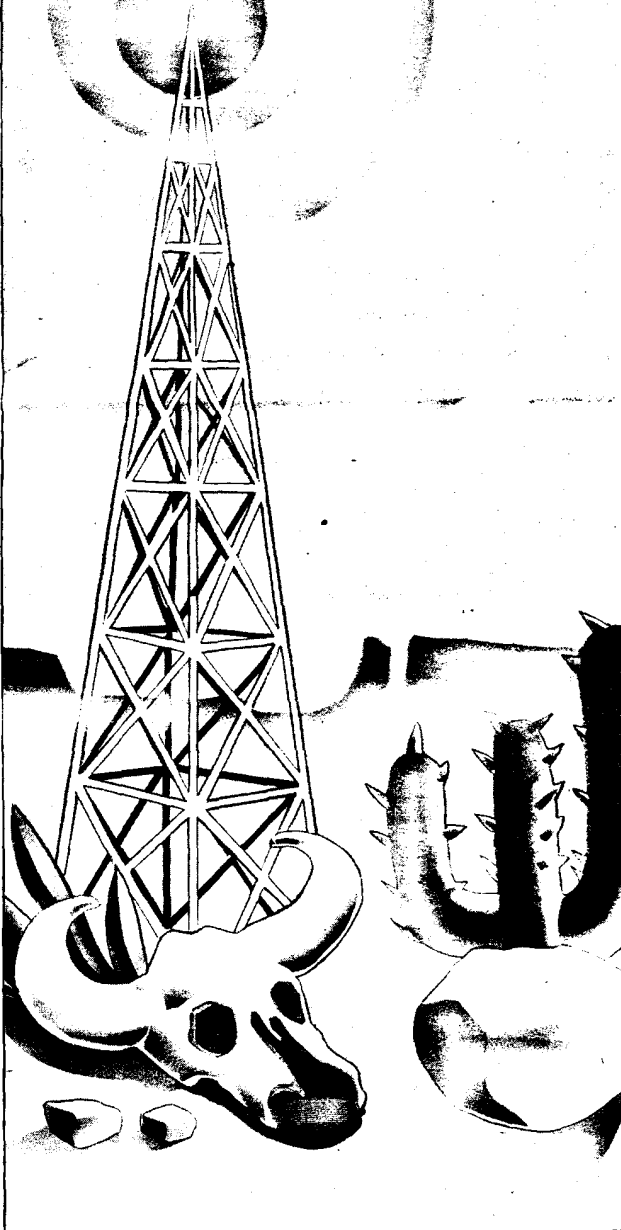


Living in the USA

Chemical Warfare Tests Exposed in Texas



RANDY SOUTH

Army documents recently obtained by the Church of Scientology, under the Freedom of Information Act, reveal that 34 chemical-biological warfare tests were conducted in the spring and summer of 1961 at the Dallas tower test site.

Earlier, at least 13 other open-air CBW tests had been conducted by the Army in Texas under an operation called "Windsock I." In those tests, the Cedar Hill tower was used to spread clouds of zinc cadmium sulfide "over a square, 125 miles to a side with Fort Worth at the northern boundary and Fort Hood near the southern boundary," according to the Army documents.

Information on the tests was contained in a technical report written in 1968 by Albert W. Waldron, Jr. for the Army's Test Operations Directorate at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. The tests themselves were conducted by personnel from Dugway, storage site for much of the Army's chemical warfare arsenal.

The Army report mentions nothing of the dangers posed by using zinc cadmium sulfide. A 1973 article in *Atmospheric Environment*, however, spells out the risks involved. Written by L. Arthur Spomer, a former U.S.

in the body, accumulating "mainly in the kidneys, pancreas, and thyroid."

Zinc cadmium sulfide was apparently used in these and numerous other open-air tests by the Army because it has approximately the same density as lethal chemical and biological agents which might be used in warfare.

The dangerous aerosol clouds traveled as far as 30 miles from the tower in the Texas tests. Other tests recently uncovered by the Church, which were conducted by the Army in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1959 and 1960, also made use of television towers for dissemination of zinc cadmium sulfide.

Church of Scientology spokesman Brian Anderson stated that "We have found, through our research, more than 300 open-air tests conducted by the Army with zinc cadmium sulfide—more than 300 occasions where the American people were used for CBW target practice."

Said Anderson, "The Army has maintained that this compound is harmless, and that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had tested it and found it harmless. But OSHA states that they never did any such tests and have indeed made no such statement that it is harmless."

People living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area between 1959 and 1961 received more than just television transmissions from the 1400-foot tower located south of the city atop Cedar Hill. As part of a massive Army chemical and biological warfare (CBW) experiment, they were dosed with a potentially hazardous chemical, zinc cadmium sulfide, spread from the giant tower on at least 47 occasions in that three-year period.

Army scientist, the article states that zinc cadmium sulfide "does present a potential health hazard to experimenters and other humans exposed to it and precautions should be exercised to avoid or minimize exposure during its storage, handling and experimental use."

A faculty member at the University of Illinois when the article was published, Spomer noted that "cadmium compounds are highly toxic." Inhalation of cadmium, he wrote, brings severe health problems, including respiratory and digestive complications and even death.

According to Spomer, "Delayed symptoms include lung damage similar to that from bronchopneumonia, acute kidney inflammation, dark urine, and fatty degeneration of the liver." Inhaled cadmium, he noted, is stored

He continued, "In light of the Defense Department's efforts to resume chemical warfare production, as evidenced by its 1981 budget request for approximately \$22 million presently before Congress, investigative action must be taken by the Environmental Protection Agency and by Congress to ensure that American citizens will never again be used as unwitting targets in CBW tests."

The Church of Scientology has been researching the CBW issue in an effort to bring about international accords banning the testing, stockpiling and production of CBW weapons. Numerous detailed reports of hitherto unknown Army and CIA tests involving U.S. and Canadian civilians have been presented by the Church to Congress and to organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross. △

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