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CIA paid 'U' for hypnotic testing

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The University of Minnesota behavioral research that was secretly financed by the CIA during the 1950s involved experiments in hypnotism, according to CIA documents.

University of Minnesota President C. Peter Magrath this week received about 60 pages of correspondence and receipts, released by the CIA, detailing research conducted by one or two faculty members in 1953 and 1954 with funds totaling about \$12,000.

The names of faculty members associated with the research were deleted from the documents, and university officials were uncertain Wednesday as to who might have been involved.

The documents, which Magrath plans to publicly release today, describe about 10 different experiments, including one that determined how 10 volunteers behaved under hypnotically induced anxiety and stress.

Other experiments reportedly dealt with ways to increase an individual's ability to learn and recall complicated written material or to recall complex arrangements of physical objects. One experiment examined the relationship between an individual's personality and his susceptibility to hypnosis.

"There's not that much that's really sexy in this," said one university official who had reviewed the documents.

Last month, the CIA informed the university that it was among about 80 private and public institutions throughout the country that knowingly or unwittingly had conducted research during the 1950s and 1960s financed by the CIA's secret MK-ULTRA behavioral research program.

Much of the MK-ULTRA research involved the controversial use of hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD, which prompted some to speculate that CIA funds might have been used for some of the LSD research conducted at the university between 1964 and 1969.

Anthony Potami, director of the university office of research administration, said yesterday he has nothing on file to indicate who might have received the CIA funds. "It's tough to go back that far to any records," Potami said. "The university just didn't maintain listings then like we have today. Most of the old files were tossed."

The university, which now has a policy forbidding its faculty to conduct classified research, recently approved a modest purchase-of-service contract with the CIA.

Under the contract, the CIA will pay the university about \$2,000 for assistance in a biomedical research project, according to Potami. Dr. Glen Brudvig, head of the medical school's biomedical library, is the chief researcher involved.