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 TO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 1269
 INFO RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0462
 RUMJDM/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2242
 RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0654
 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6712
 RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4618
 RUDKFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 6159
 RUHQHQA/ CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 4755

BT
CONFIDENTIAL STATE 288905

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/5/85 (LYNE, STEPHEN R.)

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE IN KAMPUCHEA

1. (U) THE OCTOBER 31 "WASHINGTON POST" CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ITEM, HEADLINED "GOVERNOR SAYS VIETNAMESE ACCUSED OF USING POISON GAS." BEGIN TEXT ST. PAUL, MINN., OCTOBER 30 (AP) - GOV. AL QUIE, JUST BACK FROM A TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA SAID TODAY THAT SOME CAMBODIAN REFUGEES MADE "HEAVY ACCUSATIONS" THAT VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WERE USING POISON GAS. QUIE WAS ONE OF SEVEN GOVERNORS WHO TOURED REFUGEE CAMPS IN THAILAND LAST WEEKEND.

"AMONG THE PEOPLE THERE ARE HEAVY ACCUSATION OF POISON GAS....PEOPLE SHOWED BLOTCHES ON THEIR SKIN WHICH THEY SAID WERE CAUSED BY POISON GAS," QUIE TOLD REPORTERS.
 END TEXT.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by S/look DATE 11/17/88

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions CIA (1A3)

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

2. (C) WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON WHAT IT WAS THAT GOV. QUIE SAW THAT LED HIM TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT, AS WELL AS SUMMARY OF BRIEFINGS GIVEN THE GOVERNORS ON THE ISSUE OF POISON GAS REPORTS FROM KAMPUCHEA AND LAOS. (FYI: GOVERNOR RAY, FOR INSTANCE, APPARENTLY CAME AWAY FROM TRIP WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT USE OF POISON GAS IN LAOS WAS AN ESTABLISHED AND ACCEPTED FACT. END FYI) DEPARTMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER REPORTS THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS ARE BEING USED IN KAMPUCHEA AS WELL AS LAOS.

3. (C) WE ARE AWARE OF CURRENT STRAINS ON EMBASSY RESOURCES ARISING FROM FAMINE SITUATION. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE UNDER THESE CONSTRAINTS ANY REFUGEES FROM EITHER KAMPUCHEA OR LAOS WHO CLAIM TO HAVE WITNESSED OR UNDERGONE CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS, SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED IN DETAIL AND INFORMATION OBTAINED FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY. ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL TEAM THAT RECENTLY VISITED THAILAND ARE PREPARED TO RETURN UPON SHORT NOTICE IF NEW INFORMATION WARRANTS.
CHRISTOPHER

END OF MESSAGE

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