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Rutgers stands pat on CIA test data

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New Jersey News Service

WASHINGTON — Rutgers University apparently will not press the Central Intelligence Agency for a further accounting of its clandestine "behavior" research that was carried out at the school in 1957.

After receiving formal confirmation of the study, along with supporting documents, from the CIA this week, a Rutgers spokesman said, "Rutgers does not intend to pursue the matter any further at this time."

The CIA program at the university, code named MK-Ultra, came to light last month after Rutgers revealed it had received a letter from the CIA disclosing that it was one of scores of schools around the country that were used for behavior modification research in the 1950s and 1960s.

The CIA subsequently sent financial records and a memorandum to Rutgers at the request of university President Edward J. Bloustein.

The program at Rutgers lasted about a year starting in March, 1957. Titled "Sini Project 69," the research entailed "intensive study designed to throw as much light as possible on the sociology of the Communist system in the throes of revolution," according to a CIA memo dated March 19, 1957.

"The study will involve the interview of Hungarian refugees with the specific aim of collecting background information on the revolutionary setting and on the groups within Hungary who are already known to be particularly

taged within this setting," the memo stated.

The research had a budget of about \$5,000, according to the financial records.

The program was conducted under Richard Stephenson, a sociology professor at Douglass College. He said he had no knowledge that the research was being funded

by the CIA since a cover organization was used.

The name of the cover organization has been deleted from the memorandum.

The CIA documents sent to Bloustein have also been censored to remove names of individuals, organizations and schools that have not been named publicly by the agency.