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Executive Registry
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12 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Public Affairs

FROM: Executive Assistant to the DDCI

George,

John was very pleased with the attached and believes it is right on the mark. He would like you to distribute it to the Deputy Directors, Executive Director, etc., and advise them that all Agency employees on the speaking circuit should draw from this text when responding to queries on MKULTRA. I would assume that you would also provide it to any Agency employees coming to you for guidance before going out on the speaking circuit.



25X

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION

- Orig w/Atch - Addressee
- 2 - O/DDCI
- 1 - ER File

DCI
EXEC
REG

STATEMENT ON MKULTRA

Because of reports that the Soviet Union may have developed the capability to affect human behavior through the use of drugs, the Agency initiated a program of research in this area called MKULTRA which continued from 1953 to 1964. Much of this research, which principally involved the use of LSD, was conducted at well-known institutions under the control and direction of researchers at, and to the standards of, those institutions. The research and its results were generally unclassified and published in the normal manner by such institutions. Other MKULTRA research was performed in a questionable manner: research and tests were conducted on individuals who were not witting that they were the subjects of a research program and that they were being given a drug. This unwitting testing generally took place in social situations among friends and acquaintances of the researcher. When questions were raised within the Agency about this program, it was discontinued and its nature and termination were reported to our then Congressional overseers. Public attention was later drawn to the program in the 1975 Rockefeller Commission Report and in the Church Committee hearings in 1977. Safeguards were subsequently promulgated through Presidential Executive Orders and are strictly adhered to. The current Presidential Executive Order, 12333, provides guidelines for the effective conduct of U.S. intelligence activities and the protection of constitutional rights. It requires that research

which might be conducted involving humans be subject to Health, Education and Welfare promulgated guidelines and that the subjects' informed consent be documented in accordance with those guidelines.