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STATEMENT ON MKULTRA

Because of events in the 1940's and early 1950's, including operational reports and Soviet show trials involving Cardinal Mindzenty and others, the Soviet Union was believed to have developed the capability to affect human behavior through the use of drugs. To obtain information on the use of chemical and biological substances and methods to counter the use of behavior influencing drugs, the Agency conducted an "umbrella project" under which various subprojects were funded. This umbrella project, which was called MKULTRA, continued from 1953 through 1964. Much of the research, only a portion of which involved LSD, was conducted at well-known institutions under the control and direction of researchers at, and in conformance to the standards of, those institutions. The research and its results were generally unclassified and published in the normal manner by those researchers.

In only three instances was research performed in a manner which would raise questions regarding its ethical/moral propriety. The questionable subprojects involved the use of individuals who were not aware that they were the subjects of a research program or that they were being given a drug. This unwitting testing is believed to have taken place in social situations among friends and acquaintances of the researcher. In 1963, after questions were raised within the Agency by the Inspector General about the propriety of these subprojects, they were discontinued.

Between 1963 and 1967 some testing of drugs continued, but only on voluntary subjects. In 1967 all projects involving behavior influencing drugs were terminated. Safeguards were subsequently promulgated through Presidential Executive Orders which have been strictly followed. The current Presidential Executive Order, E.O. 12333, provides guidelines for the effective conduct of U.S. intelligence activities and the protection of constitutional rights. It requires that research which might be conducted involving humans be subject to Health, Education and Welfare promulgated guidelines, and that the subjects' informed consent be documented in accordance with those guidelines.