

3 January 1978

U may have done 1950s CIA truth serum study

By JANE BEDNAR

A University researcher may have performed truth serum experiments for the CIA during the 1950s, although recently released CIA documents on the project are inconclusive.

The documents, released to the University in December, describe CIA efforts to engage a University anesthesiologist in research for the CIA project ARTICHOKE, which involved the use of narco-analysis, or "truth serum," on criminal suspects.

However, all names of people and places have been blacked out of the documents and it is not clear whether the anesthesiologist actually performed the experiments.

The project was the predecessor to MKULTRA, a CIA behavioral drug research project conducted during the 1950s and '60s. That project employed University researchers who performed hypnosis experiments.

Sixteen pages of the ARTICHOKE documents are a transcript of an interview between the anesthesiologist and a CIA employee about the possibility of performing narco-analysis research at the University. Researchers at four other universities also were contacted.

In the interview, the anesthesiologist indicated he was willing to do the research but did not want to work co-

vertly for the CIA. "I would prefer to have this association known to (blank) and (blank) and a few others since this would greatly facilitate the work," the transcript reads.

"Money is no objective," the anesthesiologist added. "I would work at any reasonable basis."

The anesthesiologist apparently already was engaged in narco-analysis research at the University. He states, "Hanscom and I have worked on one actual case. This case we regarded as unsuccessful and very rare since the subject was totally negativistic."

The name inadvertently left in the transcript is that of C.B. Hanscom, former director of the University

Police Department. Hanscom in the 1950s was involved in research for Minnesota police departments that involved use of chemicals and lie-detectors in interrogating criminal suspects.

However, Hanscom has denied that he did any work for the CIA.

None of the anesthesiologist's immediate associates were involved in narco-analysis research, according to the transcript. "In fact, some of them doubt the real value of it," he states. "They believe that the only interests of concern to me are police-type interests."

A section detailing the anesthesiologist's connections with Minneapo-

lis police and other state police departments has been blacked out of the documents.

The documents were discovered during a review of CIA records by that agency. The review was begun after MKULTRA records were discovered last summer.

"The discomfiting prospect of your receiving an endless series of these letters is an unlikely one since there is no reason to believe that any large amount of material of this nature remains undiscovered," CIA assistant general counsel A.R. Cinquegrana assured University President C. Peter Magrath in a letter attached to the documents.