

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE C-1

Approved For Release 2005/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000300390011-8

BALTIMORE SUN  
19 AUGUST 1977

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C 04401 MKULTRA  
ORGI Johns Hopkins  
UNI.

# CIA informs Hopkins of possible link to tests

By ALBERT SEHLSTEDT, JR.

The Central Intelligence Agency notified the Johns Hopkins University yesterday that it may have been involved in the agency's behavioral modification research and drug experiments in the 1950's and 1960's.

Hopkins was the second Maryland institution, among 80 in the nation, to be so informed by the CIA. The University of Maryland received a similar notification Tuesday.

A College Park official said yesterday the university's involvement had been traced to a 1956 medical school study, costing \$3,750, which may have been aimed at arresting the spread of cancer cells.

The CIA secret project, conducted from 1953 to 1964, was code-named MK-ULTRA and has been described as an "umbrella" operation that apparently covered many kinds of research, including so-called mind-bending experiments and drug tests.

The program was in concert with CIA efforts to perfect certain interrogation techniques, detect use of similar techniques by an enemy and enable the agency to induce amnesia in its own as well as enemy agents.

A spokesman for Johns Hopkins issued

the following statement after receipt of the CIA letter:

"The Johns Hopkins University has received a letter from the Central Intelligence Agency in connection with research designed to identify materials and methods useful in altering human behavior patterns that was sponsored by the agency in the 1950's and 1960's.

"The letter states that Johns Hopkins is included among the institutions at which some portion of this research appears to have been performed, or with which one or more individuals performing some aspect of this research were affiliated.

"The university is studying the letter from the CIA and will have no further comment at this time."

The spokesman said the letter, which appeared to be a form letter, was addressed to Dr. Steven Muller, the Hopkins president. Dr. Muller's office said he was on vacation and "can't be reached."

Dr. Richard S. Ross, dean of the Hopkins medical school, was asked if he knew what the CIA project might have been.

"I really don't," Dr. Ross replied. "You probably know as much about it as I do."

Asked what Hopkins' next step might be, he said he did not know, adding that any future moves would be up to President Muller.

Dr. Ross recalled that he had been at the Hopkins in the 1950's but was unaware of any CIA-sponsored research.

The University of Maryland, with a 46-hour head start on Hopkins, has been in contact with the CIA and has been able to uncover a good deal of information about its involvement with the agency.

Robert G. Smith, the university's vice president for development, said the CIA has told Maryland that in 1956 the department of pharmacology at the School of Medicine had requested support from a "financial source" (not named by the CIA) to begin a study of certain chemical compounds.

It was clear from other documents in CIA hands that the study was related to the effect of camphoric acid derivatives on blood cells, Mr. Smith said.

Possibly, the study was associated with attempts to find a compound that would arrest the spread of cancer cells, but that is speculation, Mr. Smith added.

"It is very clear to me that this project had nothing to do with studies of behavioral modification," he emphasized.

The medical school study was designated sub-project 59. There were 149 sub-projects in the MK-ULTRA program, according to Adm. Stansfield Turner, CIA director, who testified on this matter before a congressional panel August 3.

"I have verified that this project was a one-time thing and did not involve any other organization," Mr. Smith said.

"I have also established that subproject 59 was the only project the university was involved in.

"There is no evidence the project received any significant results or had any value to cancer study or the CIA.

The CIA also said, Mr. Smith reported, that the Maryland medical school and the scientific researcher involved "are completely unwitting of agency interest" in the MK-ULTRA program.

The name of the medical school researcher had been deleted from the CIA's documents, Mr. Smith said.

He said the medical school work was initiated about April of 1956 and was discontinued a year later.

A university financial report, covering a period from April, 1956, to March, 1957, indicates that the university spent most of the \$3,750 on "permanent equipment." Nearly \$2,800 went for equipment.

Only \$400 was used for salaries; \$209 paid for consumable supplies, and \$278 was charged to overhead.

Mr. Smith said the CIA has told Maryland that to the best of the agency's knowledge there is no other university involvement, adding that "I feel comfortable myself" with that conclusion.

Mr. Smith, who has checked other divisions of the university, also said: "I'm satisfied... this is essentially a closed case."

A spokesman for the CIA indicated that many of the institutions involved in MK-ULTRA were doing just the sort of thing that the University of Maryland was involved in, but came under the umbrella designation of MK-ULTRA for accounting purposes.

The CIA is not disclosing the names of the institutions involved in MK-ULTRA, but is leaving that to the discretion of each institution. The agency's notifications of possible involvement have been mailed out over the past week.

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