



Department of State

EXCISE TELEGRAM

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00 EA-10
IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 L-03 ACDE-00
PH-09 INRE-00 RP-10 OES-09 SP-02 SR-04 /112 W
-----356320 161443Z /44

E
(X) (Y) (Z)

O 161214Z APR 82
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6088
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
DIA WASHINGTON DC//
CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
CDRAARADCOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD
DIRUSAMIIA FT DETRICK MD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by RHJ DATE 11/3/88
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info. (X)
FOI, EO or PA exemptions
TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as CONF.
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () G. CASE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 21527

PARIS FOR BIGELOW
CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J233
DIA FOR DC-48
CDRAARADCOM FIR ORDAR-SEIC
TOKYO FOR CBN BRIEFING TEAM

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EO 12065: GDS 64/16/82 (ROY, J.S.) OR-N

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TAGS: PARM, SHUM, SREF, LA, CB, VH, UR
SUBJECT: ALLEGED CBW SAMPLES FROM BAN VI NA

REF: A. BANGKOK 20943

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: U.S. ENBOFF TO BAN VI NAY REFUGEE CAMP TO OBTAIN ALLEGED CBW SAMPLES OF YELLOW, RED AND WHITE RESIDUE COLLECTED IN LAOS FROM TWO SITES FOLLOWING THREE SEPARATE ATTACKS IN MARCH. THAI BORDER OFFICIALS HAD INITIALLY CONFISCATED THE SAMPLES AND DIVIDED THEM, RETURNING ABOUT HALF OF THE ORIGINAL TO THE HNONG. IN REPACKAGING, THE SAMPLES WERE NOT LABELED, THUS CONFUSING THE ASSOCIATION OF EACH SAMPLE WITH THE APPROPRIATE INCIDENT. ONE OF THE HNONG COLLECTORS CLAIMED THE ATTACKS WERE LETHAL AND SAID VICTIMS SUFFERED BLOODY VOMITING AMONG OTHER SYMPTOMS.

(b)(1)(a)(5)

(b)(1)(a)(5)

SEPARATELY, 213 HNONG FLED FROM LAOS APRIL 14 AND MANY OF THESE CLAIM TO HAVE SUFFERED CBW INJURIES. END SUMMARY.

(b)(1)(a)(5)

4. BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS, ENBOFF WAS ONLY ABLE TO CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE THREE HNONG WHO COLLECTED THE PHA NGON SAMPLES, BUT A WORLD VISION PHYSICIAN PROVIDED US HIS NOTES OF AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SAME MAN AND THE HNONG LEADERSHIP PROVIDED SOME BASIC INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE NAN YAO SAMPLES. FOLLOWING DISTILLS THIS

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INFORMATION.

5. ATTACK AT PHA NGON: ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 10, A "B-8" (MI-87) HELICOPTER DROPPED A REDDISH GAS ON THE VILLAGE WHICH WAS UNDER NOMINAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL. SOURCE WHO WAS IN THE VILLAGE, AND WHO ALONG WITH EIGHT OTHERS COLLECTED THE SAMPLES, SAID FOLLOWING THE ATTACK HE BECAME WEAK WITH NAUSEA; HE COUGHED WITH BLACK SPUTUM. HE COULD NOT SEE VERY WELL AND HE HAD DIARRHEA WITH MUCUS. THE SOURCE STILL CLAIMS TO FEEL WEAK AND HAS AN IRRITATING RASH BETWEEN HIS FINGERS WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO THE ATTACK. (A PHYSICIAN TOLD US IT IS NOT SCABIES. WE WILL POUCH PHOTOS.) SOURCE TOLD ENBOFFS THAT HE HEARD ONE MAN DIED AFTER EATING RICE FROM A CONTAINER MADE FROM A LEAF SUSPECTED OF HAVING BEEN CONTAMINATED WITH THE POWDER. THE MAN ALSO ALLEGEDLY DRANK CONTAMINATED WATER. SOURCE CLAIMED THERE WERE OTHER DEATHS AMONG THE VILLAGE POPULATION OF 2,000 BUT GAVE NO OTHER ACCOUNTS OF THEM. SYMPTOMS SUFFERED BY THE PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE MORNING ATTACK INCLUDED DIZZINESS AND HEADACHES. THE RED GAS ALSO ADHERED TO AND BURNED THE SKIN.

6. IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY A MIG 17 DROPPED YELLOW AND WHITE "RAIN" ON THE VILLAGE.
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SOURCE CLAIMED THE YELLOW (AND WHITE) GAS WAS LESS

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-----356344 161442Z /41**

**O 161214Z APR 82
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CDRFSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BANGKOK 21527

**PARIS FOR BIGELOW
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**TOXIC IN THAT IT WOULD CAUSE DEATH WITHIN DAYS
OR WEEKS, RATHER THAN IN HOURS WITH THE RED. HE**

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SAID THE YELLOW GAS CAUSED SERIOUS ILLNESS IF IT WERE INGESTED OR INHALED DIRECTLY. IT ALSO PRODUCED A SCABIES LIKE RASH ON THE SKIN. FOLLOWING THE TWO ATTACKS OVER 300 VILLAGE ANIMALS DIED, ESPECIALLY CHICKENS. MANY PLANTS DIED AFTER ONE WEEK.

7. SOURCE CLAIMED THE EIGHT HMONG WHO COLLECTED THE SAMPLES BECAME ILL WHILE COLLECTING AND TRANSPORTING THE SAMPLES. THE VICTIMS SUFFERED PROTRUDING EYES, DIZZINESS AND NAUSEA. SOME VOMITED WITH BLOOD. THE COLLECTORS USED OPIUM TO SUPPRESS THESE SYMPTOMS. SOURCE INSISTED THAT THE RED GAS AND RESIDUE WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE YELLOW OR WHITE.

8. THE SAMPLES WERE CARRIED OUT IN VARIOUS CONTAINERS. THE YELLOW RESIDUE WAS PLACED IN "PLASTIC" BAGS (WE BELIEVE THIS IS A REFERENCE TO NYLAR BAGS). THE ROCK SAMPLES WERE PLACED IN A BAMBOO TUBE CONTAINER AND THE WHITE SAMPLE WAS WRAPPED IN PAPER.

9. 213 NEWLY ARRIVED HMONG WERE ALSO ENCOUNTERED ON THE ROAD NEAR PAK CHON. THE GROUP CROSSED THE MEKONG ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 14. BRIEF DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM INDICATED A NUMBER CLAIM TO HAVE SUFFERED CBM ATTACKS, SOME AS RECENTLY AS ONE MONTH AGO.

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