

ARTICLE REPEATED  
ON PAGE C23

THE WASHINGTON POST  
5 March 1980

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# Soviets Attack Afghans With Nerve Gas

In the towering, treacherous mountains of Afghanistan, the Soviet invaders are attacking guerrillas with deadly nerve gases that even Adolf Hitler balked at using.

The implications are so hideous that American analysts don't want to believe their own intelligence, but eyewitness accounts, satellite photos and communications intercepts have verified the truth.

These mountains are called Hindu Kush, meaning "Killer of Hindus." But it's Afghans who are now dying on the craggy, wind-whipped heights. The Russians are using gases to flush the fierce mountain men out of the caves and crevices where they are holed up.

From the available evidence, intelligence specialists have identified one gas as Soman. This colorless nerve gas has a pleasant, fruity odor but brings agonized death within 15 minutes. It kills by being absorbed through the skin.

The victims in their final minutes of life, according to a U.S. document, "display the following symptoms: difficulty in breathing; drooling and excessive sweating; nausea; vomiting, cramps and involuntary defecation and urination; twitching, jerking and staggering; headache, confusion, drowsiness, coma and convulsion . . . followed by cessation of breathing."

The Defense Intelligence Agency has also picked up references in Soviet communications which indicate the Russians may also be waging germ warfare against the Afghan tri-

besmen. No civilized nation has resorted to such an inhumane weapon since our colonial French and Indian wars, when Indian tribes were deliberately given smallpox-infected blankets.

Even Hitler decided against using the nerve gases developed by his Nazi scientists in World War II. But after the Third Reich collapsed, the Soviets quietly moved an entire German nerve gas production plant to Russia and employed former Nazi scientists to develop the dread stuff.

Pentagon sources now estimate that the Russians not only possess an enormous chemical warfare arsenal but also have assigned more than 100,000 specially trained chemical officers to Soviet military units. Intelligence reports claim the Russians tested their chemicals in small amounts against rebellious tribesmen in South Yemen as early as 1964.

Then in 1978, the Soviets used mustard gas to subdue the independent Meo tribes entrenched in the highlands of Laos. Survivors staggered out of the mountains mumbling fearfully about "yellow rain." Now the Russians have turned their genocidal weapons against the Afghan rebels.

A key intelligence source told my associate Dale Van Atta that the Soviets have placed extensive stockpiles of chemical weapons in their Warsaw Pact satellite nations. In the early '70s, intelligence agencies established that poison gas was stored in Poland and unidentified chemical weapons in Czechoslovakia. They

learned later that a Soviet air force division in East Germany possessed 400 chemical bombs.

A top-secret CIA analysis offers this chilling explanation: "Warsaw Pact doctrine sees chemical weapons as instruments of mass destruction to be used along with nuclear weapons when authorized by high Soviet authorities. The storage of chemical weapons in the Warsaw Pact's forward area would, of course, permit them to be distributed more quickly to combat units."

More ominous, mock military maneuvers in the Warsaw Pact countries, according to intelligence sources, have included "simulated chemical attacks against NATO forces."

One top-secret CIA publication, the Weekly Surveyor, includes periodic articles that update the intelligence on Soviet chemical, biological and radiological capabilities. In one issue, the CIA reported that its counterpart, the Soviet KGB, had been explaining the development of their grotesque weapons to East European authorities with these words:

"The U.S.S.R. must maintain a capability in chemical warfare because of the demonstrated capability of the U.S., NATO and the PRC" (People's Republic of China).

In the name of humanity, meanwhile, an international commission should be empowered at once to assess the evidence that the Soviets are waging secret chemical and biological warfare against the defenseless but defiant Afghans.