

DISCUSSION AT

September 1963

the [redacted] and the [redacted] country were both in the United States when I went there. (I had known this before going there. Their absence was an opportunity to obtain fresh points of view from their colleagues. These proved interesting.)

[redacted] pharmacological associate, acted as host. (I had met him in [redacted] with [redacted] and had entertained him at dinner there.)

From the very beginning of our discussion it became at once apparent that an extraordinary change had occurred since my last year's visit. (Nothing could offer a better example of the importance of continuity in studies of this kind than the comparison of this year's discussion with last year's. I am certain that a visit for the first time this year would have led to wrong conclusions.)

Last year, [redacted] were full of enthusiasm for their work on the ergot derivatives, both the diethylamid of lysergic acid ("L.S.D.-25") and the new monoethyl amid ("L.A.E."). They spoke with a happy sigh of the "more than 200 laboratories" engaged in work on the L. S.D. and of the "burden" (which they obviously enjoyed) that this threw on them. Work was proceeding briskly in their laboratories and they were delighted with the situation at this time.

This year an extraordinarily different atmosphere prevailed. No longer were they apparently much interested. This was so obvious, I asked [redacted] if they were giving up their work in this field. His answer was vague. Apparently he sensed its inadequacy, for he rather hastily added, "we have no means here for testing these ergot derivatives". I added, mildly, "But neither do you have facilities for testing your other products". I refrained from pointing out that the lack he mentioned was present last year too. It was clear that he did not wish to pursue the subject and I let it drop. The significant thing was the rather startling change in attitude from last year to this.

I gave [redacted] a brief report on our work with L. A.E. (sufficient only to ensure his continued cooperation and a supply of the drug. This supply he promised to continue.) He spoke of their need to get "some agency" to undertake a systematic study of these agents. Perhaps he emphasized a little too much their willingness (eagerness) to have some official body in the United States take on study of these drugs. I couldn't help wondering if he wanted to get in plainly on the record that they had made these agents available to the West, lest traffic with Russia (see my previous report) look bad at some future date and in some future world situation.

At this point I was curious to understand what had produced the change. Several possibilities were to be considered:

- (a) They had lost interest scientifically. (Incredible)
- (b) They had become alarmed at the ethical and moral problem involved. (Improbable)

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(c) They could see no adequate financial return. (Possible, but it seems unlikely that an experienced drug house like [redacted] would at this point throw away a possible bonanza, especially in view of their already considerable investment.)

(d) There had been serious accidents, toxic reaction. (Interestingly enough, [redacted] like [redacted] had been, denied any accident with L.S.D. or L.A.E. See [redacted] last year's report as to how this conflicts with [redacted] He is a psychiatrist [redacted] and a leading investigator of L.S.D. It is impossible to believe that he wouldn't have passed on his information to his colleagues, [redacted] concerning the accident in [redacted] (mentioned in my earlier report).

(e) There has been unfavorable publicity of such an extent as to frighten the company into restricting their interest. (I have seen no such publicity in the United States press or such European press as I have seen; however, there has been some. This was spoken of at a later discussion, as follows:

A luncheon was arranged for me where [redacted] and [redacted] were present. During an absence from the table of [redacted] I said to [redacted] Apparently an official of the company, "I hope you are not abandoning your interest in the ergot derivatives." "No," he said, "but we are burned children." Then he mentioned a considerable quantity of unfavorable publicity which he said had stemmed "from the [redacted] press". He said he did not know who had been responsible for it. He remarked that this publicity had commented on possible political and military uses of the agents. (If these press reports have been compiled, and certainly they should be, I should like to see them.)

I can only guess, but it seems probable that this unfavorable publicity is responsible for the new attitude spoken of at the beginning of this report. Other factors are doubtless related to this publicity such as fear of law suits by "victims" or subjects of experimentation.

(f) There is of course the possibility, very improbable I think, that [redacted] has, for economic, for trade reasons, or for other consideration, decided to make its information and output available to the East and that talk about a "U.S. agency" to work in the field is for the record only. Against this is the assurance that I can have a continuing supply of L.S.D. and L.A.E.

During the course of the above conversation I asked [redacted] if they had made any new derivatives of lysergic acid. He said, without interest, well, they had had one, but it hadn't panned out. Whether this is true or merely part of the new minimizing policy would be interesting to know.

I should like, at some later time to follow up this acquaintance with [redacted]. He seemed more forthright, perhaps less discreet, than the others.

A follow-up should be made on the present illness of [redacted]. [redacted] I picked up a hint that it is mental. I also picked up the suggestion that it was related to his experimental work. This raises the question of whether frequent self-experimentation with the ergot derivatives could be responsible. This is of enough importance to justify investigation, I think.

I have reason to believe that the [redacted] Company has on hand about 20 pounds of L.S.D. This is a fantastically large amount. This should be checked. If true, one can make interesting speculation as to why they made so much so early in the trials of this agent.

