

IMMEDIATE

* [REDACTED] 10/15: 152527

26 APR 1982

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ACTION: USAG ECTC DCA DMMB USAMMA [REDACTED] USAMRDL USAMRIID
 153 MED DET USAMRDC USAMIA [REDACTED]

INFO: USAG ECTC DCA DMMB USAMMA AFMMFO USAMRDL USAMRIID
 153 MED DET USAMRDC USAMIA [REDACTED]

OTHER: _____ MSG CNT NR: _____ 17 _____

OPER INITIAL [REDACTED]

OTTCZYUW RUMTBKA2895 1160632-CCCC-RUEORDB.

ZNY CCCC ZZH

O 260628Z APR 82

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6 828

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC// IMMEDIATE

INFO RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5774

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 7893

RUMJNG/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 4884

RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 8261

RUMJKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 9841

RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 9743

RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5430

RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 8436

RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 8111

RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 1271

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5222

RUEHNL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 5018

RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 4841

RUHGHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUEOAYC/CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA

RULNEAA/CDRAARAICOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD

RUEORDB/DIRUSMAMIA FT DETRICK MD

BT

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 22895

DIA ALSO FOR DT-1A

E012065: GDS 4/26/88 [REDACTED] OR-M

TAGS: PARM, SHUM, PORC, SUPN, LA, W, UR, CB

SUBJ: NEW HMONG ARRIVALS ALLEGE LATE MARCH 1982 CBW

— ATTACK; BLOOD SAMPLES TRANSMITTED

REF: (A) BANGKOK 21527

1. [REDACTED]

2. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF A GROUP OF 214 HMONG WHO' CROSSED THE MEKONG FROM LAOS APRIL 14, HAVE ELICITED REPORTS OF A LATE MARCH CBW ATTACK AGAINST THE GROUP WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF ONE CHILD AND WHICH MADE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ILL. PHYSICIANS EXAMINING VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE NOTED HEALTH PROBLEMS POSSIBLY RELATED TO [REDACTED]

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THE ALLEGED ATTACK. EMBASSY IS POUCHING THREE BLOOD SAMPLES DRAWN FROM HMONG WHO APPEAR TO BE ILL AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK. WE ARE ALSO SENDING BLOOD DRAWN FROM A HMONG, NOT FF THE ABOVE GROUP, WHO RECENTLY DIED FOLLOWING HEMORRHAGE OF UNKNOWN CAUSE, AND WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO CBW AGENTS WHILE IN LAOS. END SUMMARY.

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3. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 14, 214 HMONG CROSSED THE MEKONG FROM LAOS TO A POINT (VICSF 85 08) APPROXIMATELY 20 KILOMETERS DOWNSTREAM FROM PAK CHOM. THE FOLLOWING MORNING ENBOFF HAPPENED ON THE GROUP ENCAMPED ALONGSIDE THE ROAD UNDER THAI GUARD. THE HMONG CLAIMED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED CBW ATTACKS IN LAOS. [REDACTED] CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP APRIL 18-20. THE FOLLOWING BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTACK AND RESULTING SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF THE VICTIMS ARE DRAWN FROM HIS NOTES AND FROM THOSE OF BAN VI NAY PHYSICIANS.

4. GROUP COMPOSITION: ADULTS 113 AND OVER FOR THE HMONG), 102 (INCLUDING 47 MALE AND 55 FEMALE); CHILDREN, 112 (INCLUDING 48 MALE AND 64 FEMALE). THE GROUP COMPRISES 29 FAMILIES. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FEMALES IN THE FINAL TRIMESTER OF PREGNANCY.

5. THE ATTACK: IN LATE MARCH, AN AIR-DELIVERED AGENT FELL ON A VILLAGE NAMED PHA HOUIE (POSSIBLY PAK HOUAY VICTFO 962), WHERE THE GROUP WAS TEMPORARILY STAYING ENROUTE FROM ITS HOME NEAR PHU BIA TO THAILAND. ACCOUNTS VARY AS TO THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED.

6. THE AGENT: THE AGENT WAS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS YELLOW AND YELLOW- RED - BROWN. IN THE AIR IT LOOKED LIKE A SMOKE BUT ON THE GROUND IT DRIED QUICKLY TO FORM A POWDER.

7. SYMPTOMS/SIGNS: MEMBERS OF THE GROUP DESCRIBED THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS/SIGNS: VERTIGO, FAINTING, NAUSEA, VOMITING, DIARRHEA (WITH BLOOD), COUGHING (WITH BLOOD), TACHYCARDIA, SKIN IRRITATIONS WITH ITCHING OFTEN BECOMING INFECTED, AND DECREASED HEARING AND DISTANT VISION. ONE FOUR YEAR OLD CHILD DIED IN THE ATTACK AFTER SEVERE VOMITING AND DIARRHEA WITH BLOOD FOR 24 HOURS.

8. WE ARE POUCHING THREE TUBES OF BLOOD (HEPARINIZED BUT UNREFRIGERATED FOR APPROXIMATELY 8 HOURS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DRAWN, APRIL 17). BLOOD WAS DRAWN ON THE FOLLOWING: [REDACTED], AGE 8 YEARS: PHYSICIANS AT BAN VI NAY SAY THE BOY CLAIMED HE COUGHED WITH YELLOW SPUTUM AND THAT HE WAS SEVERELY ILL AT THE TIME OF THE BASSING SUFFERING ALSO BLOODY DIARRHEA, AND COUGH WITH BLOOD. PHYSICIANS NOTED HE NOW SUFFERS CHRONIC BITET AND PELLAGRA AND IS VERY ANEMIC. HIS CHEST WAS CLEAR.

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[REDACTED] AGE 6 YEARS: PHYSICIANS NOTED THE BOY WAS

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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 BANGKOK 22895

DIA ALSO FOR DT-1A

GROSSLY ANEMIC, SUFFERED CHRONIC BITET AND SPLENOMEGALY. HIS CHEST WAS CLEAR. [REDACTED] PHYSICIANS NOTED SHE SUFFERED DIARRHEA WITH BLEEDING AND ABDOMINAL PAIN. PHYSICIANS NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT MANY OF THE HMONG IN THE GROUP HAD SKIN RASHES THAT WERE NOT SCABIES AND NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFIABLE. (WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN EXTENSIVE MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY OF SKIN CONDITIONS DURING ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS NEXT WEEK.)

9. WE ALSO ARE INCLUDING A BLOOD SAMPLE DRAWN FROM [REDACTED] A 25-YEAR-OLD HMONG WHO DIED APRIL 17 FOLLOWING A GI HEMORRHAGE OF UNKNOWN CAUSE. THE HMONG WAS TRANSFERRED TO LOEI PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEATH. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A FINAL HOSPITAL REPORT. THE PATIENT WAS BARELY COHERENT IN HIS FINAL DAYS AND AT VARIOUS TIMES CLAIMED TO HAVE

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EXPERIENCED A CBW ATTACK. AT OTHER TIMES HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD NOT EXPERIENCED ANY CBW ATTACKS.

10. POUCHING DETAILS: BLOOD SAMPLES WERE SENT BY POUCH NO. K4-543, INVOICE NUMBER 2602684 SL 1, TO ARRIVE AT DULLES 1730 HOURS APRIL 23 ABOARD PANAM FLIGHT 107 FROM LONDON. THE POUCH, WRAPPED IN PLASTIC, WAS TO BE KEPT IN THE AIRCRAFT'S "CHILLER" DURING FLIGHT.

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