

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 1THE WASHINGTON STAR  
16 July 1977

# CIA Admits Wider Drug Tests on Civilians

By Walter Taylor

Washington Star Staff Writer

Secret CIA drug experiments on American civilians may have been more widespread than previously disclosed, Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the intelligence agency, revealed yesterday.

In a letter to Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Turner said an internal CIA investigation has discovered documents suggesting that there were "possible additional cases of drugs being tested on American citizens, without their knowledge" during the 1950s and early 1960s.

The White House made the letter available to reporters late yesterday, but presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell was unable to give much additional information on the nature of the drug experiments beyond what was contained in Turner's letter.

Powell said he was unable to say whether the newly discovered documents revealed any additional deaths or injuries related to the CIA drug experiments.

**TURNER'S LETTER**, which was hand-carried to Inouye on Capitol Hill, said the CIA investigation indicated that individuals on whom the drugs were tested included drug addicts, alcoholics and cancer patients.

Investigations in 1975 by the Senate committee and by a White House commission headed by then-Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller first disclosed a variety of secret drug experiments conducted by the CIA during the 1950s and 1960s and traced a number of deaths to the programs.

Among those who died was an Army researcher who committed sui-

cide after being given LSD without his knowledge and another man who was given mescaline at a New York City mental Hospital. Both of those cases occurred in 1953.

The newly discovered information, according to Turner's letter, bears on a project conducted by the CIA from 1953 to 1964 and known to the agency as "MK-ULTRA."

During the 1975 Senate investigations, at which time Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, was chairman of the panel, the intelligence agency reported that most records of the

super-secret program had been destroyed. Thus, congressional probers were given only sketchy information about the "MK-ULTRA" experiments.

**TURNER TOLD INOUE** that the newly discovered records were turned up by "our continuing search for drug-related, as well as other documents."

The CIA director, who took over the agency just this year as President Carter's appointee, characterized the new material as "primarily of a financial nature."

Although Turner's letter was made public, the White House did not release any of the documents cited in it. Powell said Turner was "still very much in the process" of reviewing the material and as yet had not made any of it available even to Inouye.

Turner stressed in the letter that he did not believe the information had been deliberately withheld from the Senate committee previously.

"Let me hasten to add that I am persuaded that there was no previous attempt to conceal this material in

in the original 1975 exploration," he said. "The material recently discovered was in the retired archives filed under financial accounts and only uncovered by using extraordinary and extensive search efforts."

Turner also renewed assurances by the agency that the activities disclosed by the documents had been discontinued more than a decade ago and "do not take place today."

**BECAUSE THE DOCUMENTS** were of a financial nature, the CIA chief said, they do not present a "complete picture" of the drug-related experiments. He added, however, that they do provide "more detail than was previously available to us."

Beyond the fact that the experiments may have been more widespread than was previous known, Turner said the records also indicate that research on "surreptitious methods" of administering drugs has taken place.

Neither the letter nor Powell shed any light on where the experiments on drug addicts, alcoholics and cancer patients were conducted. Turner said the cancer patients were involved in research involving "knockout" drugs.

Without identifying it, Turner's letter said the records indicate the "possibility" of an "improper payment" to a private institution in connection with the experiments. Briefing reporters, Powell declined even to characterize the type of institution involved.

**POWELL SAID** he anticipated that the Senate committee would want to hold hearings on the newly discovered material, but he said Turner still was examining the information and was not yet ready to testify.

Turner said in his letter he needed time to finish reading the "fairly voluminous material involved" so he could have a "complete picture" when he appeared before the committee.

Powell said the material first came to Turner's attention only last Tuesday. On Thursday, the press secretary said, Turner informed Vice President Walter F. Mondale who, in turn, notified the President, Powell said.

Powell said Mondale also has discussed the matter with Inouye and expressed an administration desire for hearings on the new documents.

Powell cautioned reporters not to attempt to circumstantially link any of the activities cited in Turner's letter to past or present CIA officials or to any previous administrations without further information.

"We certainly do not know at this point about that kind of information," he said.