

*Duncan Campbell writes:* Recently released files of the US Central Intelligence Agency have revealed British involvement in their massive 'mind control' programme, aimed at erasing, reviving, or reprogramming the human mind. One of the most definite links to emerge so far is evidence that research by Professor Hans Eysenck, of the London University Institute of Psychiatry, was part of the covertly funded CIA investigation codenamed MKULTRA. Eysenck received \$27,000 during the early 1960s for a project he and others at the Institute carried out into the 'measurement of motivation'. The result were intended for use in the long term research into the loyalty of CIA agents, and to find reliable means of reconditioning, or 'brainwashing'. His name was also used to bolster the prestige of the CIA front organisation supplying the research finance, the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology.

Eysenck acknowledges carrying out and directing the research described in the reports contained in the CIA's file on MKULTRA-Subproject 111. He denies any knowledge that the CIA were secretly supplying the funds; a contention apparently borne out by the CIA chief responsible, who noted on a memorandum that 'no cleared or witting persons are concerned... with the project'. The file on MKULTRA-Subproject 111 was obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act by a Church of Scientology sponsored organisation, the American Citizens for Honesty in Government. Themselves under attack in the United States for the use of

unusual psychological techniques, they have been campaigning to expose the US government's outlandish activities in MKULTRA and other secret projects.

Eysenck told NEW STATESMAN last week that his research project was solicited by the Society, who expressed interest in his line of research. In a letter on the CIA's file, he then submitted an application for funds in November 1959. CIA scientists reviewed his proposal and recommended funding. The Chief of the CIA's Chemical Branch, responsible for psychology research as well as drugs and poisons, noted that '(Eysenck) is one of the most skilful and productive psychologists on the international scene today and a grant to him would add to the prestige of the (Society). This project will also be in accordance with the plan of developing (the Society) as a worldwide organisation.' (Names of persons and organisations are left blank on released information, but can in this case be deduced from public records.)

The experiments were carried out mainly on Ford and other industrial apprentices between 1960 and 1962. Eysenck's team measured how well the apprentices learnt and carried out a simple task depending on whether they believed that their performance was important to success in their jobs. A number of academic papers and a book were produced, which admirably suited the covert purposes of MKULTRA-Subproject 111. One of the CIA's intentions was to 'stimulate additional research in the field', thus channeling western psychological research in direc-

tions useful to them.

The released CIA file indicates the dates and methods by which the funds were channelled through the Society to the London Institute of Psychiatry. Expenditure on the project totalled \$27,360. Other items in the same MKULTRA file indicate that this was no benign programme of long term research. Subproject 110, for example, was concerned with 'effective delivery systems' for 'exotic pathogens'; in other words, killing or incapacitation through deliberate infecting with unusual diseases, such as the way in which BBC broadcaster Georgei Markov was recently murdered.

The Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology was established in 1958 and was closed in 1965, after a change of name, when major projects were transferred to another 'front'. The Society's ostensible directors included a number of American academics; its research programmes were however, highly unusual, with much of the money being directed towards mind control techniques, including the sensory deprivation torture later used by British Army intelligence officers in Ulster.

As the post-Watergate investigations of the CIA have gradually drawn out the details of MKULTRA, so it has become clear that British and Canadian secret involvement in the 'mind control' projects has been substantial. The apparently unwitting involvement of prominent psychologists like Professor Eysenck is perhaps only the least unacceptable of the joint British-CIA activities.