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PAGE 001  
TOR: 011007Z MAY 80

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00 RUEAIIA  
 DE RUEHOK #8919/01 1220958  
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
 O 010954Z MAY 80  
 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9558  
 INFO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 5389  
 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3230  
 RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 9140  
 RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2923  
 RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 2716  
 RUMJKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 4514  
 RUMJMA/AMEMBASSY MANILA 1291  
 RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 6153  
 RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 5290  
 RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2611  
 RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 RUEBHGA/NSC WASHDC  
 RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
 RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
 RHHMBRA/FICPAC PEARL HARBOR HI  
 RHMIAAA/13AF CC CLARK AB RP  
 RUEDAYA/CDRFSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA  
 RUEBHGA/CSA WASHDC  
 RUEBJFA/CORAARADCOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18919

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PARIS FOR JOHNSTONE; CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J233; DIA FOR  
 DC-4A/B, DC-31, DT-2D, AND AAT-3; CSA FOR DAMI-1SH;  
 FSTC FOR DRXST-FMG AND 1S1; CORAARADCOM FOR DRDAR-SEIC

EO 12065: RDS-2 4/28/00 (LEVIN, BURTON) OR-M  
 TAGS: MMOL, MOPS, CB, VM  
 SUBJ: VIETNAMESE DEFECTOR ON GAS IN CAMBODIA  
 REF: BANGKOK 18059

1. SUMMARY. A PAVN DEFECTOR TO SON SANN'S KHMER  
 RESISTANCE MOVEMENT HAS TOLD REPORTERS THAT VIETNAMESE  
 FORCES USE ONLY NON-LETHAL GAS IN CAMBODIA. HE ADDED THAT  
 HE WAS TOLD LETHAL AGENTS HAVE BEEN USED AGAINST THE HMONG  
 IN LAOS. END SUMMARY  
 2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BANGKOK POST APRIL 28 EDITION  
 RAN AD STORY ON USE OF GAS IN CAMBODIA. ~~THEIR SOURCE,~~  
 INTERVIEWED AT A NON-COMMUNIST RESISTANCE CAMP NEAR  
 BAN SANGAE (TA7355), IS A 16-YEAR PAVN VETERAN WHO  
 DEFECTED TO THE KHMER RESISTANCE IN JANUARY. HE  
 CLAIMED THAT PAVN DOES USE GAS IN CAMBODIA BUT ONLY  
 NON-LETHAL VARIETIES. EXCERPTS OF STORY FOLLOW:

--- "TIRED OF FIGHTING, FEELING CHEATED BY A  
 GOVERNMENT THAT PROMISED PEACE AFTER THE CAPTURE OF  
 SAIGON, A 16-YEAR VETERAN OF THE HANOI ARMY HAS DE-  
 FECTED AND HAS TALKED TO REPORTERS ABOUT VIETNAMESE  
 TACTICS AND PLANS IN KAMPUCHEA."

--- "THE USE OF NON-LETHAL CHEMICAL WARHEADS, BOTH  
 FURNISHED BY THE SOVIETS AND LEFT OVER FROM US AND

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by fu look DATE 11/17/88

( ) RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
 ( ) EXCISE ( ) DECLASSIFY in PART  
 ( ) DENY ( ) Non-responsive info.  
 FCI EO or PA exemptions CIA (b)(2)

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

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CHINESE SUPPLIES IN VIETNAM, IS A STANDARD PART OF VIETNAMESE TACTICS IN KAMPUCHEA."

--- "THE GAS, FIRED BY VARIOUS FORMS OF ARTILLERY, IS USED TO INCAPACITATE CONCENTRATIONS OF THE ENEMY BEFORE A LARGE-SCALE ASSAULT. ITS EFFECTS, EXTREME WEeping AND CHOKING, LAST FROM ONE TO 10 HOURS DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF GAS. IN EXTREMELY LARGE DOSES, HE SAID, IT COULD BE FATAL."

--- "HIS REPORT ON THE USE OF GAS FOLLOWS REPEATED ALLEGATIONS BY POL POT GUERRILLAS THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE HAS BEEN USED AGAINST THEM. IT IS THE FIRST SUCH REPORT FROM VIETNAMESE SOURCES. BUT IT DOES NOT SUPPORT CLAIMS THAT LETHAL CHEMICALS HAVE BEEN USED."

--- "ACCORDING TO THE DEFECTOR'S DESCRIPTION, THE VIETNAMESE ARE USING GAS WHICH THE RUSSIANS CALL 'HZ' AND AMERICANS, ACCORDING TO MARKINGS ON THE CANISTERS, CALL 'CZ.' DURING THE VIETNAM WAR US FORCES USED 'CS' GAS, OR TEAR GAS, WITH EFFECTS SIMILAR TO THOSE HE DESCRIBED."

3. A REPORTER FROM A PROMINENT EUROPEAN DAILY TOLD US THAT HE ASKED THE FORMER PAVN OFFICER ABOUT USE OF GAS IN LAOS. THE DEFECTOR DENIED DIRECT KNOWLEDGE BUT SAID AN ACQUAINTANCE TOLD HIM DURING A MILITARY SEMINAR IN HANOI IN 1977 THAT LETHAL AGENTS WERE BEING USED AGAINST "VANG PAO" FORCES.

4. ADDRESSEES SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT REINTERVIEW OF SOURCES CONCERNING GAS GRENADE (REFTEL) MODIFIES INITIAL INFORMATION. GRENADE IS FIBERGLASS NOT RPT NOT WOOD. THAT OFFICER IN THE FIELD ADDED THAT IT IS SIMILAR TO THE KIND THE U.S. HAD SUPPLIED TO THE ROYAL THAI ARMY.

5. (C) COMMENT: THIS PAVN DEFECTOR HAS BEEN DEBRIEFED IN DEPTH BY SESO. WHILE MUCH OF HIS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HIM IN THESE BRIEFINGS WAS ACCURATE, HE HAD

PARIS FOR JOHNSTONE; CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J233; DIA FOR DC-4A/B; DC-31; DT-2D; AND AAT-3; CSA FOR DAMI-ISH; FSTC FOR DRXST-FMO AND IS1; CDRAARADCOM FOR DRDAR-SE1C

FABRICATED INFORMATION ON VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS TO LAUNCH A MAJOR ATTACK INTO THAILAND. THE DEFECTOR HAD TOLD SESO THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE PAVN HAD NOT USED POISON GAS IN KAMPUCHEA. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS REGIMENT HAD APPROXIMATELY SIXTY 105MM ROUNDS STORED AT MONGOLBOREI CONTAINING NON-LETHAL CX GAS. ACCORDING TO DEFECTOR THE GAS HAD BEEN MANUFACTURED IN THE U.S. AND IT HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY PAVN AT THE TIME OF THE FALL OF THE THAIU GOVERNMENT. HE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOVIETS PROVIDING PAVN WITH CW AGENTS/TECHNOLOGY AND HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE USE OF CW IN LAOS. SESO BELIEVES THAT THE DEFECTOR'S CLAIM THAT HE HAD LEARNED OF LETHAL AGENTS BEING USED AGAINST VANG PAO FORCES MAY HAVE BEEN FABRICATED AT THE REQUEST OF THE KPNLF.  
ABRAMOWITZ

END OF MESSAGE

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