

Interest by Russians Linked to LSD Tests

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 9 (UPI)—Reports that the Soviet Union bought 50 million doses of LSD from a Swiss laboratory touched off a series of United States Army tests with the drug, it was disclosed today.

Documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by lawyers for a former soldier interrogated by the Army with LSD mentioned that the Soviet Union was experimenting with 50 million units it had bought from the Swiss lab.

The documents, however, did not detail Soviet interest in the hallucinatory drug. But they indicated that Russian interest in LSD prompted the Army Intelligence Board and the Chemical Laboratory to begin experiments in 1955.

On Friday, James Thornwell, 40 years old, of Oakland, Calif., said that while he was a soldier in 1961 he was given LSD without his knowledge as part of an army interrogation in Europe that left him psychologically disabled.

According to one document about the United States response to Soviet interests in LSD, the Army gave doses two to four times the normal amount needed for maximum effect.

*See Under CIA, Behavior Control
Operational - Bacteriological
Warfare. Army under both*