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6 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT : Project OFTEN

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to document to the best of my knowledge the activities associated with Project OFTEN. I am writing this at the request of Mr. Deputy Inspector General. I am writing it at this point in time because (a) in a recent telephone conversation with the Office of [redacted] it became apparent that there is very little written information available on the project; (b) all of the key people associated with the project are no longer with the Agency; (c) I am resigning from the Central Intelligence Agency on 11 May 1974. I hope this memorandum and attachments will never be needed, but I believe it is in the interest of CIA to have the following information documented in case it should be required.

2. The project dealt with the behavioral effects of chemical compounds (drugs) on humans. Numerous sources of compounds and data bases were used including private industry, other U. S. Government agencies, and foreign sources. An entire research cycle was set up, from the discovery of new compounds or the development of hybrids, to animal screening, to clinical (human) testing. Numerous data bases were acquired to help refine our search for candidate compounds.

3. The following activities were conducted with the Edgewood Arsenal, Edgewood, Maryland. We obtained a large data base from them containing their animal toxicity screen data. They supplied U. S. Army volunteers for testing of our candidate compounds. We transferred funds to them for their efforts. As a result of this testing something called the "Boomer" was developed. After the project was cancelled one more data base was received containing their clinical data on humans. As the project had been cancelled this data base was not exploited but remained in storage. At a recent request of [redacted] I visited the [redacted] Building to help them determine

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the nature of all the stored computer data relating to the project. Upon examining a listing of the clinical data it became evident that the volunteers' names were incorporated in the data base. If the data base contains all of the information described on the forms used by the doctors at Edgewood, it seems this data base could be a severe invasion of privacy of these volunteers. One form, the biographical one, comes to mind immediately. This form contains questions about the volunteers' sex life, alcohol and drug use, parents' family life, and numerous personal questions. I believe the volunteers never intended for this information to leave the control of the U.S. Army. It should be noted that (to the best of my knowledge) [redacted] had no knowledge of the sensitivity of this data base until very recently since the data base was not being exploited. We also obtained their Wiswesser Line Notation (WLN) data base which contained the WLN notation for the compounds they have researched.

4. The following activities were conducted with [redacted]. They did all of the benchwork of animal screening. They took the candidate compounds and ran them through a series of screens on such animals as mice, rats, cats, and monkeys. It was a result of these screens that determined whether to go ahead with further testing in human Edgewood volunteers. It was also through this contractor that funds were used to pay university professors when needed.

5. Several contractual agreements were made with private industry to receive new compounds of possible interest to CIA. These companies include

[redacted] and a few other organizations whose names I cannot remember. Numerous compounds were received from these organizations and the results of the screens, in the form of computer reports, were returned to the sources of the compounds. This was a delicate process because some of the compounds were under patent consideration by their companies. Several foreign sources were also used but I did not have access to which ones.

6. An effort was also put forth to develop our own WLN data base. Assistance was received from experts at Edgewood Arsenal and Fort Dietrich.

7. It was my belief that the project had three primary operational purposes. First, it was hoped that new compounds could be derived that could be used offensively. An example would be to come up with a compound that could simulate a heart attack or a stroke in the targetted individual, or perhaps a new hallucinogen to cause the targetted individual to act bizarrely. Second, it was hoped that blockers or even immunizations could be developed for known drugs. Although this would be mainly for use by our people in hostile environments, any progress along these lines certainly would have been welcomed by conventional drug related agencies. Third, it was my understanding that we would use profiles of volunteers who had received known drugs for comparative analysis. For example, if one of our people suddenly started acting peculiarly, a profile of his actions could be run through the data base to see if his particular combination of actions matched any known drug profiles. In addition to these three operational goals, other work was being done on a permuted search capability of the WLN data base. There were also plans to develop a file of all known Soviet research in the drug area. The basis for my understanding of these goals was direct conversations with the division chief who had control over the project, the project officer who was running the project, and discussions at which I was present. To my knowledge only one compound was ever perfected. I have no knowledge of it or any other compound being used operationally.

8. I am also attaching a series of Activity Report forms I used over the years to document the progress of my efforts. While these forms represent only my participation in the project, I believe they do give precise information as to the who, when, and where of many of the activities that were involved.

9. If this memorandum or its attachments should raise further questions, I would be happy to assist in any way to get the required answers. However, as I previously mentioned I will be leaving the Agency on 11 May 1974. If I do not receive any queries during this time, I will assume this memorandum and attachments were sufficient so that the Agency will not be caught by any surprises from this project in the future.

Attachments: 2/s

6 May 1974

Date

MEMO

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