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RELATED THAT AS FAR BACK AS 1977, HE FIRST HEARD FROM OFFICERS IN THE LAO ARMED FORCES THAT ROCKETS CONTAINING CHEMICAL WARFARE DEVICES WERE BEING FIRED AT LAO RESISTANCE ELEMENTS FROM PLANES FLOWN BY VIETNAMESE PILOTS. ACCORDING TO THE LAO OFFICERS, ONLY VIETNAMESE, NO LAO, WERE INVOLVED IN THESE AERIAL BOMBARDMENTS. THE EFFECT OF THE CHEMICAL ON ITS VICTIMS WAS USUALLY TO RENDER THEM UNCONSCIOUS, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICERS' ACCOUNTS. SKIN DEFORMATIONS AND RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS WERE ALSO NOT UNCOMMON, BUT FATALITIES WERE RARE, THE DOCTOR SAID. AFTER AN ATTACK, VIETNAMESE AND LAO FORCES WOULD SWEEP THROUGH THE AFFECTED AREA AND CAPTURE THE UNCONSCIOUS OR STUNNED VICTIMS. THE DOCTOR SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT CHEMICAL WARFARE DEVICES SOMETIMES WERE ALSO FIRED FROM CANNONS AND MORTARS. HE ADDED THAT, ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS HE HAD HEARD, MOST OF THESE CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS OCCURRED IN XIANGKHOANG PROVINCE.

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01  
IO-15 NSCE-00 MSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 L-03 PH-09  
PA-01 INRE-00 OCS-06 SAL-01 CA-01 OES-09 ACDA-12  
ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /100 W  
-----304004 250958Z /12

O 250921Z MAR 82  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1132  
INFO CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIJING 03673

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