



Department of State

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ACTION EA-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-08
IO-15 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 PM-09 EPA-01 OES-09
ACDA-12 SP-02 DOEE-00 /070 W
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P 201138Z JAN 84
FM ANEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7125
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHINGTON DC//
CIA WASHDC
CDR/USAMMA FT DETRICK MD
CDRAARADCOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDG/MR

REVIEWED by MAW DATE 11/3/84
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 03265

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, TH, LA
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR BBC PRODUCER ON YELLOW RAIN

REF: (A) STATE 16041 (NOTAL), (B) BANGKOK 2484

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. BBC PRODUCER JEREMY TAYLOR, IN THAILAND TO FILM A 50-MINUTE SPECIAL ON YELLOW RAIN, CAME TO THE EMBASSY JANUARY 19 FOR A BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON YELLOW RAIN FROM EMBASSY POLITICAL AND PRESS OFFICERS. THE CONVERSATION, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, WAS CONFINED TO GENERALITIES.

3. TAYLOR WAS DISAPPOINTED AT BEING UNABLE TO MEET WITH MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE JOINT CBW UNIT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT EXTEND HIS PLANNED FEBRUARY 20 DEPARTURE DATE IN ORDER TO MEET WITH UNIT CHIEF DON STADER, WHOM WE EXPECT TO RETURN ABOUT THAT DATE. MR.

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TAYLOR APPEARED TO ACCEPT OUR POINT THAT THE UNIT TEAM

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MEMBERS ARE TOO NEW AT THE JOB TO EXPOSE THEM TO THE PRESS, AND HE DID NOT BRING UP HIS PREVIOUS REQUEST TO FILM THE TEAM (REF B).

4. ALTHOUGH TAYLOR IMPRESSED US AS AN INTELLIGENT AND FAIR-MINDED INVESTIGATOR, WE COULD NOT HELP BUT CONCLUDE THAT HE HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE USG CASE ON YELLOW RAIN. AS LAYMEN, WE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THIS ASPECT OF THE CASE. INSTEAD, WE RECOMMENDED THAT HE INTERVIEW RESPECTED SCIENTISTS, SUCH AS DR. CHESTER MIROCHA, FOR THAT ASPECT OF THE STORY.

5. TAYLOR EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD FOCUS HIS FILM ON THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION, WHICH HE LIKENED TO A SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE STORY, BUT THAT HE WOULD ALSO INTERVIEW ALLEGED HMONG VICTIMS AT BAN VINAI. HE APPEARED TO HAVE MET A WIDE RANGE OF KNOWLEDGEABLE CONTACTS IN THAILAND ALREADY.

6. TAYLOR ASKED WHETHER LACK OF FEEDBACK FROM WASHINGTON HAD HAMPERED INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD COMPLAINTS ON LACK OF FEEDBACK FROM SOURCES WHO HAD PROVIDED SAMPLES. WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS HAD BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE PAST, BUT ADDED THAT WE BELIEVE THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

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