

Washington, D.C. 20505

10 JAN 1979

The Honorable Griffin B. Bell
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Griffin:

Since the receipt last fall of the opinion of your Department that there is a duty on the part of the Government to seek out and notify persons who may have been harmed as a result of their having been used as unwitting subjects of drug experimentation in the CIA sponsored MKULTRA program we have undertaken a thorough review of our surviving records. We have confirmed earlier findings that no subjects of drug experimentation are identified in the available files, and we have addressed correspondence to researchers and former employees considered most likely to be helpful. In addition, we have addressed a letter to Secretary Califano requesting his assistance in evaluating substances used to determine their potential for having caused harmful long term aftereffects. Your assistance also is solicited.

As nearly as we can determine from records available, the CIA and the Bureau of Narcotics engaged in an operation of joint interest to the two agencies that may in some way have involved the administration of drugs to human subjects without their knowledge in safehouses in New York City and San Francisco. Exactly what took place in these facilities has not been determined, and neither our records nor the records of the Bureau of Narcotics (Drug Enforcement Administration) disclose any information that is useful in attempting to establish the purposes to which they were put by CIA, or in identifying persons who might have visited them for whatever purpose. Moreover, testimony before the Congress in the fall of 1977 by former employees of CIA and the Bureau of Narcotics revealed a distressing failure of recollections about CIA use of safehouses. The question of how the Bureau of Narcotics used them was never raised. While fragmentary records and amnesic recollections may render well nigh impossible the task of reconstructing the uses to which the safehouses were put by either Agency, and identifying any unwitting subjects there may have been, I consider it nonetheless incumbent upon us to make every reasonable effort to do so.

Approved for Release
Date JAN 2000

The only avenue of investigation that suggests itself immediately is through correspondence perhaps leading to interview with surviving former or current employees who may have some reliable recollection about the uses made of these safehouses by Bureau of Narcotics or CIA personnel. If you agree that such an approach is reasonable, I would like to request that someone be designated to work in concert with a representative of CIA to pursue this avenue of investigation as expeditiously as possible.

For your information, we sent a letter to the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in August 1977 notifying him that the Bureau of Narcotics had been involved with the MKULTRA Program. Copies of relevant CIA documents were furnished for review to a representative of the Drug Enforcement Administration in September 1977 and returned to CIA in March 1978. The purpose of the notification and review was to determine whether the Drug Enforcement Administration wanted CIA to continue protecting the identity of the Bureau of Narcotics against disclosure to the public.

Any assistance you may feel you can give in this matter will be appreciated.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER