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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SPRS-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
RP-10 SR-04 IO-14 DLOS-09 HA-06 ACDA-12 /122 W  
-----007444 222028Z /47

R 221339Z DEC 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4635  
AMCONSUL UDORN

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, B6, 1.5(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 60572

EO 12065: GDS 12/18/86 (LEVIN, BURTON) OR-M  
TAGS: MOPS, SHUM, SREF, LA, TH  
SUBJ: REPORTS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS AGAINST THE  
HMONG

1. (C) UDORN CONSULATE INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL RECENTLY  
ARRIVED HMONG REFUGEES SUGGEST THAT CW ATTACKS AGAINST  
THE HMONG HAVE OCCURRED IN PAST YEARS. SOME REPORTS  
OF ATTACKS DURING 1980 EXIST, BUT HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED  
BY BOTH THE CURRENT HMONG LEADER IN THE BAN VINAI REFUGEE  
CAMP AND [ ] OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAMP.  
EMBASSY/DAO OFFICERS WILL SOON BE INTERVIEWING IN HMONG  
CAMP AND HOPE TO REFINE THIS PICTURE. BELOW IS THE TEXT  
OF UDORN 0288.

B1

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT: DURING DECEMBER 11-12 CONSUL  
INTERVIEWED HMONG REFUGEES AT NONGKHAI DETENTION CENTER,  
BAN VINAI REFUGEE CAMP IN LOEI, AND PAK CHOM DISTRICT  
POLICE STATION IN LAOS.

3. (U) POR JA IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE CURRENT LEADER  
OF THE 210 HMONG REFUGEES BEING HELD AT THE NONGKHAI  
DETENTION CENTER. HE STATED THAT HE WAS 30 YEARS OLD AND  
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A FORMER SGU LIEUTENANT FROM PHA PHAI. HE CLAIMED HE  
LEFT BAN PAI PHAI ON NOVEMBER 12 WITH A GROUP OF 52  
HMONG AND ARRIVED AT BUNG KHAN DISTRICT, NONGKHAI ON

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: PAUL F. GARDNER  
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DECEMBER 1. HE NOTED THAT WHILE ENROUTE HE WAS AMBUSHED BY ENEMY FORCES RESULTING IN A LOSS OF FOUR HMONG. HE REPORTED THAT IN JUNE 1979 HE WITNESSED A GAS ATTACK ON PHA PHAI VILLAGE. HE WAS ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS FROM THE VILLAGE WHEN A "FAC" TYPE AIRCRAFT FIRED ROCKETS OVER THE VILLAGE THEN OCCUPIED BY ABOUT 1000 HMONG. THE ROCKETS EXPLODED ABOVE THE TREE LINE PRODUCING RED SMOKE WHICH SETTLED TO THE GROUND LEAVING A YELLOW RESIDUE. NO ONE WAS KILLED IN THE ATTACK BUT MANY PEOPLE BECAME SICK, LOST THEIR VISION, VOMITED AND FELT DIZZY. VILLAGERS REMAINED SICK FROM TWO DAYS TO TWO WEEKS DEPENDING HOW FAR THEY WERE FROM THE ATTACK. HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY GAS ATTACKS IN 1980.

4. (U) YEA LUE VANG STATED THAT HE WAS A FORMER SGU LIEUTENANT AND HAD LED A GROUP OF 48 HMONG FROM THE PHA PHAI AREA TO BUNG KHAN DISTRICT, ARRIVING ON NOVEMBER 12. HE HAD HEARD OF A GAS ATTACK IN THE AREA OF MUANG OOM IN OCTOBER 1979 RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF TEN HMONG. HE KNEW OF NO ATTACKS IN 1980.

5. (U) VANG TOUA STATED THAT HE WAS 23 YEARS OLD AND A FORMER SGU SARGENT. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO HE HAD SPOKEN TO CONGRESSWOMAN SCHROEDER. HE SAID HE AND 24 OTHER HMONG HAD ESCAPED THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED VILLAGE OF BAN PHA KHAO ON NOVEMBER 1 AND ARRIVED AT BUNG KHAN ON NOVEMBER 15. HE STATED HE WITNESSED CHEMICAL ATTACKS AT BAN NAM AR AND BAN NAM TA BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER 1980. HE SAID THE ATTACK ON BAN NAM AR TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 26  
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OR 28. HE CLAIMED TWO TYPES OF CHEMICALS WERE USED, A YELLOW TYPE THAT DID NOT KILL VEGETABLES OR LEAVES AND A COLORLESS TYPE THAT DESTROYED BOTH VEGETABLES AND LEAVES. HE STATED THAT SOVIET HELICOPTERS FLEW OVER THE VILLAGERS AND SPRAYED THEM DURING THE DAY. ONE WOMAN DIED AT BAN NAM AR. HE KNEW THE HELICOPTERS WERE SOVIET BECAUSE PLA TROOPS IDENTIFIED THE PILOTS AS SOVIET. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS LIVING IN A PLA CONTROLLED VILLAGE. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT REALIZED THAT THESE VILLAGES HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO "CHEMICAL ATTACK" UNTIL HE DESCRIBED HIS EXPERIENCES TO SOMEONE ACCOMPANYING AN AMERICAN REFUGEE OFFICER AND WAS TOLD THAT THESE WERE "CHEMICAL ATTACKS".

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6. (U) OUA YEA XIONG (WHO HAD LISTENED TO VANG TOUA'S STATEMENT) SAID HE FLED LAOS WITH VANG TOUS AND CONFIRMED VANG TOUA'S STORY ABOUT THE ATTACK ON BAN NAM TA. HE ADDED THAT WHEN PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE GASSING TO THE PL AUTHORITIES, THE AUTHORITIES REPLIED THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO ABOUT IT SINCE THIS WAS ALL THE WORK OF VANG PAO.

7. (U) WHEN THE LAST TWO HMONG COMPLETED THEIR STORIES AND DEPARTED, POR JA AND YEA LUE VANG (PARAS 3 & 4) INDICATED THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THESE LAST REPORTS. WHEN ASKED WHY THESE REFUGEES WOULD REPORT FALSE INFORMATION THEY REPLIED THAT THE TWO MEN WERE NOT VERY INTELLIGENT.

8. (U) IN BAN VINAI CAMP CONSUL MET WITH CAMP LEADER

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 RP-10 SR-04 IO-14 DLOS-09 HA-06 ACDA-12 /122 W  
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R 221339Z DEC 80  
 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
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VANG NENG WHO STATED THAT AHE HMONG ORGANIZATION IN THE CAMP CHECKED WITH EACH GROUP ARRIVING IN THE CAMP ABOUT CONDITIONS IN LAOS INCLUDING REPORTS ON CW ATTACKS. HE COMMENTED THAT OCCASIONALLY A REFUGEE WOULD REPORT A FALSE GAS STORY IN ORDER TO SHOW OFF OR IN THE HOPES OF RECEIVING SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM AN OFFICIAL. VANG NENG STATED THAT THE LAST RELIABLE "GAS" REPORT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED CONCERNED AN ATTACK IN SEPTEMBER 1979 WHEN A HELICOPTER GASSED MUANG PHON NEAR MUANG KASSY RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF 22-24 HMONG. HE SAID THAT HE PASSED SUCH REPORTS ON TO THE THAI AUTHORITIES, THE UN, THE HMONG ASSOCIATION AND THE PRESS, HE CLAIMED

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THERE WERE 100 NEW HMONG ARRIVALS IN PAK CHOM DISTRICT WHO REPORTEDLY HAD INFORMATION ON A GAS ATTACK BUT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR REPORT. HE PROMISED TO ALERT AMCONSUL UDORN WHENEVER HE RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION THAT HE THOUGHT WAS RELIABLE.

9. (U) CONSUL VISITED PAK CHOM POLICE STATION AND LEARNED THAT THE GROUP OF 100 REFERRED TO BY VANG NENG HAD ALREADY BEEN MOVED TO BAN VINAI. CONSUL WAS ABLE TO INTERVIEW NEW ARRIVAL, BIA XIONG, WHO REPORTED LEAVING PHU PHA HOK NEAR PHU KONG KAO WITH A GROUP

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OF 12 HMONG AND ARRIVING AT PAK CHOM DECEMBER 10. HE SAID THEY HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN RESISTANCE OPERATIONS IN LAOS AND HAD BEEN FORCED TO FLEE BECAUSE OF VIETNAMESE ATTACKS. HE SAID THE ENEMY WAS ONLY USING SMALL ARMS AND B-40 ROCKETS IN THEIR ATTACKS AND THAT THE LAST GAS ATTACK HE HAD HEARD ABOUT WAS TWO YEARS AGO. A THAI WAAAANT OFFICER AT THE POLICE STATION STATED THAT ALL HMONG WERE DEBRIEFED UPON ARRIVAL AND ANY SIGNIFICANT REPORTS SUCH AS INFORMATION ON GAS ATTACKS WERE PASSED ON TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

10. (C) CONSUL MET WITH LOCAL [REDACTED] RESPONSIBLE FOR BAN VINAI CAMP WHO AFFIRMED THAT ALL HMONG REGISTERED IN THE CAMP AS REFUGEES WERE INTERVIEWED BY HIS STAFF AND THAT GAS REPORTS WERE INVESTIGATED. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY RELIABLE REPORTS INDICATING THAT GAS ATTACKS HAD OCCURRED IN 1980 BUT THAT HE WOULD ALERT AMCONSUL UDORN SHOULD ANY SUCH REPORTS COME TO HIS ATTENTION.

B1

11. (U) POST WILL CONTINUE TO PERIODICALLY MONITOR NEW HMONG ARRIVALS, HMONG LEADERS, [REDACTED] AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE USE OF CW IN LAOS.  
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