

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

FM EXTOTT DFD0287 21MAR83

TO MOSCO DELIVER BY 220900

INFO PRMNY WSHDC BNGKK BNATO GENEV VMBFR MDRID/CSCE NDHQOTT/DNACPOL/
DST(HP)/DPM TT DRE/SUFFIELD DE CAF
DISTR GEA GPS CMO DFP DFR PFG

REF OURTELS DFD0276 18MAR 0283 18MAR(NOTAL)

---CW USE IN SE ASIA:CDN RESPONSE TO SOVIET CRITIQUE

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON INF(REPORTED SEPARATELY)PFG EXPLAINED TO SOV
AMB YAKOVLEV(ACCOMPANIED BY SECOND SEC GOUSSAROV)THAT CDA HAD BEEN
CONCERNED OVER REPORTS OF CW USE IN SE ASIA AND ACCOMPANYING
PROPAGANDA.BECAUSE OF SERIOUSNESS OF CW USE ISSUE(RESULTS OF WHICH
WERE WITNESSED BY CDN OFFICIALS IN SE ASIA)CDA DECIDED TO EXAMINE
MATTER CAREFULLY AND IN DOING SO,LIFT IT OUT OF REALM OF PROPAGANDA
AND DEAL WITH IT OBJECTIVELY AND SCIENTIFICALLY.CONSEQUENTLY,WE
CONTRACTED WITH DR SCHIEFER,AN EXPERT IN TOXICOLOGY,TO VISIT AREA,
TO STUDY AVAILABLE FACTS AND SUBMIT NON-ACCUSATORY REPORT.AT SAME
TIME CDN DND MEDICAL TEAM TRAVELLED TO AREA TO EXAMINE SITUATION FROM
DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE(EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH).IN RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FROM UN SEC GEN THESE STUDIES WERE SUBMITTED TO UN.AS BOTH
REPORTS WERE NON-ACCUSATORY,WE WERE QUITE DISAPPOINTED THAT SOVIET
UN DEL HAD CIRCULATED DOCU IN UN CRITICISING SCHIEFER AND DISMISSING
HIS STUDY AS PROPAGANDA.AFTER GIVING MATTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION,WE
HAVE DECIDED TO WRITE TO UN SEC GEN TO TRANSMIT TO HIM OUR ASSESSMENT

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OF SOVIET CRITIQUE.PFG THEN TOLD AMB THAT HE HAD BEEN QUOTE STAGGERED UNQUOTE WHEN HE SAW SOVIET NEWS RELEASE(REPRINT OF TASS 05MAR ARTICLE)ACCUSING CDN DND MEDICAL TEAM OF BEING DUPES OF QUOTE CIA UNQUOTE.HE FOUND THIS REACTION TO CDN STUDY SURPRISING AND CERTAINLY NOT/NOT BECOMING TO THE PROCESS OF RATIONAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2.CLEARLY TAKEN ABACK,AMB PAUSED SEVERAL SECONDS BEFORE ASKING IF SCHIEFER WAS WORKING FOR DEA.PFG REPLIED THAT WE HAD HIRED SCHIEFER BECAUSE WE HAD WANTED TO EXAMINE MATTER SCIENTIFICALLY.YAKOVLEV THEN STATED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED BY CDN ACTIVITY IN THIS MATTER AND HE DISPUTED CLAIM THAT CDA HAD TAKEN NON-ACCUSATORY APPROACH.QUOTE FINGER HAD BEEN POINTED UNQUOTE BY FORMER SSEA MACGUIGAN DURING TRIP TO ASIA.PFG INTERJECTED,POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN WITH MACGUIGAN AND HE DID NOT/NOT RECALL ANY STATEMENT BEING MADE WITH REGARD TO USERS OF CW.YAKOVLEV CONTINUED BY COMPLAINING THAT MASS MEDIA HAD USED CDN REPORTS AND HAD ACCUSED SOVIET UNION OF USING CW IN SE ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN.AMB LED IN A REGURGITATION OF TASS CLAIMS BY FIRST COMMENTING QUOTE WE KNEW THAT WE WERE NOT/NOT USING CW IN ASIA AND THEN WE STARTED LEARNING WHO WAS REALLY DOING IT UNQUOTE.

3.PFG REPEATED POINT THAT CDA HAD SUBMITTED OBJECTIVE AND SCIENTIFIC REPORTS TO UN AND WAS DISTURBED THAT USSR HAD CHOSEN TO DISMISS THEM AS PROPAGANDA.BOTH SOVIET CRITIQUE AND TASS ARTICLE HAD MIXED TWO ISSUES(CDN SCIENTIFIC REPORTS AND ACCUSATIONS MADE BY OTHERS)AND

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CONSEQUENTLY BOTH SOVIET REPORTS HAD WOUND UP LOOKING FOOLISH. EXCHANGE CONCLUDED WITH AMB DECLARING THAT SOVIET UNION WAS NOT/NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF CW USE IN VIETNAM (NOT/NOT CLEAR IF HE WAS REFERRING TO ALL OF INDOCHINA BUT THAT WAS OUR IMPRESSION). RAISING ISSUE IN ANY FORUM WAS CONSIDERED INSULT TO USSR BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IT TO BE PART OF USA PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THEY VIEWED SCHIEFER REPORT.

4. AMB WAS CLEARLY UNPREPARED TO RESPOND TO CDN DEMARCHE EVEN THOUGH GOUSSAROV HAD CALLED ON DFD 03MAR TO DISCUSS CDN POSITION ON CW AND PARTICULARLY SCHIEFER REPORT IN CONTEXT OF SOVIET CRITIQUE. AT THAT TIME GOUSSAROV WAS ILL-PREPARED (HE DEPARTED DFD MUMBLING THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO GET CLARIFICATION FROM MOSCO) AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOVIET EMB OTT HAD NOT/NOT RECEIVED UPDATED INSTRUCTIONS DURING INTERVAL OR THAT GOUSSAROV HAD REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF MTG TO AMB. CONSIDERING THAT WE SAW FIT TO MAKE DEMARCHE IN OTT AND TO REQUEST CIRCULATION OF DOCUS IN UN, IT IS PROBABLY THAT WE HAVE NOT/NOT HEARD LAST OF THIS ISSUE.

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