

Pentagon Joined CIA In LSD Experiment

EL PASO, Tex. (AP) — A retired U.S. Army general says a Defense Department panel conducted LSD research in the 1950s "collaterally with the CIA undertaking," the El Paso Times reports.

Retired Brig. Gen. S.L.A. Marshall was quoted by the newspaper as saying the Defense Department wanted to determine whether LSD could be used as a weapon, adding that in its gaseous form the drug proved to be a "very effective weapon."

The newspaper said Marshall claimed the subjects of the Pentagon research were "well-informed as to what was being done." He gave no other details on the Pentagon project or how it was related to the CIA operation.

MARSHALL commented yesterday, two days after release of the Rockefeller commission report on the CIA. That report said an Army employe jumped to his death in 1953 after being given the drug without his knowledge.

The commission said the CIA program was designed to show how to counter the effects of the drug in the event it was used against CIA personnel.

Now a military historian, Marshall told the Times that the British were also experimenting with the drug.

Marshall was quoted as saying:

"What has astonished me is that the Rockefeller report and the follow-up thereto makes it appear that the CIA people were wild-eyed and reckless

adventurers doing this thing on their own.

"AT THAT TIME, that is in 1953, there was only one source of the drug the world over — a Swiss pharmaceutical firm was the sole manufacturer of the drug and was for medical use.

"Our government had solid information that the Soviets were taking 60 percent of the world's supply. This was an arresting fact. And people up top wanted to know why.

"Along with our efforts and the CIA research, British authorities, particularly the army, were also going into the question. We had some exchanges of information with the British as we did with the CIA."

The Times reported Marshall said he "was a member of the Department of Defense ad hoc panel charged with doing research collaterally with the CIA undertaking and it was precisely because the literature was so skimpy it could not answer our questions.

"... On our panel, for example, were three of the major psychiatrists of this country and three of the best-known pharmacologists in the nation.

"These individuals brought forward all of the literature they could find on the subject, and it could still not serve the objects that we, as a panel, were seeking."