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B3, CIA, B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION PM-09

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	H-01	IO-15	HA-08	L-03	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01
	HHS-04	ANAE-00	OES-09	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	/080 W					

-----137354 071546Z /41

R 070742Z MAR 84  
 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
 TO DIA WASHINGTON DC//DT-3B/DT-5//  
 CDR/FSTC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//DRXST-FM/DRXST-CW//  
 CDR CRDC EDGEWOOD MD//DRSMC-RAI-/DRSMC-CLB-R//  
 CDRTEU ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND MD//SMCTE-OPE//  
 INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2803  
 CIA WASHDC  
 USMISSION GENEVA  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS  
 WHITEHOUSE WASHDC  
 SECDEF WASHDC//OSD-ISA//  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
 COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
 CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI  
 DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD  
 DA WASHDC//DAMI-FIT/DAMO-NCC//  
 CMDT/USACMLS FT MCCLELLAN AL  
 DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//AFMIC-CR//  
 CDRUSAMRIID FT DETRICK MD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 12037

DEPT FOR PM/TMP COL LEONARD

[Redacted]  
 SECDEF FOR OSD-ISA LTCOL WISE  
 DA FOR DAMO-NCC COL ORTON  
 GENEVA FOR U.S. CD DEL

B3, CIA

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EO 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: MOPS, TH, CB

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L DARIS  
DATE/CASE ID: 14 APR 2004 200000450

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rec'd 5/10/11

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SUBJECT: REPORTED TOXIC CHEMICAL ATTACK

1. (U) CBW TEAM LEADER TRAVELLED TO KHAO I DANG (TA 4839) AND BAN SA NGAE AKA AMPIL (TA 7455) ON MARCH 6 TO INVESTIGATE KPNLF CLAIMS MADE TO BANGKOK ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE NATION", THAT A PAVN UNIT EMPLOYED TOXIC CHEMICALS IN A MARCH 3 ATTACK AGAINST A KPNLF POSITION "ABOUT FOUR KM EAST OF AMPIL." THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT WAS FRONT PAGED ON MARCH 5.

2. (C) [REDACTED] SECTIONS OF THE KHAO I DANG HOSPITAL REPORTED THAT NO POSSIBLE TOXIC WEAPON VICTIMS HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL.

B1

3. (C) DR. PAN SAM-OR CHIEF OF THE AMPIL MILITARY HOSPITAL AND HIS DEPUTY DR. NONG CHAN REPORTED THAT 33 PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE ADMITTED ON MARCH 3, HELD FOR A DAY AND A NIGHT, AND THEN WERE RELEASED TO RETURN TO DEFENSIVE POSITIONS TO THE EAST OF AMPIL. DR. SAM-OR STATED THAT THREE OR FOUR WERE MORE SERIOUS CASES AS THEY WERE VOMITING. HE TREATED THEM WITH A DEXTROSE/GLUCOSE/CALCIUM AND VITAMIN C INTRAVENOUS SERUM. THE REMAINDER SUFFERED FROM DIZZINESS AND LIGHT HEADEDNESS AND WERE "PASSIVE ACTING." DR. SAM-OR STATED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF IRRITATION TO THE MOUTH OR NASAL PASSAGES AND THAT THERE WERE NO RASHES NOR BURNS ON THE SKIN OF THE VICTIMS. TWO OR THREE OTHER ALLEGED VICTIMS WERE DESCRIBED AS BEING HALF UNCONSCIOUS FROM THE POINT OF MILITARY ACTION THROUGH THE TWO TO THREE  
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THEY ALSO RECEIVED IV'S AND AMMONIA INHALATION AND RECOVERED IN APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES. THE DOCTOR OBSERVED THAT ALL OF THE CASES WERE "NOT SERIOUS".

4. (C) DR. SAM-OR DID NOT ASK THE ALLEGED VICTIMS ABOUT THE ODOR OF THE GAS BUT SOME OF THEM STATED THAT IT WAS FOLIAGE GREEN IN COLOR.

5. (U) THE TWO KPNLF DOCTORS STATED THAT THEY HAVE NOT SEEN A SERIOUS CASE OF TOXIC CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT AMPIL DURING THEIR FOUR YEARS AT THAT CAMP BUT THEY DID CLAIM THAT SERIOUS CASES WERE SEEN AT THE NONG CHAN TA5424)

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CAMP IN 1983. THEY DESCRIBED THE ALLEGED CHEMICAL GAS AS FOLIAGE GREEN IN COLOR WHICH CAUSED THE VICTIMS TO HAVE "HEAVY LIMBS", BECOME LETHARGIC, AND SOMETIMES COLLAPSE.

6. (C) KPNLF UNIT COMMANDER KEO VIBAL WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON MARCH 6 BUT HE DID INFORM AN EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICIAL ON MARCH 5 THAT MEN IN HIS COMMAND SUFFERED FROM TOXIC GAS AND FROM INHALING THE BURNED GAS PRODUCED BY THEIR OWN WEAPONS. KEO VIBAL ALSO INFORMED THE REFUGEE OFFICIAL THAT THE 70 MEN OF HIS 203 BN. SUFFERED ONE KIA BY GUNSHOT IN ADDITION TO THE GAS VICTIMS IN A CONTACT WITH A MIXED PAVN/PRK UNIT NINE KM EAST OF AMPIL WHICH LASTED FROM 0610 TO 0730 ON MARCH 3.

7. (U) COMMENT: THE CBW UNIT WILL SUPPORT FREE KHMER MILITARY MEDICAL STAFF IN THE COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES ONCE THE TEAM'S BUDGET DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. LIKEWISE, THE TEAM WILL INSTRUCT IN USE AND PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE COLLECTION KITS TO APPROPRIATE FRONT LINE MILITARY UNITS. WE ENVISION THAT

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R 070742Z MAR 84  
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USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
COMIPAC HONOLULU HI  
CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI  
DIRNSA FT GEO MEADE MD  
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FIT/DAMO-NCC//  
CMDT/USACMLS FT MCCLELLAN AL  
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CDRUSAMRIID FT DETRICK MD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BANGKOK 12037

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8. (C) COMMENT: THE BANGKOK BASED HEAD OF AN ORGANIZATION PROVIDING HOSPITAL CARE TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER STATED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAS INVARIABLY FOUND THAT ALLEGED VICTIMS OF TOXIC GAS TREATED ON THE CAMBODIAN BORDER HAVE SUFFERED FROM "COMBAT STRESS". ADDITIONALLY, THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT REFUGEES, VIETNAMESE AS WELL AS CAMBODIAN, HAVE DISPLAYED THE SAME SYMPTOMS AT THE PANAT NIKHOM REFUGEE TRANSIT CENTER AFTER THOROUGH INTERVIEWING BY RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES. QUITE POSSIBLY, THE 33 INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT COULD HAVE SUFFERED FROM STRESS. GEN. DIEN

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DEL INFORMED THE CBW TEAM LEADER THE THE PAVN EMPLOYED  
A HEAVY MACHINE GUN ON THEIR FIRING LINE DURING THE  
CONTACT IN QUESTION. THIS WEAPON CERTAINLY COULD HAVE  
RAISED THE STRESS LEVEL. DEAN

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