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# Intelligence Information Cable

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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~/INTEL--NOFORN

CITE [REDACTED]  
DIST 21 MAR 80

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COUNTRY LAOS/VIETNAM

SUBJECT INCIDENTS OF POISON GAS ATTACKS AGAINST RESISTANCE ELEMENTS  
IN LOUANG PRABANG, XIENG KHOUANG AND SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

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SUMMARY: [REDACTED] FROM AUGUST 1976 TO MID-  
OCTOBER 1979 LAO PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (LPLA) FORCES CONDUCTED  
CHEMICAL WARFARE (CW) ATTACKS ON HMONG VILLAGERS IN LOUANG PRABANG  
PROVINCE, RESULTING IN HUNDREDS OF DEATHS. ONE HMONG VILLAGER FROM  
XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, WHO HAD LOST CLOSE RELATIVES IN A CW ATTACK  
IN MARCH 1979 AND PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS,  
SAID THAT IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT THE PEOPLE WHO DIED FROM EXPOSURE  
TO THE CW DID SO BECAUSE OF A SEVERE LOSS OF BLOOD THROUGH VOMITING

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AND DEHYDRATION. THREE SOVIET MIG-21 AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTED TO HAVE  
ATTACKED RESISTANCE FORCES IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE IN EARLY JANUARY  
1980 WITH CW BOMBS WHICH EXPLODED IN WHITE SMOKE BUT LATER TURNED TO  
GREEN AND YELLOW SMOKE. END SUMMARY.

1.

[REDACTED]  
LOUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR),  
FROM AUGUST 1976 TO 9 OCTOBER 1979 THERE WERE ABOUT 30  
INSTANCES OF TOXIC CHEMICALS USED BY LAO PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY  
(LPLA) AND PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) FORCES ON INHABITANTS IN  
THE AREA. [REDACTED] CHAO FA RESISTANCE FORCES AROUND THE  
VILLAGE OF BAN NONG KWAI (SG9688), XIENG NGOEN DISTRICT, BEGAN CLASH-  
ING WITH LPLA ELEMENTS IN AUGUST 1976. AT FIRST, THE LPLA LAUNCHED  
ATTACKS AGAINST HMONG VILLAGES USING 105MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS POSITION-  
ED IN THE VICINITY OF THE LOUANG PRABANG AIRFIELD (TH0302). HOWEVER,  
IN MARCH 1977, THE LPLA, USING HMONG PEOPLE WHO HAD JOINED THE PATHET  
LAO FORCES FOR A LONG-TIME, BEGAN LAUNCHING ATTACKS ON VILLAGES WHERE  
THE CHAO FA RESISTANCE FORCES WERE ENTRENCHED WITH 122MM ROCKETS  
CONTAINING TOXIC CHEMICALS, IN ADDITION TO THE 105MM AND 155MM  
HOWITZERS.

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[REDACTED] LPLA TROOPS WERE PREPARING TO LAUNCH  
CHEMICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS TO SUPPRESS THE HMONG IN MARCH BY  
DELIVERING THE CHEMICAL IN 122MM ROCKETS. THE HMONG RESISTANCE WAS  
WARNED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM EXPOSURE TO THE TOXIC GASES BY  
HIDING OUT IN CAVES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: VARIOUS OTHER SOURCES HAVE  
REPORTED THE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS BY THE LPLA AND PAVN FORCES  
AGAINST THE HMONG RESISTANCE. [REDACTED]

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2. WHEN THE LPLA BEGAN FIRING THE 122MM ROCKETS CARRYING THE  
POISON GASES, IT WAS DONE ALMOST EVERY DAY AND NUMBERED ABOUT 30-40  
ROCKETS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LOUANG PRABANG  
AIRFIELD AND THE HMONG VILLAGE TARGETS IS ABOUT SIX TO NINE KILO-  
METERS. THE RANGE OF THE 122MM ROCKETS IS ABOUT 12-13 KILOMETERS.)  
WITHIN TWO MONTHS AFTER THE INITIAL GAS ATTACKS BEGAN, OUT OF THE  
NINE HMONG VILLAGES CONTAMINATED BY THE TOXIC GASES, APPROXIMATELY  
300 HMONG PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HAD BURIED 50 PERSONS. DURING THIS PERIOD, MARCH-APRIL  
1977, ENEMY TROOPS, COMPRISING ONLY LAO AND HMONG SOLDIERS, CONDUCTED  
THREE SEPARATE SWEEP OPERATIONS INTO THE NINE VILLAGES. BY MID-JUNE  
1977, THE AREAS WHERE THE NINE HMONG VILLAGES WERE LOCATED HAD BEEN  
COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER BY LPLA FORCES, WHILE THE APPROXIMATELY 2,600  
HMONG PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGES WHO HAD FLED INTO THE JUNGLE WERE  
REGROUPING IN AN AREA NEAR PHOU DIN DAENG (SG9468), XIENG NGOEN  
DISTRICT, LOUANG PRABANG PROVINCE.

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3. INFORMATION REACHING THE HMONG RESISTANCE FORCES AT PHOU DIN DAENG INDICATED THAT LPLA FORCES WERE NOW PLANNING TO LAUNCH CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS ON THAT LOCATION. FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1977, LPLA 105MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS POSITIONED ALONG THE MUANG NAN (NCA) - MUANG XIENG NGUEN (NCA) ROAD BEGAN FIRING 105MM ROUNDS AT THE HMONG STRONGHOLD. AT THE SAME TIME, 122MM ROCKETS WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS WERE FIRED FROM THE VILLAGE OF KIEW KA CHAM (TG0965). [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] DURING THIS PERIOD 132 HMONG PEOPLE WERE KILLED BY POISON GAS, [REDACTED] BURYING OF 32 OF THEM. THE REST OF THE 6,270 HMONG PEOPLE IN SEVEN VILLAGES AROUND PHOU DIN DAENG FLED AND RELOCATED IN AREAS AROUND NAM KAI (TG0441) AND PHA KOI (SG9523).

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4. ON 8 AUGUST 1978, LPLA FORCES, JOINED BY PAVN TROOPS, BEGAN LAUNCHING HEAVY CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS ON THE NAM KAI AND PHA KOI AREAS; HOWEVER, THIS TIME THE CHEMICALS WERE DELIVERED BY LIGHT OBSERVATION TYPE AIRCRAFT FIRING ROCKETS. SUPPORTING LPLA AND PAVN JOINT SWEEP OPERATIONS WERE 105MM, 130MM AND 155MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS, AND 122MM ROCKETS. [REDACTED] THE LPLA OPERATION LASTED FOUR MONTHS DURING WHICH THE LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, ARMED WITH SIX TO EIGHT CHEMICAL WARHEAD ROCKETS, FLEW ABOUT 15 MISSIONS DAILY. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 300 ROCKETS, BOTH ORDINARY AND CHEMICAL WARFARE TYPES, WERE FIRED INTO THE AREAS EACH DAY. LPLA FORCES HAD POSITIONED 105MM WEAPONS AT BAN HIN NGOM (NCA), 155MM WEAPONS AT KASI (TG1229), 130MM WEAPONS AT BAN CHIENG (NCA),

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KASI DISTRICT, AND 122MM ROCKETS FROM PHOU PA CHAO (NCA), ABOUT SIX KILOMETERS EAST OF KASI. THE SAME TYPE ROCKETS WERE ALSO FIRED FROM THE AIRFIELD AT KASI WITH CHEMICAL AGENTS INSIDE. AS A RESULT OF THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF POISON GAS ATTACKS, 276 HMONG PEOPLE DIED FROM CONTAMINATION BY THE TOXIC GASES.

5. [REDACTED] THE LAST EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT INVOLVING THE USE OF POISON GAS OCCURRED IN EARLY OCTOBER 1979. ON 4 OCTOBER, AN L-19 AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER THE AREA OF BAN PHA KOI (SG9523) AND FIRED CHEMICAL WARFARE ROCKETS AT HMONG VILLAGERS IN THE AREA. THE ATTACK WAS ACCOMPANIED BY 130MM ARTILLERY FIRE AND 122MM ROCKETS WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS. THE GAS FROM THE EXPLODED ROCKETS DELIVERED BY AIRCRAFT WAS WHITE, RED AND GREEN SMOKE. THE ATTACK RESULTED IN 12 HMONG PEOPLE KILLED. FROM 9-14 OCTOBER, ANOTHER ATTACK USING THE SAME WEAPONS WERE DIRECTED AT THE PHA KOI AREA CAUSING 32 HMONG PEOPLE TO DIE FROM EXPOSURE TO TOXIC GASES. THE REST OF THE VILLAGERS FLED THE AREA AND ON 20 OCTOBER 515 HMONG PEOPLE CROSSED THE MEKONG RIVER TO THAILAND.

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6. ANOTHER HMONG REFUGEE FROM XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] DESCRIBED HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE FROM EXPOSURE TO A CHEMICAL ATTACK. ON 19 MAY 1978, TWO LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT LAUNCHED A POISON GAS ATTACK ON THE AREA OF PHA PHAI (UG0916). ALTHOUGH THE HMONG VILLAGERS ATTEMPTED TO FLEE THE AREA AND RELOCATE TO AN AREA ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS WEST OF PHA PHAI, NOT ALL THE PEOPLE MADE IT. THE HMONG REFUGEE SAID THAT HIS ELDEST SON,

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AGE 19 YEARS, AND HIS DAUGHTER, AGE FOUR YEARS, WERE KILLED BY THE  
POISON GAS THE SAME DAY. FIVE CHILDREN, ALL UNDER THE AGE OF TWO  
YEARS, OF RELATIVES LIVING IN THE SAME AREA ALSO PERISHED BUT ON 20  
MARCH, THE HMONG REFUGEE SAID THAT HE EXPERIENCED TOXIC SYMPTOMS  
FOR UP TO THREE DAYS AFTER THE ATTACK. HE SAID THAT HE SMOKED OPIUM  
FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS BEFORE BELIEVING HE WAS CURED. HE DES-  
CRIBED HIS SYMPTOMS AS DIZZINESS, A SEVERE HEADACHE, AND FREQUENT  
COUGHING. HE HAD CHEST PAINS AND NOTICED IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT  
TO BREATHE, HE ALSO HAD A DRY THROAT, FELT VERY THIRSTY, AND CON-  
SUMED LARGE QUANTITIES OF WATER. THE REFUGEE SAID HE HAD MILD  
DIARRHEA, AND VOMITED BLOOD FROM HIS MOUTH AND NOSE. HE DID NOT  
EXPERIENCE BLOOD COMING OUT THROUGH HIS PORES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE  
REFUGEE SAID HE OBSERVED THAT THOSE HMONG PEOPLE WHO DIED FROM EX-  
POSURE TO THE POISON GAS HAD VOMITED A LOT OF BLOOD. AS SUCH, HE  
BELIEVED THAT THEY DIED BECAUSE THEY LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD AND FROM  
DEHYDRATION.)

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7. ON 2 JANUARY 1980, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THREE SOVIET MIG-21  
AIRCRAFT FLEW FROM THE EAST IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS DA NANG,  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV), AND DROPPED SIX BOMBS IN THE  
VICINITY OF A CAVE USED BY RESISTANCE FORCES. AFTER STRAFING THE  
AREA FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES AND DROPPING THREE MORE BOMBS, THE MIG-21  
AIRCRAFT FLEW AWAY. AT FIRST, THE BOMBS PRODUCED A WHITE SMOKE BUT  
LATER CHANGED FROM A WHITE COLOR TO A MIXTURE OF GREEN AND YELLOW

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SMOKE. THREE DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT, [REDACTED]

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VISITED THE AREA OF THE ATTACK AND OBSERVED A DEAD WILD BOAR AND  
THAT THE FOLIAGE ON THE TREES WAS BEGINNING TO DRY UP AND FALL TO

THE GROUND. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IN NOVEMBER 1979, THE ENTIRE LPLA 3RD

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BATTALION, LPLA 923RD CONSTRUCTION GROUP, DESERTED FROM ITS  
LOCATION ALONG ROUTE 9. LATER, ABOUT 200 OF THE LPLA DESERTERS WERE  
CAPTURED BUT THE REMAINDER TOOK REFUGE INSIDE A CAVE LOCATED ON PHOU  
XANGLE MOUNTAIN (WD5078/.)

8. [REDACTED]

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9. [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

[REDACTED] ALL PORTIONS

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