



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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CIACO - NID 81-2031X

# National Intelligence Daily

Monday  
31 August 1981

*Confirmed*

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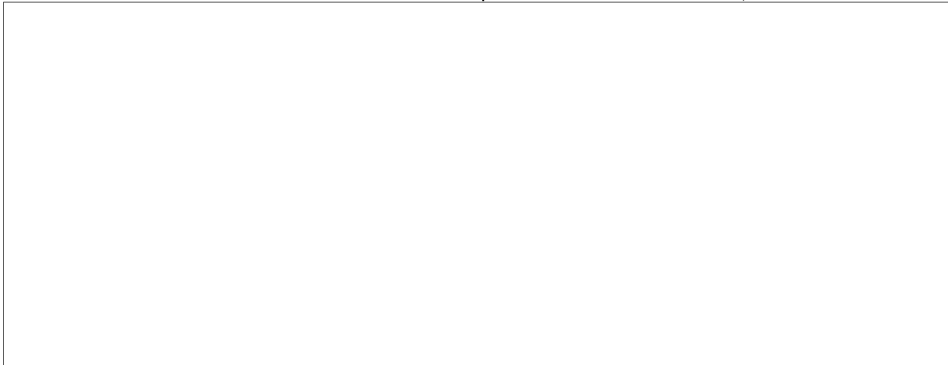
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NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-  
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Contents

Laos-Kampuchea: *Communist Use of Chemical Warfare* . . . . . 1



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LAOS-KAMPUCHEA: Communist Use of Chemical Warfare

[Redacted]

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The reports of the past several years of deaths caused by a yellow powder dropped on villages in Laos, and to a lesser extent in Kampuchea, were confirmed by detailed medical histories, evaluation of field autopsies, examination of refugees at the Thai border who had received sublethal doses, and laboratory tests on samples sent to the US. There have been reports of similar attacks in Afghanistan. [Redacted]

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The agents being used probably are mycotoxins-- highly lethal chemicals that are produced by molds and other fungi. The toxins, when inhaled or applied to the skin, disrupt the membranes of the digestive tract, causing massive bleeding and death from shock in as little as 15 minutes to an hour. [Redacted]

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The toxic agents evidently are supplied by the Soviets and dropped from Soviet aircraft. The Soviets have been investigating these types of chemicals for many years in several restricted microbiological institutes. [Redacted]

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There are indications that the use of these lethal agents is experimental. The several chemicals being used are mixed together in a variety of concentrations and dispersed in various patterns. In one instance, Lao soldiers wearing protective masks entered a strike area immediately after an attack and injected survivors with a solution apparently being tested as an antidote. [Redacted]

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A commission of four UN physicians will visit Thailand this fall to collect evidence for the UN investigation that is under way on the use of lethal chemicals in Laos and Kampuchea. [Redacted]

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