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TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 318294

TOKYO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLDRIDGE AND DAS O'DONOHUE

E.O. 12356: DECL: 11/11/88
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, LA
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CHEMICAL WARFARE

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. DEPARTMENT PLANS RELEASE NOVEMBER 16 OF REPORT ENTITLED "CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN: AN UPDATE." REPORT PRESENTS CONCLUSIONS BASED ON FURTHER EVIDENCE ABOUT CHEMICAL AND TOXIC WARFARE IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN AVAILABLE TO USG SINCE PUBLICATION SPECIAL REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT MARCH 22, 1982.

3. IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATIONS OF NOVEMBER REPORT, VIENTIANE AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC POSTS WILL RECEIVE SUMMARY OF CONTENTS AND/OR PARTS OF TEXT. REPORT CITES CONTINUED USE BY LAO FORCES UNDER SOVIET SUPERVISION OF LETHAL AND
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INCAPACITATING CHEMICAL AGENTS AND TOXINS AGAINST HMONG

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY *ABW* DATE *11/4/88*
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 EXCISE DECLASSIFY IN PART
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FOI, EO or PA exceptions *(EX-1)*
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RESISTANCE AT LEAST THROUGH JUNE 1982.

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IN EVENT OF QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS BY LAO OFFICIALS EMBASSY
MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THERE IS GROWING EVIDENCE THAT HMONG REFUGEES WHO HAVE
FLED TO THAILAND FROM LAOS AS VICTIMS OF "YELLOW RAIN"
ATTACKS WERE EXPOSED TO A TOXIC AGENT. EXPERTS HAVE
ISOLATED THE TOXIC AGENT AND AGREE THAT IT DOES NOT DERIVE
FROM INDIGENOUS NATURAL DISEASE, PLANTS OR CHEMICALS.

-- THE U.S. IS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND
VIETNAM HAVE INTRODUCED CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND THAT THE LPDR HAS ALLOWED THEIR USE. WE BELIEVE THAT
ALL LAO INVOLVED -- THE VICTIMS AS WELL AS THE USERS OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS -- ARE THE OBJECTS OF SOVIET EXPERIMENTS.

-- WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONDEMN THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
WHEREVER THEY ARE USED.

-- WE HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE EFFORTS IN OUR MUTUAL
INTEREST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.
SHULTZ

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