

on as an investigator in his NIMH-funded study of neuroleptic use with the retarded (*Science*, 29 May, 1987, p. 1057).

Both Ritalin and Dexedrine remain in wide use for clinically diagnosed hyperactive children and, when properly used, the drugs' safety does not seem to be an issue, according to Judith Rapoport, chief of the Child Psychiatry Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health. But the collapse of Breuning's findings does create a "crying need" for more studies to determine the best drugs and dosages for use in mentally retarded hyperactive children, she said.

■ GREGORY BYRNE

Cosmos 1900 Fails Safe

Cosmos 1900, a nuclear-powered Soviet reconnaissance satellite, may have suffered a fortunate malfunction last week. Shortly before the satellite entered the Earth's atmosphere, the reactor separated from the rest of the spacecraft and it was boosted into a high orbit, where it will remain for several centuries. Experts in the West believe that the separation was triggered automatically in response to the failure of one of the satellite's systems.

Normally, ground controllers send a radio signal to trigger the separation and boost mechanisms, but radio contact with Cosmos 1900 was lost before the command was given. Consequently, the satellite has been slowly heading toward reentry complete with its nuclear reactor. This had raised some concern because a previous satellite, Cosmos 954, scattered radioactive debris in northern Canada when it reentered the atmosphere a decade ago.

Last month, American scientists visiting Moscow were told that Cosmos 1900 was equipped with safety systems that would automatically trigger separation of the reactor and boost it into a high orbit if the spacecraft began to wobble, or the reactor lost pressure, or electrical power were disrupted. At that point, however, the spacecraft was working perfectly (*Science*, 23 September, p. 1593). If the spacecraft were to reenter intact, an additional safety mechanism, triggered by heat of friction, should eject the core into the upper atmosphere to assist burnup.

Daniel Hirsch, of the University of California at Santa Cruz, who was one of the scientists briefed by Soviet officials, speculates that the spacecraft may either have run out of attitude control fuel or begun to wobble as it encountered the outer fringes of the atmosphere. ■ COLIN NORMAN

Kingsbury Resigns From NSF

Amid ongoing Justice Department probes of allegations that he worked for a biotechnology company while serving in public office, David T. Kingsbury, assistant director for biological, behavioral, and social sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF), has resigned. Bloch received the 23 September resignation after Justice sent the agency a letter regarding Kingsbury's financial dealings.

Almost a year ago, Bloch called a press conference to say that he had turned the review of possible financial disclosure and conflict-of-interest infractions involving Kingsbury over to the Justice Department (*Science*, 4 November 1987, p. 742). Relying on an agency report on Kingsbury's links to subsidiaries of a London-based biotechnology company, Porton International PLC, Bloch said then "that no immediate administrative action would be appropriate."

Investigations of Kingsbury, who joined NSF as a political appointee in June 1984, were first initiated at the request of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee in April 1987. NSF officials have declined to discuss what the civil division of Justice told Bloch in its letter.

Kingsbury, who is taking a job at George Washington University (GWU), also served as chairman of the White House Biotechnology Science Coordinating Committee (BSCC) until September 1987. In that post he had a central role in shaping broad federal guidelines governing the conduct of recombinant DNA research and the commercialization of biotechnology products. No evidence that has surfaced to date, however, indicates that decisions he made at the BSCC and NSF directly benefited Porton.

Instead, the investigations carried out by Justice's civil and criminal divisions appear to be focused chiefly on Kingsbury's alleged work with Porton's subsidiary, I.G.B. Products, Ltd.. A basic question is whether he violated standards of conduct for federal employees, which require that they avoid business and financial dealings that damage public confidence in the government.

A grand jury also has been examining these issues since June and has been reviewing Porton's corporate records, including:

■ A consulting agreement between I.G.B. Products, Ltd., and Kingsbury, which was dated 24 July 1985 and was to cover a 3-year term ending 31 May 1988. A copy of the agreement obtained by *Science* shows that it provided for Kingsbury to be paid \$22,000 a year in exchange for working a

minimum of 35 hours a month. Actual payment for these services was not to begin until 1 June 1987, the time at which Kingsbury had originally planned to have returned to the company. The agreement was later modified to cut Kingsbury's work load to a minimum of 15 hours a month and to reduce the compensation to \$5000 per annum. Kingsbury claims the agreement was never in force.

■ A payment of \$9201.67 that I.G.B. Products, Ltd., made to Kingsbury on 13 March 1987. Kingsbury told *Science* that the check was a refund for costs incurred for analyses of heart tissue samples performed by a student at George Washington University. Zsolt P. Harsanyi, one of Porton's chief executive officers, however, contends the payment was for consulting services. Kingsbury returned the payment to I.G.B. in the form of a personal check on 22 June 1987—2 months after the House science committee requested an investigation—saying I.G.B. should have sent the money to GWU.

A year ago, on the same day that Bloch reported that he had turned the matter over to the Justice Department, Kingsbury issued a press release stating that he had suspended his relationship with Porton prior to joining NSF. He also said he had not "accepted compensation in any form for consulting services or other services from any company." Since then, Kingsbury has acknowledged serving on I.G.B.'s board of directors.

Documents obtained by *Science* also indicate that Kingsbury's involvement with I.G.B. during his first few years at NSF was substantial. As a director of I.G.B., Kingsbury had authority to approve company expenditures while he was at NSF. This is reflected in company documents enabling him to cosign large checks written on I.G.B. accounts at the Bank of America or the Bank of Woodland in California. Kingsbury told *Science* that the company had failed to remove his signature card from the accounts when he joined NSF, but documents show that he updated his signing authority at the two banks after he began work at NSF. In fact, he cosigned I.G.B.'s 1987 payment of \$9201.67, before endorsing it on the back.

The Kingsbury controversy is expected to result in NSF setting stricter reviews for employees with respect to divulging financial and business relationships that may undermine public confidence in the agency. Congress is also requiring NSF to set up an office of inspector general to act as a watchdog. ■ MARK CRAWFORD