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CIA Phone Listing Has a Curious Ring

By Michael Unger

The listing in the current Manhattan telephone book seems innocuous enough: "Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology Inc., 71-58 Austin St., Forest Hills, BO 8-4500."

The society, knowledgeable congressional sources now say, was one of the Central Intelligence Agency's major "fronts" that funneled millions of dollars to university scientists for mind-control experiments, some on unknowing subjects, during the 1950s and 1960s.

Operating out of apartment 207 in a four-story walkup near the West Side Tennis Club, the society was one of two or three top CIA conduits directing behavior-control and brainwashing research using LSD and other drugs under the code name MK-ULTRA, the sources said. The mind-control experiments and the CIA cover agencies that ran them are now the subject of a congressional investigation, as well as the concern of a number of the nation's most prestigious universities such as Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, MIT, Stanford, Ohio State, Pennsylvania, Penn State, Maryland, Georgetown, George Washington and Rutgers, where the CIA has said some of the research was conducted.

The society with the benevolent-sounding name supposedly was disbanded in 1965, the sources said, after changing its name to the Human Ecology Fund and moving first to Manhattan and then to Washington.

But why does an organization that is no longer supposed to exist have a current listing in the white-pages of the Manhattan directory? That's a mystery to everybody—including some of the people formerly associated with the society.

"It comes as a great shock, I didn't know that," said Dr. Lawrence B. Hinkle Jr. of New Canaan, Conn., who said last night that he and some associates at Cornell University Medical Center had helped to found the society "in 1953-54 at the request of Mr. Dulles and other senior officials of the federal government" to study legitimate brainwashing techniques.

In an interview yesterday, Hinkle said that toward the end of the Korean War, the late CIA director Allen W. Dulles had become concerned that the Chinese and Russians had discovered highly-developed brainwashing techniques. Dulles asked a friend at Cornell, the late Dr. Harold Wolff, to organize a group of researchers and associates, including Hinkle, to conduct research on brainwashing.

"No drug experiments were ever done at Cornell or New York Hospital," Hinkle said. "We had no part in the whole drug business. Dr. Wolff, who died in 1962, was the senior man. The society was a corporation organized at the request of Mr. Dulles and his people in order to protect their identity. The CIA started it. This corporation belonged to the federal government from the very beginning. Harold Wolff and I already had a human ecology program at New York Hospital, and we were going to get this extra money. So I told him why not have a Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology? That is why it got its name. If I had known that Rachel Carson was going to write 'Silent Spring' [which popularized the word ecology and triggered the environmental movement] I would have thought

of a different term." In 1956, Hinkle said, he and his colleagues finished their brainwashing studies and they were published in the Congressional Record. "As far as we were concerned our job was done." Then, Hinkle said, an Air Force colonel, James L. Monroe, "came aboard as executive director about the time of the Hungarian Revolution. When the proposal was made to send Jim Monroe up and organize this thing in a different way, there was very serious objection on our part at Cornell because it cast all sorts of doubts on very serious research. It was suggested to us that it would be a desirable thing if this mechanism that had been set up [the society] would be used to mobilize other scientific resources in support of the CIA. At this point I and others demurred. These people were involved in all sorts of things, so we just quietly resigned."

"Now, Harold Wolff had a commitment to this, a personal one [Dulles], and he remained. They moved to Forest Hills, and I remember visiting there, and I knew Jim Monroe and these people."

One of the people he remembers seeing there is Estelle Brodsky, who still lives in an apartment at 71-50 Austin St. in Forest Hills close to where the society was located at 71-58. The buildings are owned by the same company, according to the superintendent of both buildings. "I was about 18 at the time," Mrs. Brodsky said, "and at \$75 a week, who were they going to hire?"