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COURT WIDENS SCOPE OF CIA INQUIRY  
WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court today widened the scope of its inquiry into whether the Central Intelligence Agency may be forced in some cases to reveal its intelligence sources.

The court granted an appeal by members of the Ralph Nader group Public Citizen challenging the CIA's authority to withhold the names of universities where researchers took part in a notorious program in the 1950s and 1960s involving brainwashing and experimental drugs.

On March 5, the justices granted a government appeal and promised to review a federal appeals court ruling that the CIA may not refuse automatically to disclose the names of researchers involved in the program, code named MKULTRA.

The appeals court here, in the same ruling, allowed the CIA to withhold the names of the universities.

Public Citizen members John C. Sims, a lawyer, and Dr. Sidney M. Wolfe, a physician, asked the Supreme Court to permit disclosure of the universities.

Sims and Wolfe are seeking under the Freedom of Information Act both the names of the institutions and researchers to help them discover the scope of MKULTRA experimentation, the effects of the drugs used and the names of the people who were used as subjects.

Some individuals were given LSD and other drugs without their knowledge in the research program. At least two persons died because of the experiments.

The CIA contends that it promised confidentiality to the researchers, and that forcing the agency to reveal their names may threaten other intelligence sources.

MKULTRA was investigated by a congressional committee and a presidential commission in the mid-1970s, exposing numerous alleged abuses.