



Department of State

EXCISE TELEGRAM

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AN: 0820281-0951

Feb 58

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 29201 281218Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 EB-08  
DODE-00 H-01 IO-18 NSC-01 NSF-01 NSAE-00 COME-00  
L-03 DOE-10 PH-09 EPA-01 INT-05 OES-09 ACDA-12  
ICAE-00 SPRS-02 /116 M  
-----112442 290226Z /63

R 281128Z  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0769  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
DIA WASHINGTON DC//  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECRET BANGKOK 29201

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NOFORN/NOCON/NOINTEL

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION BANGKOK, DTD  
27 MAY 82 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

SECRET CHIANG MAI 0219

PASS RANGOON, SECSTATE

NOFORN/NOCON/NOINTEL

E.O. 12065: RDS-2 (5/27/82) OR-M (BENNETT, PAUL J.)  
TAGS: MOPS, SMAR, TBIO, BM, TH  
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF BURMESE USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE  
SECRET  
SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 29201 281218Z

1. SUMMARY (LOW): WE HAVE HEARD FROM THREE SOURCES,

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*Handwritten signature/initials*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MLI  
REVIEWED BY: *Rth* DATE: 11/3/88  
 RELEASE  
 EXCISE  
 DECLASSIFY in PART  
 DECLASSIFY in FULL  
 DECLASSIFY in FULL, EO or PA exemptions  
TS authority is:  
 CLASSIFY as  
 DOWNGRADE TO ( ) B or ( ) G, OADR

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INCLUDING A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, ALLEGATIONS OF RECENT BURMESE USE OF "YELLOW RAIN." FOR VARIOUS REASONS WE REGARD THESE TALES WITH DEEPEST SUSPICION, BUT ARE NEVERTHELESS PASSING THEM ON BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN CHEMICAL WARFARE (CW) AND AS A PROBABLE EXAMPLE OF OTHER GROUPS EXPLOITING WIDELY-PUBLICIZED "YELLOW RAIN" STORIES FROM LAOS, CAMBODIA, ET AL. END SUMMARY.

2. (LOU) FIRST REPORT IS FROM MAHAUANG, AN EXILED MEMBER OF SIPSONG PANNA ROYAL FAMILY, WHO FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH SMALL DISSIDENT/TRAFFICKING GROUPS IN BORDER AREA. ABOUT MAY 9, HE STATED THAT DURING PERIOD APRIL 30-MAY 2, BURMESE LIGHT AIRCRAFT SPRAYED A SUBSTANCE IN AREA OF BAN HAI (NC 8052) AND BAN YUAK (UNLOCATED, APPARENTLY APPRX 6-8 KILOMETERS NORTH-EAST OF MAE KHAN SALIENT, ON OR NEAR ROAD RUNNING WEST FROM TACHILEIK). AFTER SPRAYING, YELLOW PARTICLE RESIDUES WERE VISIBLE ON TREE LEAVES AND GRASS, WHICH THEN WITHERED AND DIED. WATER IN MAE KHAN STREAM ALSO REPORTEDLY HAD A YELLOW TINGE. FISH AND ANIMALS ALLEGEDLY DIED.

3. (LOU) SIMILAR REPORT ORIGINATED WITH AN AKHA WOMAN, EMPLOYED AS ANNOUNCER AT PRD RADIO STATION CHIANG MAI, WHOSE HUSBAND IS A LIAISON/PUBLICITY OFFICER FOR KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION. HER INFORMANT(S?) REPORTED SPRAYING IN AN AREA OF SOME 50 SQUARE KILOMETERS, JUST ACROSS BORDER SOME 10-15 KILOMETERS WEST OF TACHILEIK. THIS SPRAYING REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE IN EARLY APRIL. NEITHER OF THESE SOURCES MADE ANY CLAIM AS TO HUMAN CASUALTIES.

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 29201 281218Z

4. (U) LOCAL VERNACULAR NEWSPAPER "THAI NEWS" MAY 18 CARRIED POL REPORT: QTE AT ABOUT 1100 MAY 13, POL. LT. COL. SURAPOL SANGKHAKORN, CHIEF INSPECTOR, A. HUANG, CHIANG RAI, WAS INFORMED THAT ABOUT 70 MUSER HILL TRIBESPEOPLE WERE GETTING OFF BUS AT CHIANG RAI BUS TERMINAL. LT. COL. SURAPOL AND SUBORDINATES HURRIED TO TERMINAL AND QUESTIONED HEADMAN OF MUSERS. HEADMAN TOLD POLICE THAT THEY CAME FROM DOI TOOK (UNLOCATED) IN BURMA OPPOSITE A. MAE CHAN, AND WERE MOVING TO RESETTLE ON A MOUNTAIN IN BURMA OPPOSITE A. MAE SOD, TAK, WHERE

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FIR RELATIVES ALREADY LOCATED. HE SAID REASON FOR  
FIR LEAVING HOMES WAS THAT THEIR VILLAGE WAS HIT BY  
MBS AND "YELLOW RAIN" DROPPED FROM AIRCRAFT, KILLING  
NY PEOPLE. POLICE BROUGHT MUSERS TO POLICE STATION  
R FURTHER INVESTIGATION. UNQTE. NOTE REPORT IS  
BIGUOUS AS TO WHETHER ALLEGED HUMAN CASUALTIES WERE  
OM BOMBING OR FROM CH. WE ARE CHECKING FURTHER TO  
E IF ANY OF THESE MUSERS (LAHU) ARE STILL IN CHIANG RAI, AND  
OBTAIN LT. COL. SURAPOL'S STORY.

(8/17/5)

(LOU) IT IS DIFFICULT TO PLACE MUCH CREDENCE IN  
ESE TALES, FOR FOL REASONS: (A) OPIUM CROP IS LONG  
NCE HARVESTED, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT PURPOSE  
ULD BE SERVED BY USE OF DEFOLIANTS OR OTHER CHEMICALS  
THIS SEASON; (B) BURMESE ARMED FORCES HAVE  
ADDITIONALLY BEEN QUITE CONSERVAOUE IN USE OF AIR  
WER WHERE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES MIGHT RESULT; (C) THE  
ORY FITS NEATLY WITH A WIDESPREAD INSURGENT PROPAGANDA  
ME DEPICTING GUB AS A SOVIET SATELLITE OF

SECRET  
SECRET

PAGE 04 BANGKO 29201 281218Z

OUGHLY SAME DEGREE OF SUBSERVIENCE AS BULGARIA. SUB-  
ECT TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION, WE THEREFORE REGARD  
ESE "YELLOW RAIN" REPORTS AS IN INTERESTING EXAMPLE  
F THE BANDWAGON EFFECT AT WORK IN THE REMOTE HILLS OF  
E SHAN STATE.  
ENNETT UNQUOTE DEAN

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