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E.O. 12065: GDS 9/29/86 (ANDERSON, DESAIX)

TAGSISHUM, PEPR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO HUMAN RIGHTS

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by Subark DATE 11/17/88

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENY () Non-responsive info
FOI, NO or PA exemptions CIA (A-B)

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____ OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () B or () C. OADR

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PAGE 002
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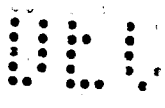
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Please see picture

Q. WHAT ABOUT REPORTS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE OR POISON GAS BEING USED IN LAOS (AND KAMPUCHEA)?

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PAGE 004
TORI 300238Z SEP 80

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A.-WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH REPORTS, AS EXPRESSED IN TESTIMONY DURING HEARINGS BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECEMBER 12, 1979 AND APRIL 24, 1980. THE U.S. BELIEVES AN IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS. TO THIS END WE WILL BE PURSUING THE MATTER IN COMMITTEE ONE DURING THE PRESENT UNGA. THE U.S. HOPES THAT ALL NATIONS WILL RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS PROBLEM AND COOPERATE IN AN INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE DISTURBING ISSUES RAISED BY SUCH REPORTS.

Q. ARE THE REPORTS CONTINUING?

A.-THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN LAOS SINCE MAY OF THIS YEAR. BROADCASTS FROM DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA SOURCES CONTINUE TO REFER TO ATTACKS INVOLVING CHEMICAL AGENTS.

END TEXT, CHRISTOPHER

END OF MESSAGE

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