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31 Feb

Domestic Collection Division
Foreign Intelligence Information Report

COUNTRY Laos

DCD REPORT NO. []

(b)(3)

SUBJECT Possible Use of Soviet Manufactured
Antonov AN-2 Aircraft for Spraying
Poison Gases Over Meo Mountain Homes

DATE DISTR. 13 APR 1977

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. []

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE []

(b)(1)

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1. [] the People's Democratic Republic of Laos has used Soviet manufactured Antonov AN-2 agricultural bi-planes to spray lethal gases over mountain areas known to be the home of Meo tribal groups. The chemicals and agricultural AN-2 bi-planes were delivered to the Laotian Government from Eastern Europe, possibly Poland. []

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[] some 150 thousand to 200 thousand Meo have fled Laos since the Communist regime seized power. Those Meo tribal groups that have remained in Laos have been an irritating and hostile force to the Communist run Lao Government. Military efforts to counter Meo hostilities against the government have met with little success.

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2. While information about the poison spraying effort is sketchy, there does appear to be an effort on the part of the Lao Government to exterminate at least part of the Meo tribal group. Meos in Thailand stated that the poison spraying effort has occurred on several occasions. [] the poisons that have apparently been used would not be part of any known agricultural efforts conducted by the Lao Government.

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