

8/31/1981

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TOTI 312259Z AUG 81

DIRECTOR 017677

SECRET NOFORN NOCONTRACT
BRIEF 312259Z DIRECTOR 017677
TOTI EAST ASIA BRIEF.

EAST ASIA BRIEF CG EA 81-165 (31 AUGUST 1981).

FROM: INAC/OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS.

THERE WAS RI CG EA 81-167 FROM 26 AUGUST.

1. LAOS-KAMPUCHEA: COMMUNIST USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE.

1. LAOS-KAMPUCHEA: COMMUNIST USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE.

//A US PHYSICIAN HAS CONFIRMED THE USE IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA OF LETHAL CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS THAT REPORTEDLY HAVE KILLED SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE.//

//THE REPORTS OF THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS OF DEATHS CAUSED BY A YELLOW POWDER DROPPED ON VILLAGES IN LAOS, AND TO A LESSEER EXTENT IN KAMPUCHEA, WERE CONFIRMED BY DETAILED MEDICAL HISTORIES, EVALUATION OF FIELD AUTOPSIES, EXAMINATION.

Approved for Release
Date NOV 1987

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OF REFUGEES AT THE THAI BORDER WHO HAD RECEIVED SUBLETHAL
DOSES, AND LABORATORY TESTS ON SAMPLES SENT TO THE US.
THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SIMILAR ATTACKS IN AFGHANISTAN.//

//THE AGENTS BEING USED PROBABLY ARE MYCOTOXINS--HIGHLY
LETHAL CHEMICALS THAT ARE PRODUCED BY MOLDS AND OTHER FUNGI.
THE TOXINS, WHEN INHALED OR APPLIED TO THE SKIN, DISRUPT THE
MEMBRANES OF THE DIGESTIVE TRACT, CAUSING MASSIVE BLEEDING
AND DEATH FROM SHOCK IN AS LITTLE AS 15 MINUTES TO AN HOUR.//

//THE TOXIC AGENTS EVIDENTLY ARE SUPPLIED BY THE
SOVIETS AND DROPPED FROM SOVIET AIRCRAFT. THE SOVIETS HAVE
BEEN INVESTIGATING THESE TYPES OF CHEMICALS FOR MANY YEARS
IN SEVERAL RESTRICTED MICROBIOLOGICAL INSTITUTES.//

//THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE USE OF THESE LETHAL
AGENTS IS EXPERIMENTAL. THE SEVERAL CHEMICALS BEING USED
ARE MIXED TOGETHER IN A VARIETY OF CONCENTRATIONS AND DISPERSED
IN VARIOUS PATTERNS. IN ONE INSTANCE, LAO SOLDIERS WEARING
PROTECTIVE MASKS COVERED A STRIKE AREA IMMEDIATELY AFTER AN
ATTACK AND INJECTED SURVIVORS WITH A SOLUTION APPARENTLY
BEING TESTED AS AN ANTIDOTE.//

//A COMMISSION OF FOUR UN PHYSICIANS WILL VISIT THAILAND
THIS FALL TO COLLECT EVIDENCE FOR THE UN INVESTIGATION THAT
IS UNDER WAY ON THE USE OF LETHAL CHEMICALS IN LAOS AND
KAMPUCHEA.//