



Department of State

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E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: DISINFORMATION - SAUL HORMATS ON "YELLOW RAIN"

1. THE MARCH 23 EDITION OF THE HINDUSTAN TIMES (HT) QUOTES A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY SAUL HORMATS. ACCORDING TO HT, HORMATS QUESTIONS THE VALIDITY OF U.S. ALLEGATIONS THAT THE USSR HAS USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN LAOS AND AFGHANISTAN. HE ALLEGEDLY STATES THAT THE USSR COULD NOT HAVE USED SUCH WEAPONS AND THAT CONGRESS WAS MISLED BY STATE DEPARTMENT ACCUSATIONS BASED ON "IMAGINATIVE RESPONSES TO NAIVE AND GULLIBLE INTERROGATORS." HORMATS' EXPERTISE IS INDISPUTABLE--A 37 YEAR CAREER INCLUDING DIRECTORSHIP OF U.S. ARMY'S CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. GIVEN HIS IMPECCABLE CREDENTIALS AND UNLIKELIHOOD OF ANY QUESTIONABLE MOTIVES ON HIS PART, POST FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO REBUT HIS STATEMENTS. URGENTLY REQUEST GUIDANCE.

2. THE SAME HT ARTICLE BY BALAJI IYER ALSO CITES A KABUL PRESS CONFERENCE (VIA THE SOVIET MEDIA) IN WHICH DOCUMENTS CONFISCATED FROM COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WERE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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