

# PREMIERES CONTROVERSES AU SUJET DE LA SCIENTOLOGIE

Comme toutes les idées nouvelles, la Scientologie a été attaquée soit par des personnes mal informées soit par des personnes ou des groupes sentant leurs intérêts menacés. Pour avoir ouvertement et efficacement plaidé en faveur de certaines réformes sociales, les scientologues sont devenus la cible d'attaques de quelques groupes de pression. Certaines puissances financières s'accrochent à un *statu quo* nuisible à l'intérêt général. Pour elles, la pratique de la Scientologie, destinée à élargir la conscience et à accroître l'autonomie et la responsabilité, constitue une grave menace.

Le conflit remonte à 1950, époque à laquelle la psychiatrie vivait de subventions gouvernementales et était utilisée par les services de renseignement américains. Au mois de mai de cette année-là, Ron Hubbard publia *La Dianétique : la puissance de la pensée sur le corps*. Or, non seulement la Dianétique contenait la première technologie du mental utilisable par tout un chacun, mais elle déclarait dangereux les médicaments psychiatriques les plus récents. Qui plus est, elle dénonçait le recours inhumain aux électrochocs et à la lobotomie (le "traitement" psychiatrique standard de l'époque).

Il ne faut pas sous-estimer la menace que représentait la Dianétique dans les milieux médico-psychiatriques, à la fois par son message même et par sa popularité sans précédent auprès du grand public américain ; soudainement apparaissait là une œuvre qui les dépossédait de leur prétendue autorité.

La réaction fut immédiate et considérable. Moins d'un mois après la publication de *La Dianétique*, une clique de psychiatres rémunérés par le gouvernement dénonçait le livre comme une supercherie, tout en reconnaissant aussi vite qu'ils ne l'avaient même pas lu.

Une poignée de psychiatres influents profitèrent de leurs relations au gouvernement pour répandre de fausses informations et des données erronées dans la presse et dans les dossiers du gouvernement, allant jusqu'à tenter purement et simplement de faire fermer les Fondations de Dianétique qui avaient surgi dans tout le pays, puis l'Église de Scientologie après sa formation en 1954. La polémique était clairement financière : combien de temps les psychiatres allaient-ils encore

pouvoir convaincre le contribuable américain de payer les millions de dollars affectés à la psychiatrie, alors que la Dianétique montrait la voie d'un plus grand bonheur et de facultés améliorées pour le prix d'un simple livre ?

Les attaques s'intensifièrent après 1951, année où Ron Hubbard publia *Science de la survie*. Ron Hubbard y dénonçait publiquement, pour la première fois, des expériences de manipulation mentale financées par le gouvernement. Dans le cadre de ces expériences, des psychiatres administraient à des cobayes humains, à leur insu, des médicaments et des électrochocs. Pendant leur inconscience, ils leurs donnaient aussi des ordres hypnotiques. Des dizaines d'années plus tard, les victimes allaient être indemnisées par le gouvernement pour les séquelles des souffrances qu'elles avaient endurées lors de ces expériences. A l'époque ces expériences faisaient partie des secrets les mieux gardés des services secrets fédéraux et de la psychiatrie.

Encore une fois, la réaction des milieux fédéraux et psychiatriques fut saisissante. Une demi-douzaine au moins d'agences fédérales, y compris le FBI, l'IRS (Internal Revenue Service - le fisc américain) et la FDA (Food and Drug Administration, l'administration chargée de l'autorisation de mise sur le marché des médicaments), joignirent leurs efforts pour faire disparaître la Dianétique et la Scientologie.

Le récit des tentatives pour éliminer la Scientologie suffirait à remplir un livre, mais cette guerre prit fin en octobre 1993 lorsque, au terme d'un examen très minutieux, l'IRS prit une série de décisions reconnaissant expressément l'Église de Scientologie et toutes les églises, institutions caritatives et éducatives apparentées situées aux États-Unis, comme des organisations exonérées d'impôts.

La décision de l'IRS, qui s'appliquait non seulement à toute Église de Scientologie aux États-Unis, mais aussi à plusieurs organisations de Scientologie importantes à l'étranger, signifiait que l'IRS - et donc le gouvernement américain - avait officiellement reconnu que l'Église de Scientologie était une organisation religieuse authentique, et que ses activités profitaient à l'ensemble de la société.

Lorsque la lumière est faite sur d'anciennes informations erronées, la controverse cesse rapidement. Les mensonges font alors place aux véritables informations sur la Scientologie, sur ce qu'est vraiment l'Église et sur ce que font ses membres.

### **Documents**

- Articles du Times (février 1984) et du New-York Times (février 1979)
- Articles du Daily Texan (mars 1984) et de la gazette de Montréal (février 1984)

**THE TIMES**  
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17 1984

**Inquiry into mind control demanded**

From John Best  
Ottawa

Evidence that the Canadian Government was involved in mind-control experiments in the 1950s and 1960s has produced demands for a full public inquiry.

Nine Canadians who were unsuspecting guinea pigs in the experiments are already suing the US Government for \$C1m (£565,000) each because of the CIA's involvement. The Canadian Government is supporting those actions.

Recently, however, newspaper *Vancouver province* reported that it had obtained documents showing that the Canadian Government had poured \$C500,000 between 1950 and 1964 into the Montreal Psychiatric Institute, where the experiments were conducted. The CIA gave \$C64,000 to the institute between 1957 and 1961.

The newspaper said that the documents, obtained under Canada's Freedom-of-Information Law, show that the Government knew that patients were sometimes put to sleep for several weeks, and were given electric shocks to the brain to study the effects of memory loss.

In other tests, taped messages were played to patients for up to 16 hours a day, in some instances for 10 consecutive days. Some patients faced the apes for 34 months.

Patients whose brains resisted such treatment were forced into artificial comas with drugs, or their resistance was overpowered by sensory deprivation.

The Church of Scientology in Toronto has now called on the Federal Government to launch a parliamentary inquiry into "the extent to which 'mind control' and similar-type experiments have gone on across Canada".

The church made public documents which showed that the experiments came under headings such as "Research into the psychological factors causing the human mind to accept certain political beliefs"

**The New York Times**

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**C.I.A. Mem. Outlines Proposals To Induce Acts Using Hypnosis**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (UPI) — The Central Intelligence Agency once proposed mind-controlling experiments whose hypnotized subjects would feel uncontrollable impulses to "commit a nuisance" on Groundhog Day 1961, previously secret agency documents revealed.

The proposed experiments were contained in C.I.A. documents released under the Freedom of Information Act to the American Citizens for Honesty in Government, an organization sponsored by the Church of Scientology. There is no evidence that the experiments — "to commit a nuisance on the steps of (censored)," according to the documents — were carried out.

The proposal was contained in a heavily censored C.I.A. memorandum dated Oct. 20, 1961. The memo, whose origin and destination were censored, said the agency hoped to find out whether hypnosis could be induced quickly on an unwilling subject and whether, once induced, the victims could be made to undergo amnesia and "durable and useful post-hypnotic suggestion."

The memo seemed to indicate that criminals were suggested as the subjects of one set of experiments, and that the subjects should not be persons of high intelligence. It suggested experimenting with the use of hypnosis for questioning subjects.

THE NEW YORK TIMES - 4 février

Les expériences proposées étaient citées dans des documents de la CIA publiés grâce à la loi sur la liberté d'association et destinée à l'association des Citoyens Américains pour l'honnêteté du Gouvernement, parrainée par l'Église de Scientology. Il n'y a aucune preuve que ces expériences - "pour créer des ennuis sur le chemin de...(censuré)", selon les documents - aient été mises en pratique.

THE TIMES - 17 février 1984

L'Église de Scientology de Toronto a fait appel au gouvernement fédéral pour que soit lancée une enquête pour déterminer "jusqu'à quel point la "manipulation mentale" et des expériences similaires sont utilisées au Canada."

The Daily Texan/Thursday, March 29, 1984/Page 9

## STATE & LOCAL

# Mind tests questioned

By LYNN LUNSFORD  
Daily Texan Staff

Mind control. The first image that comes to mind is a little man in a white coat swinging a shiny object back and forth, saying "You will do whatever I say." It sounds like something found only in a science fiction movie.

It's not, said Heber Jentsch, editorial adviser for the *Freedom News Journal*.

"Mind control is a very real concept, not just something writers make up for the movies," Jentsch said Wednesday.

"Psychiatrists have been conducting experiments for quite some time where they use methods such as hypnosis, shock treatment and drugs — alone or in a combination — to produce some very startling results," he said.

"Through the Freedom of Information Act, I have obtained thousands of documents that outline all sorts of experiments which have been conducted in the past 20 or so years," Jentsch said.

"These documents describe experiments that are so bizarre that it is hard to believe they are being performed," he said. "Psychiatrists have taken people right off of the street and given them LSD, given them shock treatment while they are under sedation and actually programmed them to do something on command they don't

*'Psychiatrists have taken people right off of the street and given them LSD, given them shock treatment while they are under sedation and actually programmed them to do something on command they don't even know they are doing.'*

— Heber Jentsch, *Freedom News Journal*

even know they are doing," he said.

And they are doing it with government grants, he said.

"I think that the federal government and the Central Intelligence Agency have been sold a bill of goods," he said. "I don't think the government knows exactly what is going on."

Jentsch said there is documentation of an experiment which is designed to create amnesia about certain events.

"The CIA would use something like this to eliminate the particulars about some of their more confidential cases from the minds of agents who are retiring," he said.

Jentsch said the treatment outlined in the document could be used for whatever purpose the psychiatrists desire.

"What these few psychiatrists are after is power. They want to eliminate all concepts of what is right and what is wrong. They want people to do what they are told and they want the power to make them do it whether they want to or not," he said.

Jentsch said there should not be a "double standard" for the scientific community.

"If a man were to go out on the street, beat up a person, or cause them some injury that eventually killed them, he would be sent to prison," said Jentsch.

"There have been instances where experiments done by psychiatrists have killed people. They have not been punished because they say they are 'professionals' and that that just happens.

"These people should be exposed, have their funding cut and they should be put in jail. It's barbaric to give them a blanket approval for anything they want to do just because they say it is in the interest of science."

Jentsch said the most likely candidates for these types of experiments are prisoners, residents of mental institutions and university students.

Jentsch said the reason more headway hasn't been made into the prevention of dangerous experiments on unsuspecting subjects is that primarily, the only ones who know of them are other psychiatrists.

Le QUOTIDIEN TEXAN  
(The Daily Texan)  
Mardi 20 mars 1984

"J'ai obtenu des milliers de documents qui montrent toutes sortes d'expérimentations pratiquées dans les 20 dernières années en utilisant la loi sur la liberté de l'information (FOIA) a indiqué Heber Jentsch".

Jentsch a dit qu'il existe des documents d'une expérience dont le but est de créer l'amnésie de certains événements. Selon lui, "la CIA utiliserait quelque chose de semblable pour éliminer les particularités de certaines de leurs affaires les plus confidentielles de l'esprit des agents qui partent à la retraite."

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The GAZETTE, Montreal, Monday, February 20, 1984

## McGill experiments became blueprint for interrogation techniques: Ex-prof

TORONTO (CP) — Experiments conducted on Montreal students in the 1950s to explain Communist brainwashing ended up providing blueprints for interrogation techniques to Western defence ministries, says the man who led the study.

Dr. Donald Hebb, 79, a former head of McGill University's psychology department who led the sensory deprivation study between 1951 and 1953, said his group realized when it began writing its report that it was virtually drawing up an interrogation manual.

A year after it was written in 1955 for the Defence Research Board in Ottawa, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency financed Dr. Ewen Cameron, the founder of the Allan Memorial Institute at McGill, to carry on Hebb's work by using hallucinogens such as LSD. Cameron's work now is the subject of a civil suit in Washington.

CIA documents obtained by Washington lawyer James Turner and the Church of Scientology in Toronto con-

cerning a CIA project called Operation Bluebeard show that Hebb's study was secretly infiltrated and monitored from the beginning.

Hebb's study into sensory deprivation involved 90 undergraduate students at McGill, who were blindfolded, had their ears plugged, and were kept isolated for up to three days.

At the end of the isolation, Hebb's team found it could persuade the students of the existence of ghosts and poltergeists — spirits that make their presence felt through sound — and absurd hypotheses.

In 1956, following allegations in Parliament that the government was financing brainwashing experiments, Hebb told reporters the \$40,000 study was financed by the Defence Research Board in Ottawa.

He said it was intended to explain and combat Communist brainwashing and some success had been achieved.

Hebb said in a recent interview from his Nova Scotia home the public statement was intended to minimize what

the experiments had revealed.

"I had no suspicion when we began that it would turn out to be what it did ... It was clear when we made our report to the Defence Research Board that we were describing formidable interrogation techniques," he said.

Toward the end of the experiments, the group became upset that it was describing means of "political warfare" that could be used to control political and social attitudes, he said.

Some details of the report were published in medical journals in anticipation of what students involved in the study might say.

The entire report was only circulated internally and given to defence research boards in Britain and the U.S.

Dr. Omond Solandt, then head of the Defence Research Board, said the CIA had been interested in the work and likely got a copy.

Hebb said no after-effects were found in the subjects, all sent by the university's employment bureau and paid \$15 a day.

LA GAZETTE de MONTREAL  
20 février 1984

Des documents de la CIA, obtenus par James Turner, avocat à Washington et par l'Église de Scientologie de Toronto, concernant un projet de la CIA appelé "Opération Bluebird" montrent que l'étude de Hebb était secrètement infiltrée et dirigée depuis le début.