

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

In the Matter of:)

SCHEDULING MDMA)
_____)

Docket No. 84-48

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF SPECIAL AGENT ROBERT C. CHESTER, JR.

I, Robert C. Chester, Jr. make the following statement:
I am a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) assigned to the Dallas Field Division. I have been a Special Agent with DEA for approximately two years and three months. As a Special Agent I conduct investigations of violations of the Controlled Substances Act. I am currently assigned to an Enforcement Group in the Dallas Division Office. As a member of this group, I conduct and participate in investigations involving the illegal distribution of controlled substances. As part of these investigations I interview sources of information and make undercover purchases of controlled and other substances. In the course of my duties as a Special Agent, I had occasion to interview a defendant in a case which involved the distribution of approximately ten kilograms of cocaine. This was in June, 1984. This source told me about a drug called "Ecstasy" which he had heard about that was being sold on the street as a legal drug. I questioned this source again in February, 1985 and he provided information that he knew about the trafficking of "Ecstasy" in the Dallas area. He said that there was an individual named Tom Blackburn who was known as a national

distributor for the drug "Ecstasy". The source indicated that he had met Blackburn at an area nightclub where he had introduced the drug "Ecstasy" to him by providing two red and green capsules. The source was informed by Blackburn that the drug was fairly new and was similar to cocaine with an effect lasting six to eight hours. The source disposed of the capsules because he had limited knowledge of the drug. The source indicated that Blackburn's distribution system operated on the pyramid system, and that if you recruited new distributors you could get a share of their sales. The source provided me with information concerning Blackburn's distributors. He identified three individuals who stated that were distributing "Ecstasy" and that they received their supply from Blackburn. One such distributor told the source that on weekends he can clear \$5000.00 by selling "Ecstasy", mainly to strippers in adult only entertainment clubs. The source indicated that this same distributor was seen by him in February, 1985 in a nightclub announcing to a group of people, a new product. The product was "Ecstasy" in powder form selling for \$90 a gram. The distributor told the source that the capsules were too strong and gave people upset stomachs, and that the powder was cut to make the potency lower.

Another source of information accompanied two DEA Special Agents on February 27, 1985 to a nightclub in which this source and the previously mentioned source indicated that "Ecstasy" was being sold. One of the agents purchased eight (8) tablets of "Ecstasy" from the wife of one of the distributors identified by the source. The agent purchased the eight tablets for \$120.00. These tablets were analyzed by the DEA Laboratory in Dallas,

Texas and each was found to contain 110 mg. of N-methyl-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine hydrochloride (MDMA).

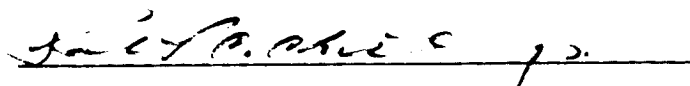
On March 8, 1985 the source that I interviewed in February, 1985 obtained 15 tablets of "Ecstasy" on consignment from an individual identifying himself as a distributor for Blackburn in Richardson, Texas. I in turn purchased these tablets from the source for \$300.00, which the source in turn paid to the distributor. The 15 tablets were contained in a bottle labeled "sassafras tea." I was told that the "Ecstasy" is packaged in lots of 100 in these bottles and shipped to Texas in cases of 24 bottles to a case from California. The 15 tablets that I obtained from the source were analyzed by the DEA Laboratory in Dallas, Texas and each was found to contain 110 mg. of N-Methyl-3,4,-methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA).

I also received various literature from the source from whom I purchased the 15 tablets of "Ecstasy," who obtained it from the "Ecstasy" distributor. Examples of the literature I have collected are attached to this affidavit as Exhibits 1-2.

In my discussions with other law enforcement officers, DEA agents and sources of information I am aware that "Ecstasy" or MDMA is widely available on the street in the Dallas area. I have been told that it is easily available on the campus of Southern Methodist University. It is sold for its similarity to cocaine and enhancement of sexual activities. Based upon my experience as a DEA Special Agent, those trafficking "Ecstasy" in the Dallas area are operating in a manner which is similar to most structured illicit drug trafficking organizations.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement, consisting of four pages including this one, is true and correct.

Executed on April 25, 1985.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert C. Chester, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. There is a small mark above the line to the right of the signature.

Special Agent Robert C. Chester, Jr.

EXHIBIT 1

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Ecstasy — The Drug of the 80's?

If LSD was the drug of the '60s, cocaine the drug of the '70s, what's new for the '80s? In L.A. right now, the prime candidate is "Ecstasy," which, devotees say, provides an ecstatic experience through stimulation of neurotransmitters that prompt feelings of empathy in human beings. And it's not illegal — yet.

Underground chemists at work refining the drug — and interested in marketing it as an aphrodisiac — won't reveal its exact chemical identity, but say it is similar to MDM, a close cousin of MDA, once known as the love drug. In formulating Ecstasy, the chemists are relying on the research of pioneer drug designer Alexander Shulgin, one of the scientists interested in determining the exact nature of the effects of lysergic acid on the human nervous system. While studying the

Claudia Kunin



Ecstasy in 1984.

mescaline molecule, Shulgin was able to isolate the mimetic neurotransmitters that enhance colors, and one that enhances sound. The chemists took his research further, and isolated the neurotransmitters prompting empathy.

Reported to enhance the drug-user's capacity for developing relationships, Ecstasy could be an antidote to the Me Generation's embrace of cocaine. "It's the best drug I've ever taken," said one local aficionado. "It's like a mild acid high. You stop at the part where you just feel good, in touch with the universe and loving everything, including yourself."

— On sale wherever fine drug dealers hang out.

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EXHIBIT 2

ASK ABOUT

Ecstasy

A GREAT EXPERIENCE