



CIA Truth Drug Testing By U.S. Agents Revealed

Washington

Federal narcotics officers used experimental truth drugs developed by the CIA to question suspects and test the credibility of informers, CIA documents showed yesterday.

A previously secret CIA inspector general's report said some testing of LSD and other drugs was done by the Bureau of Narcotics, much of it at the California State Medical Facility in Vacaville and the U.S. Drug Treatment Center in Frankfort, Ky.

The report, dated Aug. 14, 1963, was one of 59 secret CIA documents released under the Freedom of Information act. Other memos indicated the testing of drugs on unwitting individuals ended shortly after the CIA inspector general criticized the program as medically unethical and of limited scientific value.

The documents contained no hint that the CIA ever used drug-aided interrogation methods. But the inspector general indicated the Bureau of Narcotics did use the techniques.

"Some subjects have been informers or members of suspect criminal elements from whom the bureau has obtained results of operational value through the tests," the inspector general said.

Then-CIA Director Allen Dulles approved on April 3, 1953, a comprehensive program to test methods of controlling human behavior through drugs, radiation, electron-shock, psychology, psychiatry, sociology, anthropology and harassment substances (such as tear gas), the report said.

The program was known by the code name MKULTRA. Deletions from the censored documents indicated there was another part to the MKULTRA project which remains secret. (MK identified the CIA department involved; Ultra merely stood for the program in question.)

The drug testing program became known to the public for the first time last year in the report of Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's commission on domestic activities of the CIA.

Shortly after the Rockefeller report was issued, John Marks, a former State Department Intelligence officer and co-author of "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," sought records pertaining to the program under the Freedom of Information Act. The documents made public yesterday were in response to Marks' year-old request.

The MKULTRA program grew out of CIA concern that the Soviet Union had developed drugs and

other mind-altering techniques that could be used against U.S. soldiers or intelligence agents.

A CIA memo dated Feb. 10, 1951, said, "The behavior of defendants in Soviet courts and in those of satellite countries, together with the whole pattern of Soviet trial procedure, makes it essential for us to consider Soviet use of drugs, hypnotism, hypno-narco-analysis (combination of drugs and hypnotism), electric and drug shock and possibly the use of ultrasonics (loud noise)."

The purpose of the CIA behavior-bending program was to develop countermeasures for brainwashing and to produce drug-aided questioning methods for possible use by U.S. intelligence services.

Much of the effort apparently centered on LSD; then a relatively unknown drug. At a meeting Oct. 22, 1953, the program's operating committee agreed to buy ten kilograms of LSD, enough to "turn on" as many as 100 million people.

The report of the meeting indicated that one reason for buying so much of the drug—at a cost of \$240,000—was to keep it out of the hands of the Russians or other possible buyers.

But by the time of the 1963 inspector general's report, the pro-



ALLEN DULLES
He approved the program

gram had lost much of its backing within the CIA. The inspector general referred with mild disdain to the "Russian drug scare."

The document indicates that the CIA tested the drugs on volunteers before turning to unwitting individuals.

But the inspector general said the testing was ineffective because Bureau of Narcotics agents were not qualified to make scientific observations.

Most of the files that had been kept were destroyed in late 1973 under orders from then-CIA Director Richard Helms. Helms, who had been in charge of the program earlier in his role as Deputy Director for Plans, left the agency in 1973 to become ambassador to Iran, a post he still holds.

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