

U.S. to Pay Family of LSD Victim

Washington

The federal government has agreed to pay \$1.25 million to the family of Frank Olson, a scientist who died in a suicide plunge from a New York hotel 22 years ago after the Central Intelligence Agency gave him LSD without his knowledge, the family's attorney said yesterday.

The attorney, David Rudovsky, said the Ford administration promised the family that the legislation necessary for the payment would have the full support of the Justice Department and the CIA.

The Olsons, who began negotiating with government lawyers

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The scientist's widow, Alice Olson, and their three children

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after President Ford made a personal apology in July, said the government also agreed to give them the complete CIA file on the scientist's death. They said the report would be made public at a future date.

After learning the actual circumstances of the suicide from the Rockefeller commission's report on CIA activities, Olson's widow, Alice W. Olson, and his children, Eric and Nils Olson and Lisa Olson Hayward, residents of Frederick Md., threatened to sue the government for full disclosure of the facts.

Olson, a civilian biochemist employed by the Army, plunged to his death in 1953 from a New York hotel window several days after he was given LSD by the CIA at a resort lodge in western Maryland.

"We have concluded that nothing more can be accomplished by a law suit," the Olsons said in a statement released by Rudovsky. "Indeed, given the long delays and uncertainties of litigation, full relief might not have

been forthcoming, if at all, for several years.

"This case has received much public attention and has helped to focus public concern on the illegal activities of the CIA. Hopefully, our actions will serve not only to compensate our family, but to give support to the current attempt to curb illegal government activity.

"At our meetings with President Ford and CIA Director (William) Colby, the government formally acknowledged that the drug tests which caused Frank Olson's death were illegal and unconscionable.

"Obviously we do not have the power to prevent such intolerable abuse in the future, but we do hope that the actions that we have taken will lessen the chances that other persons will have to suffer such abuses."

Senators Charles Mathias Jr. (Rep-Md.), and J. Glenn Beall Jr. (Rep-Md.) and Representative Goodloe Byron (Dem-Md.), plan to sponsor legislation authorizing the payment, Rudovsky said.

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