



Department of State

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FOR PGM/RC; NEA; VOA/PN

R.O. 12065 R/P

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL OPINION OF "YELLOW RAIN"

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL OPINION EXCERPTED

FROM ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "AKHGAR ORAN" DATE 20 APRIL.
TITLE "MISSING MOTIVATION FOR YELLOW RAIN."
BEGIN EXCERPTS:

1. THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NOW COME FORWARD WITH
CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN USING
CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS WIDELY IN ITS MILITARY CAMPAIGNS
AND IN THOSE OF ITS SATELLITES IN RECENT YEARS.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, SOME AMERICAN DECLARATIONS SUFFER FROM A
CREDIBILITY GAP - WHICH HAS BEEN EXPERTLY EXPLOITED BY
SOVIET PROPAGANDA. IN SPITE OF THE FACTUAL EVIDENCE
PUT FORWARD BY THE AMERICANS FOR SOVIET INDULGENCE IN
CHEMICAL WARFARE, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT THE
SOVIET UNION HAS NO MOTIVE FOR SUCH ACTION AT A TIME
WHEN IT IS TRYING TO GET MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FOR ITS CALLS FOR
ARMS CONTROL IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE.

3. THERE IS A VERY STRONG MOTIVE, HOWEVER,
THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN USING CHEMICAL WARFARE
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AGAINST ENEMIES WHO CANNOT BE CONQUERED IN ANY OTHER WAY:

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RHW Date 11/3/88
FCI, EO or PA exceptions
 RELEASE
 EXISE
 DENY
 Non-responsive info.
TS authority to
 CLASSIFY as
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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ENEMIES WHO HOLD UP IN MOUNTAIN FASTNESSES AND CANNOT BE DISLODGED BY ANY OF THE ORDINARY PROCESSES OF WARFARE. HISTORY IS FULL OF INSTANCES WHEN ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER A COUNTRY HAVE BEEN COUNTERED BY FIGHTING LOYAL FORCES BY GOING UP INTO THE HIGH MOUNTAINS AND COULD NOT BE FLUSHED OUT BY THE ENEMIES ALTHOUGH THE PLAINS WERE IN THE HANDS OF THE OCCUPIER...

4. THE U.S. HAS COME OUT WITH UNDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN USING CHEMICAL WARFARE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS..... A U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT CLAIMS THAT IN LAOS, CAMBODIA AND AFGHANISTAN THERE HAVE BEEN 432 CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN RECENT YEARS, AND MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED. EMPHASIS WAS LAID ON THE FACT THAT POISON GAS IS STILL BEING USED IN AFGHANISTAN AS PART OF THE SOVIET ATTEMPT TO SUBDUCE TRIBESHEN IN THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN AREAS IN WHICH RESISTANCE HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL, AND WHERE GAS ATTACKS ARE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE AND MUCH CHEAPER THAN THE DEPLOYMENT OF LARGE BODIES OF MEN. (END EXCERPTS.)
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