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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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NODIS
FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE DATED DEC 07, 1984 BEING REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

QUOTE

SECRET LONDON 26810

NODIS DECAPTIONED

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, PREL, MOPS, TBIO, UK
SUBJECT: UK DEFENSE LABORATORY AGAIN FAILS TO DETECT
YELLOW RAIN RESIDUES ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN SAMPLEH

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. LAST JUNE I MET WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES JOHN STANLEY TO DISCUSS THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AT THAT TIME THE UK CHEMICAL DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT WAS UNABLE TO DETECT
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TRICHOHECENES IN AN INITIAL BATCH OF SAMPLES FROM SOUTH-EAST ASIA BUT FURTHER TESTS WERE IN PROGRESS ON A SECOND BATCH. ON DECEMBER 4 STANLEY INFORMED ME THAT THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS ON THE SECOND BATCH, FOUR PIECES OF VEGETATION, WERE ALSO NEGATIVE. YELLOW SPOTS ON TWO LEAVES WERE IDENTIFIED - POLLEN.

3. STANLEY BELIEVES A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ABOVE FINDINGS IS NOT IN ORDER AT THIS TIME BECAUSE (A) THE LABORATORY HAS A WORLDWIDE REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE,

HENCE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT INTERNATIONALLY; (B) THERE IS A HISTORY OF DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL RESULTS BEING OBTAINED IN SIMILAR TESTS AT LABORATORIES AT VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND (C) THE VAGARIES ASSOCIATED WITH SAMPLE ACQUISITION ARE A CONTINUING PROBLEM IN THIS KIND OF WORK.

4. HE SUMMARIZES HMG PRESENT POSITION AS:

(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.

5. STANLEY IS CONCERNED THAT WE REACH SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT ON THIS MATTER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE PROPOSES TO WORK STRENUOUSLY TO THIS END AND WOULD WELCOME A FURTHER MEETING WITH ME. SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH THE US ARMY CHEMICAL RESEARCH AND
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DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND THE CANADIAN DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD WORK WITH DOD TO ENSURE THAT BRITISH INVESTIGATORS RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM COOPERATION. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS SO THAT I CAN DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH STANLEY. PRICE UNQUOTE DAM

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