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 CO RUEHC RUMJNG RUEHIL RUXELD RUMHOT RUEHDF
 RUMJES RUEHJCS RUHQHQA RUMKAAA RUEBEG RUMTRN
 DE RUMIBK #8953/91 089 **
 ZNY CCCCC 22H
 O 301234Z MAR 82
 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4538
 INFO RUMJNG/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 4373
 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMAPAD 5147
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3470
 RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1557
 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5359
 RUMJES/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 4751
 RUEHJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC//
 RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUMKAAA/CDRAAADCEN EDGEWOOD AFS MD
 RUEBEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0403
 RUMTRN/AMCONSUL UBOEN 6904

3. MARCH 17 INCIDENT: THE 20-MAN RESISTANCE TEAM WAS IN A FORESTED AREA NEAR THE VILLAGE OF NAM YAO (UNLOCATED) WHICH IS NEAR PHU NIO MOUNTAIN (VIC 049017) IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE, APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY'S WALK FROM THE THAI BORDER AT SA NGAO (VIC RA1205). ONE CAMOUFLAGE COLORED HELICOPTER (WITH TWO PROPS) MADE ONE CIRCLE OVER THE AREA AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT TWO TALL TREES. NO OTHER ENEMY CONTACT EITHER PRECEDED OR FOLLOWED THIS ATTACK.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE AGENT: THE AGENT LOOKED LIKE RAIN IN THE SKY AND WAS COLORLESS UNTIL IT REACHED THE GROUND WHEN IT APPEARED YELLOW. A STICKY YELLOW SUBSTANCE COVERED AN AREA THAT THE SOURCE ESTIMATED TO BE SIX KILOMETERS IN DIAMETER WITH VARYING SIZED SPOTS. UNDER A HAZY SUN, THE SPOTS DRIED AND BECAME POWDERY IN APPROXIMATELY THREE TO FOUR HOURS. THE YELLOW SUBSTANCE CAUSED YOUNG LEAVES ON WHICH IT FELL TO DROP OFF WITHIN HOURS. MORE MATURE LEAVES DID NOT DROP DURING THE SEVERAL HOURS IT TOOK THEM TO GET OUT OF THE AREA. SOURCE DESCRIBED THE AGENT AS SMELLING "BITTER", BUT COULD COMPARE IT TO NO OTHER SMELL.

5. SYMPTOMS: SOURCE SAID IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SUBSTANCE REACHED THE GROUND HE DEVELOPED STOMACH PAINS, FOLLOWED BY PAINS AND A CRUSHING SENSATION IN THE CHEST. WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF THE ATTACK HE VOMITED, AT FIRST NORMALLY, AND THEN RED (BLOOD). THE VOMITING CONTINUED FOR ONE DAY AND ONE NIGHT. HE DEVELOPED A HEADACHE AND ASTHMA-LIKE WHEEZING. HE FELT DIZZY AND HIS EYES BULGED SO THAT HE COULD NEITHER CLOSE NOR OPEN THEM COMPLETELY. HE EXPERIENCED DOUBLE VISION WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY 36 HOURS. SOURCE'S NOSE WAS PAINFUL IN THE OUTER NASAL PASSAGE AND INTO HIS SINUSES. HE DEVELOPED RHINGORRHOEA, WITHOUT BLOOD. HE COUGHED (DRY) AND SUFFERED A SORE THROAT. HE FELT DRUNK AND HIS HEARING BECAME INDISTINCT AS IF HE HAD WATER IN HIS EARS. SOURCE DEVELOPED DIARRHOEA WITHIN MINUTES AND AFTER ONE STOOL BEGAN TO EXCRETE ONLY DARK RED BLOOD. THIS CONTINUED FOR ONE DAY AND TWO NIGHTS. SOURCE

1. SUMMARY: A HONGKONG RESISTANCE FIGHTER CLAIMS TO HAVE SUFFERED A HELICOPTER-DELIVERED YELLOW POISON ATTACK IN LAOS ON MARCH 17. HE AND 19 COMPANIES BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ATTACK, SUFFERING BLOODY VOMITING AND DIARRHOEA, DIZZINESS, CHEST PAINS AND OTHER SYMPTOMS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH MYCOTOXIN POISONING. THE SAME GROUP SUFFERED A "WHITE POWDER" ATTACK FEBRUARY 21-22, SUFFERING EVEN MORE SEVERE SYMPTOMS, HE CLAIMED. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING THIS HONGKONG TO STEIRAJ HOSPITAL IN BANGKOK FOR MEDICAL EXAM AND/OR TREATMENT.

A HONGKONG, NOV AT BAN VI HAY REFUGEE CAMP, AID THAT HE AND HIS NINETEEN COMPANIONS (17 LAO AND 2 HONGKONG. ALL RESISTANCE FIGHTERS) SUFFERED A "YELLOW POISON" ATTACK ON MARCH 17, WHICH CAUSED THEM TO BECOME VIOLENTLY ILL. HE COMPLAINS OF CONTINUING HEALTH PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INCIDENT. THE COMPANIONS WERE ALSO VICTIMS OF AN EARLIER "WHITE POISON" ATTACK ON FEBRUARY 21-22. THIS ATTACK PRODUCED EVEN MORE SERIOUS ILLNESS THAN THE MORE RECENT ATTACK. THERE WERE NO DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH EITHER INCIDENT. FURTHER DETAILS OF THE INCIDENTS FOLLOW:

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SAID THAT THOUGH HE WAS FULLY CLOTHED (LONG SLEEVED SHIRT AND LONG TROUSERS), HE DEVELOPED A RED RASH AND THEN BLISTERS, ABOUT ONE-QUARTER INCH IN DIAMETER, ALL OVER HIS BODY INCLUDING HIS SCALP. SOURCE SAID THAT OTHER TEAM MEMBERS SUFFERED SIMILAR SYMPTOMS.

6. FEBRUARY 21-22 INCIDENT: ON FEBRUARY 21 OR 22, A SINGLE HELICOPTER APPEARING TO BE IDENTICAL TO THE ONE DESCRIBED ABOVE DROPPED A "WHITE POISON" ON THE 20-MAN GROUP. THE SYMPTOMS PRODUCED BY THE "WHITE POISON" WERE SIMILAR TO THE YELLOW BUT MORE SEVERE, INCLUDING VOMITING AND DIARRHEA WITH BLOOD (DARK). SOURCE SAID THE DELIVERY WAS SIMILAR TO THE MARCH 17 INCIDENT BUT THAT HE HEARD A SMALL EXPLOSION BEFORE THE "WHITE POISON" APPEARED. THE TEAM RECOVERED, CONTINUED ITS MISSION AFTER THE FIRST ATTACK, AND WAS SEEKING ESCAPE TO LAOS WHEN HIT FOR THE SECOND TIME (MARCH 17).

7. TWO OTHER HMONG, [REDACTED] AGED 20 AND 38 YEARS RESPECTIVELY, WERE PART OF THE 20-MAN TEAM AND ARE NOW ALSO IN BAN VI NAY CAMP.

8. THE SOURCE NOW COMPLAINS OF A PAIN IN HIS STOMACH THAT EXTENDS UPWARD TO HIS MIDDLE CHEST. HE HAS A CHRONIC HEADACHE, BLURRED VISION AND FEELS VERY FATIGUED. A MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERVIEW OBSERVED THAT THE SOURCE APPEARED SLIGHTLY JAUNDICED AND ANEMIC.

9. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO HAVE SOURCE FOR THIS REPORT TRANSFERRED FROM BAN VI NAY HOSPITAL TO SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL IN BANGKOK FOR THOROUGH MEDICAL EXAM AND TREATMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH THIS HOSPITAL. PHYSICIANS AT BAN VI NAY ARE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE OTHER TWO VICTIMS FOR INTERVIEW. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LAO VICTIMS ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE AT THIS POINT.

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