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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 INR-10 EUR-00 MWD-01 IO-15 NEA-07 PM-09 SP-02

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O 020548Z DEC 82 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0680 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY JAKARTA AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY MANILA AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 62151

USIA

FOR P/RC, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, B NEWS/CA

EO 12356: N/A SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

- 1. LEADING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BANGKOK POST COMMENTS DEC. 2 ON LATEST U. S. RELEASE OF EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL CHEMICAL/BIOLOGICAL WARFARE IN AFGHANISTAN; SOUTHEAST ASIA. PAPER SAYS THAT "BETTER ANSWERS ARE NEEDED IN THE FACE OF EXISTING EVIDENCE, AND IF THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM REFUSE TO GIVE THEM, THEY MUST BE SOUGHT BY OTHER MEANS." EXCERPTS OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOW:
2. "THE SIMMERING QUESTION OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE HAS BEEN RAISED ONCE AGAIN BY THE UNITED STATES. US INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES HAVE OBTAINED WHAT APPEARS TO BE NEW EVIDENCE WHICH DOES TWO THINGS: PROVIDES FRESH INDICATIONS THAT CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE IS INDEED UNDERWAY, AND LINKS THIS WARFARE TO THE SOVIET UNION.
3. "THE NEW EVIDENCE DOES INDEED TAKE THE ISSUE ALONG ANOTHER STEP. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT YET THE 'SMOKING GUN' WHICH MANY NATIONS AND PEOPLE OF THE WORLD SAY THEY NEED BEFORE ACCEPTING THAT MOSCOW AND VIETNAM ARE ENGAGED IN ONE OF THE MOST FEARED FORMS OF WARFARE... MOSCOW CALLED THE LATEST US CHARGES A "BRAZEN LIE." DESPITE THIS, THE UN BY A VOTE OF 70-18 HAS CALLED ON THE BODY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE THE US CHARGES. THERE ARE NO PRIZES FOR GUESSING WHO VOTED AGAINST THE INVESTIGATION.
4. "CHARGES THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM ARE USING CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATIONS ARE EXTREMELY SERIOUS ONES. IF THEY ARE TRUE, THE WORLD SHOULD KNOW. IF THEY ARE FALSE, THE WORLD ALSO SHOULD KNOW.
5. "WITH THE 'YELLOW RAIN' CONTROVERSY UNLIKELY TO DISAPPEAR, IT SEEMS THAT AN INNOCENT SOVIET UNION WOULD BE ANXIOUS TO CLEAR ITS NAME, RATHER THAN DISMISS THE SUBJECT WITH A FIGURATIVE WAVE OF THE HAND. BETTER ANSWERS ARE NEEDED IN THE FACE OF EXISTING EVIDENCE, AND IF THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM REFUSE TO GIVE THEM, THEY MUST BE SOUGHT BY OTHER MEANS." MORTON

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