



DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION Foreign Intelligence Information Report

WARNING NOTICE—INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

DIRECTORATE OF
OPERATIONS

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS
STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT

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REPORT CLASS.	C O N F I D E N T I A L — WHINTEL REPORT NO.		[REDACTED]	(b)(3)
	NOFORN		28 OCT 1961	
COUNTRY	Laos	DATE DISTR.	[REDACTED]	(b)(3)
SUBJECT	Use of Chemical Agents	REFERENCES	[REDACTED]	(b)(1) (b)(3)
SOURCE	[REDACTED]			(b)(1) (b)(3)
	[REDACTED]			(b)(1) (b)(3)

1. In late August of this year two light observation-type aircraft were observed spraying a yellow powder over several acres on the Laotian side of the border (chemical not further identified.) After the spraying a number of Laotians were treated in the Tom Dooley Refugee Camp with signs of stomach ailments such as vomiting and nausea. Several deaths were attributed to the chemical agent. The Pathet Lao were warned that the spraying was going to take place and did evacuate the area for about two weeks. After a short time span of two weeks, the Pathet Lao reoccupied the area. There were apparently no ill effects on refugees coming through the area after the reoccupation.

2. The refugee camp is commanded by a military officer and the day-to-day operations of the camp are carried out by Thai military personnel. The camp has no evacuation procedures nor were there any procedures for evacuation from the nearby towns in surrounding areas.

[REDACTED] had to come up with their own evacuation plan. The plan was nothing more than boarding a truck and traveling via back roads in order to reach the main artery leading into Bangkok. All the roads leading into the camp were controlled by Thai soldiers using road blocks and check points.

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 The Tom Dooley Refugee
Camp is located in the town of Bannan Yal and medical teams
stayed in Pua, commuting daily.

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3. The Thai soldiers did not carry gas masks nor did they have access to any other types of protective clothing. There were no CER or anti-aircraft warning systems in the area. In fact the Thai soldiers in general were in quite a disarray with regards to their uniforms and weapons, and showed a total lack of discipline. The Thai soldiers carried their weapons everywhere they went, more a status symbol than a weapon, including the bars and restaurants. They would sometimes get drunk and shoot up a public place and apparently would not receive any disciplinary action.

4. The insurgent activity in the area seemed totally disorganized and did not constitute a threat to the local area. During a fire fight one night not far from the camp, M-16 automatic weapons fire was identified, but the Thai soldiers paid little or no attention to what was taking place.

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