

## SUIT LINKS DEATH TO C. I. A. DRUGS

**\$800,000 Asked in Suicide  
of Ex-Marine Colonel**

NORFOLK, Va., May 20 (UPI) — The widow of a retired Marine colonel has sued the Central Intelligence Agency for \$800,000, alleging that he committed suicide as a result of drugs she said had been given to him during a C.I.A. employment interview.

Attorneys for Mrs. Edith W. Christensen, 48 years old, said she and her daughter filed three suits yesterday as a result of the alleged incident.

Mrs. Christensen, of Virginia Beach, charged in suits filed in the United States District Court that the C.I.A. "administered certain drugs" to James R. Christensen, 49, during a job interview in Washington on Jan. 18.

The interview was one of two sessions Mr. Christensen had with C.I.A. officials in an effort to gain employment after his retirement from the Marine Corps, the suit said.

Eight days after the second interview he killed himself with a pistol outside the home of Thomas N. Griffin, a retired Army major general, the suit said.

Mrs. Christensen charged that the C.I.A. administered "drugs or toxic substances" to her husband and was negligent in that it knew, or should have known, "they could and probably would affect him adversely."

Attorneys for the woman and her daughter, Linda Anne, 17, said Mr. Christensen was allergic to the drugs.

In Washington, a C.I.A. spokesman said:

"There is no basis for the charges against the Central Intelligence Agency made by Mrs. Edith W. Christensen and Linda Ann, her daughter. Col. James R. Christensen was interviewed for employment by this agency in January, 1966, but he was never employed and was never on the agency rolls. No drugs or medicines were ever administered to him at any time during his contacts with agency officials."

The attorneys said Mrs. Christensen noticed "a definite change" in her husband following the January session with the C.I.A.

Mrs. Christensen reported her husband was in "a very upset state emotionally and thought people were trying to poison him."

The three suits asked \$500,000 for Mrs. Christensen as administratrix of her husband's estate, \$250,000 for Mrs. Christensen as widow and \$50,000 for the daughter.

In filling out an employment application with the C.I.A., Mr. Christensen had reported "I feel strong and vigorous and have no complaints."

See Washington Post, 24 Jul 75, "Ex-Colonel Thought He Was Drugged at CIA Talks," by Bill Richards.

The "ex-colonel" is James R. Christensen.