

AVE FIRED POISON GAS ROCKETS AGAINST PHONG THIE HUNG.

SUMMARY: (S) (U) (N) (T) (R) (P) (I) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN ORDER TO QUESTION A FORMER LACTIAN TIP FORCE L-19 PILOT ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEGED POISON GAS ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST HONG RESISTANCE STRONGHOLDS IN NORTHERN LPDR. MOST OF THE INTERVIEW CONCERNED PILOT-TO-PILOT TECHNICAL ASPECTS, SUCH AS DELIVERY PARAMETERS, TACTICS, WEATHER/WIND RESTRICTIONS, AND SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS DURING THE ATTACKS.

8A. DETAILS: 1. (S) (U) (N) (T) (R) (P) (I) THE INTERVIEW WITH THE LPLA PILOT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SUBJECT EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR HIS SAFETY SHOULD HE BE OVERHEARD DISCUSSING SUCH A SENSITIVE ISSUE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CAMP.

2. (S) (U) (N) (T) (R) (P) (I) DURING THE INTERVIEW, THE PILOT STATED THAT ALL ROCKETS HE FIRED WERE DEFINITELY U.S. MANUFACTURED. HE BELIEVED THAT SOME "ORDINARY SMOKE ROCKETS HAD BEEN MODIFIED INTO POISON ROCKETS AND STORED AT PHONSAVAN", ALTHOUGH HE HAD NEVER PERSONALLY SEEN THE MODIFICATION OCCUR. DURING PREFLIGHTS, THE PILOT NOTED THAT THE WEAPONS HE BELIEVED TO BE "POISON ROCKETS" WERE ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AND WEIGHT AS REGULAR SMOKE ROUNDS; HOWEVER, THE TIPS WERE ALWAYS PAINTED RED, AND THE WARHEAD SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT LOOSELY ATTACHED TO THE BOOSTER. HE RECEIVED NO SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREFLIGHTING, ARMING, OR DE-ARMING THESE ROCKETS.

3. (S) (U) (N) (T) (R) (P) (I) THE LPLA PILOT SAID THAT HIS ONLY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT DELIVERY OF THE ROCKETS WERE TO "STAY HIGHER THAN NORMAL DUE TO THE WIND". HE STATED THAT HE NORMALLY USED 1,200-1,800 FEET AGL AS A ROLL-IN ALTITUDE AND A 30 DEGREE DIVE ANGLE ON THE FIRING PASS. AIMING WAS NOT DIFFICULT SINCE HE FIRED AT "AREA" TARGETS RATHER THAN SPECIFIC TARGETS. WHEN FIRING THE "EDISON ROCKETS", THE LPLA PILOT WOULD ATTEMPT TO FIRE AT 3-4,000 FEET SLANT RANGE.

4. (S) (U) (N) (T) (R) (P) (I) IN DESCRIBING THE FLIGHT OF THE ROCKET, THE PILOT NOTED THAT NORMAL ROCKETS DETONATED ON IMPACT WITH THE GROUND. THE GAS ROCKET DETONATED IN THE AIR APPROXIMATELY HALF WAY TO THE TARGET. THE AIRBURST USUALLY PRODUCED A STREAM OF RED SMOKE WHICH DISSIPATED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. THERE WERE NO OTHER OBSERVABLE RESULTS IN THE TARGET AREA.

5. (S) (U) (N) (T) (R) (P) (I) DURING THE INTERVIEW, THE PILOT MENTIONED

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PILOT HAD RECEIVED A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF HIS RETURN WHERE GAS ROCKETS WERE USED. IN THIS INTERVIEW HE STATED HE RECEIVED THE PHYSICAL BEFORE THE MISSION AND WAS TOLD TO REPORT TO THE DOCTOR AFTER LANDING IF HE FELT SICK. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING, THE LAO PILOT SAID THAT HE NEVER SAW THE RAVEN OR LFLA STAFF OFFICERS WHO USUALLY FLY WITH HIM RECEIVING A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

8. ORIGINATOR'S COMMENTS: [REDACTED] DURING THE INITIAL PART OF THIS INTERVIEW, THE LAO PILOT MADE AN ERRONEOUS REFERENCE TO EARLIER INTERVIEWS. SINCE HE HAD FOLLOWED THROUGH THE COMPLETE STORY, HE DID ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. IN THE PO'S OPINION, THE LFLA PILOT DID FIRE SOME TYPE OF UNCONVENTIONAL ROCKET WITH WHICH HE WAS UNFAMILIAR. IT SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE ROCKETS FIRED CONTAINED TOXIC CHEM AGENTS. A ROCKET DELIVERED GAS ATTACK WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST SOME SORT OF FUNDAMENTARY KNOWLEDGE OF PREVAILING WINDS ALONG WITH A FEW BASIC SAFETY PROCEDURES. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO HONORIC REPORTS TO VERIFY THE CONTENTION, THE RO SUSPECTS THAT, BASED ON THE LAO PILOT'S DESCRIPTION OF THE AERIAL DETONATION OF THE ROCKET, THE WEAPON IN QUESTION MAY HAVE BEEN A FLECHETTE ROUND. FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS CASE, SEE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS: SCSO DOCUMENT OFIRDA-315/1-06508 ; AMEMBANK BANGKOK MSG 34265 DTG 020624Z AUG 64.

- 9. (U) PROJECT NO: NONE
 - 10. (U) COLL NGMT CODES: AA
 - 11. (U) SPEC INSTR: CIRC NO. ORGANTS APPLIED TO PROTECT CONTENT OF REPORT AND PREVENT ITS RELEASE.
 - 12. (U) PREPARED BY: THOMAS R. YARBOROUGH, MAJ, USAF, AAIRA
 - 13. (U) APPROVED BY: JERRY A. CRIST, COL, USAF, SATT
 - 14. (U) REQ EVAL: NO RELEASE TO: NONE
 - 15. (U) ENCL: NONE
 - 16. (U) DIST: NA
- REVW 26JANZ64

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8. INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS: (DELETED)
(ILLEGIBLE) PART OF THIS INTERVIEW, THE LAO PILOT
(ILLEGIBLE) RENDITION OF EARLIER INTERVIEWS.
(ILLEGIBLE) HE HAD (ILLEGIBLE) THE COMPLETE STORY, HE DID ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. IN THE PO'S OPINION, THE LPLA PILOT DID FIRE SOME TYPE OF UNCONVENTIONAL ROCKET WITH WHICH HE WAS UNFAMILIAR. IT SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE ROCKETS FIRED CONTAINED TOXIC (ILLEGIBLE) CW AGENTS. A ROCKET DELIVERED GAS ATTACK WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST SOME SORT OF RUDIMENTARY KNOWLEDGE OF PREVAILING WINDS ALONG WITH A FEW BASIC SAFETY PROCEDURES. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO H'MONG REPORTS TO VERIFY THE CONTENTION, THE PO SUSPECTS THAT, BASED ON THE LAO PILOT'S DESCRIPTION OF THE AERIAL DETONATION OF THE ROCKET, THE WEAPON IN QUESTION MAY HAVE BEEN A FLECHETTE ROUND. FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS CASE, SEE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS: (ILLEGIBLE) DOCUMENT (ILLEGIBLE) EMBASSY BANGKOK MSG (ILLEGIBLE) (ILLEGIBLE).

9. (U) PROJECT NO: NONE

10. (U) COLL MGMT (ILLEGIBLE): AA

11. (U) SPEC INSTR: CIRC NO. CAVEATS APPLIED TO PROTECT THE CONTENT OF REPORT AND PREVENT ITS RELEASE.

12. (U) PREPARED BY: THOMAS R. MARBOROUGH, MAJ, USAF, AAIR:

13. (U) APPROVED BY: JERRY A. CRIST, COL, USAF, (ILLEGIBLE)

14. (U) REG EVAL: NC RELEASE TO: NONE

15. (U) ENCL: NONE

16. (U) DIST: NA

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