

5h

EXCISE REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed;  
transferred to O/FAC/NO

Cat. B - Transferred to O/FAC/NO  
with additional access  
controlled by S/S

Cat. C - Caption and custody  
retained by S/S

Reviewed by: [Signature]  
Date: 10/21/88

CB-0055

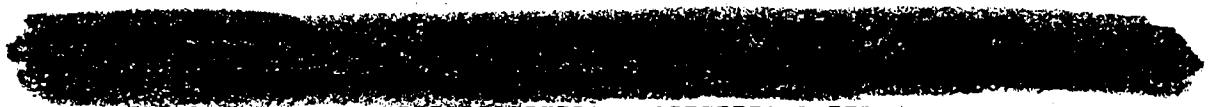
(R)

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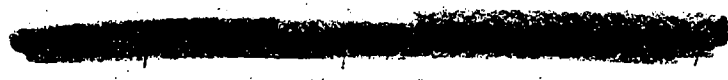
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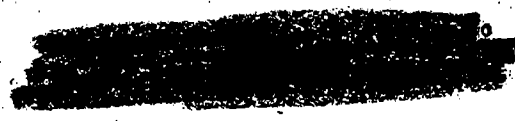
79 2014375 PAGE 001 NC 2014375  
TOR: 181117Z FEB 79

RR RUEAITR  
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ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 160809Z FEB 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0013  
INFO RUMTRK/AMCONSUL UDORN 6029  
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 1604  
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3424  
RUHQHQAY/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
BT  
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All b3

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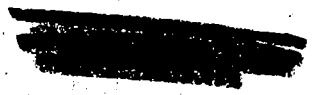
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 12065: XDS-1 AND 2 02/16/04 (CONLON, THOMAS F.) DR-P  
TAGS: SHUM, MMOL, AMEND, LA, TH  
SUBJ: (C) MEDICAL EVIDENCE OF USE OF POISON GAS AGAINST  
HMONG TRIBESMEN IN LAOS

REF: A. STATE 33273, R. UDORN 042, C. STATE 32988,  
D. STATE 20526, E. USDAO BANGKOK DTG 260847Z JAN 79,  
F. FTB 23073 (TDFIB 314/02027-78)

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS FROM HMONG SOURCES ALLEGING THE USE OF POISON GAS BY LAO OR VIETNAMESE FORCES AGAINST HMONG TRIBESMEN IN LAOS, AND THERE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN DETERMINING THEIR VERACITY. IN TRYING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION, ONE MUST NOT OVERLOOK SUCH FACTORS AS THE PREVALENCE OF RUMOR

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① All of section 1 is  
classified?

② references

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by [Signature] DATE 10/17/88

(  ) RELEASE (  ) DECLASSIFY  
 ( ) EXCISE ( ) DECLASSIFY in PART  
 ( ) DENY ( ) Non-responsive info.  
 FOI, EO or PA exemptions CIA (b3)

TS authority to  
 ( ) CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_ OADR  
 ( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR

STATE

79 2014375

PAGE 002  
TOR: 181117Z FEB 79

NC 2014375

IN AN EMOTIONAL AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION AND THE POSSIBLE USE OF TOXIC MATERIALS OTHER THAN POISON GAS, E.G., DEFOLIANTS, RIDT CONTROL AGENTS, PHOSPHOROUS SHELLS, ETC. OBVIOUSLY, SCIENTIFIC TESTING WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO ATTEMPT TO DEAL THE SUBJECT. ONE SUCH TEST HAS BEEN PERFORMED HERE BY THE ROYAL THAI ARMY LAB (REF F). SOME OF THE MATERIAL USED IN THIS TEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER TESTING AND HOPEFULLY THE RESULTS WILL BE MORE CONCLUSIVE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A READ-OUT OF THE RESULTS OF THIS TEST.

3. REGARDING FEASIBILITY AND USEFULNESS OF TESTING BLOOD/URINE SAMPLES OF HONG REFUGEES ALLEGING GAS ATTACKS (REF A), WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS TWO OF THE POINTS MADE BY CONSULATE UDORN IN REF B: (A) THE TREK FROM HONG SETTLEMENTS TO THAILAND FOR MOST REFUGEES REQUIRES TWO WEEKS AT LEAST. THIS MEANS THAT THOSE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO A HEAVY DOSE OF GAS PROBABLY DO NOT MAKE IT TO THAILAND. THOSE LESS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED MAY NOT DEPART THEIR HOMES IMMEDIATELY AND, DURING THE TWO WEEKS TRAVEL TIME TO THAILAND, THE EVIDENCE OF THE "GAS" MIGHT WEAKEN OR DISAPPEAR. (B) THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO ALLEGED GAS VICTIMS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS AT NONG KHAI. THUS, WE ARE TALKING ONLY ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE CASES.

4. THERE IS AT BEST A REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF A REFUGEE APPEARING WITH FAIRLY FRESH EVIDENCE OF GASSING. IN SUCH A CASE, MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN THE CAMP PRESUMABLY COULD TAKE SAMPLES OF WHOLE BLOOD/SERUM/URINE AND FLY THE SAMPLES TO BANGKOK, WHERE WE BELIEVE THAT THAI ARMY LABORATORIES ARE CAPABLE OF MAKING NECESSARY TESTS. ARRANGEMENTS COULD PROBABLY BE MADE, IF REQUIRED, FOR U.S. PERSONNEL TO WORK WITH THE THAI ARMY IN THIS EFFORT, AND TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT.

5. WE OBVIOUSLY ALSO NEED TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT HOW AND BY WHOM ANY FIRM EVIDENCE OF GASSING WHICH MIGHT BE DISCOVERED WOULD BE PUBLICIZED OR USED.

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STATE

79 2014375

PAGE 003  
TOP: 181117Z FEB 79

NC 2014375

6. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SUBJECT CLOSELY,  
BUT WE SUSPECT THAT CONCRETE EVIDENCE WILL CONTINUE TO  
BE HARD TO COME BY. LEVIN

END OF MESSAGE

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