15 Aug '84

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Analytical Branch
Research Division

Analysis/Evaluation of Swabs

A shipment designated 10027XXX, also identified with TH830513-35DL, was received by the Analytical Branch from FSTC 3 June 1983. The sample consisted of 12 swabs with dark particulates and/or oily residue on the cotton tips (fig 1).

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A vapor sample withdrawn from within the plastic bag was subjected to analysis by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). Three swabs were leached in chloroform, three others were leached in 1:1 methanol:water. The solvent soluble materials were analyzed by GC/MS, ion chromatography (IC), thin layer chromatography (TLC), and infrared spectrometry (IR).

The GC/MS spectra of the vapor associated with the swabs identified the presence of trichloroethene, methylisoketone, toluene, xylene, ethyl benzene, isopropyl benzene, isopropylcyanate, 6-methyl-hept-5-ene-2-one and 2-methylcyclohexanol. GC/MS of the solvent soluble materials did not give any definitive spectra.

IC detected a possible trace of cyanide. No detectable components were separated by TLC. Derivatization with negative ion chemical ionization MS detection for trichothecenes was negative. IR spectra identified the presence of water, aliphatic hydrocarbons, a carbonyl band at 1725 cm^{-1}, and C-O ester.

Conclusion:

No evidence of any known CW agent, agent degradation product or trichothecene was detected. The swabs appear to have been contaminated with a solvent mixture, typical of a cleaning or degreasing solvent.

Classified by CIA
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Declassify: OADR

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ENCL 5

FIGURE 1