



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 44299 060854Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 EB-08
DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03
CTME-00 DOE-10 TRSE-00 PH-09 STR-14 SAL-01 OES-09
ACDA-12 JUS-01 ICAE-00 SP-02 NRC-02 /120 W

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O 060849Z AUG 82

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0996

REVIEWED by *RHW* DATE *11/3/88*

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, PARM, SPEF, LA, CB, VM
SUBJECT: BUYUNG NASUTION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IN
- - SOUTHEAST ASIA

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

REF: (A) JAKARTA 11559, (B) STATE 214184, (C) BANGKOK 31711

1. (LOU) WE BELIEVE THAT BUYUNG CAME BY HIS MISTAKEN IMPRESSION ON SOURCE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS USED BY LAO AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHEN HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF LAWASIA COMMITTEE INTERVIEWED PAYN DESERTERS ALLEGED TO HAVE CBW EXPERIENCE AT PHANAT NIKHON REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTER. ONE OF THE DESERTERS CLAIMED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD USED LEFTOVER AMERICAN NON-LETHAL AGENTS, IN ADDITION TO SOVIET-SUPPLIED LETHAL WEAPONS.

2. (LOU) DOCTOR AMOS TOWNSEND OF IRC, WHO HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE INVESTIGATING CBW PHENOMENA IN THE REGION, ALSO BRIEFED THE LAWASIA COMMITTEE. HE RECALLS THAT HE MAY HAVE MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINT; HOWEVER, DOCTOR TOWNSEND MAINTAINS THAT BOTH
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HE AND THE VIETNAMESE DESERTER SPOKE OF THE USE OF

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AMERICAN RIOT-CONTROL AGENTS AS ONLY AN ASIDE IN A LARGER DISCUSSION WHICH FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON SOVIET AGENTS.

3. (LOU) DOCTOR TOWNSEND DID NOT BELIEVE AT THE TIME THAT ANY OF THE GROUP, INCLUDING BUYUNG, HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION LATER DISSEMINATED BY BUYUNG. APPARENTLY, BUYUNG MISUNDERSTOOD THE FUNDAMENTAL AND IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NON-LETHAL INCAPACITANTS, SUCH AS TEAR-GAS, AND LETHAL AGENTS SUCH AS THOSE IDENTIFIED AS MYCOTOXINS.

4. (LOU) DOCTOR TOWNSEND INTENDS TO CONTACT THAIS WHO - ARE COORDINATING THE COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT TO INSURE THAT THIS FACTUAL ERROR IS NOT REFLECTED THERE.

5. (LOU) THE CONFUSION MAY BE COMPOUNDED BECAUSE THE VIETNAMESE HAVE IN ALL LIKELIHOOD USED LEFT-OVER US RIOT CONTROL AGENTS. U.S.-MADE CS HAND GRENADES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE TURNED UP ON THE THAI/CAMBODIAN BORDER.

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