Foreign Assessment

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3 DECEMBER 1981 CONTENTS (b)(1) (b)(3) EVIDENCE MOUNTS FOR CHINA/VIETNAM: VIETNAMESE USE OF "YELLOW RAIN" (b)(3)(b)(1) (b)(3) Reports about Vietnamese use of
"yellow toxin", coupled with the
tindings of US laboratories, (b)(1)(b)(3)is building a convincing case for Vietnamese use of lethal agents. (b)(3)(b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)226

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CHINA/\	VIETNAM: EVIDENCE MOUNTS FOR VIETNAMESE USE OF 'YELLOW RAIN''	
	We have received of alleged use of "yellow rain" or "yellow toxin" against Chinese troops during the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese border conflict. Exposure to "yellow toxin" is consistent with some of the symptons described in of unusual injuries sustained in the conflict that required medical evacuation to for treatment. However, there is some evidence that the Vietnamese used a standard chemical agent and possibly a nerve agent against the Chinese.	(k (k (k ('(
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technicians were sent to Kampuchea about six months ago to collect samples of possible lethal agents used by the Vietnamese. The samples were tested for all standard chemical warfare agents and found negative. They were not tested for mycotoxin, a fact that suggests that the Chinese did not identify the "yellow toxin" of 1979 and may have only discovered its identity from recent news articles.

On the other hand, analyses of physical samples from areas of Laos and Kampuchea subjected to "yellow rain" attacks continue to provide firm evidence of offensive use of lethal agents. The most recent result shows high levels of at least two very toxic trichothecene mycotoxins in a powder scraped from a rock in Laos. Earlier results revealed the presence of these two toxins as well as two other mycotoxins in samples of water, soil and vegetation. Equally significant are the negative control samples, which counter the argument that the toxins present are the result of natural contamination. These control samples include rice and corn, which are materials often contaminated naturally. These results are all the more credible because the samples were given

double-blind study), and consistently reports accurately on "spiked" positive control samples.

Blood samples have been collected from individuals exposed to "yellow rain" and from unexposed (control) individuals. Standard blood tests were conducted. Although not conclusive, the results supported toxin exposure. Portions of the blood samples are now being analyzed directly for evidence of toxins.

A total of 15 samples from three different attack sites and at least two control sites in Laos and Kampuchea have now been analyzed. This physical evidence provides

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strong support for the thesis that lethal chemical/biological agents have been and are being used in Southeast Asia.	(b
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