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TELEGRAM

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E.O. 12386: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, SHUM, SOPN, AF, LA, TH, VN, UN
SUBJECT: CN USE -- US UPDATE FOR CONGRESS AND THE
UNITED NATIONS

1. ON NOVEMBER 29 A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE
DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE THE LATEST EVIDENCE ON THE USE OF
CHEMICAL AND TOXIN AGENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND
AFGHANISTAN. A REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY TO CONGRESS AND
UN UPDATING THE MARCH 22 DOCUMENT FROM SECRETARY HAIG WILL
BE PROVIDED TO THE PRESS AND QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED BY
A PANEL OF EXPERTS. THE COMPLETE UPDATE WILL BE SENT TO
THE UN AND ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS VIA POUCH AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF THE COVER LETTER BY

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SECRETARY SHULTZ AND THE KEY CONCLUSIONS THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE REPORT. ALL POSTS MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION, USE THIS TO BRIEF MOST GOVERNMENTS BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: MOSCOW, EASTERN EUROPE, VIENTIANE AND KABUL. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED TO THE PRESS UNTIL 1430 EST, NOVEMBER 29.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF SECRETARY'S COVER LETTER:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS:

~~CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS ARE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO HUMANITY. USED AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATIONS, OR EVEN AGAINST SOLDIERS WITH PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, THEY CAN CAUSE PROTRACTED AND INDISCRIMINATE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUFFERING, AND AS WE WITNESSED IN WORLD WAR I, WIDESPREAD DEATH AS WELL. FOR SUCH REASONS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS OUTLAWED THE USE OF THESE WEAPONS. THE 1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL, ONE OF THE OLDEST ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS STILL IN FORCE, FORBIDS THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN WAR. THE 1972 BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION PROHIBITS THE MERE POSSESSION OF TOXIN WEAPONS. IN AN EFFORT TO EXTEND SUCH LEGAL CONSTRAINTS STILL FURTHER, THE UNITED STATES -- TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT AT GENEVA -- IS SEEKING AN OUTRIGHT BAN ON THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.~~

~~I REGRET, THEN, TO REPORT THAT CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS ARE NEVERTHELESS BEING USED TODAY IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND~~
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~~AFGHANISTAN BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES. IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, WE REPORTED ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE CONGRESS, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. OUR REPORT, WHICH CONTAINED A COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED COMPILATION OF THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WAS DESIGNED TO BRING THE ISSUE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY. IN PRESENTING IT, WE INVITED OTHERS TO JOIN US IN EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE AND IN CONFIRMING THE TRUTH.~~

~~THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT LED THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES TO~~

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HALT THEIR ILLEGAL USE OF CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS. INSTEAD, THEY CONTINUE TO DENY THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE WORLD CANNOT BE SILENT IN THE FACE OF SUCH HUMAN SUFFERING AND SUCH CYNICAL DISREGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AGREEMENTS. THE USE OF CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS MUST BE STOPPED. RESPECT FOR EXISTING AGREEMENTS MUST BE RESTORED AND THE AGREEMENTS THEMSELVES STRENGTHENED. RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF HUMANITY MUST BE RESTORED. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS CAN ONLY HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SECURITY OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY FOR THE SECURITY OF SMALLER NATIONS, LIKE THOSE WHOSE PEOPLE ARE BEING ATTACKED. IF SUCH BASIC ELEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE SO FUNDAMENTALLY IGNORED, HOW CAN WE BELIEVE ANY PLEDGES TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS?

ALL WHO WOULD SEEK TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ALL WHO WOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS HAVE A DUTY TO CALL WORLD ATTENTION TO THE CONTINUING USE OF CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS, AND TO SEEK A HALT TO THEIR USE. IT IS FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT THE UNITED STATES PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING REPORT.

SINCERELY, (SIGNED)

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GEORGE P. SHULTZ

END TEXT COVER LETTER.

BEGIN TEXT KEY REPORT CONCLUSIONS:

THIS REPORT PRESENTS CONCLUSIONS BASED ON FURTHER EVIDENCE ABOUT CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WARFARE ACTIVITIES IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA, AND AFGHANISTAN THAT HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE SPECIAL REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT ON MARCH 22, 1982. THE EVIDENCE INCLUDES NEW INFORMATION ON EVENTS OCCURRING SINCE THE FIRST OF THIS YEAR, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES ON ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THAT REPORT. THE CURRENT REPORT IS ACCOMPANIED BY TABLES LISTING RECENT AND NEWLY REPORTED ATTACKS AND ANNEXES PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SAMPLE ANALYSIS RESULTS, MEDICAL

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EVIDENCE, AND OTHER SUPPORTING DATA.

UPDATED FINDINGS

BASED ON A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THIS NEW INFORMATION, WE ARE ABLE TO CONCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

. REPORTS OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS FROM FEBRUARY THROUGH OCTOBER 1982 INDICATE THAT SOVIET FORCES CONTINUE THEIR SELECTIVE USE OF CHEMICALS AND TOXINS AGAINST THE RESISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN. MOREOVER, NEW EVIDENCE COLLECTED IN 1982 ON SOVIET AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FORCES' USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM 1979 THROUGH 1981 REINFORCES THE PREVIOUS JUDGMENT THAT LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS WERE USED ON THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE. PHYSICAL SAMPLES FROM AFGHANISTAN ALSO PROVIDE NEW EVIDENCE OF MYCOTOXIN USE.
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. VIETNAMESE AND LAO TROOPS, UNDER DIRECT SOVIET SUPERVISION, HAVE CONTINUED TO USE LETHAL AND INCAPACITATING CHEMICAL AGENTS AND TOXINS AGAINST THE H'MONG RESISTANCE IN LAOS THROUGH AT LEAST JUNE 1982.

. TRICHOHECENE TOXINS WERE FOUND IN THE URINE, BLOOD, AND TISSUE OF VICTIMS OF "YELLOW RAIN" ATTACKS IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA AND IN SAMPLES OF RESIDUE COLLECTED AFTER ATTACKS.

. WE CONTINUE TO FIND THAT A COMMON FACTOR IN THE EVIDENCE IS SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE USE OF THESE WEAPONS IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES. CONTINUED ANALYSIS OF PRIOR DATA AND NEWLY ACQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET MYCOTOXIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CHEMICAL WARFARE TRAINING IN VIETNAM, THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET CHEMICAL WARFARE ADVISERS IN LAOS AND VIETNAM, AND THE PRESENCE OF THE SAME UNUSUAL TRICHOHECENE TOXINS IN SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM ALL THREE COUNTRIES REINFORCE OUR EARLIER CONCLUSION ABOUT THE COMPLICITY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ABOUT ITS EXTENT.

INTRODUCTION

THE SAME RIGOROUS ANALYTICAL PROCESSES EMPLOYED IN OUR MARCH STUDY, AND OUTLINED IN DETAIL THERE, WERE FOLLOWED

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TO ARRIVE AT THE JUDGMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS UPDATE. IN LIGHT OF THE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY GIVEN THE MARCH REPORT, SPECIAL EFFORTS WERE MADE BY U.S. GOVERNMENT ANALYSTS TO PRECLUDE BEING LED ASTRAY BY ANY POSSIBLE FALSE REPORTS THAT MIGHT BE GENERATED FOR PROPAGANDA OR OTHER PURPOSES AND TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING ERRONEOUS JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE CHEMICAL AND TOXIN AGENTS INVOLVED BECAUSE OF TAMPERING OR IMPROPER HANDLING. EVERY REPORT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CHECKED.

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THE EVIDENCE IN THE MARCH STUDY WAS BASED ON A BROAD RANGE OF DATA, INCLUDING TESTIMONY BY PHYSICIANS, REFUGEE WORKERS, JOURNALISTS, AND OTHERS. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE NEW REPORTS ARE ANECDOTAL, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CORROBORATE MOST OF THEM BY OTHER SOURCES AND SAMPLE ANALYSIS. MOREOVER, PERSONAL TESTIMONY TENDS TO ADD CREDENCE TO OTHER ACCOUNTS WHICH, TAKEN TOGETHER, FORM A COHERENT PICTURE. IMPROVED SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURES, A BETTER QUALITY OF MEDICAL HISTORIES AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS, DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF LESIONS AND HOSPITAL CHARTS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND INTERVIEWS BY TRAINED PERSONNEL HAVE REINFORCED OUR EARLIER CONCLUSIONS AND LED TO NEW DISCOVERIES.

AS INTERNATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THIS SUBJECT HAS INCREASED, BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE FROM MANY COUNTRIES, INDEPENDENT ANALYSES HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY FOREIGN CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERTS, PHYSICIANS, JOURNALISTS, AND

~~INDEPENDENT NONGOVERNMENTAL SCIENTISTS AND LABORATORIES.~~
ANALYSTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE FOUND THIS RESEARCH VERY HELPFUL BOTH IN SUPPORTING THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN EXPANDING ON THEM.

~~AFGHANISTAN~~

EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED THE SELECTIVE USE OF TOXIC AGENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AS LATE AS OCTOBER 1982. FOR THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE OBTAINED CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF MYCOTOXINS BY SOVIET FORCES THROUGH ANALYSES OF TWO CONTAMINATED SOVIET GAS MASKS ACQUIRED FROM AFGHANISTAN. ANALYSIS AND

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QUANTIFICATION OF MATERIAL TAKEN FROM THE OUTSIDE SURFACE
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OF ONE MASK HAVE SHOWN THE PRESENCE OF TRICHOHECENE MYCOTOXIN. ANALYSIS OF A HOSE FROM A SECOND SOVIET MASK SHOWED THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL MYCOTOXINS. IN ADDITION, A VEGETATION SAMPLE FROM AFGHANISTAN SHOWS PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF MYCOTOXINS.

OUR SUSPICIONS THAT MYCOTOXINS HAVE BEEN USED IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE NOW BEEN CONFIRMED. REPORTS DURING 1980 AND 1981 DESCRIBED A YELLOW-BROWN MIST BEING DELIVERED IN ATTACKS WHICH CAUSED BLISTERING, NAUSEA, VOMITING, AND OTHER SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED BY "YELLOW RAIN" VICTIMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. BECAUSE OF LIMITED ACCESS TO SURVIVORS WHO STILL EXHIBITED SYMPTOMS, AS WELL AS GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN COLLECTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER PHYSICAL SAMPLES FROM ATTACK SITES, WE WERE UNABLE TO CONCLUDE WITH CERTAINTY IN THE MARCH 22 REPORT THAT MYCOTOXINS WERE BEING USED IN AFGHANISTAN. WE HAVE NOW CONCLUDED THAT TRICHOHECENE MYCOTOXINS HAVE BEEN USED BY SOVIET FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN SINCE AT LEAST 1980.

LAOS

H'ONG REFUGEES, RECOUNTING DETAILS OF TOXIC AGENT ATTACKS AND EXHIBITING SEVERE MEDICAL SYMPTOMS FROM EXPOSURE TO THE AGENTS, FLED TO THAILAND EVERY MONTH FROM JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 1982. THEY BROUGHT OUT MORE SAMPLES CONTAMINATED BY A YELLOW STICKY SUBSTANCE DESCRIBED AS A "YELLOW RAIN" DROPPED BY AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS ON THEIR VILLAGES AND CROPS. WE HAVE PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON ATTACKS AS RECENT AS OCTOBER 1982. WE NOW KNOW THAT THE YELLOW RAIN CONTAINS TRICHOHECENE TOXINS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES THAT CAUSE VICTIMS TO EXPERIENCE VOMITING, BLEEDING BLISTERING, SEVERE SKIN LESIONS, AND OTHER LINGERING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OBSERVED BY QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS. EXPERTS AGREE THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE EXPOSED

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TO A TOXIC AGENT AND THAT NO INDIGENOUS NATURAL DISEASE,
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PLANT, OR CHEMICAL CAUSED THESE UNIQUE PHYSICAL EFFECTS.

KAMPUCHEA

MOST REPORTS OF TOXIC ATTACKS IN KAMPUCHEA FOR THE PERIOD 1978-JUNE 1982 COME FROM DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN (DK) SOURCES, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS WITH DK MILITARY PERSONNEL. EVIDENCE FROM OTHER SOURCES CONFIRMED MOST OF THESE REPORTS. IN 1982, MOST REPORTED ATTACKS OCCURRED NEAR THE THAI BORDER, MAKING IT EASIER TO OBTAIN SAMPLES AND OTHER DIRECT EVIDENCE OF TOXIN AGENT USE. WE ALSO HAVE PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON ATTACKS THROUGH EARLY NOVEMBER 1982.

IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1982, SEVERAL ATTACKS OCCURRED JUST ACROSS THE KAMPUCHEAN BORDER IN THAILAND. ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM THE ATTACKS WERE PERFORMED IN CANADA, THAILAND, AND THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH DIFFERING SAMPLING TECHNIQUES GIVE RISE TO SIGNIFICANT SAMPLING ERROR AND LEAD TO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL RESULTS, BOTH THE U.S. AND THAI ANALYSTS, USING DIFFERENT ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES, FOUND TRICHOECENE MYCOTOXINS IN THEIR SAMPLES. THE CANADIAN TEAM INVESTIGATING THESE ATTACKS HAS PUBLISHED A DETAILED MEDICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE VICTIMS' SYMPTOMS; IT CONCLUDED THAT ILLNESS HAD IN FACT OCCURRED AND WAS CAUSED BY A TOXIC AGENT, ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY TESTS FOR TRICHOECENES PROVED INCONCLUSIVE IN THE CANADIAN SAMPLE.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND TOXINS

SAMPLES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE MID-1979 AND FROM AFGHANISTAN SINCE MAY 1980. TO DATE,

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MORE THAN 350 INDIVIDUAL SAMPLES -- OF GREATLY VARYING TYPES AND UTILITY FOR ANALYTICAL PURPOSES -- HAVE BEEN COLLECTED AND ANALYZED FOR THE PRESENCE OF TRADITIONAL CHEMICAL AGENTS. ABOUT 100 ADDITIONAL SAMPLES ARE PENDING COMPLETION OF ANALYSIS. ALL ENVIRONMENTAL AND NON-MEDICAL SAMPLES WERE SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL SYSTEMS LABORATORY FOR ANALYSIS FOR TRADITIONALLY RECOGNIZED CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS AND OTHER TOXIC MATERIALS. TISSUE SPECIMENS AND BODY FLUIDS FROM ATTACK VICTIMS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE

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CENTER. UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THAT ORGANIZATION, THE BIOMEDICAL SPECIMENS WERE ANALYZED FOR THE PRESENCE OF TRICHOHECENE MYCOTOXINS AND OTHER TOXINS BY DR. CHESTER HIROCHA, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA; DR. JOSEPH ROSEN, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY; AND DR. TIM PHILLIPS, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.

TO DATE, BIOMEDICAL SAMPLES (BLOOD, URINE, AND/OR TISSUE) FROM 33 ALLEGED VICTIMS HAVE BEEN SCREENED. SPECIMENS FROM 16 OF THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF TRICHOHECENE MYCOTOXINS. IN ADDITION, SIX ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES FROM ALLEGED ATTACK SITES HAVE BEEN ANALYZED BY DR. HIROCHA, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA. FIVE SHOW THE PRESENCE OF UNUSUALLY HIGH CONCENTRATIONS AND COMBINATIONS OF TRICHOHECENE MYCOTOXINS. END TEXT. SHULTZ

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