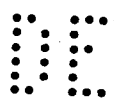


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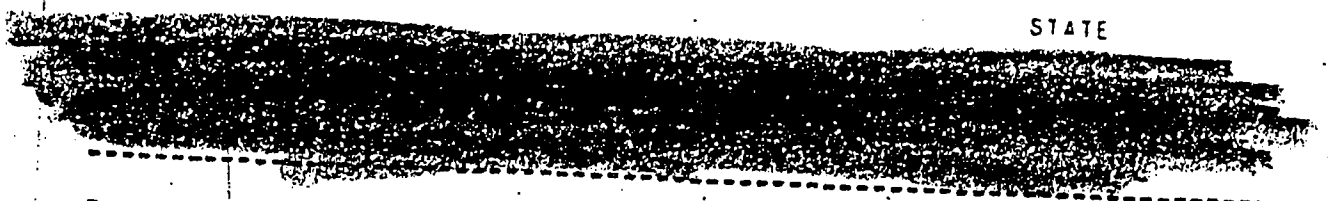
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 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
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 RUFHUK RUFHOL RUMJFS RUDKFMQ RUFHGV RUEHDT RUHQHQA  
 DE RUEHC #9641 3212147  
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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 0000  
 INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0000  
 RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0000  
 RUEHBAC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0000  
 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0000  
 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0000  
 RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0000  
 RUFHUK/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0000  
 RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 0000  
 RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0000  
 RUDKFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0000  
 RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000  
 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000  
 RUHQHQA/ CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0000  
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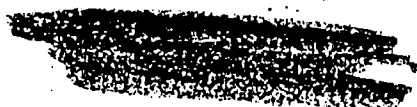
C O N F I D E N T I - A L STATE 299641  
 E.O. 12065: GDS, 11/17/85 (OAKLEY, ROBERT B.)  
 TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, LA, VM, US

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO VIETNAMESE ON ALLEGED USE OF "POISON GAS" IN INDOCHINA

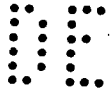
REF: STATE 238014

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. EMBASSY IS FAMILIAR WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS WITH

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
 REVIEWED by J. Look DATE 11/17/88  
 RELEASE  DECLASSIFY  
 EXCISE  DECLASSIFY in PART  
 DENY  Non-responsive info.  
 FOI, EO or PA exemptions (b)(6)  
 CLASSIFY as C1A 1.3 (b)(3) TS authority to: \_\_\_\_\_, OADR  
 DOWNGRADE TS to  S or  C, OADR



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REGARD TO REPORTS OF USE OF "POISON GAS" IN LAOS AND HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING WHAT INFORMATION THUS FAR HAS BEEN COMPILED.

3. AS REFTEL NOTES, INFORMATION DEVELOPED ON POSSIBLE USE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS IN LAOS BY LAO AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS AGAINST HMONG HILLTRIBESPEOPLE WARRANTS OUR DEEP CONCERN AND CONTINUING INVESTIGATION. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS OF RECENT MEDICAL TEAM WHICH CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS (SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER) AMONG HMONG REFUGEES CLAIMING TO BE EYE WITNESSES TO "POISON GAS" ATTACKS IN LAOS TEND GENERALLY TO CORROBORATE FINDINGS OF EARLIER (JUNE) INVESTIGATION. MOREOVER, ONE OF TWO SAMPLES OF "GAS RESIDUE" OBTAINED FROM HMONG REFUGEES IN JUNE INTERVIEWS HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS

A "WETTING AGENT" COMMONLY USED TO PROMOTE DISPERSAL OF AIRBORNE PARTICULATES SUCH AS POWDERED CHEMICAL AGENTS. WHILE ANALYSIS OF PHYSICALLY SIMILAR "SAMPLE" OBTAINED BY MEDICAL TEAM IN OCTOBER FROM HMONG REFUGEE HAS YET TO BE COMPLETED, DISCOVERY OF THIS SUBSTANCE IS SIGNIFICANT, AND TENDS TO SUBSTANTIATE TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN JUNE INVESTIGATION THAT SOME LETHAL AGENT HAS BEEN USED AGAINST HMONG TRIBESPEOPLE.

4. BOTH THE JUNE AND SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER INTERVIEWS INDICATED VIETNAMESE INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTACKS. MOREOVER, THE SUBSTANTIAL ROLE THAT THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY PLAYS IN LAO DEFENSE AFFAIRS LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DOUBT THAT IF A LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENT(S) IS BEING USED AGAINST THE HMONG IN LAOS BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE VIETNAMESE INVOLVEMENT AS WELL.

5. RECENT REPORTS AND (GDK) ALLEGATIONS OF GAS USE BY VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN KAMPUCHEA AGAINST KHMER RESISTANCE AND CIVILIANS DEEPEN OUR CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE VIETNAMESE COMBAT USE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA.

6. DEPARTMENT HAS TRANSMITTED TEXTS OF JUNE INTERVIEWS TO EMBASSY BANGKOK.

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7. GIVEN MOUNTING INFORMATION AND CONCERN REGARDING VIETNAMESE USE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA AGAINST COMBATANTS AND NON-COMBATANTS ALIKE, REQUEST AMBASSADOR MAKE DEMARCHE TO VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE TIME PRESENTING COPY OF JUNE INTERVIEW TEXTS AND USING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. INFORMATION DEVELOPED IN THESE INTERVIEWS WITH HMONG REFUGEES DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 4-8, POINT TO EXTENSIVE USE OF A LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENT AGAINST HMONG COMBATANT AND NON-COMBATANT TRIBAL POPULATIONS IN LAOS. MANY OF THESE INTERVIEWS SUGGEST OR INDICATE VIETNAMESE MILITARY INVOLVEMENT.

B. WHILE THESE REPORTS DO NOT CONSTITUTE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF USE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS IN LAOS BY LAO AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS, THIS INFORMATION, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOW BEING ANALYZED IS VERY CREDIBLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT FITS PRECISELY PATTERNS OF USE OF LETHAL AGENTS ELSEWHERE. THEREFORE, IT CLEARLY WARRANTS DEEP CONCERN OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

IN LAOS WITH THE LAO GOVERNMENT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. WE HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AND SOUGHT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SUCH REPORTS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR INVESTIGATION OF THESE CHARGES.

D. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE WITH THE LAO GOVERNMENT TO PERSUADE IT TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH AN IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THESE REPORTS.

E. FINALLY, WE NOTE THAT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN A RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY ON 14 DECEMBER 1978, CALLED FOR STRICT OBSERVANCE BY ALL STATES OF THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL PROHIBITING THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS IN WAR. WE URGE THAT VIETNAM REAFFIRM ITS SUPPORT FOR THOSE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES BY ACCEEDING TO THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL AND THAT VIETNAM ENCOURAGE THE

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GOVERNMENT OF LAOS TO DO LIKEWISE.

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END OF MESSAGE

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