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# UD prof helped CIA 'mind-control' program

By JOE TRENTO

On a hot July night in 1977, James Jesus Angleton, the retired director of counterintelligence for the Central Intelligence Agency, confided a secret to a dinner companion from Delaware.

Leaning over his broiled fish at Duke Zeibert's Washington restaurant, Angleton told his guest:

"Within two weeks word will come out that a program ostensibly under me, called MKULTRA, used unwitting human guinea pigs. We used it to develop mind-control drugs. I wanted a reliable truth serum out of it. None of it worked and it cost millions."

Little did Angleton's dinner guest realize that the furor would reach Delaware because Dr. James A. Moore had been conducting such work on the Newark campus of the University of Delaware.

Just a few weeks after Angleton's conversation, CIA Director Stansfield Turner was confronted with the problem. On Aug. 3, 1977, six file boxes had turned up with documents relating to the funding of the top-secret, 25-year-old MKULTRA mind-control program.

The program had been run largely out of the office of Richard M. Helms, an agency career man, who in 1973 would go from the post of director of central intelligence to Iran as U.S. ambassador.

What became public knowledge is that Helms ordered the destruction of all files in the MKULTRA program, but somehow six vital cartons were ignored. The boxes, in storage at Suitland, Md., had been turned up by a low-level clerk who indexed them into the main CIA computer, called "Octopus."

Once it was in the computer and declassified under the Freedom of Information Act, there would be no practical way for the CIA to hide a program that once involved 86 universities, 15 private medical foundations and more than a dozen hospitals.

On Aug. 11, 1977, Turner sent letters to the heads of the institutions involved. In that mailing was a letter to Edward Arthur Trabant, president of the University of Delaware.

The letter from Anthony A. Lapham, a CIA lawyer, told the university president that information connecting the school with CIA research money could become public through the Freedom of Information Act.

What Lapham's letter did not say, and what Trabant and his colleagues at other schools would soon learn, was that the CIA used these institutions to develop untested mind-control compounds that would be given to unwitting victims, used as agency-guinea pigs.

Some of the victims would be used for sexual experimentation. Other unknowing subjects would be "treated" using bizarre psychiatric means. Several would kill themselves, and their families would never be given an explanation as to the real reason. As Angleton had said, more than a dozen unwitting victims of the program went insane, and an unknown number of other experimental subjects suffered varying degrees of mental damage.

There is no evidence any tests on humans were conducted at Delaware. The work on the Newark campus was apparently confined to the laboratories.

MKULTRA traces its history to the CIA's World War II predecessor, the Office of Strategic Services. The program took on a new level of seriousness in 1953 after "brainwashed" American prisoners of war denounced the United States from Red Chinese prison camps. It was then that CIA Director Allen Dulles ordered his up-and-coming aide, Richard Helms, to find a way to use mind control to the CIA's own advantage.

To do that, Helms recruited Sidney Gottlieb, who has a doctorate in chemistry and who, when confronted in 1973 by the Senate committee investigating the MKULTRA program, asked for

Gottlieb, brandishing large amounts of CIA research money, began to put together a network of scientists to devise a chemical means of gaining control of the human mind. Under this tough-minded scientist, now turned CIA operative, the finest minds in their disciplines were to be recruited to turn CIA-picked targets into "The Manchurian Candidate."

The fictional character of the book of that name, played in the film of two decades ago by Laurence Harvey, had been an American POW and was programmed by the Red Chinese to go home and commit political murder on command.

For nearly 10 years scientists produced drugs that had the capability of causing people's minds to be altered — drugs that are, according to the Senate hearings on MKULTRA, far more powerful than the hallucinogens popular in the 1960s' counterculture.

One of those brilliant minds, James A. Moore, then 29, was destined to carry on the search for the CIA into mind-control drugs from natural substances.

Moore was contacted by the CIA's liaison with the scientific community, Henry Bortner, through Moore's boss at Parke, Davis and Co. Moore had just returned from a year of postdoctoral research at the University of Basel in Switzerland. In March 1953, Moore's boss, Leon Sweet, asked him if he would be interested in being underwritten at Parke Davis with a CIA contract.

Prior to attending the University of Basel, Moore had received graduate degrees from Purdue University in Indiana and Pennsylvania State University and attended undergraduate school at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa.

In an interview last week Moore explained that "those were not particularly prosperous times, and the company was glad to get someone else to pay my salary (\$3,000 a year)."