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# Turner pledges to try to find and assist victims of CIA's secret drug experiments

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Washington—Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, yesterday pledged to try to inform and "assist" all identifiable victims of the human guinea-pig program the agency secretly carried out in 80 institutions during the 1950's and early 1960's.

Admiral Turner was unable to give any indication of the number of citizens used wittingly or unwittingly, during the 11-year-long series of behavior-control experiments, but Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.) observed during a Senate hearing on the scandal that it could be "considerable."

The CIA director confirmed that 185 nongovernment specialists had participated in the behavior-control project known as MK-ULTRA, which involved drug and other experiments.

Admiral Turner, testifying before the panel, said no similar mind-bending programs were now being conducted by the agency and added that, if ever he discovered any, "heads would roll."

"It is totally abhorrent to me to think of using a human being as a guinea pig and in any way jeopardizing his life and health, no matter how great the cause," he said.

"I am not here to pass judgment on my predecessors, but I can assure you this is totally beyond the pale of my contemplation of what the CIA or any other of our intelligence agencies should undertake," he told members at a joint hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a health subcommittee. Admiral Turner volunteered to testify after the recent discovery of 8,000 pages of records in the CIA archives relating to the behavior modification project, which ran from 1953 to 1964.

The program was aimed at enabling the CIA to perfect interrogation techniques, detect use of similar techniques by the enemy and enable it to induce amnesia in its own as well as enemy agents.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D., Hawaii), chairman of the intelligence committee, called it a "grandiose and sinister project," while Senator Kennedy, chairman of the health subcommittee, accused the CIA of "perversion and corruption" of many U.S. institutions and researchers.

Senator Kennedy said "any number of people" could still be walking around "with all kinds of physical and psychological damage" after being subjected to the experiments, some of which were carried

on at secret "safe" houses maintained by the CIA in New York and San Francisco.

Senator Inouye asked Admiral Turner to give the committee a progress report in three months on the agency's efforts to identify and notify victims of the experiments and to "assist them, monetarily or otherwise."

The CIA director yesterday presented the committee with a still-classified list of all the institutions, which included hospitals, prisons, universities and research laboratories, recruited—many of them unknowingly—for the MK-ULTRA program consisting of 149 subprojects.

At least six of these projects, and possibly 19 others, involved tests on unwitting subjects. These were mainly carried out in the "safe" houses and involved the administration of drugs such as LSD to subjects frequently picked up in bars.

Prostitutes were recruited, but the records did not specify their services, although there were a series of \$100 payments to unidentified recipients for "entertaining and administering."

At least one victim of the CIA drug experiments, a civilian Army employee at Fort Detrick, committed suicide by leaping to his death from a New York hotel room a week after having unwittingly consumed LSD.

Experiments were carried out on criminal sexual psychopaths in one state hospital (at least 12 hospitals were used during the program) and on terminal cancer patients in another.

The CIA made a \$375,000 contribution, masked as a private donation which qualified for matching federal funds for the construction of a private medical institution. This secured use of one-sixth of the facility for CIA biochemical experiments and provided legitimate cover for their own technicians.

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