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TOT: 202227Z APR 84

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S E C R E T NOFORN NOCONTRACT WNINTEL

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TO: NPIC, DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT,  
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF,  
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS, DEA, US CUSTOMS SERVICE W,  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI, CORWESTCOM FT  
SHAFTER HI, COMIPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.  
REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT

DIST: 20 APRIL 1984

COUNTRY: LAOS/USSR/BURMA/VIETNAM

SUBJ: LP DR MILITARY REGION 1 UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 1983:  
DELIVERY OF SOVIET-MADE CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO LUANG NAM  
THA; CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GEOLOGISTS EXPLORING NEAR BAN HOU EI  
SAI; OFFICIAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR MUANG TOM PHUNG  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; ATTACK BY A JOINT PAVN-LPA UNIT ON  
LRF FORCES RETURNING FROM CHINA; MILITARY TRAINING FOR  
500 LAO CONSCRIPTS; COMPLETION OF A 30 BED HOSPITAL;  
LRF, LPA AND PAVN MILITARY LOCATIONS; SALE OF 352  
KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM AT MUANG MOM. LPA, PAVN AND LRF  
MILITARY ACTIVITIES.

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SOURCE:

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SUMMARY: THIRTY BOXES OF SOVIET-MADE CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE SENT TO  
LUANG NAM THA FROM VIENTIANE AND WILL BE DEPLOYED ALONG THE  
LAO/CHINESE BORDER. DURING DECEMBER, 15 CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GEOLOGISTS  
EXPLORED MINERAL SITES NEAR BAN HOU EI SAI. ON 1 DECEMBER THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MUANG TOM PHUNG WAS SWORN IN BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF BOKEO PROVINCE. A LARGE NUMBER OF CONSCRIPTS WERE SENT TO  
MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES IN LUANG PRABANG AND OUDOMASAY  
PROVINCES. THE LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY BUILT A 30 BED HOSPITAL IN  
OUDOMASAI PROVINCE. A COMPANY OF LAO SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO THE

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410TH BATTALION FIRED THREE B-40 ROCKET ROUNDS AT THE REFUGEE AREA NEAR BAN NAM LU AND THE LOCAL RESISTANCE FORCES FIRED SEVERAL M-79 ROUNDS AT THE SUSPECTED LOCATIONS OF THE LAO SOLDIERS. NO DAMAGE WAS REPORTED. IN EARLY DECEMBER THE SENIOR MUANG TON PHUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDED A SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY BOKEO PROVINCE OFFICIALS IN HOUEI SAI. APPROXIMATELY 352 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM WERE SOLD AT THE LAO GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TRADING POST AT MUANG MOM ON 15 DECEMBER. SEVERAL LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY UNITS WERE RESHUFFLED THROUGHOUT NORTHERN LAOS AND THERE WERE SEVERAL CLASHES BETWEEN RESISTANCE FORCES AND GOVERNMENT UNITS.

TEXT: 1. [REDACTED]

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2. ON 7 DECEMBER 1984 30 SOVIET ADVISORS AND APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) SECURITY PERSONNEL ARRIVED IN LUANG NAM THA (QD 5019) FROM HANOI VIA TWO SOVIET-MADE MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANES. THE SOVIET AND VIETNAMESE WERE MET BY LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY (LPA) SECURITY FORCES AT THE AIRPORT AND ESCORTED TO A SECURE AREA AT THE END OF THE LUANG NAM THA AIRPORT. THE SENIOR SOVIET ADVISOR TOLD THE LPA SECURITY FORCES THAT ANOTHER TRANSPORT PLANE WOULD ARRIVE ON 8 DECEMBER CARRYING 30 BOXES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND SEVERAL LAUNCHERS, THOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY THE TYPE OF LAUNCHER. AT 0930 ON 8 DECEMBER ANOTHER MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE ARRIVED FROM HANOI AND THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF LPA ARMY UNITS POSITIONED AROUND THE AIRPORT VIRTUALLY SEALING IT OFF. AT 1030 LPA SOLDIERS BEGAN UNLOADING THE AIRCRAFT AND 30 BOXES OF AN UNKNOWN TYPE OF SHELL WERE UNLOADED AND IMMEDIATELY TRANSPORTED TO PHOU SAM YOT (COORD UNK), BAN PHIA DAENG (COORD UNK) AND BAN NA TOEI HUA NAM THUNG (QD 5279). THE SENIOR SOVIET ADVISOR ALSO SAID THAT THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE DEPLOYED ALONG THE LAO/CHINESE BORDER, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHERE NOR WHO WOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER THEIR USE.

COMMENT: SINCE SEPTEMBER 1983 THE LPA AND PAVN HAVE BEEN INCREASING THE SIZE OF THEIR INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, MISSILE AND RADAR FORCES ALONG THE LAO/CHINESE BORDER TO PROTECT THE BORDER AREA AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE CHINESE MILITARY INCURSIONS. THEY ALSO GUARD AGAINST LRF UNITS RETURNING FROM MILITARY TRAINING AT CHINESE MILITARY TRAINING FACILITIES IN YUNNAN PROVINCE.)

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3. THROUGHOUT DECEMBER 15 CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GEOLOGISTS EXPLORED MINERAL SITES NEAR BAN HOUEI SAI (PC 4842) AND HIRED APPROXIMATELY 30 LAO VILLAGERS TO HELP IN THE EXCAVATIONS. THE CZECH GEOLOGISTS PAID THE LAO LABORERS 80 KIP PER DAY. COMMENT: 35 KIP (b)(1) EQUALS U.S.\$1) MOST OF THE GEMS WHICH WERE FOUND WERE SHIPPED TO EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR RESALE TO GEM DEALERS MAINLY IN THE WEST. THE CZECH GEOLOGISTS STAYED AT THE DUANG PANYA HOTEL IN BAN HOUEI SAI AND RETURNED TO LUANG PRABANG ON THE WEEKEND VIA HELICOPTER.

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4. ON 1 DECEMBER THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MUANG TON PUENG DISTRICT WAS OFFICIALLY SWORN IN BY THE GOVERNOR OF BOKEO PROVINCE, NAI ((BUA KET)). THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEIR POSITIONS:

NAI ((NAN THAO))	DISTRICT GOVERNOR
NAI ((CHAN YAO))	DISTRICT SECURITY CHIEF
NAI ((XIANG SOUK))	CHIEF OF PROPAGANDA
NAI ((PHENG))	CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE
NAI ((XIANG LA))	ECONOMIC CHIEF
NAI ((KHAEK))	CHIEF ADVISOR TO THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR
NAI ((THID SAKON))	SECRETARY TO THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR
NAI ((KO LONG))	CHIEF OF LIAISON
NAI ((MUAN))	CHIEF OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE
NAI ((THID PHOEI))	MILITARY CHIEF

LATER IN THE DAY BUA KET PRESIDED OVER A CELEBRATION AND A MILITARY SHOW OF FORCE WHICH INCLUDED THE FIRING OF 105MM HOWITZERS, 12.7 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AND AK-47'S. AT 1500, BUA KET RETURNED

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TO BAN HOU EI SAI VIA HELICOPTER.

5. ON 8 DECEMBER APPROXIMATELY 350 LPA AND PAVN SOLDIERS FROM VIENTIANE WERE DEPLOYED TO BAN KOK KRA (PC 6131), BAN HATXAT (PC 6503) AND HOEUI THONG (PC 6622). EACH UNIT HAD ONE 82MM MORTAR, THREE 60MM MORTARS AND A LARGE NUMBER OF B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLES. ON 11 DECEMBER THIS COMBINED LPA-PAVN UNIT CONDUCTED SWEEP OPERATIONS AND CLASHED WITH LRF TROOPS ON THREE OCCASIONS. SEVEN LRF TROOPS WERE KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WERE WOUNDED. LPA-PAVN CASUALTIES WERE UNKNOWN. THESE UNITS WITHDREW TO VIENTIANE ON 18 DECEMBER.

6. ON 12 DECEMBER A JOINT PAVN-LPA BATTALION-SIZED UNIT DEPLOYED FROM MUANG SING AND ATTACKED AN LRF UNIT WHICH WAS RETURNING FROM MILITARY TRAINING IN CHINA AND WAS SUPPOSED TO JOIN THE LRF FORCES OF MAJOR ((CHANGSOUK)) KAEOLA. THE ATTACK HAPPENED NEAR THE NAM PHA STREAM IN THE VICINITY OF MUANG LONG (PD 8617). SEVEN LRF TROOPS WERE KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED, THREE SERIOUSLY. THE LPA-PAVN FORCES CAPTURED FOUR LRF SOLDIERS AND CONFISCATED 13 AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLES, THREE B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, TWO CHINESE-MADE RADIOS AND APPROXIMATELY 500 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. AFTER THE ATTACK THE PAVN-LPA UNIT CONTINUED PATROLLING ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER SEARCHING FOR ADDITIONAL LRF TROOPS RETURNING FROM CHINA, BUT NO FURTHER CONTACT WAS REPORTED.

7. ON 15 DECEMBER 300 CONSCRIPTS FROM THE BAN HOU EI PHRA (PB 5881) AND THE BAN HATXAT AREAS WERE SENT TO A TRAINING FACILITY IN OUDOMASAY PROVINCE. ON 17 DECEMBER ANOTHER 200 CONSCRIPTS FROM THE MUANG LA (TJ 0111) AREA IN NORTHERN LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE AND THE MUANG KHOUA AREA (TJ 4234) OF SOUTHERN PHONGSALAY PROVINCE WERE SENT TO A MILITARY TRAINING FACILITY NEAR LUANG PRABANG FOR TRAINING.

8. ON 22 DECEMBER THREE LARGE MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANES ARRIVED IN LUANG NAM THA TO RESUPPLY THE LPA AND PAVN UNITS ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE NORTHERN LAO/CHINESE BORDER. LPA UNITS UNLOADED APPROXIMATELY 300 BOXES OF AK-47 AMMUNITION, 20 BOXES OF B-40 ROCKETS, A LARGE AMOUNT OF 60MM AND 82MM MORTAR SHELLS AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF FOOD.

9. [REDACTED] A TOTAL OF 14 CLASHES BETWEEN LPA-PAVN UNITS AND LRF FORCES IN BOKEO, LUANG MAM THA AND OUDOMASAY PROVINCES. FOURTEEN LRF TROOPS WERE KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WERE WOUNDED. AT LEAST 30 LPA-PAVN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WERE WOUNDED. SEVERAL OF THE LRF TROOPS WERE KILLED BY LPA LAND MINES IN THE WIANG PHOUKHA AREA.

10. [REDACTED]

11. TWO LPA BATTALIONS TOTALING 350 WERE REDEPLOYED FROM LUANG PRABANG TO AREAS ALONG THE NORTHERN NAN AND PHAYAO BORDER WITH LAOS. ON 8 DECEMBER THE 23RD LPA BATTALION MOVED FROM MUANG NAN IN LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE TO CAMPS LOCATED NEAR PB 6983. THAO ((SI-CHAN)) WAS THE COMMANDER AND THAO ((SAENG-FONG)) WAS THE DEPUTY COMMANDER. THIS UNIT JOINED WITH THE 417TH BATTALION WHICH WAS STATIONED NEAR PB 6592 AND BEGAN SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS NEAR THE THAI/LAO BORDER. THAO ((KHAM-DI)) WAS THE 417TH BATTALION COMMANDER AND THAO ((KHAM-SING)) WAS THE DEPUTY. THIS COMBINED UNIT CLASHED SEVERAL TIMES WITH THE LRF FORCES OF ((PA KOE HUR)), BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

12. THE LPA FINISHED CONSTRUCTION ON A SMALL 30 BED HOSPITAL LOCATED AT PB 6597 ON 26 DECEMBER. THE LPA ORDERED 70 LOCAL VILLAGERS TO ASSIST THE LPA ENGINEERS IN ITS CONSTRUCTION AND REPORTEDLY DID NOT PAY THE VILLAGERS FOR THEIR SERVICES.

12. THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF LRF LOCATIONS AND STRENGTHS OF MAJOR ((SAENG FU)) SAE-PHAN IN THE MUANG MEUNG AREA (PC 5292):  
LOCATION                      STRENGTH      WEAPONS                      LEADER

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BAN NAM OI (PC 8085)	33		4 X B-40 29 X AK-47'S AND SKS CARBINES	NAI ((YAO-CHOW))
BAN MUANG NOI (COORD UNK)	23		3 X B-40 1 X LMG 16 X AK-47 AND SKS	((CHANI SAE-LI))
BAN NAM FA	30	HF	1 X B-40 3 X PISTOLS 25 X AK-47 AND SKS	((CHA-ING SAE-SOE))
BAN NAM KHA (PC 6696)	40		2 X B-40 35 X AK-47 AND SKS	((KAO CHOW SAE-CHAO))
BAN WANG CHAI (COORD UNK)	20		3 X B-40 11 X AK-47 AND SKS	((SAENG PHIO SAE-PHAN))
BAN MUANG KLANG (COORD UNK)	30		3 X B-40 2 X LMG 35 AK-47 AND SKS	((CHA CHE SAE-LI))
BAN PRUNG PHA (COORD UNK)	20		1 X B-40 3 X PISTOLS 14 X AK-47 AND SKS	((CHA KO SAE-LI))

14. [REDACTED] FOUR CLASHES BETWEEN LPA-PAVN UNITS AND LRF FORCES IN OUDOMASAY PROVINCE. THREE LRF TROOPS WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. ONE LPA SOLDIER WAS KILLED AND AT LEAST SEVEN WOUNDED. THREE BY AN LRF MINE NEAR MUANG NGEUN (QB 2373).

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16. ON 3 DECEMBER A COMPANY OF LPA SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO THE 410TH LPA BATTALION FROM BAN NAM KHAM (PB 5482), SAYABOURI PROVINCE TRAVELED TO THE THAI/LAO BORDER NEAR BAN NAM LU (PB 8157). THIS UNIT FIRED THREE B-40 ROCKETS TOWARDS BAN NAM LU IN NORTHERN NAN PROVINCE BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER LRF FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND OF ((SOMSAENG)) CHARIN FIRED SEVERAL M-79 ROUNDS AT SUSPECTED LPA POSITIONS, BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE KNOWN.

17. ON 12 DECEMBER THE DISTRICT LEADER OF MUANG XIANGHON (PB 8866) IN SAYABOURI PROVINCE ORDERED THE LEADERS OF THE 13 MAJOR TOWNSHIPS UNDER HIS JURISDICTION TO DRAFT 25 MEN FROM EACH TOWNSHIP BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-30 TO JOIN THE LOCAL MILITIA FORCES. THE DRAFTEES WOULD BE SENT TO LUANG PRABANG FOR TWO MONTHS OF BASIC MILITARY TRAINING AND RETURNED TO MUANG XIANGHON. THOSE MEN WHO REFUSED INDUCTION WOULD BE PROSECUTED AND RECEIVE A JAIL TERM OF THREE YEARS. AFTER LEARNING THIS, MANY YOUNG MEN FLED INTO THE JUNGLE TO AVOID THE DRAFT DECREE AND REPORTEDLY JOINED LRF FORCES IN THE AREA.

18. BETWEEN 10-19 DECEMBER THERE WERE FIVE FLIGHTS OF AN-2 MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANES FROM LUANG PRABANG TO THE AIRSTRIP AT XIANGLONG (PB 9173). ON 10 SEPTEMBER TWO FLIGHTS ARRIVED TRANSPORTING A LARGE AMOUNT OF UNIFORMS, BLANKETS, MOSQUITO NETTING AND OTHER MILITARY SUPPLIES. ON 14 DECEMBER TWO FLIGHTS TRANSPORTED SEVERAL TONS OF AMMUNITION INCLUDING 60MM MORTAR AND 82MM MORTAR SHELLS, 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLE SHELLS, 12.7 AA AMMUNITION AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF AK-47 ROUNDS. ON 19 DECEMBER ONE FLIGHT ARRIVED TRANSPORTING FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

19. [REDACTED] SEVEN CLASHES BETWEEN LPA-PAVN SOLDIERS AND LRF TROOPS IN SAYABOURI PROVINCE. FOUR LRF TROOPS WERE KILLER AND SEVEN WOUNDED. EIGHTEEN LPA-PAVN SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WERE WOUNDED.

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20. [REDACTED]

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21. FROM 1-5 DECEMBER THE SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS OF MUANG EN PHUNG (PC 1544) ATTENDED A SPECIAL SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY BOKEO PROVINCE OFFICIALS IN BAN HOUEI SAI. LPA MILITARY INSTRUCTORS LECTURED ON GUERRILLA TACTICS AND ON VARIOUS AMBUSH TECHNIQUES. THERE WAS A LECTURE BY POLITICAL OFFICERS ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNISM. AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS INTRODUCED NEW CROPS TO THE MUANG TON PHUNG OFFICIALS AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR LOCAL VILLAGERS TO GROW MORE VEGETABLES AND RICE FOR THEIR OWN CONSUMPTION AND FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPLY THE LPA UNITS IN THEIR AREAS.

22. ON 14 DECEMBER APPROXIMATELY 220 CHOIS OF OPIUM (352 KILOGRAMS) WERE SHIPPED TO THE LAO-GOVERNMENT CONDONED TRADING POST AT MUANG MOM (PC 1785) BY LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR RESALE TO BURMESE AND THAI SMUGGLERS. ONE CHOI OF OPIUM COSTS 700 BAHT (US\$30). (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: 22.9 BAHT EQUALS U.S.\$1). HOWEVER, IF RAW OPIUM IS TRADED, THEN FIVE CHOIS OF OPIUM (EIGHT KILOGRAMS) WILL BUY 100 BUSHELS OF RICE. THE OPIUM WAS BOUGHT BY THAI MERCHANTS AND SENT TO THE MAJOR SHAN UNITED ARMY (SUA) MARKET AT MAE SAI FOR FURTHER TRANSSHIPMENT.

23. [REDACTED] FOUR CLASHES BETWEEN LPA-PAVN UNITS AND LRF FORCES. THREE LRF TROOPS WERE KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF LPA-PAVN CASUALTIES.

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