

CB-0067

0000

17

50/147

ALL b3

(R)

CONFIDENTIAL

FHPI
STATE

80 3783577

PAGE 001
TCR: 021116Z FEB 80

NC 3783577

DD RUEAII8
 ZNY CCCCC ZCC STATE ZZ
 TUTS355
 DD RUEHC
 DE RUMTBK #4515 0331020
 ZNY CCCCC ZZ
 P 021018Z FEB 80
 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2207
 INFO RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2539
 RUFNGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4855
 RUMJDM/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 8334
 RU-GHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUKCBT/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 1962
 RUMJKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 3809
 RUFHUK/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2350
 RUMJMA/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0337
 RUEHMC/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1091
 RUFHDS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 5866
 RUEHGR/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 4466
 RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
 BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 05515
 CINCPAC FOR POLAD; PARIS FOR JOHNSTONE

EO 12065; GDS 02/02/86 (ABRAMOWITZ, MORTON I.) OR-M
 TAGS: MMOL, SMUM, PEDR, CB, VM, UR
 SUBJ: POSSIBLE USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS IN CAMBODIA

REF BANGKOK 5441 NOTAL

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING A 30 JANUARY ENCOUNTER (REFTEL) BETWEEN VIETNAMESE FORCES AND KHMER TROOPS FROM CAMP 007 OPPOSITE NONG SANET (TA 5330) PAVN ELEMENTS ALLEGEDLY USED GAS. ACCORDING TO THE KHMER SEREI COMMANDER, VIETNAMESE FIRED 15-16 ROUNDS, POSSIBLY FROM A MORTAR, THAT EXPLODED WITH A DULL BURST ON IMPACT WITH THE GROUND. BOUNDS RELEASED A GREY CLOUD WHICH INCAPACITATED 30 OF HIS MEN FOR 15 MINUTES. ONE ROUND WAS A DUD. MISSION OFFICER BRIEFLY EXAMINED AND PHOTOGRAPHED THE ALLEGED DUD ROUND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AS IT WAS BEING GIVEN TO THAI ARMY. WE ARE CONTACTING THE RTA TO TRY TO EXAMINE THE ALLEGED DUD ROUND AND WILL TRY TO FORWARD COLOR SLIDE OF THE OBJECT.

3. KHMER-SPEAKING EMBOFF INTERVIEWED TROOPER WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE CHEMICAL AGENT. HE SAID HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHAT THE SUBSTANCE SMELLED LIKE. IT CAUSED HIM TO FEEL CHILLY AND CONFUSED. HE FELL DOWN, DROPPING HIS RIFLE, LOST SENSATION AND COULD NOT SPEAK. HE SAID HE RECOVERED IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES BUT TEARS STREAMED DOWN AND HE VOMITED THREE TIMES. HE IMMEDIATELY RUBBED ONION AND A LITTLE URINE ON HIS FACE AND SAID HE RECOVERED COMPLETELY. THE KHMER SEREI UNIT DEPARTED SHORTLY AFTER THIS INTERVIEW ON A OPERATION PRECLUDING FURTHER DEBRIEFING. THE AFFECTED TROOPER SAID HE HAD NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

021167

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDG/MR

REVIEWED BY Suborb

DATE 11/17/88

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 () EXCISE () DECLASSIFY IN PART
 () DENY () Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions CIA (u3)

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

0000

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

80 3783577

PAGE 002
TCRI 021116Z FEB 80

NC 3783577

YET DISCUSSED HIS EXPERIENCES WITH HIS FELLOW GASED SOLDIERS.

4. KHMER SEREI TROOPERS CLAIMED THAT THIS SORT OF CHEMICAL AGENT HAD BEEN USED BEFORE BUT NEVER IN SUCH HEAVY CONCENTRATION.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS OUR ONLY FIRST-HAND REPORT OF USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS IN CAMBODIA. WE FIND IT SURPRISING THAT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD USE TOXIC GAS SO CLOSE TO THE BORDER WITH ITS LARGE POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS AND SPECULATE THAT THIS CHEMICAL MAY BE SOME SORT OF RIGID CONTROL AGENT IF REPORT ACCURATE.
ABRAMOWITZ

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL