectly financing that it has been established that a second of OTS is well aware of the latest that the second of the latest that the second of the latest that the second of the latest that the latest tha work and apparently through able to control the activity of

A long discussion with the worker had a covered in this conference. What the usefulness to this Agency will be has not yet been ascertained, but apparently the feels of that the in some ways a problem.

8. For matter of record, apparently chemists of the formula for OTS have in the past few weeks succeeded in breaking the secret formula held by Sandez for the manufacture of Lysergic Acid and have manufactured for this Agency a large quantity of Lysergic Acid which is available for our experimentation. This work is a closely guarded OTS secret and should not be mentioned generally.

