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S.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PARM, AS, YN
SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON YELLOW RAIN

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN OCTOBER 12 ISSUE OF
"THE AUSTRALIAN" AND IS BYLINED PETER SAMUEL IN
WASHINGTON. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER
INFORMATION/COMMENTS DEPARTMENT CAN OFFER ON DETAILS OF
ARTICLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

VIET DEFECTOR GIVES DETAILS OF 'YELLOW RAIN' WAREFARE
FROM PETER SAMUEL IN WASHINGTON

WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE RECEIVED DETAILED
INFORMATION ON SOVIET "YELLOW RAIN" AND OTHER CHEMICAL
WAREFARE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA FROM AN ARTILLERY
COMMANDER WHO SURRENDERED TO KAMPUCHEAN GUERRILLAS EARLIER
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THIS YEAR.

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THE VIETNAMESE GROUP COMMANDER FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE, NGUYEN QUAN, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNIST MILITARY OFFICERS TO COME UNDER WESTERN CONTROL AND HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE INTERROGATION SINCE HIS SURRENDER.

DETAILS OF HIS STATEMENTS CAME FROM MR. MICHAEL LEJEEN, A RESEARCHER AT THE GEORGETOWN CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN WASHINGTON.

"WE BEGAN RECEIVING CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AS EARLY AS 1970", SAID QUAN.

THEY INCLUDED ARTILLERY SHELLS, AIR-LAUNCHED CONTAINERS, SMALL PORTABLE PUMPS FOR SPRAYING AND, AS TIME PASSED, "MORE AND MORE OF THIS STUFF ARRIVED".

QUAN SAID HE SAW AN OFFICIAL PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM REPORT IN EITHER 1977 OR 1978 WHICH STATED ONE THIRD OF THE ARTILLERY SHELLS SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIET UNION WERE "SPECIAL" - THE TERM USED TO DESCRIBE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE.

THE SOVIET - SUPPLIED CHEMICAL WARFARE MATERIALS WERE USUALLY MARKED "H".

"THE AIR FORCE USES THE MOST POTENT, H-1, WHICH DESTROYS ALL FORMS OF ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE LIFE. IN THE ARTILLERY WE USED A SOMEWHAT LESS POTENT VARIETY, H-2, FIRED IN 155, 130 AND 105MM SHELLS".

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"FOR THE MORTARS WE HAD H-3 WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED IN CONTAINERS OF 25KG, WHICH ARE CARRIED ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE TROOPS FOR USE BY PORTABLE PUMPS. THESE ARE OPERATED BY SPECIAL UNITS WITH MASKS AND UNIFORMS DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR THIS WORK".

"FINALLY, THERE ARE CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN POWDER FORM, IN SMALL 250GM SACKS WHICH ARE USED TO POISON WELLS, FOUNTAINS AND WATER MAINS", SAID QUAN.

ASKED HOW HE KNEW ALL THIS, HE REPLIED: "I WAS TRAINED

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IN CHEMICAL WARFARE, LIKE MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES, IN THE SCHOOL AT SON TAY. IN VIETNAMESE ARTILLERY SCHOOLS ONE FIFTH OF THE TIME IS DEVOTED TO TRAINING FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE".

QUAN SAID HE WAS TRAINED BY OLDER OFFICERS WHO HAD ATTENDED "SPECIAL COURSES IN THE SOVIET UNION". HE REMEMBERED ONE "VERY IMPRESSIVE" TRAINING FILM TITLED THE TRUTH OF THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER, WHICH DESCRIBED THE EFFECTIVE USE OF CHEMICALS BY SOVIET FORCES AGAINST THE CHINESE IN 1963-4, ON THE USSURI RIVER.

QUAN SAID: "THERE WERE SYSTEMATIC ATTACKS WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA. BETWEEN THE END OF 1977 AND 1978 IN LAOS, H-1 WAS USED IN THE ZONE WHERE GENERAL VAN PAO COMMANDED A FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL RESISTANCE. ALMOST 100SQ KM OF JUNGLE WERE DESTROYED AND POISONED AFTER THE FAILURE OF THE VIETNAMESE SECOND DIVISION AND THE PATHET LAO TO PUT DOWN THE GUERILLAS".

QUAN NAMED DEPOSITS OF STOCKS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AS

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TAGS: PARM, AS, VN

SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON YELLOW RAIN

BEING "FAMOUS" AT LONG BINH AND DANANG IN VIETNAM. IN
KAMPUCHEA HE SAID THERE WERE DEPOSITS AT KAMPONG CHAM,
SIEM RIEP, SWAY RIEP AND BATTAMBANG THAT HE KNEW OF,
ALTHOUGH THERE WERE PROBABLY OTHERS.

THE ARTILLERY OFFICER PRODUCED A WRITTEN STATEMENT IN
WHICH HE SAID: "ALL OF THE POISONOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES
ARE VERY DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE. THEY CAN CRUELLY DESTROY
ANIMAL, HUMAN AND VEGETABLE LIFE. EACH TYPE HAS
DIFFERENT EFFECTS. WHEN THE CHEMICAL ARTILLERY SHELLS
EXPLODE CLOSE-BY ONE CAN CLEARLY SEE A DARK YELLOW
CLOUD. IT IS VERY LIGHT, LIGHTER THAN AIR AND THEREFORE
DISAPPEARS RAPIDLY. IT SMELLS LIKE FRESHLY CUT RAW
GARLIC".

THE WRITTEN TESTIMONY CLAIMS 35 TO 40 PER CENT OF THE
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POPULATION OF THE XUAN LOC DISTRICT OF BAN RIA PROVINCE
NORTH-EAST OF SIAGON WAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED BY

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CHEMICAL ARTILLERY SHELLS USED TO SUPPRESS AN UPATSIING.

SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING TO THE AMERICANS IS THE STATEMENT BY QUAN THAT SOME OF THE CHEMICALS USED BY THE VIETNAMESE ARMY WERE MARKED "CZ", LEFT BEHIND AFTER THEIR WITHDRAWAL. END TEXT. LYNE

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