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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5330
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

Dec. 11, 1984

RELEASED IN FULL

SECRET LONDON 26990

EXDIS

DECAPTIONED

MILITARY ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CW, PARM, PREL, MOPS, UK
SUBJECT: FURTHER NEGATIVE BRITISH TEST RESULTS ON
"YELLOW RAIN" SAMPLES

REF: LONDON 14587 (NOTAL)

yes

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. WE HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM MOD MINISTER OF STATE JOHN STANLEY, DESCRIBING FURTHER TESTS BY THE BRITISH CHEMICAL DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT WHICH FAILED TO DETECT EVIDENCE OF TRICHOHECENES IN SAMPLES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. STANLEY SUGGESTS CONSULTATIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DIFFERENCES IN RESULTS OBTAINED RESULT FROM DIFFERENCES IN THE TESTING PROCEDURES USED.

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3. TEXT OF STANLEY'S DECEMBER 4 LETTER FOLLOWS:
WHEN WE MET ON 27 JUNE TO DISCUSS THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, PROFESSOR NORMAL REFERRED TO A FURTHER ROUND OF ANALYSES OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN SAMPLES BEING CONDUCTED AT THE CHEMICAL DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. THESE ANALYSES HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED AND I AM THEREFORE WRITING AS I KNOW YOU WILL WANT TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE RESULTS.

THE ANALYSES WERE CARRIED OUT ON A BATCH OF FOUR SAMPLES OF SO-CALLED "YELLOW RAIN" ON OR FROM VEGETATION. NONE OF THE TRICHOHECENES REPORTED

BY OTHER WORKERS WERE DETECTED. THE YELLOW DEPOSITS ON TWO OF THE SAMPLES (LEAVES) CONSISTED PREDOMINANTLY OF POLLEN.

I BELIEVE THIS FURTHER SERIES OF NEGATIVE RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO RECONCILE OR ACCOUNT FOR THE DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL RESULTS OBTAINED IN LABORATORIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DIFFERENCES LIE IN THE SAMPLES ANALYZED OR IN THE TECHNIQUES USED.

THE DIRECTOR OF CDE HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE USA AND CANADA WHERE HE BEGAN DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS, THE DIRECTORS OF THE US ARMY CHEMICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND OF THE CANADIAN DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT OTTAWA, IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH A BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THIS DIFFICULT AREA OF ANALYSIS.
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THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND COMPARISON WILL TAKE SOME TIME BUT I HOPE THAT IT CAN LEAD TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

WE ARE OF COURSE ANXIOUS TO KEEP AS CLOSE TO YOU ON THIS ISSUE AS WE CAN. HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THE SCIENTIFIC VALIDITY OF PORTON DOWN'S RECENT RESULTS, I THINK THAT OUR PRESENT POSITION MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) OUR TESTS TO DATE HAVE NOT DETECTED MYCOTOXINS, BUT

(B) FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ARE CONTINUING WHICH MAY RECONCILE OR ACCOUNT FOR THE DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL RESULTS BEING OBTAINED IN THE LABORATORIES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, SO

(C) OUR RESULTS SO FAR SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS FINAL.

I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS STAGE.

WE ARE CONCERNED TO REACH AN AGREED SCIENTIFIC LINE ON THIS WITH YOU AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN AND WE WILL WORK STRENUOUSLY TO THIS END.

I WILL OF COURSE BE GLAD TO HAVE A FURTHER MEETING WITH YOU IF YOU WOULD FIND THAT HELPFUL.
END TEXT OF LETTER. PRICE

SECRET

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