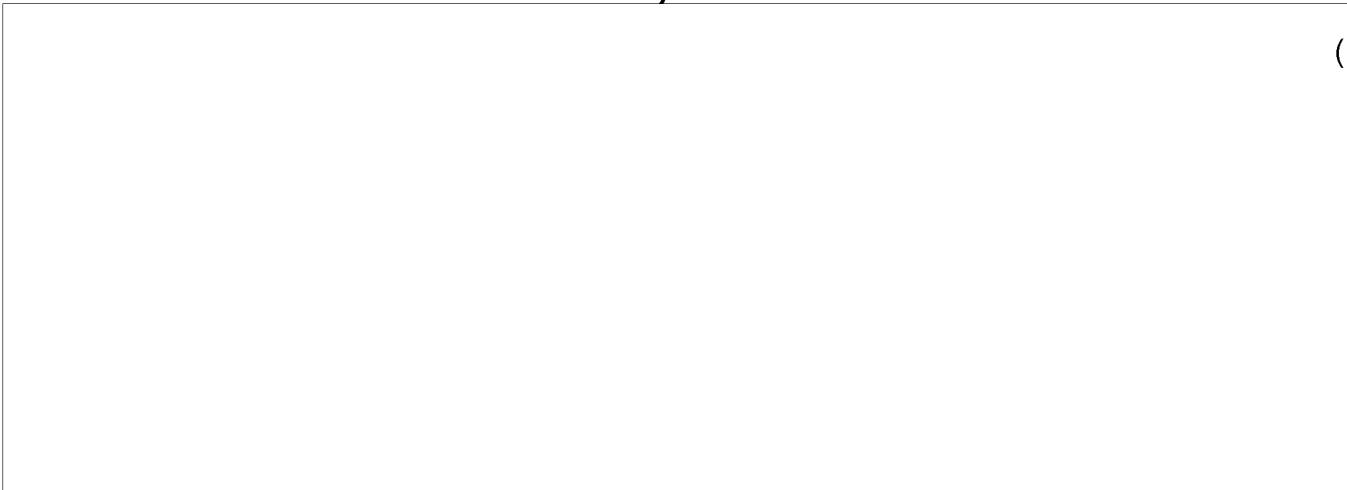


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TOR: 031002Z JAN 80

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TO: DIRECTOR

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[Redacted] PARA 4 SERVICED. (IN 3622980). AT THE END OF PARA 2
DELETED "SOVIET MADE MIG-23 OR 25.) [Redacted]

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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~/WNINTEL--NOFORN

COUNTRY LAOS

SUBJECT CONTINUED USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS AGAINST HMONG
RESISTANCE AND TRIBAL ELEMENTS IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC [Redacted]

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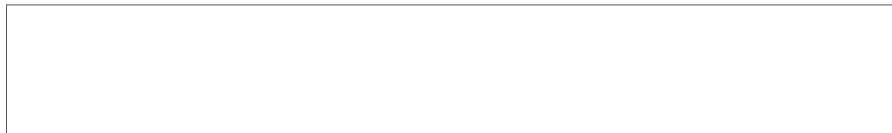
SOURCE

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1. [REDACTED] COMMENT: A NUMBER OF REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, [REDACTED] HAVE

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NOTED THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN USING CHEMICAL WARFARE (CW) WEAPONS AGAINST THE HMONG RESISTANCE AND TRIBAL ELEMENTS. THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS FROM HMONG REFUGEES SHOWS THAT DESPITE DISCLOSURES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA, THE LPDR AND SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV) FORCES HAVE CONTINUED TO USE CW WEAPONS IN THE LPDR.)

2. IN MID-LATE

AUGUST 1979, HMONG REFUGEE [REDACTED] THEN A RESIDENT OF BAN NA LUANG (TF6891), WAS VISITING MUANG CHA (TF9991) LPDR AND OBSERVED A

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"JET AIRPLANE" FLY OVER MUANG CHA, MAKE ONE CIRCLE, AND THEN DESCEND TO AN ALTITUDE OF AROUND 1,000 TO 1,500 FEET. THE PLANE APPROACHED MUANG CHA FROM THE WEST FLYING OVER BAN SON (TF5993), BAN NA XOU (TF5794), AND BAN NAM MOH (TF8187) BEFORE IT BEGAN DISPENSING A "LIGHT-YELLOW SMOKE." THE SPRAY WAS DROPPED OVER MUANG CHA, MUANG OM (UF1395), AND OTHER PLACES SITUATED IN THE FOOTHILL AREA OF PHOU BIA (UF0699). AFTER COMPLETING ITS RUN, THE AIRCRAFT FLEW EAST FROM MUANG CHA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE JET AIRPLANE AS HAVING NO PROPELLER AND MAKING A SOUND MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF A U.S. MANUFACTURED PHANTOM JET WHICH HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH. HE SAID HE HAD NEVER SEEN THAT PARTICULAR TYPE OF JET AIRCRAFT BEFORE AND FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS FRIENDS HE BELIEVED THE AIRPLANE WAS "SOVIET MADE.)

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3. [REDACTED] SAID THE EFFECTS OF THE CW AGENT ON

THE INHABITANTS IN THE AREA BEGAN TO SHOW WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER CONTAMINATION. OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS 74 PERSONS LIVING IN THE VILLAGES OF BAN NONG SAVANG (NCA), BAN KHI XANG (NCA), AND BAN NAM CHA (TF9990) DIED FROM EXPOSURE TO THE CHEMICAL, AS WELL AS LARGE NUMBERS OF LIVESTOCK. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT THE EFFECT OF THE CW AGENT ON VEGETATION BECAME NOTICEABLE ABOUT ONE WEEK AFTER THE INCIDENT WHEN THE THATCH GRASS AND SOME OTHER VARIETIES OF LONG LEAF GRASSES IN ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN LOCATIONS, EACH LOCATION ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 100 SQUARE METERS, BEGAN TO WITHER AND DIE. HE SAID THE GRASSES APPEARED DRY AND TO HAVE BEEN SCORCHED BY SCALDING HOT WATER.

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4. [REDACTED] WHO EXPERIENCED THE EFFECTS OF THE CW AGENT, DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS FROM HIS EXPOSURE. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] MAY NOT HAVE RECEIVED A LETHAL DOSE OF THE CHEMICAL. HE SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE INITIAL SYMPTOMS OF THE CW POISONING, ABOUT TWO DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT, HE BEGAN IMMEDIATELY TO TREAT HIMSELF BY TAKING DILUTED RAW OPIUM TWO TO THREE TIMES A DAY UNTIL HE BEGAN TO RECOVER.) [REDACTED] SAID HIS EYES BECAME INFLAMED (ON THE ORDER OF CONJUNCTIVITIS), SUFFERED FROM A SEVERE HEADACHE, HIGH FEVER, SORE THROAT AND DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING. HE ALSO EXPERIENCED EXTREME CHEST PAINS AND AN INCREASE IN BODY TEMPERATURE FROM THE WAIST UP WHILE BELOW THE WAIST HE FELT COLDER. HIS LIPS BECAME DRY AND SPLIT

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OPEN. HE HAD NO TEARDROPS OR SALIVA; HOWEVER, HE WAS CONTINUALLY THIRSTY EVEN AFTER DRINKING SUFFICIENT LIQUID. [REDACTED] ALSO EXPERIENCED VOMITING AND DIARRHEA. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT THOSE HMONG PEOPLE WHO EVENTUALLY DIED FROM THE CW AGENT DID SO AS A RESULT OF AN INABILITY TO CONTROL VOMITING AND DIARRHEA. HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO SUFFERED ACUTE VOMITING AND BOWEL MOVEMENT WERE THE ONES WHO LATER DIED. THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT SALINE SOLUTION TO TREAT THE ILL AND TO PREVENT DEHYDRATION.) [REDACTED] SAID HE ALSO EXPERIENCED THE FEELING OF BEING "INTOXICATED" AND DESCRIBED THIS SENSATION AS THAT FELT AFTER TAKING AN OVERDOSE OF THE ANTI-MALARIA DRUG CHLOROQUINE, THAT IS HE SUFFERED FROM A STATE OF CONFUSION, DISORIENTATION, AND AN IMPAIRED EQUALIBRIUM.

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5. ANOTHER HMONG REFUGEE [REDACTED] SAID THAT ON 12 JULY HE WAS LIVING AT BAN PHA HOUAI NOI (TF9893), XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, WHEN HE WITNESSED A SOVIET JET AIRCRAFT FLY FROM THE DIRECTION OF BAN SON AND MUANG CHA, MAKE A CIRCLE, AND THEN SPRAY A CW AGENT OVER THE VILLAGES OF BAN PHA HOUAI NOI, BAN THONG HAK (TF9689), BAN THONG KHEUN

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(TF9288), MUANG CHE, MUANG OM, THAM LO (UF0492), AND PHA PHAI (UG1619). [REDACTED] COMMENT: THESE VILLAGES ARE ALL LOCATED ALONG A ROADWAY AND MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASON FOR THE CW BEING USED TO RID THE AREA OF THE PEOPLE.) [REDACTED] SAID THAT IN HIS VILLAGE OF BAN HOUAI NOI OVER 100 PERSONS DIED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS AFTER BEING CONTAMINATED BY THE CW AGENT, AND ABOUT 500 CATTLE ALSO DIED. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT OTHER DEATHS HAD OCCURRED IN THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES BUT HE DID NOT KNOW THE NUMBER. HOWEVER, [REDACTED] DID CONFIRM THAT HE ALSO HAD HEARD OF THE CW ATTACK ON MUANG CHA IN AUGUST [REDACTED] [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON SYMPTOMS OF THE CW AGENT BECAUSE HE WAS NOT CONTAMINATED.)

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6. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IN LATE OCTOBER 1979, A LAO RESISTANCE FORCE OPERATING IN AN AREA NORTH OF DONGHEN /WD3246/ AND ALONG THE PHOU SANGHE MOUNTAIN RANGE WAS ATTACKED BY A TWIN-ENGINE, TWIN-TAILED AIRCRAFT FIRING CW ROCKETS. THE ROCKETS REPORTEDLY EXPLODED IN THE AIR AND DISPENSED A "WHITE AND PINK COLORED SMOKE" WHICH CAUSED DIZZINESS, NAUSEA, AND SKIN INFECTION. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORTED INCIDENT OF CW GAS BEING USED IN THE SOUTH LPDR.)

7. [REDACTED]

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8. [REDACTED]

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T/WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED/NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

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[REDACTED]

ALL PORTIONS

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CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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