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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
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REVIEWED by RHW Date 11/4

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 03708

TOKYO FOR AMB. ADELMAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: 11/30/88
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: REPORT ON UN CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) EXPERTS

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. [HAS PROVIDED US WITH AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE CONCLUSIONS SECTION OF THE REPORT OF THE UN'S CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) EXPERTS. WE EXPECT THE REPORT TO BE TRANSMITTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE END OF THIS WEEK AND WILL POUCH COPIES TO THE DEPARTMENT (IO/UNP AND ACDA/MA) AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

3. THE CONCLUSIONS SECTION OF THE REPORT, WHICH IS REPRODUCED IN FULL IN PARAGRAPH 4 BELOW, SUMMARIZES
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THE EFFORTS OF THE GROUP DURING ITS SECOND YEAR OF

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WORK, AND DEALS IN PARTICULAR WITH ITS MOST RECENT VISIT TO THAILAND. THE ULTIMATE CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT AND, INDEED, OF THE EXPERTS' FINDINGS AS A WHOLE IS TO BE FOUND IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE CONCLUSIONS SECTION. IT STATES THAT "WHEREAS THE GROUP COULD NOT STATE THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN PROVEN, NEVERTHELESS, IT COULD NOT DISREGARD THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTIVE OF THE POSSIBLE USE OF SOME SORT OF TOXIC CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE IN SOME INSTANCES."

4. TEXT FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT

VII. CONCLUSIONS

IN PURSUANCE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/36/96C, WHICH REQUESTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO CONTINUE HIS INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/35/144C, THE GROUP, INTER ALIA, ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE SUBMISSIONS AT HAND, UNDERTOOK ON-SITE VISITS TO PAKISTAN AND THAILAND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 5(B) OF RESOLUTION A/35/144C, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH IT INTERVIEWED ALLEGED VICTIMS AND EYE-WITNESSES OF ALLEGED CHEMICAL ATTACKS AS WELL AS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND EXPLORED OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION AS WELL. DURING THE ON-SITE VISITS, THE GROUP WAS HANDED VARIOUS SAMPLES AND ALSO COLLECTED SPECIMENS OF BLOOD AND URINE FROM ALLEGED VICTIMS.

IN ITS EVALUATION OF THE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS, THE GROUP NOTED THAT, WHEREAS ALLEGED VICTIMS AND/OR EYE-

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WITNESSES WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS, IT COULD NOT, HOWEVER, OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT SUCH ACCOUNTS MIGHT BE INCOMPLETE OR DISTORTED FOR VARIOUS REASONS. THE GROUP THEREFORE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE VERACITY OF THE ACCOUNTS GIVEN BY THE ALLEGED VICTIMS OR EYE-WITNESSES MENTIONED IN THE SUBMISSIONS.

MANY OF THE MEDICAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY THE ALLEGED VICTIMS AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL REFERRED TO

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IN THE SUBMISSIONS, COULD BE EXPLAINED BY TRICHOHECENE POISONING WHETHER DUE TO NATURAL OCCURRENCE OR OTHER CAUSES. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE VAGUENESS OF THE SYMPTOMATOLOGY PRESENTED IN MOST OF THE REPORTS, EXPLANATIONS OTHER THAN THE USE OF TRICHOHECENES CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. THE GROUP CONSIDERS THAT THE METHODS DESCRIBED IN THE SUBMISSIONS FOR TRICHOHECENE ANALYSIS ARE ADEQUATE TO ENSURE CORRECT IDENTIFICATION AND TO GIVE QUANTITATIVE RESULTS WITH SATISFACTORY PRECISION. AS TO THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS PRESENTED IN THE SUBMISSIONS, THE GROUP CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESENCE OF T-2 AND HT-2 TOXINS IN THE BLOOD AND URINE SAMPLES WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS EXPOSURE OF THE ALLEGED VICTIMS TO MYCOTOXINS OF TRICHOHECENE TYPE BUT IT WAS UNABLE TO DECIDE FROM THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS WHETHER SUCH EXPOSURE WAS DUE TO A CHEMICAL ATTACK OR COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO NATURAL CAUSES.

THE GROUP CONSIDERS THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF SYNTHETIC SUBSTANCES LIKE POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL AND LAURYL SULPHATE IN SAMPLES OF YELLOW POWDER FROM LAOS TO BE SIGNIFICANT. HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO THE ORIGIN OF THE SAMPLES, THE GROUP FELT THAT WHILE, ON AN A PRIORI BASIS, IT WOULD NOT WISH TO QUESTION THAT THE SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED IN THE AREAS SPECIFIED IN

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THE SUBMISSIONS, IT WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ASCERTAIN
BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT WHETHER OR NOT THESE
SAMPLES WERE OBTAINED FROM AREAS WHICH HAD BEEN
EXPOSED TO CHEMICAL ATTACKS.

BECAUSE OF THE PROLONGED LAPSE OF TIME BETWEEN THE ALLEGED
EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL ATTACK AND THE TIME WHEN IT CONDUCTED
THE INTERVIEWS AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE ALLEGED
VICTIMS DURING ITS ON-SITE VISITS, THE GROUP WAS NOT ABLE
TO DETECT SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS PATHOGNOMONIC OF EXPOSURE
TO CHEMICAL ATTACK. HOWEVER, THE GROUP HAD THE OPPORTUNITY
TO INTERVIEW TWO HONGKONG REFUGEES WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN
EXPOSED TO THE YELLOW POWDER ONLY TWO WEEKS EARLIER.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH TWO DERMATOLO-
GISTS, PROVED THAT THEIR SKIN CONDITION WAS DUE TO FUNGUS
INFECTION OF AT LEAST THREE MONTHS' DURATION. ANALYSES
OF THEIR BLOOD DID NOT SHOW ANY TRACE OF TRICHOHECENES
(SENSITIVITY OF THE METHOD IS 10 - 100 PPB.) AND THERE

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WAS NO LEUCOPENEA.
AS REFLECTED IN THIS REPORT, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND

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ITS CONTROL THE GROUP WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROCEED TO THE TERRITORIES WHERE CHEMICAL ATTACKS HAD ALLEGEDLY OCCURED AND IT WAS, THEREFORE, UNABLE TO CONDUCT ANY ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS ON THOSE TERRITORIES. THIS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GROUP ITSELF TO COLLECT SAMPLES, INCLUDING MUNITIONS AND/OR REMNANTS THEREOF, IN THOSE TERRITORIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE GROUP RECEIVED SAMPLES ALLEGEDLY COLLECTED IN SOME OF THE AREAS OF CONFLICT DURING ITS VISITS TO PAKISTAN AND THAILAND. THE GROUP ALSO COLLECTED BLOOD AND URINE SAMPLES FROM ALLEGED VICTIMS DURING THE ON-SITE VISITS.

THE RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF SAMPLES RECEIVED OR COLLECTED BY THE GROUP ARE INCONCLUSIVE. IN MOST CASES, NO PRESENCE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS BEYOND THE DETECTION LIMITS OF THE ANALYTICAL METHODS USED COULD BE DEMONSTRATED. IN ONE CASE, A HMONG REFUGEE HANDED TO THE GROUP A SAMPLE OF GRANULAR MATTER ALLEGEDLY USED TO POISON FOOD. ANALYSIS OF THIS MATERIAL SHOWED THAT IT CONTAINED A HIGHLY TOXIC SUBSTANCE, CARBOFURAN, IN A CONCENTRATION OF 1-5 MIXED IN SAND. BUT THE UNCLER ORIGIN OF THE SAMPLE AND THE FACT THAT IT IS PROBABLY IDENTICAL WITH A COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE PREPARATION MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GROUP TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THIS FINDING.

WHILE THE GROUP WAS IN THAILAND, IN OCTOBER 1982, IT WAS INFORMED BY THE THAI AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF A YELLOW SUBSTANCE ON FEBRUARY 19, 1982, IN TWO THAI VILLAGES, AND IT WAS INVITED TO VISIT THOSE TWO VILLAGES. THIS, OF COURSE, COULD NOT BE
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CONSIDERED A TIMELY ACCESS TO THOSE AREAS. HOWEVER, FROM THE INTERVIEWS AND MEDICAL RECORDS AVAILABLE, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT FOLLOWING EXPOSURE TO THE YELLOW SUBSTANCE THERE WAS A MARKED INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF SKIN COMPLAINTS IN ONE OF THE VILLAGES, AS REPORTED TO THE GROUP.

IN ITS EVALUATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS MENTIONED IN THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEWS, THE GROUP NOTED THAT SOME ALLEGATIONS WERE ONLY SUPPORTED BY SCANTY CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AND THAT ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS OTHER THAN

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THE ONE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS WERE POSSIBLE AND IN MOST OF THESE CASES EVEN LIKELY. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING POISONING OF WATER SUPPLIES, WHICH COULD BE EXPLAINED BY NATURAL OCCURRENCES OF POLLUTANTS IN THE WATER. IN SOME CASES, BECAUSE OF LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION OR EVIDENCE OF ANY KIND PRESENTED, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT ANY CONCLUSION.

OTHER ALLEGATIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY MORE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE BUT ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CAUSATIVE AGENT COULD STILL BE POSSIBLE. THIS IS EXEMPLIFIED BY SOME OF THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING VARIOUS FORMS OF COLOURED SMOKES IN AFGHANISTAN WHICH PROBABLY COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE USE OF INCENDIARIES. IN SOME CASES, HOWEVER, MORE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WAS OBTAINED BY THE GROUP BOTH FROM WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AS WELL AS DURING ITS ON-SITE VISITS. ONE SUCH WELL-SUPPORTED ALLEGATION CONCERNED THE POSSIBLE USE OF HARASSING AGENTS IN THE UNDERGROUND WATER CANALS ("KAREZ") IN AFGHANISTAN. ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE ALLEGATION OF THE USE OF SOME TOXIC MATERIAL IN THE AREA IN LAOS WHERE THE HMONG PEOPLE LIVE. THE GROUP WAS NOT ABLE TO PINPOINT ANY SPECIFIC

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TOKYO FOR AMB. ADELMAN

CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENT OR OTHER TOXIC COMPOUNDS AS THE CAUSATIVE AGENT. MOST OF THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE HMONG ALLEGATIONS IS CONTAINED IN THE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS. FURTHERMORE, ADDITIONAL CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WAS OBTAINED BY THE GROUP DURING ITS VISIT TO THAILAND.

WHEREAS THE GROUP COULD NOT STATE THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN PROVEN, NEVERTHELESS, IT COULD NOT DISREGARD THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTIVE OF THE POSSIBLE USE OF SOME SORT OF TOXIC CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE IN SOME INSTANCES.

END TEXT
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