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May 20, 1986

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PARM, CW, UK  
SUBJECT: CW USE: GUIDANCE ON BEE FECES

REF: A) LONDON 10279 No  
B) LONDON 7607 yes

1. (C) CONTINUED PUBLIC MISPERCEPTION OF YELLOW RAIN IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH WE WISH TO  
CORRECT WHENEVER THE OCCASION ARISES. THE RECENT BRITISH  
FINDINGS, WHILE IN NO WAY CONTRADICTING THE RESULTS OF US  
AND OTHER COUNTRIES' CONCLUSIONS, NEVERTHELESS HAVE  
FUELED MISPERCEPTIONS OF THE TYPE AND EXTENT OF TOXIN USE

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IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AS EVIDENCED BY MP ABSE'S RECENT  
REMARKS IN THE COMMONS (REF B). WE WANT TO PUT THE  
RECORD STRAIGHT ONCE AGAIN.

2. (C) YOU SHOULD USE GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PARA. 3 IN  
COORDINATING RESPONSE TO ABSE'S STATEMENTS WITH HMG  
OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY USE, AS APPROPRIATE,  
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA. 4 WITH  
APPROPRIATE HMG OFFICIALS.

3. (U) PUBLIC GUIDANCE:

-- THE RECENT SAMPLE ANALYSIS EFFORT BY THE BRITISH CHEMICAL DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT ALTER OUR CONCLUSION THAT CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS HAVE BEEN USED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

- THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THIS CONCLUSION IS DOCUMENTED IN SEVERAL REPORTS ISSUED PREVIOUSLY BY THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS OTHER INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS AND NATIONS TO INCLUDE CANADA, FRANCE, AND THAILAND AS WELL AS THE REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1982.

-- WE NOTE THAT WHILE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAS REPORTED THE CDRE SAMPLE ANALYSIS WAS NEGATIVE FOR MYCOTOXINS, THE MOD BELIEVES CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS PROBABLY DID TAKE PLACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BASED ON EXISTING EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.

- WE FURTHER NOTE THE TOTAL BODY OF EVIDENCE INCLUDES  
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EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF ATTACKS BY VICTIMS AND FURTHER TESTIMONY BY MEDICAL AND RELIEF WORKERS, JOURNALISTS, DEFECTORS, PRIVATE US AND FOREIGN CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. DATA FROM OTHER SAMPLES--HUMAN BLOOD AND URINE, AND TISSUES ANALYZED FOLLOWING THE AUTOPSY OF VICTIMS--HAVE CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF TRICOTHECENE MYCOTOXINS.

- THEORIES ABOUT BEE EXCREMENT ARE CONTRADICTED BY THE WIDER BODY OF EVIDENCE WHICH HAS LONG BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. THE FACT THAT BEES DEFECATE, CAUSING YELLOW SPOTS, SIMPLY DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SICK AND HAVE DIED AFTER CHEMICAL ATTACKS OR WHY TOXINS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN BIOMEDICAL SAMPLES.

4. (S) IN REVIEWING THE APRIL 7 LETTER FROM MINISTER STANLEY TO AMBASSADOR PRICE (REF A), WE NOTE THAT IN APRIL, 1984, THE BRITISH TOLD US THAT SAMPLES COLLECTED BY THE UK IN 1982-83 WERE SENT TO A PRIVATE SPECIALIST LABORATORY WHERE MORE SENSITIVE TECHNIQUES FOR ANALYSIS THAN THOSE USED BY CDRE CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF TRICOTHECENES. WE BELIEVE THAT CDRE'S NEGATIVE FINDINGS ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH POSITIVE FINDINGS OF OTHER LABORATORIES. IN FAIRNESS TO THE ISSUES INVOLVED, WE WOULD URGE THAT, IF CDRE'S FINDINGS ARE MADE PUBLIC, THE POSITIVE FINDINGS OF THE SPECIALIST LABORATORY IN 1984 SHOULD ALSO BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY. SHULTZ

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