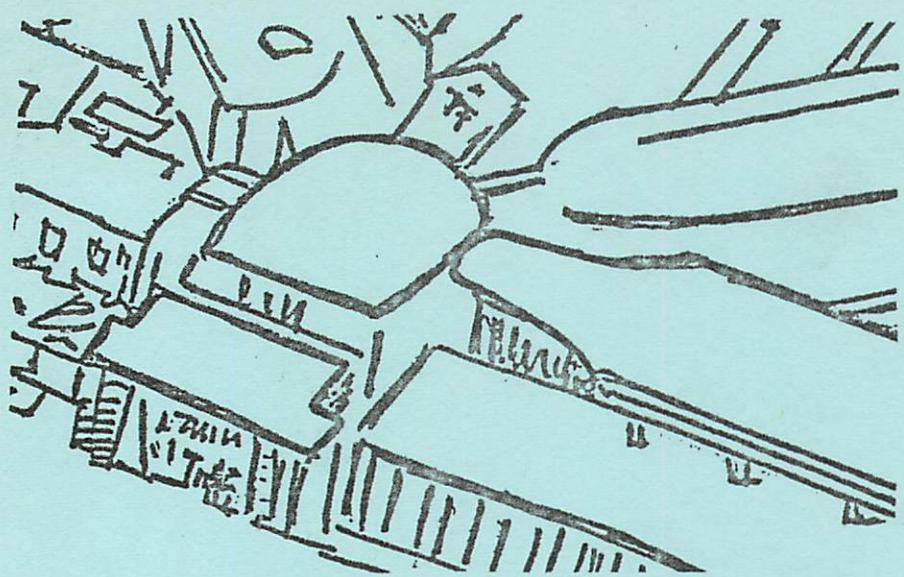




The CASE AGAINST M.C.U.

Trenton State Prison is the oldest currently operating prison in the U.S. It was built a generation before the Civil War in south-east Trenton, New Jersey and is surrounded by a 20-foot high wall that closes off two city blocks. Every institution has its prison within a prison. Trenton has two. In addition to the segregation unit where inmates are sent for specific lengths of time for disciplinary reasons, Trenton State Prison has a "Management Control Unit" (MCU), which parallels the most brutal aspects of segregated units. The main difference between the two units is that prisoners need do nothing specific to be assigned to MCU for an indefinite period of time and that many men are assigned to it because they are politically active. While 75 percent of the general population in the prison is Black, some 98 percent of those in MCU are Black.

MCU is very much a control unit. It is designed to create conditions of absolute control. It is behavior modification, not necessarily in a scientific sense, but in its crude attempts to modify behavior through deprivation, provocation and harassment. The fundamental purpose of MCU -- and all similar behavior modification units -- is to break the will of prisoners. The method used is to subject the prisoners to a constant dose of mental and physical harassment, aggravation, provocation, brutality and the possibility of assassination. Most of the prisoners are placed in MCU because of their ideas, their influence, and what they represent to others. Most are politically conscious and are Black and Latino. Once they are in there, the prison sets out to "prove" that they are violent, dangerous and incorrigible -- and a threat to the security of the general population.

The cells in MCU are smaller than the ASPCA's legal space requirement for a 90 lb. dog. They are all "strip cells," which means they have been stripped of everything but a metal bunk bed, a wash-bowl with running cold water, a toilet bowl, and a light fixture. All meals are eaten in the cell on paper plates pushed through a slot in the door. Prisoners are let out for 10 minutes every other day for showers and for two hours twice a week for recreation.

Under the thin guise of experiment in behavior control, MCU violates not only the prisoners' rights of due process, but all human rights as well. People on the outside have supported the prisoners in MCU in fighting certain flagrant abuses. But a piecemeal approach cannot affect the more basic issue, the existence of MCU. MCU is not just another maximum security unit within New Jersey's maximum security prison. Its very existence is a violation of human rights.

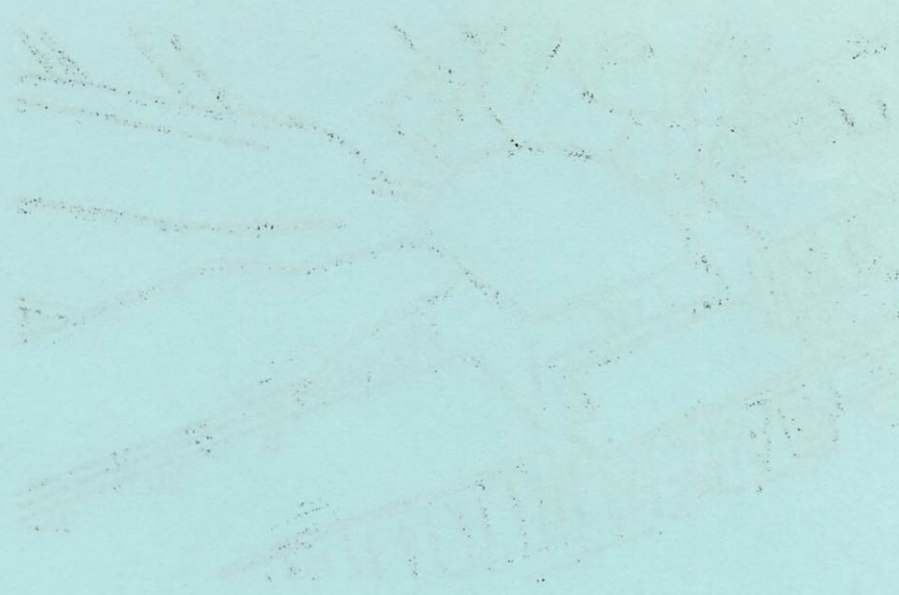
This is why we are calling for the closing of the Management Control Unit. We know that this will not happen quickly or easily, but if we work together, it can be done.

Please sign the postcards that accompany this leaflet and get others to do so as well. This is a first step towards breaking the conspiracy of silence about MCU and behavior modification in New Jersey and elsewhere. These flagrant abuses of human rights must be stopped.

For more information:

COMMITTEE TO CLOSE MCU
339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012

1947
1948
1949
1950



The following table shows the results of the survey conducted in 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950. The data is presented in four columns, one for each year. The rows represent different categories of the survey. The first column is labeled 'Category', the second '1947', the third '1948', the fourth '1949', and the fifth '1950'. The data shows a general increase in most categories over the four-year period.

Category	1947	1948	1949	1950
Category 1	10	12	15	18
Category 2	20	22	25	28
Category 3	30	32	35	38
Category 4	40	42	45	48
Category 5	50	52	55	58
Category 6	60	62	65	68
Category 7	70	72	75	78
Category 8	80	82	85	88
Category 9	90	92	95	98
Category 10	100	102	105	108