



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00 H-01
NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03 PH-09 PA-01 RP-10
OES-09 ACDA-12 SP-02 SR-04 SPRS-02 /104 W
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R 261205Z MAY 82
FM EMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0566
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USICA WASHDC 1040
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REVIEWED by RHW DATE 11/3/88
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PARM, MMOL, SHUM, SREF, PBOR, PORG, SOPH, CB, VM, UR
SUBJECT: KPNLF SOURCE RECOUNTS ALLEGED PAVN USE OF
- CBW AND POSSIBLE PAVN CBW TREATMENT KIT

REF: (A) BANGKOK 26384 (NOTAL), (B) BANGKOK 23592

MAY 23,
TOLD ENBOFF THAT ON JULY 26, 1980 HE WAS WITH A SMALL
CONTINGENT OF KPNLF TROOPS WHICH ENGAGED A PAVN
UNIT NEAR AMPIL (TA 9978) IN KAMPUCHEA.

CLAIMED THAT DURING THE ATTACK THE PAVN
TROOPS USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THE ENCOUNTER

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INITIALLY INVOLVED ONLY AN EXCHANGE OF SMALL ARMS

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FIRE, BUT AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES, PAVN FORCES FIRED THREE VOLLEYS OF FOUR CYLINDRICAL TUBES AT THE KPMLF POSITION, ONLY ABOUT THIRTY METERS FROM THE PAVN LINE. THE THREE VOLLEYS FOLLOWED A LOW TRAJECTORY AND LANDED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN TO TEN METERS APART WITH SPACING OF ABOUT ONE TO TWO METERS BETWEEN EACH TUBE WITHIN A VOLLEY. THE TUBES, WHICH HE SAW, APPEARED TO BE MADE OF ALUMINUM OR SOME OTHER SILVERY METAL AND WHICH WERE 4-5 INCHES LONG, EMITTED A YELLOW SMOKE FROM ONE END. SOURCE SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM AN UNSPECIFIED SOURCE THAT THE TUBE-PROJECTILES WERE FIRED FROM A SINGLE WEAPON WHICH WORKED ELECTRONICALLY, FIRING THE PROJECTILES SIMULTANEOUSLY (MFI).

2. SOURCE SAID THAT THE KPMLF TROOPS WERE DOWNWIND FROM THE POINT OF IMPACT AND WERE IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED BY THE SMOKE WHICH CAUSED VOMITING (NO BLOOD), TEARING, HEADACHE, AND COLLAPSE. SUBSEQUENTLY, VICTIMS DEVELOPED DIARRHEA (NO BLOOD) WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. NAUSEA, BUT NOT VOMITING, CONTINUED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY.

3. SOURCE SAID THAT IN THAT SAME PERIOD, THOUGH NOT IN THIS ENCOUNTER, A PAVN SOLDIER FROM THE 75TH DIVISION (MFI) DESERTED TO THE KPMLF. AMONG HIS GEAR, HE CARRIED A SMALL WHITE CARDBOARD BOX, A LITTLE SMALLER THAN A PACK OF CIGARETTES, WHICH BORE CYRILLIC WRITING. INSIDE THE BOX WERE TWO 1-1/2-2 INCH GLASS AMPULES OF A CLEAR LIQUID AND SEVERAL BALLS OF COTTON. THE VIETNAMESE SOLDIER SAID THAT THE PACKET WAS FOR DECONTAMINATION AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS. ENBOFF NOTED POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER PAVN DESERTERS REACHING THE KPMLF LINES MIGHT CARRY CBW PROTECTION/TREATMENT PACKETS AND THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE ONE.

4. COMMENT: AS DESCRIBED, THE TREATMENT PACKET APPEARS SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL, TO THOSE REPORTED BY PAVN DESERTERS REPTELS. AS FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF CBW PROJECTILES ON THE THAI-KHMER

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