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Drugs and Suicide

Washington

The CIA tested LSD and other powerful behavior-modifying drugs on a number of unsuspecting Americans, one of whom later killed himself, the Rockefeller CIA commission reported yesterday.

The report labeled the project "clearly illegal," but said it continued for a decade after the 1953 suicide.

The commission said all records concerning the pro-

gram, a total of 152 files, were ordered destroyed in 1972 and, "All persons directly involved in the early phases of the program were either out of the country and not available for interview or were deceased."

"The commission did learn, however, that on one occasion during the early phases of this program — in 1953 — LSD was administered to an employee of the Department of the Army without his knowledge while

he was attending a meeting of CIA personnel working on the project," the report said.

"Prior to receiving the LSD, the subject had participated in discussions where the testing of such substances on unsuspecting subjects was agreed to in principle," the report said.

"However, this individual was not made aware that he had been given LSD until about 20 minutes after it had been administered," the re-

port said, and added:

"He developed serious side-effects and was sent to New York with a CIA escort for psychiatric treatment. Several days later, he jumped from a tenth-floor window of his room and died as a result."

The identity of the person involved was not disclosed.

The Rockefeller report said the project was undertaken because of reports in the late 1940s that the Soviet

Linked to CIA

Union was experimenting with behavior-influencing drugs and by speculation that such drugs might have been used to obtain confessions in trials for alleged anti-state behavior.

"Great concern over Soviet and North Korean techniques in 'brainwashing' continued to be manifested into the early 1950s," the report said.

It said the drug program was part of a much larger

CIA project to study possible means for altering human behavior.

"Other studies explored the effects of electric shock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology and harassment substances," the report said.

In 1963, the project became the only CIA program ever to be ordered terminated by the agency's inspector general who specifically banned "experiments with behavior-modifying drugs

on unknowing persons," the report said.

Some experiments continued through 1967 with volunteers when all projects involving behavior-influencing drugs were ended.

"It was clearly illegal to test potentially dangerous drugs on unsuspecting United States citizens," the report said. The commission did not specify which laws it thought had been violated.

Associated Press