

JOHN CONYERS, JR. MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

CARDISS COLLINS, ILLINOIS
HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
MIKE SYNAR, OKLAHOMA
STEPHEN L. NEAL, NORTH CAROLINA
TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., SOUTH CAROLINA
GARY A. CONDIT, CALIFORNIA
COLLIN C. PETERSON, MINNESOTA
KAREN L. THURMAN, FLORIDA
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
THOMAS M. BARRETT, WISCONSIN
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
FLOYD H. FLAKE, NEW YORK
JAMES A. HAYES, LOUISIANA
CRAIG A. WASHINGTON, TEXAS
BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS, MICHIGAN
CORRINE BROWN, FLORIDA
MARJORIE MARGOLIES-MEZVINSKY, PENNSYLVANIA
LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

RCC2.970319.002

WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
AL McCANDLESS, CALIFORNIA
J. DENNIS HASTERT, ILLINOIS
JON L. KYL, ARIZONA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
STEVEN SCHIFF, NEW MEXICO
C. CHRISTOPHER COX, CALIFORNIA
CRAIG THOMAS, WYOMING
ILEANA ROS-LENTINEN, FLORIDA
DICK ZIMMER, NEW JERSEY
WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR., NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK
STEPHEN HORN, CALIFORNIA
DEBORAH PRYCE, OHIO
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT
INDEPENDENT

MAJORITY—(202) 225-5051
MINORITY—(202) 225-8074

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 28, 1994

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Bob Weiner/Pierre LaTour
(202) 225-5051

NEWS RELEASE

CONYERS ANNOUNCES HEARING TO EXAMINE SECRET COLD WAR EXPERIMENTS ON HUMANS SPONSORED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT; HEARING TO EXAMINE EXPERIMENTS BEYOND RADIATION BUT "JUST AS INJURIOUS"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 10:00 A.M., 2154 RAYBURN HOB

(Washington, D.C.) -- Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee and its Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, today announced a Subcommittee hearing on secret Cold War era human experimentation sponsored by the Federal Government. The hearing has been scheduled for 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 28, in room 2154 Rayburn Building.

"While the radiation experiments have recently received substantial attention, other Cold War era tests on non-volunteers have not. In addition, the scope of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Radiation is limited to radiation experiments and does not include other tests which may have been just as injurious.

"The shocking revelations last year of human radiation experiments conducted by the Government in the 1950's is only part of the story," Conyers said. "I am extremely disturbed by reports we have received indicating that during the Cold War there was a widespread practice, within our national security organizations, of using non-volunteers as human guinea pigs to test biological, chemical, and psychoactive agents. We have a responsibility to the victims and their families to discover how such experiments could occur, and to help them today.

"We are learning now that nearly 500 thousand Americans were subjected to some Cold War era tests. In addition to being secret, this national security research was often conducted on individuals who had little choice in the matter, including members of the military, prison inmates, hospital patients and other institutionalized individuals."

In addition to the radiation tests, the experimental research using human subjects that has been identified includes the following:

1. Army and Navy skin tests during the 1940s with blistering agents and ointments on 60,000 subjects;
2. Naval Research Laboratory full body mustard gas exposures during the 1940s on 3,000 subjects;
3. Atmospheric nuclear tests from 1945 to 1962 involving 212,000 subjects;
4. Army biological warfare tests using radioactive compounds in 239 American cities between 1949 and 1969;

MORE

5. Army Chemical Corps tests from the 1950s to the 1970s with nerve agents and psychochemicals on 7,120 subjects;
6. CIA MKULTRA program of drug testing and behavior control experiments during the 1950s and 1960s on several hundred subjects;

"Government secrecy has concealed the true magnitude of the Cold War era experiments until the recent disclosures. No one has examined the overall scope of these Cold War era programs and their possible impact on Americans," Conyers concluded.

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify:

The Honorable Martin Olav Sabo, a Member of Congress from the State of Minnesota; **The Honorable Frank C. Conahan**, Assistant Comptroller General of the United States, General Accounting Office, National Security and International Affairs Division;

Panel 1

Eric Olson, Ph.D., son of Dr. Frank Olson, an Army researcher who lost his life in a secret government experiment; **Ms. Elizabeth Barrett**, daughter of Mr. Harold Blauer, a psychiatric patient who lost his life in a secret government-sponsored experiment;

Panel 2

Ms. Jeanne Fites, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Requirements and Resources, Personnel and Readiness; **Gordon Soper, Ph.D.**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Atomic Energy; **Joseph Osterman, Ph.D.**, Director, Environmental and Life Sciences, Office of the Director, Defense Research and Engineering;

Panel 3

David J. Rothman, Ph.D., Director, Center for the Study of Society and Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, Author of *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making*; **Leonard A. Cole, Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science, Rutgers University, Author of *Clouds of Secrecy: The Army's Germ Warfare Experiments Over Populated Areas*; **Vanessa Northington Gamble, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor of History of Medicine, Preventive Medicine and Family Medicine, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine; **Robyn Y. Nishimi, Ph.D.**, Senior Associate, Office of Technology Assessment.

LNS-103-002-073