



Notes from the Director

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DRUG RESEARCH

New publicity regarding the Agency's role in drug research projects has begun to appear.

It is based upon some 16,000 pages of documents released under the Freedom of Information Act. All this will undoubtedly raise new questions about the role of the Agency in behavioral research programs. While a point-by-point refutation of this material is impractical, I would like to put the entire matter in a proper context for the benefit of Agency employees and describe the status of any Agency activities in that area.

We know that there were improprieties during these tests in an earlier era. But we have provided all the evidence we found to proper authorities and the public. It is important to understand that CIA was primarily interested in the results of research initiated and sponsored by other organizations and conducted in accordance with professional and ethical standards applicable to the particular circumstances at the time. We have found no evidence that CIA exerted undue influence on such organizations or attempted in any way to coerce institutions to undertake research they might not otherwise have undertaken. Insofar as we are able to tell from our records, many of the studies supported by CIA were carried out openly and the results in many cases were published. The only classified feature of these research programs was the fact that CIA was the source of funds.

In 1975 the Church Committee was provided all documents and records concerning human behavioral research supported by the Agency which were known at that time. When additional records were discovered in 1977, I directed that these materials be provided to the SSCI and reviewed the entire matter in open session before that Committee and the Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research in August and September 1977. Moreover, I made a commitment at that time to make every effort to seek out and notify individuals who may have suffered some harm as a result of having been the subjects of drug research without their knowledge. Based on that commitment, there has been an ongoing program in the Agency to research available materials and determine how best to go about attempting to identify and notify such individuals.