

*NEW Reports*

UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(14)

PAGE 01 OF 02 BANGKO 18465 00 OF 02 092222Z 7305 EAP4054  
ACTION PH-10

BANGKO 18465 00 OF 02 092222Z 7305 EAP4054  
THAILAND DURING THE PERIOD 16 THROUGH APPROXIMATELY 26 MARCH 1984 AND VISITED CHIANG MAI, THAILAND (NA 0000), KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK (QS 9020), KORAT PROVINCE, THAILAND (QS 9020) AND CHIANG KHAN DISTRICT, LOEI PROVINCE, THAILAND (MC7090).

INFO C-03 TB-03 VLK-02 P-01 RA-01 UN-01 PMU-01 EAP-04 X-01  
/B17 A3 JJK

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 OIC-02 IO-15  
NSF-02 L-03 EAP-00 EPAE-00 OES-09 ACDA-12 MCE-00  
/B64 W

5. SYMPTOMOLOGY: NONE REPORTED.

6. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER OR MESSAGE WAS PROVIDED

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R 091152Z APR 84  
FM ANEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO DIA WASHINGTON DC//DT-30/DT-5//  
CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//DRXST-FM/DRXST-CW//  
CDR CRDC EDGEWOOD MD//DRSMC-RAI-C/DRSMC-CLB-R//  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7092  
CIA WASHDC//OSWR//  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
ANEMBASSY PARIS  
ANEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC//OSD-ISA//  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI  
CDRTEU ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MD//SLE-OPE  
DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD  
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FIT/DAMO-NCC//  
CMDT/USACHLS FT MCCLELLAN AL//ATZM-CH-CC//1050-MCL//  
DIRAFHC FT DETRICK MD//AFHC-CR//  
CDRUSAMRIID FT DETRICK MD

UNCLAS BANGKOK 18465

DEPT FOR PH/TMP COL LEONARD  
CIA FOR OSWR DR. GREENE  
SECDEF FOR OSD-ISA LTCOL WISE  
DA FOR DAMO-NCC COL ORTON  
GENEVA FOR U.S. CD DEL AND USSCC

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: MOPS, TH  
SUBJECT: CBW SAMPLE TH-840322-1JR

REF: (A) SCIENCE MAGAZINE, VOL 222, PP 366 AND 368, 28 OCTOBER 1983, LETTER, SUBJECT: ORIGIN OF YELLOW RAIN, (B) PAPER "YELLOW RAIN: A PALYNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS" DATED MARCH 12, 1984. (C) BANGKOK 17491 030800 APR 84

1. THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.
2. SHIPPING INFORMATION: REF (C).
3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: TH-840322-1JR IS A SINGLE LEAF WITH THREE YELLOW SPOTS ON IT.
4. DETAILS OF COLLECTION

A. ON 22 MARCH 1984, THIS POST'S DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION (DCM) WAS VISITED BY MATTHEW MESELSON, HARVARD UNIVERSITY; THOMAS D. SEELEY, YALE UNIVERSITY; AND DR. PONGTHEP AKKRATANAKUL, KASSETSART UNIVERSITY, THAILAND, AND A GRADUATE OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NEW YORK. PROFESSOR MESELSON PRESENTED SUBJECT SAMPLE TO THE DCM AND STATED THAT YELLOW SPOTS ARE BEE FECES. SAMPLE WAS REFRIGERATED ON 25 MARCH 84 AND HAS REMAINED REFRIGERATED SINCE.

B. LOCATION AND DATE OF COLLECTION BY PROFESSOR MESELSON IS UNKNOWN. HOWEVER, IT IS KNOWN THAT HE WAS IN

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Mr. Stapleton Roy

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ON BOTH CLEANING AND FEEDING FLIGHTS. HE PRODUCED SEVERAL WHITE SHEETS OF PAPER WITH YELLOW SPOTS ON THEM TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINTS. HE SAID THAT THESE SHEETS WERE PLACED ON FLIGHT PATHS TO DETERMINE TIME FRAMES FOR CLEANING FLIGHTS AND HE CONCLUDED THAT THESE GENERALLY TAKE PLACE IN THE MORNING AND EVENING HOURS.

D. MESELSON OBSERVED THAT THE NATURAL PHENOMENON OF BEE CLEANING FLIGHTS PRODUCED YELLOW SPOTS IN A WAY CONSISTENT WITH THE ALLEGED VICTIMS' ACCOUNTS OF YELLOW RAIN ATTACKS. HE NOTED THAT THE YELLOW SPOTS DO INDEED COME IN SHOWERS JUST AS YELLOW RAIN HAS BEEN DESCRIBED.

B. IN A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH THE POST'S CBW TEAM ON APRIL 6, DR. PONGTHEP AKKRATANAKUL, WHO TRAVELLED WITH MESELSON DURING THE LATTER'S TRIP THROUGH THAILAND, INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED MESELSON'S FINDINGS THAT WILD HONEY BEES CAN DEFECCATE YELLOW SPOTS OVER WIDE AREAS IN SHOWERS. PONGTHEP STATED THAT YELLOW SPOTS CAUSED BY BEES CAN COVER AN AREA AS SMALL AS FIFTY METERS IN DIAMETER OR AS LARGE AS ONE THOUSAND SQUARE METERS. HE REPORTED THAT THE FIVE MINUTE SHOWER OF YELLOW SPOTS RECOUNTED BY MESELSON OCCURRED NEAR A TREE HARBORING 80 NESTS OF APIS DORSATA IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE. HE ESTIMATED THAT EACH NEST HOUSED 30,000 BEES. HE COULD NOT SAY WITH PRECISION HOW MANY DEFECCATING BEES CAUSED THE SHOWER DESCRIBED BY MESELSON BUT HE ESTIMATED THAT 10,000 BEES WERE RESPONSIBLE. HE STATED THAT ALL THREE WILD HONEY BEES FOUND IN THAILAND, THE GIANT HONEY BEE OR APIS DORSATA, THE INDIAN HONEY BEE OR APIS CEREANA, AND THE DWARF HONEY BEE OR APIS FLOREA, MAKE MASS DEFECCATION FLIGHTS WITH THE APIS FLOREA DEFECCATING YELLOW SPOTS OF APPROXIMATELY 3 MM IN DIAMETER AND THE APIS DORSATA DEFECCATING SPOTS OF 4 MM IN DIAMETER AND LARGER. HE ALSO STATED THAT DURING THE REPORTED FIVE MINUTE SHOWER HE EXPERIENCED WITH MESELSON AND SEELEY, THAT THE BEES CAUSING THE SHOWER

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Apr 19  
1984*

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5. SYMPTOMOLOGY: NONE REPORTED.

6. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER DR. MESELSON HAS PROVIDED SAMPLES TO ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OR AGENCY.

7. OTHER DETAILS:

A. PROFESSOR MESELSON STATED THAT THE REASON THEY WERE IN THAILAND IN THE MONTH OF MARCH WAS BECAUSE THE INCIDENCE OF TRICHOETHECENES FOUND IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOMEDICAL SAMPLES FROM SEA WAS GREATEST IN FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL AND TO A LESSER DEGREE IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR. HE PRODUCED A BAR GRAPH ILLUSTRATING THAT THE NUMBERS OF PERSONS OR SAMPLES COLLECTED WAS HIGHEST DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION USED TO CONSTRUCT THE GRAPH, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

*Mr. Stapleton Roy*

B. PROFESSOR MESELSON ALSO FURNISHED THE (DCM) WITH REFERENCES A AND B WHICH WILL BE FURNISHED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

C. PROFESSOR MESELSON STATED THAT THROUGH HIS OBSERVATIONS DURING THIS TRIP TO THAILAND, HE CONCLUDED THAT BEES ARE SWARMING AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, AT THEIR NESTS AND ON BOTH CLEANING AND FEEDING FLIGHTS. HE PRODUCED SEVERAL WHITE SHEETS OF PAPER WITH YELLOW SPOTS ON THEM TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINTS. HE SAID THAT THESE SHEETS WERE PLACED ON FLIGHT PATHS TO DETERMINE TIME FRAMES FOR CLEANING FLIGHTS AND HE CONCLUDED THAT THESE GENERALLY TAKE PLACE IN THE MORNING AND EVENING HOURS.

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CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTEVILLE VA//DRXST-FM/DRXST-CW//  
CDR CRDC EDGEWOOD MD//DRSMC-RAI-C/DRSMC-CLB-R//  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7092  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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WHITEHOUSE WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC//OCD-ISA//  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
CORVESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI  
CDRTEU ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MD//S/ST-E-OPE//  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR  
REVIEWED BY *Wenzel* DATE JAN 8 1987  
RDS of XDS EXT DATE  
TS AUTH. REASON(S)  
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS  
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE  
RELEASE DENIED  
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: MOPS, TH  
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COULD BE SEEN, IN CONTRADICTION TO PRESS REPORTS  
WHICH QUOTE REBELSON AS SAYING THAT THE BEES COULD  
NOT BE SEEN.

9. THE CBW TEAM REQUESTED AND RECEIVED DR. PONGTHEP'S  
AGREEMENT TO ASSIST THE TEAM IN INDEPENDENTLY  
INVESTIGATING THE BEE DEFECATING PHENOMENON IN  
THAILAND. DR. PONGTHEP INFORMED THE TEAM THAT HE WAS  
CHAIRING AN INTERNATIONAL BEE HUSBANDRY CONFERENCE  
DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 8 AND WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE  
TO ASSIST THE TEAM UNTIL LATER IN THE MONTH. ROY

*on their  
distant nests,  
through field glasses.  
But not while  
flying overhead, about  
150 yards from the nests.*

end of document (19)