

Is a new MK-Ultra drug plague afoot?

Beginning under "Sir" George Bush, there has been increasing human experimentation with highly dangerous drugs. Scott Thompson reports.

Investigation is now under way at *EIR* to determine whether a revival of MK-Ultra has been launched—the illicit experimentation upon human beings with extremely dangerous drugs ranging from marijuana, to LSD, to “Ecstasy”—in the British Empire and the United States, beginning with the administration of Sir George Bush in 1990. Sir George, who was a pet poodle for Lady Margaret Thatcher, when she was Britain’s prime minister, appears to have approved the resurrection of MK-Ultra experimentation through his Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dr. David Kessler; Kessler, who was a Bush holdover in the Clinton administration, continued certifying these experiments and stacked the FDA Advisory Committees with people who favored experimenting on human beings with psychedelics. MK-Ultra was banned as criminal activity in the 1970s, after Congressional investigations turned up widespread abuses of medical ethics in the Central Intelligence Agency and Pentagon experimentation with drug-enhanced mind control.

In addition to hideous experiments with hallucinogens on unsuspecting victims and mental patients, under MK-Ultra, U.S. and British intelligence operatives distributed massive amounts of hallucinogens and other dangerous narcotics to the Baby Boomers who were then in college, to accelerate the paradigm shift we now know as the “rock-drug-sex counterculture.”

Under Bush stay-behind Kessler, the FDA not only granted permission for studies of the effects of marijuana on treating the “wasting syndrome” accompanying cancer and AIDS, but also revived psychedelic research, including safety studies on MDMA (Ecstasy) and the experiments of MK-Ultra operative Timothy Leary with lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) on prison inmates. Although Kessler has just recently left the FDA, he left Bush-era deputy Michael Friedman in charge. For this reason, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala must move rapidly to restore the credibility of the FDA, which is an HHS agency, and disavow all the Bush stay-behinds who signed off on these human experiments.

In both the United States and Britain, much of this renewed MK-Ultra experimentation is being funded by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), based in North Carolina, which was granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity status from the Internal Revenue Service during the Reagan-Bush years, because it cham-

pioned drugs such as Ecstasy, for their “scientific value.” Apart from its 1,250 dues-paying members, MAPS has received large contributions from British Rothschild-spawned speculator George Soros, the magazine *High Times*, and an anonymous contribution from a British foundation, whose identity MAPS insists upon protecting through a claimed loophole in the laws guiding its 501(c)(3) tax exemption. Several years ago, MAPS decided it would focus on winning FDA approval for human research with marijuana and psychedelics, since so many of its members complained that it was “unethical” to run tests on animals.

Britain gets ‘Skunked’

According to an article in the Feb. 23, 1997 London *Sunday Times*, entitled “Cannabis Farming Booms in Britain,” marijuana production has apparently increased many times over, while a new strain of cannabis called “Skunk,” which is as much as five times more potent than the usual marijuana, is growing rapidly in popularity. An accompanying article, entitled “Doctors To Give Patients Ecstasy,” details how MAPS has been funding research by Dr. Karl Jansen at Maudsley Hospital in south London to administer high doses of the hallucinogenic amphetamine MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymetamphetamine) on human subjects. This, after there have been 50-60 Ecstasy-related deaths in Britain during “raves” in city night clubs, or in “techno-music” dance orgies that take place all night in farm fields, throughout the United Kingdom.

The *Sunday Times*, a paper that traditionally gets leaks from the Privy Council in advance of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, had this to say about the boom in cannabis farming:

“Britain’s fastest-growing cash crop has become the drug squad’s latest nightmare. From the wild Cornish moors to the plains of East Anglia, a new *golden crescent of cannabis farms* has emerged as criminals spurn foreign imports for home-grown dope.

“Home Office figures to be released next month are expected to show the number of cannabis plants seized by police has risen 14-fold in the past five years to 130,000, worth £100 million, if they had been harvested and sold on the street.

“Detectives believe the seizures are a fraction of the home production, which has become a highly professional and



This dead young girl is a victim of the original MK-Ultra, the 1960s-70s human experimentation with dangerous hallucinogens, that was combined with mass distribution to labile college students. EIR is investigating whether a new MK-Ultra was started in 1990 under George Bush's FDA, and how it is being popularized in the media by billionaire George Soros.

profitable business. 'Skunk' farms, some with 8,000 plants, have been found packed into abandoned barns, warehouses, railway arches and rented townhouses."

A spokesman for London's National Drugs Intelligence Unit (NDIU) told *EIR* that the *Sunday Times* is essentially correct in pointing toward a recent explosion in cannabis production. However, the spokesman complained that the exact size of the increase was not known, because the British Home Office has delayed putting out the figures.

The spokesman for the NDIU confirmed that the fastest-growing menace in Great Britain with regard to marijuana—which the *Sunday Times* identified as a "starter" drug for users who move on to hallucinogens such as Ecstasy or LSD was Skunk. The tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), marijuana's psychotropic agent, in Skunk is between two and five times more potent than the THC in normal marijuana, and the United Kingdom has experienced a dramatic rise in hydroponic raising of Skunk as a cash crop.

The rapid growth in cannabis production—including Skunk—seems to parallel the British Home Office practice of licensing cannabis growing for the production of hemp, following European Union practice. According to a reporter for the London *Sunday Telegraph* of July 23, 1995, Queen Elizabeth did her part to win Home Office approval for hemp production in her United Kingdom: "This is probably the most discreet world exclusive in the history of newspapers. The company involved would like to keep it low key indeed. Nevertheless, I can now reveal that for the last two weeks, as a trial only, horses in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace

have been going to sleep every night on bedding made entirely of cannabis." The article further reveals that the Home Office is now subsidizing the growing of cannabis.

When a reporter asked the Queen's Private Secretary on Feb. 25, 1997, whether the Queen's experiment were successful, given the proliferation of illegal cannabis growing that seemed to follow the publicity over the Palace promotion of hemp production, the Private Secretary said tersely: "Nobody in the Palace will comment on a question like that."

From pot to Ecstasy

The *Sunday Times* feature described experiments where psychiatrist Dr. Karl Jansen at Maudsley Hospital in southern London used Ecstasy on human subjects. Dr. Jansen, whom the *Times* called "a leading expert on mind-altering drugs," carries out magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of his victims' brains both before administering MDMA and again while giving them audio-visual stimulation when the drug has reached its peak concentrations. The *Times* continued: "Jansen said trials where Ecstasy was given to human subjects in the United States showed small doses led to increased blood flow to the brain and improved memory. However, when high doses were given repeatedly to animals, they suffered irreversible brain damage."

MAPS president Rick Doblin, educated at the Harvard School of Public Diplomacy, told *EIR* that the *Sunday Times* article had scared Jansen's Maudsley research colleagues away from continuing on to a Phase 2, in which victims would be administered MDMA during the MRI imaging to watch

the hallucinogen's progression. Already, Jansen has been studying MDMA users, under conditions of high-dose self-administration, but, according to Doblin, the second phase, in which researchers would administer the high doses, is in trouble: "We'll have to wait six months and see if the damage from the *Sunday Times* article blows over." At another point, Doblin said, "Anyway, we're more advanced in research in psychedelics in the U.S. now," a sorry fact for which we can thank drug kingpin Sir George Bush.

A spokesman from the British National Drugs Intelligence Unit said that MDMA had been a problem in the United Kingdom since the 1980s, and over 50 people had died since, from brain damage or other Ecstasy-related side-effects. It began in the early-1980s in the clubs of Manchester, London, and other major cities. There then started to be "raves," in which hundreds or thousands of "techno-music" addicts would engage in MDMA-induced all-night dancing in farm fields, and which soon became even more widespread on the continent.

Just call me 'Sir' George

According to documents in the MAPS Internet website, (and corroborated by other sources, including the March 18-24, 1994 issue of the *Washington CityPaper*, headlined "Return Trip"), a return to MK-Ultra-style research on human

subjects in extremely dangerous drugs began when President George Bush's appointees in the FDA approved them in 1990. (After the American people retired Bush from the White House, Queen Elizabeth bestowed on him the title of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath for "a lifetime of service to the British Empire.")

As *EIR*, the U.S. Senate "Kerry Committee," and the August 1996 *San Jose Mercury News* series strongly suggested, it was under Vice President George Bush, that the Iran-Contra operation set into motion a corrupt deal with Colombia's drug lords to finance the Contras' dirty little war by exchanging drugs for guns. The *Mercury News* series by Gary Webb detailed a cocaine pipeline from Central America to the streets of Los Angeles, which was responsible for launching the crack epidemic.

What the major, British-controlled media have persistently blacked out—including those who otherwise support elements of Gary Webb's series—is that Vice President Bush, as head of the White House Special Situation Group beginning in 1982, was behind the launching of this crack cocaine epidemic. *EIR* can now document that, as soon as Bush became President, he revived the experimentation with psychedelics on American citizens—including MK-Ultra operative Timothy Leary's experiments on hapless prison inmates—through his nomination of the FDA head and the FDA Advisory Committee that was flush with people who favored such experimentation.

Much of the funding for these human experiments was channeled through MAPS, and approval came from Bush's appointee as FDA commissioner, Dr. David Kessler. From 1984 until his FDA appointment was approved by the Senate on Dec. 3, 1990, Kessler was medical director of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. Although MAPS president Doblin disavows having ever met with Kessler, he offered the following praise: "He was a man who put science above the war on drugs." What Doblin means by "science," can be discerned from his group's website section, "About MAPS," which proposes the study of the effects of hallucinogens on "psychic research" and "shamanic healing practices."

Continuing his Bush practices in the Clinton administration, Kessler gave FDA approval to MAPS for marijuana and hallucinogenic research. According to Doblin, even if HHS Secretary Shalala appoints a new FDA commissioner more in line with the administration's commitment to a war on drugs, it could not mitigate the influence of key FDA Advisory Committees whom Kessler et al. filled with ghouls who favor human experimentation with dangerous drugs. Bush has thus hung an albatross around Clinton's neck, which he can only free himself from when he and Secretary Shalala repudiate Sir George's policies and personnel.

A new phase of MK-Ultra

From its founding in 1986—one year after the United States classified Ecstasy as a Schedule I drug, i.e., an illegal,

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addictive substance without clinical value—MAPS adopted this “orphan drug.” In the beginning, MAPS was given support from such 1970s MK-Ultra veterans as Laura Huxley, Ram Dass, and Timothy Leary. Among the projects MAPS eventually won support for from Kessler were:

- A “Phase 1 Safety Study” for Ecstasy began as follows: “On May 18, 1994, Charles Grob, MD, administered MDMA to the first subject in his Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved dose-escalating double-blind safety study. This marked the first time that MDMA had been legally administered in the United States since it was criminalized by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 1985. On Nov. 27, 1995, Dr. Grob administered MDMA to the 18th and final subject in the study.”

Doses ranged from 0.25mg–kg body weight and rose to 2.5mg–kg. Two subjects experienced blood pressure instability. Another dropped out of the study from panic anxiety, even though he had been administered the placebo.

Grob plans a Phase 2 on the “therapeutic effects” of

MDMA on terminal cancer patients, after the FDA reviews the Phase 1 protocol that Grob is to submit: “The study will also seek to determine the physiological effect of MDMA on the immune system as well as whether the combination of MDMA and guided imagery could be used to facilitate psychoneuroimmunological (mind/body) stimulation of the immune system.”

- Another Phase 2 study, that was to receive \$28,000 from a British foundation had to be scrapped. The study was intended to examine the effects of MDMA as a “therapeutic” tool in treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at the Military Hospital in Managua, Nicaragua. When MAPS had no success in devising an adequate protocol with the Military Hospital, MAPS convinced the anonymous British foundation to turn the money over for Grob’s MDMA “safety” studies, approved by Dr. David Kessler.

- MAPS also funded the Orenda Institute in 1996 for a follow-up on Dr. Timothy Leary’s experiments on prison inmates. Essentially, after gaining a prisoner’s “consent” (“in-

Why hasn't the U.S. decertified Britain?

People might ask: Why hasn't the United Kingdom been decertified? The official version is that the United States and Britain continue to enjoy a “special relationship” at the assistant secretary level, where the policies and practices of the War on Drugs are exchanged. The U.S. State Department Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs notes in its March 1996 report, “International Narcotics Control Strategy Report”:

“The United Kingdom (U.K.) is a consumer country for illicit drugs. It also produces and exports many precursor and essential chemicals. . . . British financial institutions have been vulnerable to money laundering, including that of narcotics proceeds converted in the U.K. and transitted through the country. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man also have offshore banking facilities that attract drug funds.” This overlooks the reports by British journalists that many of the 50 major offshore areas targeted for a crackdown on money laundering by the Clinton administration are British Empire territories, where the highest authority is Queen Elizabeth’s Privy Council.

Among the leading dangerous drugs said by the State Department to be consumed in the United Kingdom are: marijuana, which is “the most popular illicit drug in the U.K.,” heroin, which has an estimated 100,000 addicts; crack cocaine; and MDMA, which, the State Department

notes, has caused several deaths in 1995. The department describes MDMA as “the poor man’s cocaine,” because it can be readily manufactured, and is therefore very cheap.

Even the State Department is forced to admit that much of the MDMA consumed in Britain, is either produced in labs there or imported from the Netherlands. MAPS admits that British Ecstasy is more “toxic,” than that found generally in the United States. Heroin shipments generally originate in Afghanistan. However, the State Department fails to mention that it was British policy—carried out by the likes of Lord Nicholas Bethell, Anglophile Wall Street financial adviser John Train, and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan—to trap a patriotic faction of U.S. intelligence into supporting an Islamic resistance to the Soviet invaders, by using narco-terrorists posing as radical Muslim fundamentalists. Now known as the “Afghansi,” these have become one of the leading worldwide terrorist networks.

The National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee report for 1994, “The Supply of Illicit Drugs to the United States,” states that MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-metamphetamine), while structurally related to the stimulant methamphetamine, is a hallucinogen. “The drug has been shown to be neurotoxic, strongly suggesting that it is anything but benign,” states the NNICC report. “In Europe, there was increased abuse of MDMA, particularly in Great Britain and the Netherlands.”

Still, the State Department concludes vis-à-vis relations with the United Kingdom: “The Road Ahead. The United States looks forward to continued close cooperation with the United Kingdom on all counter-narcotics fronts.”

formed consent” is never mentioned by MAPS), inmates who had had substance abuse problems would be supplied with LSD. “The hypothesis,” reads the MAPS report on “LSD Research at the Orenda Institute,” “is that those people who have peak or mystical experiences that they are able to integrate into their lives will be motivated to decrease their abuse of the substances and lead more satisfactory lives.”

These are a few of the studies by MAPS, whose website promotes as heroes all the key players in the 1960s MK-Ultra scourge. The MAPS website includes a lecture by Dr. Albert Hoffman, the creator of LSD at Sandoz Laboratories in Switzerland, where he extols the British menticolist Aldous Huxley for popularizing LSD and other psychedelics in such novels as *The Doors of Perception* and *Heaven and Hell*, the story of the utopian island of Pala where LSD (“moksha-medicine”) was used for “decisive periods of life.” Aldous Huxley himself took a dose of 100 micrograms of LSD as he was dying of cancer in November 1963.

The late LSD guru Timothy Leary, who was a fundraiser for MAPS, according to friends who wrote for MAPS, became a junkie, dosing up with cocaine, LSD, and other drugs, as he, too, died from cancer. Leary’s addiction was so great and his mental state so confused, that friends kept a chart of what illegal drugs they had given him, to prevent him from dying on an overdose.

Leary’s MK-Ultra sidekick, Dr. Humphrey Osmond, is also frequently mentioned in MAPS’s website.

The largesse of legalizer George Soros

Charles Honig, who is the grant coordinator for the Drug Policy Foundation, underwritten by George Soros, confirmed that the DPF had made a grant of \$20,000 to MAPS to research the “medical use” of marijuana. He stressed that it was not for MDMA or other psychedelic research. All the grant money available to the DPF—\$3 million—has come from Soros, who was created by George Karlweis, right-hand man of Edmond De Rothschild, who gave us the career of drug trafficker Robert Vesco. MAPS chief Doblin also admits to receiving \$2,000 from George Soros’s drug-legalizing Lindesmith Center, which is part of Soros’s Open Society Institute-New York. MAPS works with all the Soros-funded fronts that took part in the media blitz to get California and Arizona voters to approve drug legalization under the guise of “medical use” of marijuana—respectively Proposition 215 and Proposition 200. The Arizona law also permits doctors to prescribe any Schedule I narcotic to patients. The MAPS website prominently displays Utah Republic Sen. Orrin Hatch, referring to the MAPS newsletter as the “expert” on two ballot initiatives. One wonders if Senator Hatch, like Sir George Bush, has the same intimate knowledge of MAPS advocacy of psychedelic experimentation upon U.S. citizens? MAPS even supports the Cannabis Buyers Club, whose founder, the homosexual AIDS activist Dennis Peron, co-authored California Proposition 215. The Cannabis Buyers Club was busted for narcotics trafficking shortly after Prop. 215 was passed.

EIR lays waste Soros’s ‘drug reform’ big lie

For three years now, billionaire speculator George Soros has been pouring tens of millions of dollars into what he likes to call the “drug reform movement.” This linguistic sleight of hand has been aimed at concealing the fact that Soros and the string of tax-exempt drug policy foundations that he bankrolls are fully committed to the full legalization of all dangerous drugs, including crack cocaine and Ecstasy. Soros was the sugar-daddy behind the 1996 California and Arizona ballot initiatives that legalized the “medical use” of marijuana in California, and of all Schedule I illegal drugs in Arizona; and he and paid retainers are now peddling the same types of referendum in at least 25 other states, plus the District of Columbia.

On Feb. 25, at a Washington, D.C. press conference of the Soros-bankrolled Drug Policy Foundation, an *EIR* correspondent challenged the Soros crew to publicly admit what they say behind closed doors: That they are not drug

policy reformers, but advocates of drug legalization. Eric Sterling, the DPF’s Congressional liaison, when confronted by Leo Scanlon about his boast at a private seminar of the Drug Policy Foundation in November 1996, that he’s been a leader of the “drug legalization movement” since the late 1970s, blurted out: “Yes, the challenge is to end the policy of prohibition of cocaine, heroin,” and all other dangerous drugs.

Sterling then launched into a tirade against *EIR*, Lyndon LaRouche, and all those who take an “ideological” position on the drug issue. DPF and the half-dozen other Soros-funded legalization groups that have been spawned in recent years use the term “non-ideological” to account for the fact that their ranks are filled by such free-market zealots as Milton Friedman, William F. Buckley, former Secretary of State George Shultz, and the top brass at the Barry Goldwater Institute in Arizona. They also include “narco-socialists” like Sterling, who served for years as a staffer for Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), and the Carter administration’s pro-legalization maven Mathea Falco, now a leading drug policy specialist at the New York Council on Foreign Relations. —Jeffrey Steinberg