



Department of State

EXCISE TELEGRAM

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O 111342Z JUN 82
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2304
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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REVIEWED by RAH DATE 11/4/85
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info (b)(1)
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

_____ TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK 31711

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 6/11/02 (DEAN, JOHN GUNTHER) OR-M
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, PARM, SREF, LA, CB, VM, UR
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL GROUP FINDS EVIDENCE
- OF "WIDESPREAD USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN
- LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA"

REF: (A) BANGKOK 30120 NOTAL, (B) FBIS BK 101112,
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- (C) FBIS BK 101113

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1. (U) THE LAWASIA COMMITTEE WHICH CONVENED IN THAILAND TO CONDUCT COLLECTION AND EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE REGARDING CBW USE AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE JUNE 10 AT THE END OF SIX DAYS OF RESEARCH IN THAILAND. IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A "PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION", THE COMMITTEE SAID: "ON THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE CONSENSUS OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE WAS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTED WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE A REASONABLE PERSON THAT THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD BUT SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT OF SOME FORM OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA."

2. (U) THE RELEASE ALSO "NOTED THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT FOREIGN FORCES WERE PRESENT IN KAMPUCHEA AND LAOS, INDICATIVE OF HOSTILE INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION." FULL TEXT OF RELEASE FOLLOWS, PARA 6.

(Handwritten signature)

4. (U) WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMITTEE

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DISCUSSED AND IN SOME INSTANCES DEBATED THE EVIDENCE COLLECTED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT. IN TRIPS TO THE KHMER BORDER, BAN VI MAY AND PHANAT NIKHOM, THE COMMITTEE TALKED TO REFUGEES AND MEDICAL OFFICIALS. THE COMMITTEE SEEMED PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE TESTIMONY OF MEDICAL OFFICIALS AND REFUGEES AT BAN VI MAY, AND PAVN DESERTERS AT PHANAT NIKHOM. THREE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO NOTED THAT DR. AMOS TOWNSEND, WHO MADE A PRESENTATION BEFORE THEM AND WHO HELPED THEM LOCATE THE PAVN DESERTERS AT PHANAT NIKHOM, HAD A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

5. (LOU) IN ADDITION TO DOCUMENTARY SUBMISSIONS FROM THE US EMBASSY, THE SOVIET AND LAO EMBASSIES ALSO SUBMITTED "EVIDENCE" COMPOSING DIATRIBES AGAINST THE US ON AGENT ORANGE AND A LONG REPRINT FROM PHILIP AGEE'S "COVERT ACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN."

6. (U) FULL TEXT OF RELEASE (REF A):
ASIAN LAWYER'S LEGAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BANGKOK 31711

**ON THE INVITATION OF THE THAI CHAPTER OF
LAWASIA IN COOPERATION WITH THE THAI FRIENDS' RELIEF
FOUNDATION, A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED JURISTS,
INCLUDING PRACTISING LAWYERS AND ACADEMICS, FROM
FIVE ASIAN COUNTRIES CONVENED IN BANGKOK, THAILAND,
TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL INQUIRY
ON ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAMPUCHEA
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AND LAOS.

THE INQUIRY TOOK PLACE BETWEEN JUNE 4TH AND JUNE 10TH.

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1982. DURING WHICH THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE MADE ON-SITE COLLECTION AND EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE AT THREE DISPLACED PERSONS' CAMPS: KHAO-I-DANG IN PRACHINBURI PROVINCE, PHANAT NIKHOM IN CHOLBURI PROVINCE AND BAN VINAI IN LOEI PROVINCE. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL OBSERVERS ATTENDING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY.

THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS' VIOLATIONS IN KAMPUCHEA AND LAOS, IN ADDITION TO CLAIMS THAT FOOD AID AND MEDICINE SUPPLIED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR CIVILIANS IN KAMPUCHEA HAD BEEN DIVERTED FOR MILITARY USE.

IN RELATION TO THE ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A MEDICAL INQUIRY, SINCE IT DID NOT PURPORT TO IDENTIFY THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONCERNED BUT TO INQUIRE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY PROOF, INCLUDING CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED IN KAMPUCHEA AND LAOS.

AS A PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION, THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT FOREIGN FORCES WERE PRESENT IN KAMPUCHEA AND LAOS, INDICATIVE OF HOSTILE INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION. ON THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS,
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THE CONSENSUS OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE WAS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTED, WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE A REASONABLE PERSON, THAT THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD BUT SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT OF SOME FORM OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA.

IT WAS ALSO EVIDENT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY HAD BEEN VIOLATED WHICH LED TO THE OUTFLOW OF PERSONS FROM THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN TO SEEK REFUGE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

DUE TO THE TIME CONSTRAINT, THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE

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WAS NOT ABLE TO REACH A CONCLUSION OF THE QUESTION OF DIVERSION OF FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR MILITARY USE.

THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE WILL TAKE TIME TO PREPARE ITS REPORT, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT.

7. (U) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE INQUIRY'S THAI ORGANIZING COMMITTEE IS HEADED BY MR. ANEK SRISANIT, LAWASIA MEMBER AND BY POLICE MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) CHANA SAMUDAVANIJA, FORMER THAI AMBASSADOR TO KAMPUCHEA. FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS SERVING ON THE PANEL INCLUDE: CHIEF JUSTICE R. CONCEPTION AND MR. RICARDO PUNO OF THE PHILIPPINES; SENIOR ADVOCATE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, MR. P.N. LEKHI; MR. ARAWYN C. GOONERATNE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, SUPREME COURT OF SRI LANKA; LAWASIA MEMBER MR. MAHOMED J. JAFFER OF PAKISTAN; MR. H.K. ABUL HYE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION OF BANGLADESH;

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MR. Y. TAKENO, SEC-GENERAL OF JAPAN NATIONAL
GROUP OF APPU; MR. RASHIN SALEH, LAWASIA MEMBER
AND ADVOCATE IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
OF INDONESIA; MR. P. CUMARASWAMY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
AND LAWASIA MEMBER FROM MALAYSIA; AND
MR. LAU LIAT MENG, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AND LAWASIA
MEMBER FROM SINGAPORE. MR. P.J. DOWNEY, CHIEF
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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER OF NEW ZEALAND AND
CO-CHAIRMAN OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF LAWASIA

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ATTENDED AS OBSERVER AMONG OTHER FOREIGN
GUESTS.

DEAN

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