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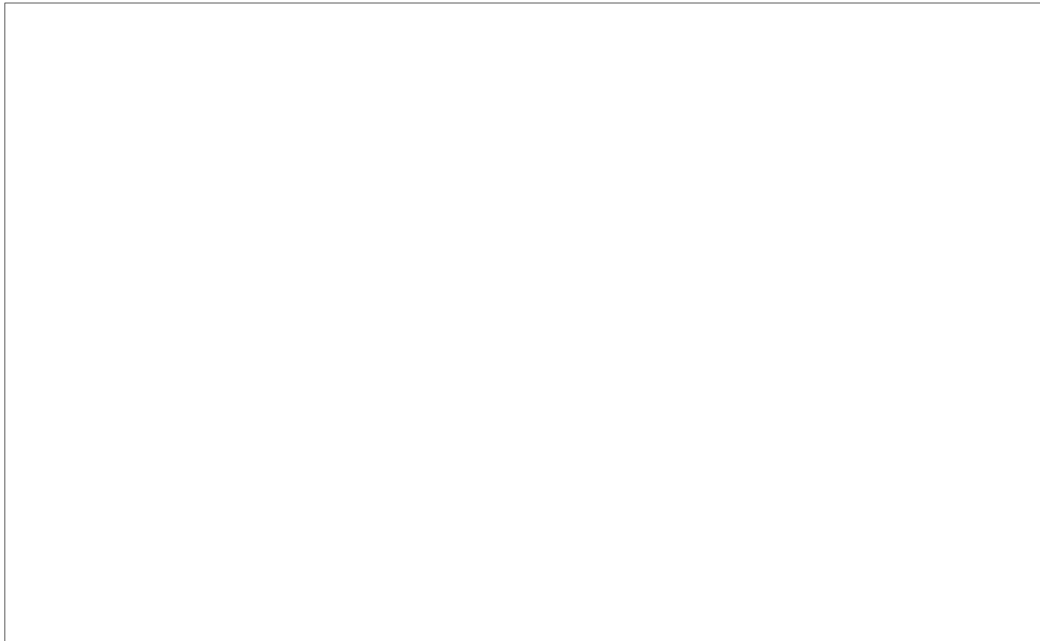
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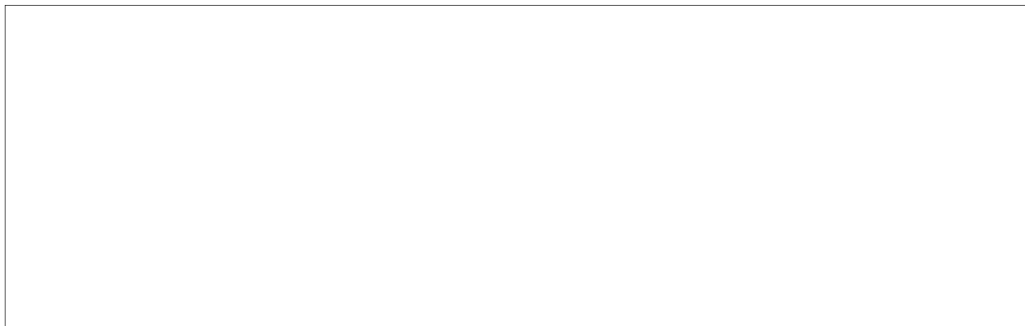
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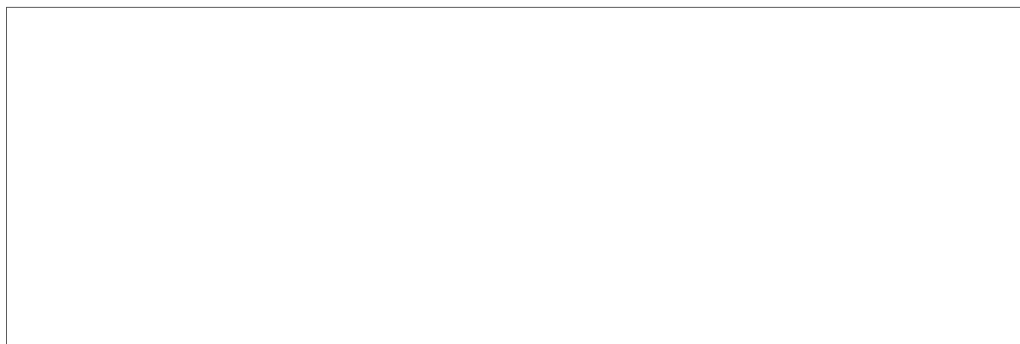
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BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WARFARE

Ron Stocks/LSD
8232GLaos: Use of Chemical Warfare Against Meos Reported [redacted]

According to a former Laotian Army officer in Thailand, the Laotian Army has killed 1,200 Meos with CW agents this year. The use of CW and the casualty figures have not been confirmed. [redacted]

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Laotian refugees who fled to Thailand early this month have reported the use of CW agents by Laotian troops against their village in western Laos. The leader of the group, a former Army officer, stated that L-19 aircraft fired rockets to disseminate the agent, which was described as a green or red smoke. He said that those he saw affected by the agent vomited, hemorrhaged from the nose and mouth, fell unconscious, and usually died within 24 hours. He added that the residue from the agent remained dangerous for a week unless washed away by rains. [redacted]

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This latest report supports several recent Asian newspaper articles that discussed the use of toxic agents against the Meos. The Army officer comes from an area west-northwest of Vientiane, 100 to 150 miles from a similar attack that was reported in November. Both the colors of the agent or agents and the physiological symptoms cited are similar to those reported earlier. This recent report, however, states that the residue remained hazardous for a week unless it rained. Such persistency, if true, would eliminate both chlorine and phosgene, as reported earlier, since both are nonpersistent agents. Persistency of one week is characteristic of a mustard agent. Further clarification of the agent or agents involved must await medical examination of the refugees, who would have deep blisters on exposed skin if mustard was indeed one of the agents used. [redacted]

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