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E.O. 12065: BDS 07/09/88 (HOUSE, G.) OR-P
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REPORT ON US CHEMICAL WARFARE
REF: USUN 1612

TS authority to:
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UNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

1. VIETNAM HAS CIRCULATED AS UN DOCUMENT A/S-12/AC.1/87 A DOSSIER ON US CHEMICAL WARFARE IN VIETNAM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.
2. THE DOSSIER IS A COMPILATION OF DOCUMENTS WHICH INCLUDES INTERVIEWS WITH PROF. TON THAT TUNG (A VIETNAMESE SCIENTIST) IN THE VIETNAM COURIER, EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT PRESENTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS ON US CHEMICAL WARFARE IN VIETNAM HELD AT ORSAY, PARIS IN DECEMBER OF 1970, AND MEDICAL REPORTS BY TUNG AND SEVERAL OTHER VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS.
3. THE DOSSIER CHARGES THAT THE US SPRAYED TOXIC CHEMICALS INCLUDING AGENT ORANGE AND TOXIC GASES INCLUDING CS (ORTHOCHLOROBENZAL-HALONITRILE) IN VIETNAM IN VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA PROTOCOL. THE DOSSIER FURTHER CHARGES THAT THESE SPRAYINGS CAUSED OCULAR LESIONS, PROLONGED ASTHENIA, CONGENITAL ANOMALIES AND

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CHROMOSOMIC ALTERATIONS AMONG THE INHABITANTS AS WELL

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AS KILLING 3800 VIETNAMESE OUTRIGHT. FINALLY THE REPORT MENTIONS THAT AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN VIETNAM WAR VETERANS HAVE COMPLAINED OF THE EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE. THE REPORT, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY DENIES ANY CHARGES OF VIETNAMESE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. COMMENT. DEPT. SHOULD CONSIDER PREPARING A REBUTTAL TO THIS VIETNAMESE DOCUMENT. IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD JUDGE IT USEFUL FOR US TO CIRCULATE A REBUTTAL TO THE SOVIET CRITIQUE OF US CHARGES OF CW USE BY THE SOVIETS (REFTEL); A REPLY TO THE VIETNAMESE MIGHT BE INCORPORATED IN THAT REBUTTAL. DOCUMENT POUCHED TO IO/UNP (MARTIN).
KIRKPATRICK

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