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## C.I.A. Tried to Unlock Minds of Sexual Psychopaths In a Michigan Hospital With LSD, Documents Show

The following article was reported by Nicholas M. Horrock and Joseph B. Treaster. It was written by Mr. Horrock.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4—Some 142 "sexual psychopaths" at the Iona State Hospital in Michigan were given LSD and a marijuana derivative to see whether the substances would unlock their most secret thoughts in an experiment sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency, according to documents reviewed today.

The agency's intention, the documents said, was "to exploit the research potential that is represented by 142 criminal sexual psychopaths." The document added, "It is thought these individuals have the kind of motivation for withholding certain information that is comparable to operational interrogation situations in the field."

There is no evidence in the documents that either the intelligence agency or the researchers obtained the informed consent of the subjects of these experiments.

The Iona experiment is part of a pattern of agency research in behavior control uncovered by a group of New York Times reporters after a survey of nearly 3,000 C.I.A. documents and interviews with medical researchers, scientists, state and local officials and intelligence officers.

### Hidden Correspondence

The experiments were conducted from 1957 to 1960 at Michigan's hospital for the criminally insane at Iona, a rural town west of Detroit. The subjects were apparently selected from the files of the Detroit Recorder's Court psychiatric clinic. Indications are that state judges were informed about the intelligence agency's interest in the tests.

This test was apparently begun nearly four years after an Army biochemist committed suicide after being administered LSD in a C.I.A. experiment.

The project manager, who corresponded

with the C.I.A. through double envelopes using a pseudonym, apparently was Dr. Alex Canty, a psychologist associated with the court clinic. His son, Dr. Alex Canty Jr., said his father had been involved in an experiment with the agency.

The actual research, the documents said, was conducted by Drs. "Cook," "Haarer" and "Robertson." According to officials of Michigan's Department of Mental Health, Dr. John Cook and Dr. Perry Robertson are dead. Dr. John G. Haarer lives in Florida and could not be reached for comment.

The documents showed that experiments were ostensibly funded by the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology Inc. But that was a conduit for intelligence agency money supposedly to "discover new methods of attacking the growing problem of criminality—with particular emphasis on care and treatment of the sexually disturbed offender."

### Purpose of Experiment

But within C.I.A., the documents showed, officials knew the experiment was designed "to test the effectiveness of certain medication in causing individuals to release guarded information under interrogation."

The documents indicate that at one point a state commission became concerned about the types of drugs being used and at another point an agency official found one doctor's description of the hypnosis portions of the experiments "mildly hair-raising."

At that point in Michigan, there were many inmates at Iona who had been put there without trial. The Supreme Court later overturned Michigan's criminally insane law and some of Iona's patients went free.

According to the documents, the subjects were given drugs and then interrogated by teams of doctors that included psychiatrists and psychologists while a

tape recording was made of the session. There was also use of a lie detector test.

In another project, uncovered in 3,000 documents recently discovered by the C.I.A., the agency exploded liquid-filled glass models of heads and human cadavers in an attempt to test the levels of brain concussion.

Although the documents were heavily edited, it appeared that the agency was testing not only brain concussion levels, but also brainwashing techniques.

In other experiments that did not involve living human beings, the agency tested a blackjack shaped like a pancake, an air gun that shot a small sack filled with lead shot and a soft pad that exploded when it came in contact with the body.

In another experiment it tested a sound wave so forceful that only a minute blast of sound could cause concussion.

One "immunity" to brain concussion suggested in the documents was to inject a small quantity of gas, "possibly" one cubic centimeter, into the spinal cord. The gas, the documents suggested, would "immigrate" to the brain and prevent brain concussion.