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12 FEB 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report/Edgewood Arsenal

1. On 6 February 1975 we visited Edgewood Arsenal Research Laboratories (EARL) for the purpose of clarifying the nature and extent of work conducted by Edgewood for the Agency under Project AD21, Task 03 (U.S. Army designator). Certain details of this work are not well documented in existing Agency files, and all personnel directly involved with the research have subsequently left the Agency. The research in question, a part of project OFTEN, was carried out between February 1971 and January 1973. Agency records indicate that EARL was requested to cease work on this project on 4 January 1973 and that charges ceased to be made against the contract after the January-April quarter in 1973. Although \$37,000 was originally allocated, the program had expended \$27,852 at the time of termination.

2. We met in Dr. Van Sim's office, with Dr. Sim, Dr. Bob Ellin, and Mr. Don Maxwell, all of Edgewood. The gist of our discussion is as follows. Previous work at Edgewood (not sponsored by the Agency) had involved administration of a substance known as EA3167 to military and prisoner volunteer subjects. In these studies, oral administration of EA3167 had resulted in delirium and other psychotic behavior lasting three or four days with subsequent amnesia. There were residual effects lasting up to six weeks. Dr. Van Sim was positive that no work on human subjects was performed under the contract with the Agency. He indicated that ultimately testing on human subjects would have been a natural conclusion of this research. However, the project was terminated prior to the establishment of the necessary prerequisite analytical and animal experimentation.

3. The purpose of the Agency-funded research was to investigate the potential transmissibility of EA3167 via contact with the skin, from both applications and threat assessment standpoints, since it was known that the Soviets were actively working with similar compounds. Three tasks were conducted for the Agency concerning:

a. Development of analytic methods for detecting low concentrations of EA3167.

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b. Estimation of the fraction of EA3167 transferred from various sized spots of the chemical to rabbit skin.

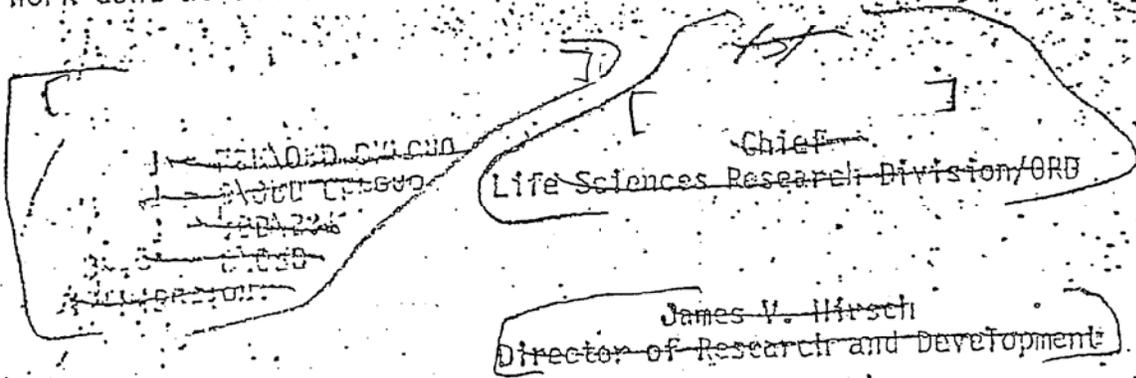
c. Synthesis of radio-labeled EA3167.

4. Development of a satisfactory analytic technique for EA3167 was never achieved. The compound does not present any unique structural moiety which would allow its identification chemically, particularly in the presence of barbiturates.

5. The second task was approached gravimetrically. Similar quantities of EA3167 were smeared on various plastic tapes, including band-aids. Some of the smears were thick but covering a limited area and others were spread more extensively, which made the sticky-orange substance less conspicuous. The tapes, backed by glass slides, were applied to the shaved skin of rabbits for a given time (a few seconds) at a given pressure. It was determined, by noting the reduction in weight of the slide and tape, that about 20 percent of the EA3167 was transferred to the rabbits skin.

6. Because of the inability to develop satisfactory chemical analytic techniques, an amount of radio-labeled EA3167 was synthesized. This was to have been used in subsequent research, but with the termination of the Agency-funded work in January 1973, the tritiated EA3167 was never used. We were told that most, if not all, of the substance is still on hand at Edgewood.

7. We also discussed the sparse documentation of this project. The Edgewood personnel indicated that the work was rather closely guarded at the time and most results had been conveyed verbally. The few reports received by the Agency had been handcarried by Agency personnel. The premature termination of the project also meant that the usual final report and related documentation were never prepared. Dr. Van Sim did not exactly remember the reason for additional charges to the contract during the first quarter of 1973 but thought that late billings for previous, unclassified work done at other EARL labs was probably the explanation.



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