

File:
Cameron

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Canadians' lawsuit in CIA brainwashing to begin this week

WASHINGTON (CP) — A courtroom battle opens Tuesday that will pit the CIA against eight Canadians who say they were unwitting human guinea pigs in brainwashing experiments that left them impaired for life.

The trial in U.S. District Court, is expected to last several weeks and produce mountains of conflicting testimony on a core question: Were the Canadians victims of "reckless" and "negligent" behavior by the Central Intelligence Agency?

Or were they patients of a well-meaning psychiatrist whose work fell within acceptable medical standards at the time and happened to be partially paid for by the CIA?

The Canadians are suing for \$1 million U.S. each, on grounds they were patients at the Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal during a 1957-60 period in which the CIA secretly financed psychiatric experiments by Dr. Ewen Cameron as part of a program to collect information on military brainwashing and interrogation techniques.

The CIA involvement was revealed in 1977 by the New York Times.

In a pre-trial submission, the Canadians' Washington lawyer James Turner argued the CIA acted recklessly and negligently by failing to ensure research it paid for was not harmful to Cameron's patients; failing to adhere to medical, scientific and professional standards in backing the experiments; and failing to notify patients they were subjects of CIA-sponsored experiments.

Hanging over the case is the



JAMES TURNER: Says Ottawa's support of research will be an "albatross" in court.

knowledge that Cameron's work was also supported by the Canadian government in the 1950s and early 1960s, something the CIA cites in its defence as evidence the psychiatrist's work was "suitable" for backing.

A report, written by former Conservative MP George Cooper, said Ottawa bore no legal or moral responsibility for the brainwashing experiments carried out by Cameron, who died in 1967.

Turner conceded that the report, which the CIA has filed as an exhibit with the court, was a blow to the Canadians' case.

"It (the report) is the worst albatross (the Canadian) government could have hung around my neck and it's still dragging us down," said Turner.

No justice for Canada's brainwashed guinea pigs

By Don Weitz
The fight for justice and reparations for the Canadian victims of Dr. Ewen Cameron's brainwashing experiments in the 1950s and 1960s is far from over. It's escalating — but with no help from the Canadian and U.S. governments that co-funded his psychiatric atrocities.

In the late '50s and early '60s, psychiatrist Cameron was one of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) more prominent and willing collaborators in a secret mind-control project. Cameron was already experimenting with some dangerous mind-control techniques when the Society for the Study of Human Ecology, a CIA front group, approached him and funded his research from 1957 to 1960.

His base was the Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal; he was its first director and was soon hailed as the father of Canadian psychiatry.

Cameron developed a unique and torturous arsenal of experimental weapons. They included massive electroshock; high doses of experimental drugs, such as LSD, Scopolamine and Thorazine; drug-induced comas lasting one to three months; sensory deprivation; and solitary confinement.

Except for electroshock and a few drugs, none of these treatments was widely practised or approved in psychiatry. Also, Cameron didn't bother to obtain consent from his guinea-pig patients.

Electroshock was the linchpin of Cameron's brainwashing research. He usually shocked his patients 60 to 100 times, if not more, within a two or three month period. As a result, virtually all suffered massive and permanent memory loss and brain damage.

Cameron euphemistically labeled this electrical assault on the brain "depatterning." After he

had depatterned his patients, Cameron then used psychic driving, one of his more diabolical inventions, which involved replaying emotionally charged, taped messages from therapy sessions hundreds of thousands of times while his patients were heavily drugged or immobilized. For example, Yelma Orlikow, wife of NDP MP David Orlikow, was forced to listen to this message thousands of times: "You are a bad mother. You are a bad wife."

Cameron believed the driving would somehow repattern patients to act and think conventionally. He was wrong. Today, most of his depatterned patients still suffer nightmares of his treatment and are unable to concentrate, remember or work. Some attempted suicide.

The Canadian government was Cameron's senior funding partner. The department of national health and welfare generously gave him more than \$300,000 in grants from 1950 to 1964, some of which fund-

ed his brainwashing experiments. The CIA gave Cameron roughly \$65,000 to \$85,000.

In December, 1980, nine Canadian victims launched a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the CIA. Each is suing for \$1 million for malpractice. After seven years of pre-trial litigation (chiefly caused by CIA delays and stonewalling tactics), the victims' case will finally be heard in a U.S. Federal Court June 7.

The victims and their lawyers, Joseph Rauh, Jr. (now retired) and James C. Turner, have no doubt Cameron's experiments were unethical and barbaric by any standard of medical care. They also have no doubt that Cameron seriously violated the 1947 Nuremberg Code of medical ethics, on which he was a consultant, by failing to obtain consent from his research subjects and by failing to warn them of the research-treatment risks.

Nevertheless, the Canadian gov-

ernment, the Canadian Psychiatric Association and the American Psychiatric Association still falsely claim that Cameron did nothing wrong, nothing unethical at the time.

On Feb. 11, the Canadian government added insult to injury. External Affairs Minister Joe Clark announced that the government was giving each victim \$20,000 toward their legal costs. This amount won't even cover one-fourth of their legal bills. Besides, the \$20,000 obviously does not include any compensation or reparations for the victims' disabilities and suffering.

Further, the government conveniently neglected to consider paying an "ex gratia payment" of \$100,000 to each victim, which former Tory MP George Cooper recommended in his 1986 report on the Canadian government's legal and moral responsibilities to the victims.

Reaction to the government's \$20,000 payoff was fast and fur-

ous. Psychiatry professor Harvey Weinstein, son of 82-year-old victim Louis Weinstein, was deeply hurt and angry: "It's telling the Canadian people that my father's life was worth \$20,000. My father had no life since age 49."

Public protests, political pressure and the threat of more lawsuits might force the government to come up with an "ex gratia" payment of \$100,000 for each of the eight surviving victims, but don't bet on it. The Canadian government has been traditionally insensitive to victims of the psychiatric system for many years.

And imagine this cruel irony — the courts award all the victim substantial damages, but they've already died. Victim Florence Langleben was in her 60s when she died a little over a year ago.

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C.I.A. Near Settlement of Lawsuit By Subjects of Mind-Control Tests

By PHILIP SHENON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 — The Central Intelligence Agency appears to be close to settling a lawsuit filed by nine Canadians who sought compensation after discovering they had been unwitting subjects in mind-control experiments, some involving LSD.

Lawyers with knowledge of the case said today that the C.I.A. had agreed to pay nearly \$750,000 to the Canadians, who were patients in the 1950's of Dr. D. Ewen Cameron, a psychiatrist at McGill University in Montreal.

Documents that became public in the late 1970's showed that the C.I.A. had used private medical research foundations as a conduit for a 25-year, multi-million-dollar research program to learn how to control the human mind.

A Series of Experiments

Through one of the foundations, the agency funneled tens of thousands of dollars to Dr. Cameron to pay for an array of experiments that involved LSD, electroshock therapy and a procedure known as "psychic driving," in which patients listened to a recorded message repeatedly for up to 16 hours.

Lawyers announced a tentative settlement of the 1980 lawsuit during a hearing today in Federal District Court in Washington.

Officials of the Justice Department, which is representing the C.I.A. in the litigation, said the settlement is subject to approval by senior aides to Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, a process that could take several days or weeks.

James C. Turner, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said in an interview that the settlement "proved no part of our Government is above the law."

"I think the whole thesis of our case was that this program of human sub-

ject experimentation was shot through with negligent and callous disregard of the welfare of the subjects," he added. "It's an ends-justifying-the-means mentality that I hope we've seen the last of."

Bill Devine, a spokesman for the C.I.A., said today that "any settlement, if approved, would not represent a concession of liability on the part of the agency; the agency has consistently maintained that its actions were appropriate at the time."

Asked why, in that case, the agency had agreed to the tentative settlement, Mr. Devine said, "We just believe it's in everybody's interest to resolve it at this time."

The C.I.A. used a front organization called the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology to help pay for the work of Dr. Cameron, a psychiatrist who directed the Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal. Dr. Cameron died in 1967.

The money was provided to Dr. Cameron as part of the C.I.A.'s effort in the 1950's and 60's to develop drugs or techniques that could control human behavior. The campaign was encouraged by the conviction of some officials that the Soviets and Chinese had developed brainwashing and mind-control devices.

Patients of Dr. Cameron were subjected to a regimen that included heavy doses of LSD and barbiturates, the application of powerful electric shocks two or three times a day, and prolonged periods of drug-induced sleep. According to Government records, the patients and their relatives were not told they were taking part in experiments.

Philip Shenon