



THE BLACK VAULT

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31 July 1975

(4)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: File Review

1. The undersigned has reviewed three folders labeled] These folders contain reports and miscellaneous correspondence pertaining to a classified contract between the Agency and the National Institute of Mental Health, U.S. Public Health Service. Under this contract the NIMH conducted tests of various hallucinogenic drugs including LSD. The stated purpose of the experiments was "to find synthetic analgesic and antitussive drugs which are as safe or safer than codeine." The file indicates this work was initiated by the Department of Defense prior to 1951 and continued under Agency sponsorship from 1951-52 through 1962. Funds were initially transferred through the Office of Naval Research and presumably this mechanism was used throughout the contracting period. Funds involved varied between

2. Actual testing of the drugs was performed by NIMH personnel at the National Institute of Mental Health, Addiction Research Center, Lexington, Kentucky. According to documents in the file, testing was accomplished on animals and human volunteers. The file indicates that the human volunteers were patients at the facility in Lexington. The Agency project renewal states that the tests "are accepted as standards for legal action by the Committee on Drug Addiction and Narcotics, National Research Council". There is no indication in the files that testing was done on unwitting humans.

3. The file does not indicate what use the Agency made of the results of the project. A report entitled "Final Progress REport" is contained in file folder #3. This report summarizes the results of the project through 1962 and states that the project will continue with NIMH financing. The report states that the goals of the project were realized. Among the results were the discovery of two useful analgesics (Darvon and Versidyne) and an antitussive (Romilar) as well as a number of other drugs which may offer a substitute for codeine.