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**Intelligence Information Cable** IN 4661740  
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FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

STATE/INR JCS/MC(DIA) CIA/NMCC  
SWS NSA TREAS SDD  
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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~/WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON

CITE [redacted]  
DIST 10 JUL 80

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COUNTRY LAOS/VIETNAM

SUBJECT [redacted] PAVN USE OF CW AGAINST  
HMONG RESISTANCE IN LATE 1978; INSTRUCTION ON 82MM  
MORTAR WITH CW CAPABILITY [redacted]

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SOURCE

[redacted]

SUMMARY:

[redacted] IN LATE 1978 THE PEOPLE'S  
ARMY OF VIETNAM USED "CHEMICAL B" TO ATTACK RESISTANCE ELEMENTS  
HIDDEN IN A CAVE ON THE SIDE OF PHOU BIA MOUNTAIN IN LAOS. THE AGENT  
WAS ALLEGEDLY DELIVERED BY A B-40 OR B-41 ROCKET. THE LPLA SOLDIER  
[redacted] DESCRIBED A CHEMICAL WARHEAD FOR THE 82MM  
MORTAR [redacted] NEVER ACTUALLY SAW SUCH A ROUND AND DID NOT BELIEVE  
IT WAS EVER EMPLOYED IN LAOS. END SUMMARY.

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1. [redacted]

[redacted]

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WARNING NOTICE  
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[REDACTED] THE LPLA CON-  
DUCTED JOINT SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS AGAINST LAO RESISTANCE WITH  
PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) FORCES. [REDACTED] PAVN BATTALION  
405 WAS HEADQUARTERED IN AN AREA BETWEEN MUANG OM (UF1997 AND MUANG  
CHA (TF9689), XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE. THIS PAVN BATTALION COMPRISED  
SEVEN COMPANIES WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO CARRY OUT COMBAT MISSIONS  
JOINTLY WITH LPLA FORCES. ( [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT WHENEVER A JOINT OPERATION WAS CON-  
DUCTED, THE MILITARY FORCE WHICH POSSESSED SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
TARGET LOCATION WOULD LEAD THE OPERATION WHILE THE OTHER MILITARY  
FORCE PROVIDED SUPPORT. [REDACTED] PAVN COMPANY 2 OF BATTALION  
405 AND LPLA COMPANY 4 OF BATTALION 116 (UNIDENTIFIED)  
WERE OFTEN JOINED IN SUCH OPERATIONS.)

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2. IN LATE 1978, A 20-MAN PAVN INTELLIGENCE UNIT WAS DEPLOYED TO  
A SITE ON PHOU BIA (UF0690) TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE. THE PAVN  
INTELLIGENCE UNIT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ATTACKED BY HMONG RESISTANCE  
RESULTING IN 19 PAVN SOLDIERS KILLED AND ONE SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPING  
TO REPORT THE ATTACK. [REDACTED] WAS TOLD BY  
A PAVN NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (NCO) THAT PAVN AUTHORITIES WERE  
EXTREMELY BITTER OVER THE DEATH OF THEIR COMRADES AND ABOUT ONE-TWO  
WEEKS AFTER THE INCIDENT LAUNCHED A COUNTER-OPERATION. THE PAVN NCO  
SAID THEY HAD USED "CHEMICAL B" TO ATTACK RESISTANCE ELEMENTS HIDDEN  
IN A CAVE ON THE SIDE OF PHOU BIA MOUNTAIN. ( [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PAVN ATTACK FORCE

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UTILIZED B-40 OR B-41 ROUNDS CONTAINING AN UNSPECIFIED POISON  
CHEMICAL.) THE ATTACK ON THE HMONG HIDE-OUT KILLED A LARGE NUMBER  
OF RESISTANCE PEOPLE AND THE PAVN WAS ABLE TO RETRIEVE WEAPONS AND  
RADIOS EARLIER CAPTURED BY THE HMONG FROM THE 20-MAN PAVN INTELLI-  
GENCE UNIT.

3.

[REDACTED]

THE LPLA

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INITIATED THREE COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST HMONG RESISTANCE BETWEEN  
DECEMBER 1976 AND MID-1977. THE FIRST WAS KNOWN AS COMBAT OPERATION  
NUMBER ONE AND WAS LAUNCHED IN DECEMBER 1976 AT PHOU MI (TG6611)  
IN THE VICINITY OF LONG TIENG (UG8113); THE SECOND WAS COMBAT OPERA-  
TION NUMBER TWO AND WAS LAUNCHED IN JANUARY 1977 NEAR NAM NGON (NCA)  
IN AN AREA BETWEEN LONG TIENG AND BAN XON (TF6094); AND THE THIRD  
WAS COMBAT OPERATION NUMBER THREE AND WAS LAUNCHED IN MID-1977 AT PHOU  
MAE (TF9481) IN MUANG CHA DISTRICT.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE LPLA USED L-19 AIRCRAFT TO SUPPORT  
GROUND TROOPS WITH ROCKETS. THE L-19 AIRCRAFT WAS USED OPERATIONALLY  
FROM 1976 TO 1978 AND [REDACTED] USED ONLY "ORDINARY ROCKETS."  
THESE ROCKETS WERE OBSERVED BEING FIRED AT TARGETS FROM A DISTANCE OF  
ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS, AND PRODUCED ONLY "WHITE SMOKE."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

4. IN APRIL 1978,

[REDACTED]

A ONE-MONTH LONG TRAINING COURSE ON THE ADVANCED USE OF THE 82MM

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MORTAR. THE COURSE WAS GIVEN AT THE XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE TOWN (UG0651) BY LPLA INSTRUCTOR P H O U V I E N G (LNU). PHOUVIENG EXPLAINED TO THE CLASS THAT THERE WERE FIVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOVIET 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS WITH SPECIFIC CAPABILITIES. THERE WAS THE ORDINARY FRAGMENTATION ROUND, A SMOKE ROUND USED TO SPOT LOCATIONS, A LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION ROUND FOR DISSEMINATING WRITTEN MATTER TO ENEMY LOCATIONS, A ROUND WHICH BLOWS DOWNWARD TO PRODUCE DEEP CRATERS, AND A CHEMICAL ROUND WHICH KILLS BY EMITTING POISON.

[REDACTED] COMMENT: PHOUVIENG SHOWED PICTURES OF EACH TYPE OF MORTAR ROUND, WHICH WERE ANNOTATED IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, BUT EXPLAINED THEIR FUNCTION AND CHARACTERISTICS IN THE LAO LANGUAGE.) PHOUVIENG TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT CHEMICAL ROUNDS WERE EFFECTIVE WHEN FIRED WITHIN ONE KILOMETER OF THE ENEMY'S LOCATION BECAUSE THE SMOKE FROM THE ROUND WAS TOXIC AND WOULD KILL THEM. THIS TYPE OF ROUND WAS TO BE USED ONLY WHEN THE ENEMY WAS MUCH STRONGER AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CAPTURE THE ENEMY'S POSITION USING CONVENTIONAL MILITARY TACTICS. PHOUVIENG COMMENTED THAT THE PATHET LAO HAD USED CHEMICAL ROUNDS AGAINST "SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS" (SGU) DURING THE WAR (LATE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S). HE SAID THAT THE EFFECT OF THE CHEMICAL CAUSED DEATH INSTANTANEOUSLY AND DESCRIBED IT AS BEING ABLE TO KILL A MAN WHILE HE SAT AND STILL LEAVE HIM HOLDING HIS WEAPON. [REDACTED] COMMENT:

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[REDACTED] THE CHEMICAL USED AGAINST THE LAO RESISTANCE WAS THE SAME KIND CONTAINED IN THE 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS. IN APPEARANCE, THE CHEMICAL MORTAR ROUND AND THE

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ROUND DESIGNED TO CREATE CRATERS WERE APPROXIMATELY 1.50 METERS (SIC)  
IN LENGTH; WHILE THE FRAGMENTATION, SMOKE, AND LEAFLET ROUNDS WERE  
SHORTER, ABOUT 30 CENTIMETERS IN LENGTH. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] OPINION THAT THE CHEMICAL ROUND WAS

NEVER EMPLOYED IN LAOS.)

5. [Redacted]

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6. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T/WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND  
METHODS INVOLVED/NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS-NOT RELEASABLE  
TO CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANTS-DISSEMINATION AND  
EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR

[Redacted]

ALL PORTIONS

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CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT

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