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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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5137 EAP2231

ACTION PH-10
INFO C-03 TB-02 VLK-02 P-01 RA-01 UN-01 FILE-03 PHU-01
EAP-04 /016 A2 JJK

BUT REGRETTABLY REPORT OF VIETNAMESE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONTINUED TO BE RECEIVED FROM LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA.

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DID NOT ORIGINATE THE CHARGES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE. VICTIMS FROM ALL THREE COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS MILITARY AND POLITICAL DEFECTORS, TOLD THEIR STORIES TO REFUGEE CAMP OFFICIALS, PHYSICIANS, JOURNALISTS AND UN INVESTIGATORS. CANADA CONDUCTED AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND PROVIDED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS TO THE UN. THAI OFFICIALS HAVE MADE STATEMENTS BASED ON THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS, TO INCLUDE ATTACKS ON THAI TERRITORY WHICH DATE BACK TO AT LEAST 1980. OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE US ASSESSMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS. PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL FIELDS, HAVE PROVIDED VALUABLE RESEARCH ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE ANALYTICAL PROBLEM OF DETERMINING WHAT AGENTS HAVE BEEN USED. LASTLY, NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE BEEN CARRYING STORIES ABOUT THE ILLEGAL USE OF CHEMICALS AND TOXINS IN THE THREE COUNTRIES FOR YEARS, IN MOST CASES BEFORE ANY GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS WERE MADE.

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FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF GARY CROCKER'S PAPER AT THE MAY 21-23 CHEMICAL WARFARE CONGRESS IN GHEM, BELGIUM. PLS NOTE THAT CROCKER DID NOT READ OUT WHOLE TEXT, BUT TEXT WAS CIRCULATED AS HIS PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS.
TITLE: THE EVIDENCE OF CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS USE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN
MAY 22, 1984

CONSIDERING ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT HAS BEEN PRESENTED AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION THAT HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THIS ISSUE, WHY ARE WE TODAY ENGAGED IN A SCIENTIFIC DEBATE OVER THE VALIDITY OF THE CHARGES AND THE EVIDENCE. THERE ARE A HOST OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY REASONS, SOME OBVIOUS

BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY PRESENTED EVIDENCE ON THE VIETNAMESE AND LAO MILITARY FORCES USE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL AGENTS ON THE HMONG PEOPLE IN DECEMBER 1979 AT HEARINGS BEFORE THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN WAS PRESENTED TO THE SAME COMMITTEE IN JULY 1980. THE UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHED AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE TEAM IN DECEMBER 1980. AN INTENSIVE EFFORT TO COLLECT INFORMATION BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES LED TO THE PUBLICATION OF A REPORT BY SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG IN MARCH 1982 WHICH WAS BASED ON A CLASSIFIED NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE. THAT REPORT STATED, WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS, THAT CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF TWO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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AND SOME NOT SO OBVIOUS, THAT HAVE CAUSED GOVERNMENTS AND INDIVIDUALS TO EITHER BE CAUTIOUS IN ACCEPTING THE EVIDENCE OR TO ACTIVELY WORK TO DISPROVE THE EVIDENCE. IT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER TO EXAMINE THE MOTIVATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS AND INDIVIDUALS, RATHER, IT IS TO REVIEW THE EVIDENCE, MUCH OF WHICH AS BEEN FORGOTTEN OR TOSSED ASIDE BECAUSE OF THE PREOCCUPATION WITH WHAT IS POPULARLY KNOWN AS "YELLOW RAIN".

THE TERM "YELLOW RAIN" ORIGINATED FROM DESCRIPTIONS BY HMONG REFUGEES OF A WET, STICKY SUBSTANCE WHICH WAS SPRAYED FROM AIRPLANES AND DROPPED ON THEIR VILLAGES LIKE RAIN. THE SUBSTANCE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CAUSED MANY DEATHS, ILLNESS, SKIN DISORDERS AS WELL AS KILLING LIVESTOCK AND CROPS. PEOPLE WHO CONSUMED CONTAMINATED WATER OR FOOD DIED OR BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL. THE SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY THE HMONG, AND LATER THE KAMPUCHEAN RESISTANCE, PUZZLED CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERTS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT ACCORD WITH SYMPTOMS PRODUCED BY KNOWN CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS. SAMPLES OF VEGETATION AND OTHER MATERIALS LIKE BARK AND WATER WERE TESTED, BUT FOUND TO CONTAIN NO KNOWN CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS. IN THE FALL OF 1981, DR. CHESTER MIROCHA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MADE A BREAKTHROUGH FOR US GOVERNMENT ANALYSTS WHEN HE DISCOVERED HIGH LEVELS OF MYCOTOXINS IN A VEGETATION SAMPLE FROM KAMPUCHEA. SINCE THAT TIME, MANY SAMPLES OF VEGETATION, WATER, BLOOD, URINE, TISSUES AND EVEN THE YELLOW MATERIAL ITSELF HAVE BEEN ANALYZED AND FOUND TO CONTAIN TOXINS. IN ONE CASE THE US FOUND THE SAME TOXIN ON A CAPTURED SOVIET GAS MASK FROM AFGHANISTAN. ALL OF THE SAMPLE RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR REVIEW. IN PART, THE SAMPLE RESULTS LED TO THE US CONCLUSION THAT TOXINS WERE BEING USED BY THE VIETNAMESE IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS CONVINCED THAT A VARIETY OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS WERE BEING USED IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES BEFORE THE USE OF TOXINS WAS CONFIRMED BY SAMPLE ANALYSIS. MOREOVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF A SUCCESSFUL SAMPLE COLLECTION PROGRAM FOR AFGHANISTAN (COMPARED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA), THE US GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENT IN THE ASSESSMENT THAT TOXINS WERE USED BY THE SOVIETS ON THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE.

THE LARGE BODY OF MULTI-SOURCE INFORMATION WHICH COMPLIMENTS THE EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM SAMPLE ANALYSIS,

CONTINUES TO BE IGNORED OR CAST ASIDE IN THE CURRENT DEBATE ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF "YELLOW RAIN". THAT BODY OF INFORMATION, IF CAREFULLY EXAMINED, CONTAINS THE ANSWERS TO MANY OF THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TYPE OF AGENTS THAT HAVE BEEN USED IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES, PLUS INFORMATION ACQUIRED FROM ATTACKS ON THAT TERRITORY, WILL CAST CONSIDERABLE DOUBT ON ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS THAT CONTRADICT THE US GOVERNMENT CONCLUSIONS. MOREOVER, THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF EVIDENCE, WHICH HAS YET TO BE FULLY ANALYZED, SHOWS THAT TOXINS HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN DISSEMINATED AS A WET SPRAY (YELLOW RAIN), BUT BY OTHER MEANS. FURTHERMORE, OTHER LETHAL AND NON-LETHAL AGENTS HAVE BEEN USED WHICH CAUSE SYMPTOMS RANGING FROM SHORT PERIODS OF DISCOMFORT TO INSTANT DEATH.

SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONVINCING US OFFICIALS THAT CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS WERE BEING USED AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION PRODUCED AND PROVIDED THOSE WEAPONS USED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. MUCH OF THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN USED IN THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, BUT THE SPECIFIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION WERE PROTECTED. HOWEVER, THERE IS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN TO MAKE A VERY CONVINCING ASSESSMENT IF RESEARCHERS TAKE THE TIME TO CORRELATE THE DATA. WHAT APPEARS TO BE MISSING IS DRAMATIC EVIDENCE THAT CAN BE USED ON TELEVISION NEWS. NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO FILM A VICTIM BEING HIT WITH CHEMICAL AGENT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL FILMS ARE AVAILABLE OF HELICOPTERS DROPPING CHEMICALS AND VICTIMS WERE FILMED AFTERWARDS. NOR HAS ANYONE BEEN ABLE TO BRING OUT A SHELL OR BOMB FILLED WITH CHEMICAL AGENT.

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YELLOW RAIN, THE WET, STICKY SUBSTANCE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH LIGHT AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS, BUT IN SOME INSTANCES THE VICTIMS DID NOT SEE AN AIRCRAFT. THERE ARE AS MANY REPORTS OF YELLOW POWDER, CAUSED BY BOMBS WHICH EXPLODED WITH A DULL THUD, CREATING A DIRTY YELLOW CLOUD. SOME DEATH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SUBSTANCE, BUT MORE OFTEN PEOPLE WHO TOUCHED THE POWDER OR WERE IN THE VICINITY OF THE CLOUD BROKE OUT IN SMALL HARD BLISTERS. HOLES IN LEAVES WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TYPE OF ATTACK. SINCE 1976, THE HMONG HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE RED CLOUD WAS THE MOST LETHAL. HMONG HAVE ALSO DESCRIBED GREEN AND WHITE CLOUDS. IN SOME CASES COMBINATIONS OF YELLOW, RED, GREEN BLACK, GREY, OR WHITE WERE REPORTED.

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KAMPUCHEA

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- LIGHT FIXED WING AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPRAYING OF BOTH YELLOW AND WHITE MATERIAL IN DRY OR WET FORM. SOVIET JET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HAVE OCCASIONALLY BEEN OBSERVED IN CHEMICAL ATTACKS WITH BOMBS AND ROCKETS. SEVERAL TIMES LARGE TRANSPORTS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMICAL SPRAYS. MOST COMMONLY TOXIC POWDERS WERE SPRAYED ALONG TRAILS AND THE THAI-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER WHERE RESISTANCE FORCES OPERATED. THAI OBSERVERS REPORTED SEEING THIS POWDER.

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IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH DRAMATIC, AND APPARENTLY "CONVINCING", EVIDENCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN PROOF OF THE HARD WAY: PAINSTAKING ANALYSIS OF THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF DATA. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS DOES NOT CAPTURE THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION AND CRITICS CAN FOCUS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS WHILE IGNORING A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE EVIDENCE.

- VIETNAMESE FORCES USE MUCH MORE ARTILLERY IN KAMPUCHEA THAN THEY DO IN LAOS BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE FIGHTING. CHEMICAL ROUNDS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FIRED FROM 60MM AND 120MM MORTARS, 105MM AND 107MM ARTILLERY, GRENADE LAUNCHERS AND HAND HELD WEAPONS DESCRIBED AS RPGS, DH-10 AS WELL AS B-40 ROCKETS.

- IT IS NOT POSSIBLE HERE TO DESCRIBE ALL THE EVIDENCE OR EVEN LIST ALL OF THE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION, BUT THE EVIDENCE CAN BE REDUCED TO ITS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.

CHEMICAL WEAPON DELIVERY SYSTEMS

- A WIDE VARIETY OF METHODS FOR DISSEMINATING CHEMICAL AND TOXIN AGENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY REFUGEES, DEFECTORS, JOURNALISTS AND IN A FEW CASES THAI GOVERNMENT AND CIVILIAN OBSERVERS. ALTHOUGH SOME METHODS MAY SEEM UNORTHODOX OR EVEN BIZZARE, ALL ARE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE AND MOST OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEMS ARE KNOWN TO BE PART OF THE SOVIET CHEMICAL WARFARE ARSENAL. SOME NEW TECHNIQUES FOR DELIVERING CHEMICAL AGENT WERE DISCOVERED DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION.

LAOS

- CAPTURED US L-19 SINGLE WING LIGHT AIRCRAFT WERE USED BY THE LAO FORCES FROM THE MID TO LATE 70'S TO DELIVER ROCKETS. A LAO PILOT DESCRIBED THESE OPERATIONS IN DETAIL (MARCH 1982 HAIG REPORT).

- CAPTURED US T28/741 TRAINER AIRCRAFT AND SOVIET AN-2 BIPLANES USED IN THE SOVIET UNION FOR CROP DUSTING. AFTER 1978 SOVIET MIG-17 AND MIG-21 JET AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTED FIRING ROCKETS AND DROPPING BOMBS. MORE FREQUENT USE OF HELICOPTERS WAS REPORTED AFTER 1979 USING SPRAY TANKS, ROCKETS AND CANNISTERS.

- THERE ARE ONLY A FEW REPORTS OF ARTILLERY BEING USED. ONE REPORT DESCRIBED SOVIET ADVISORS USING A HAND HELD WEAPON AND ANOTHER DESCRIBED THE USE OF A B-40 ROCKET.

- THERE ARE A FEW REPORTS OF POISONS BEING PUT IN FOOD AND WATER.

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A FILM TAKEN BY THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE SHOWS
A HELICOPTER DROPPING CANNISTERS WHICH DISPERSE A
WHITE CLOUD WHICH SLOWLY SETTLES IN A VALLEY.

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CHEMICAL GRENADES HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY REPORTED.
MINES, OR OTHER DEVICES, WHICH ARE TRIGGERED BY
TRIP WIRES HAVE BEEN USED TO DISSEMINATE SOME FORM
OF AERESOL IN JUNGLE AREAS.

- THE SPRAYED MATERIAL IS ALMOST ALWAYS WHITE
OR YELLOW. THERE ARE SOME CASES, PARTICULARLY WITH
ARTILLERY, WHERE THE GAS IS COLORLESS. IN SOME
CASES THERE ARE REPORTS OF A YELLOW-BLACK COMBINATION.

- THE USE OF POISONS IS REPORTED MUCH MORE
FREQUENTLY IN KAMPUCHEA THAN AFGHANISTAN AND LAOS.
VIETNAMESE CARRY KITS TO POISON WATER HOLES. SEVERAL
TIMES THE THAI HAVE CAUGHT VIETNAMESE AGENTS POISONING
WELLS IN REFUGEE CAMPS. IN ONE CASE THE POISON WAS
CYANIDE.

- POISON BULLETS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED.

AFGHANISTAN

- HELICOPTERS, WHICH ARE WIDELY USED IN
AFGHANISTAN, ARE THE MOST PREDOMINANT METHOD FOR
DELIVERING CHEMICAL MUNITIONS. EYE WITNESSES HAVE
DESCRIBED SPRAY BARS, ROCKETS, BOMBS AND VARIOUS
TYPES OF CANNISTERS.

- JET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, SOMETIMES WORKING WITH
HELICOPTERS, HAVE USED BOMBS AND ROCKETS. A COMMON
DESCRIPTION FROM SEVERAL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY IS
A COMBINATION OF YELLOW AND BLACK SMOKE. IN SOME
CASES THE AGENT WAS DESCRIBED AS COLORLESS.

- IL-28 BOMBERS WERE IDENTIFIED IN 1979, BEFORE
THE SOVIET INVASION, DROPPING CHEMICAL BOMBS.

- CHEMICAL ARTILLERY SHELLS HAVE OFTEN BEEN
REPORTED AND ASSOCIATED WITH A BLACK SMOKE.

- A SPECIAL SOVIET VEHICLE WITH A HOSE FOR
PUMPING GAS INTO TUNNELS, CAVES AND OTHER ENCLOSURES
HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN DESCRIBED BY RESISTANCE FIGHTERS
AND REFUGEES.

- CHEMICAL GRENADES AND POISON BULLETS HAVE
BEEN FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED.

- A DUTCH JOURNALIST FILMED A HELICOPTER DROPPING
A BOMB WHICH EXPLODED WITH A DULL THUD, GIVING OFF
A DIRTY YELLOW CLOUD. THE BOMB CANNISTER WAS ALSO
FILMED ON THE GROUND. A BLACK CLOUD COULD BE SEEN

- EYEWITNESSES HAVE REPORTED THAT NAPALM IS
SOMETIMES DROPPED ON AN AREA AFTER A CHEMICAL ATTACK.
OTHER TYPES OF INCINDIARY DEVICES HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN
REPORTED, AND IN SOME CASES SAMPLES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT
OUT FOR ANALYSIS.

- REFUGEES AND RESISTANCE SOURCES HAVE DESCRIBED
THE USE OF POISONS ON FOOD AND IN WATER SUPPLIES.

- THERE ARE MORE REPORTS OF BLUE OR BLUE-GREEN CLOUDS
FROM AFGHANISTAN THAN FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA.
DESCRIPTIONS OF DIRTY YELLOW CLOUDS, YELLOW POWDER,
AND YELLOW GRANULAR MATERIAL SPAN THE PERIOD FROM
1979 THROUGH 1982.

THE CATEGORIES OF AGENTS

- THE EVIDENCE FROM ALL THREE COUNTRIES INDICATES
THAT IRRITANTS, INCAPACITANTS AND A VARIETY OF
LETHAL AGENTS HAVE ALL BEEN USED, SOMETIMES IN
COMBINATION. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
IN THE ALLEGATIONS THAT IRRITANTS HAVE BEEN USED, EVEN
THOUGH IDENTIFICATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE THROUGH
SAMPLE ANALYSIS. THE SYMPTOMOLOGY IS WELL KNOWN AND
THE USE OF IRRITANTS APPARENTLY CAUSES NO UNDUE
ALARM BECAUSE IT IS USED BY POLICE FORCES. INCAPACI-
TANTS ARE ANOTHER MATTER. THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE
TO WESTERN MILITARY FORCES AND THEIR USE IS CONSIDERED

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AND UNDERGROUND WATERWAYS THAT MAKES THE WATER
BUBBLE? SEVERE ILLNESS AND SOMETIMES DEATH. AFGHAN/
KAMPUCHEA. SKIN PEELS OFF AND IS VERY SOFT AFTER
DEATH. AFGHAN ONLY.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN TESTIMONY

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QUITE UNPREDICTABLE. USE OF INCAPACITANTS TO RENDER
RESISTANCE FORCES AND VILLAGERS UNCONSCIOUS HAS BEEN
REPORTED BY VICTIMS, DEFECTORS AND JOURNALISTS TO
OCCUR IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES, BUT ESPECIALLY IN
AFGHANISTAN IN 1980 WHEN MORE THAN A MILLION REFUGEES
FLED TO PAKISTAN. THERE SHOULD BE MORE VISABLE
CONCERN THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS A BZ TYPE AGENT
IN THEIR INVENTORY THAT WOULDN'T BE DETECTABLE BY
NATO FORCES ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

- IN THE LETHAL CATEGORY, THE HUMAN SOURCE
MATERIAL INDICATES THE FOLLOWING TYPE OF AGENTS:

- -- A COLORLESS, ODORLESS AGENT THAT KILLS
INSTANTLY WITHOUT ANY VISIBLE PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS.
AFGHAN/KAMP.

- -- A WET, STICKY, YELLOW SUBSTANCE THAT
CAUSES MASSIVE BLEEDING AND DEATH IF EXPOSED TO
THE SKIN. BLISTERS, PROLONGED ILLNESS, VOMITTING,
SOME BLEEDING AND CHEST PAINS RESULT FROM CONTACT
WITH THE DRY POWDER FORMED FROM THE WET MATERIAL.
IN SOME CASES EATING FOOD CONTAMINATED WITH THE
SUBSTANCE CAUSES THE SAME SYMPTOMS OR DEATH.
LAOS/AFGHAN/KAMP.

- -- A DIRTY, YELLOW CLOUD CAUSED FROM A BURSTING
CANNISTER OR BOMB CONTAINS AN AGENT WHICH CAUSES
SMALL HARD BLISTERS AND PROLONGED ILLNESS. FEWER
DEATHS ARE REPORTED FROM THIS AGENT. AFGHAN/KAMP/
LAOS. A BLACK CLOUD IS ASSOCIATED WITH A YELLOW
CLOUD IN AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHEA, WITH SEVERE
SYMPTOMS OR DEATH REPORTED IF THE VICTIM IS
HEAVILY EXPOSED TO THE AGENT.

- -- A LETHAL WHITE POWDER THAT IS SPRAYED
OR DELIVERED BY CANNISTER. EXPOSURE CAUSES SERIOUS
ILLNESS. AFGHAN/KAMP/LAOS.

- -- AN AGENT ASSOCIATED WITH A RED CLOUD THAT
CAUSES RAPID DEATH. LAOS ONLY IN THE 70S.

- -- A LETHAL COLORLESS AGENT, BUT WITH A ROTTEN
FRUIT SMELL OR OTHER SIMILAR ODOR. THOSE DIRECTLY
EXPOSED HAVE CONVULSIONS AND SOME BLEEDING BEFORE
DEATH. LIGHT EXPOSURE CAUSES ILLNESS. AFGHAN/
KAMP/LAOS.

- -- A YELLOW OR BLUE GAS PUMPED FROM A VEHICLE
THROUGH A HOSE INTO INCLOSURES SUCH AS CAVES, TUNNELS

- CRITICS OF THE US EVIDENCE OFTEN REFER TO THE
LARGE BODY OF HUMAN TESTIMONY AS NOTHING MORE THAN
UNSUBSTANTIATED "REFUGEE REPORTS". THESE "REFUGEES"
HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS IGNORANT PEASANTS, MYSTIC
TRIBAL PEOPLES OR BIASED MEMBERS OF A RESISTANCE
FORCE. THE HMONG ARE TAGGED AS "FORMER MEMBERS OF THE
CIA SECRET ARMY". KAMPUCHEANS HAVE BEEN STIGMATIZED
BY POL POT'S BLOODY REGIME AND AFGHANS ARE THOUGHT
OF AS FIERCE FIGHTERS WHO ALL EXAGGERATE AND LIE,
BEING MOTIVATED BY EXTREME ANTI-SOVIET FEELINGS AND
RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. A CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE
RECORDED TESTIMONY THAT APPEARS IN US STATE DEPARTMENT
DOCUMENTS, THE UN REPORT AND HUNDREDS OF NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES FILED BY JOURNALISTS FROM MANY COUNTRIES
REVEALS A MUCH DIFFERENT CHARACTER PROFILE OF THE
"REFUGEES".

- LAOS: REFUGEES FROM LAOS WHO HAVE DESCRIBED
CHEMICAL ATTACKS FOR EIGHT YEARS AND BOTH HMONG AND
LAO; MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN; PROFESSIONALS AND
FARMERS; SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS. FEW CAN BE
CHARACTERIZED AS FORMER MEMBERS OF "CIA'S ARMY".
FURTHERMORE, CONCERNED PHYSICIANS, DIPLOMATS AND
JOURNALISTS PUBLICIZED THE PLIGHT OF THE HMONG, NOT
A WELL-ORGANIZED HMONG PROPAGANDA NETWORK (WHICH
DOESN'T EXIST). THE EARLIEST REPORTING ON CW USE
IN LAOS WAS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH TWO FRENCH

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ACTION PH-10

WERE SPREAD NEAR THE BORDER ALONG MAJOR TRAILS.

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EAP-04 /016 A3 JJK

THAILAND THAI MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OBSERVERS,
AND IN SOME CASES VICTIMS, CAN IN NO WAY BE CHARACTERIZED
AS REFUGEES, MEMBERS OF A RESISTANCE OR ANY OF THE
OTHER DEROGATORY LABELS PUT ON THE VICTIMS FROM
LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA. SINCE AT LEAST 1980, THAI

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 LNR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 HMO-01 IO-15
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MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED CHEMICAL ATTACKS
ACROSS THE BORDER IN THAILAND. A VIETNAMESE DEFECTOR
STATED THAT TOXIC POWDERS SPREAD ALONG TRAILS CAUSED
PROLONGED ILLNESS AND WERE USED AS AN AREA DENAL
WEAPON. SOMETIMES THESE POWDERS BLEW INTO THE LAND
AND IN SEVERAL CASES THAI CIVILIANS WERE AFFECTED.
THE MOST WELL-KNOWN INCIDENT OCCURED ON FEBRUARY 19,
1982, WHEN PLANES WERE REPORTED BY THAI VILLAGERS
TO HAVE SPRAYED A YELLOW MATERIAL OVER THREE VILLAGES.
A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THIS EVENT APPEARS IN THE UN
REPORT. A CANADIAN MEDICAL TEAM WAS ON HAND TO
CONDUCT A THOROUGH MEDICAL SURVEY. SAMPLES OF THE
YELLOW MATERIAL WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN LOW LEVELS OF
MYCOTOXINS (US STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT, NOVEMBER 1982).
IN ANOTHER CASE, THE THAI CAPTURED A VIETNAMESE AGENT IN
THE ACT OF POISONING WATER WELLS IN A REFUGEE CAMP
WITH CYANIDE. THAI MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE STATED
PUBLICLY ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT THEIR INVESTIGATIONS
SHOW CONCLUSIVELY THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAVE BEEN
USED IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA.

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DOCTORS IN 1977 WHO WERE TREATING THE HMONG. AT
LEAST THREE FORMER LAO PILOTS PROVIDED DETAILED
INFORMATION ON HOW CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE STORED,
MOVED AND USED. THE FORMER LAO HEALTH MINISTER,
WHO DEFECTED TO CHINA, CHARGED THAT THE VIETNAMESE
HAD KILLED THOUSANDS WITH CHEMICAL WEAPONS. REFUGEE
TESTIMONY WAS QUESTIONABLE, EVEN TO US INTELLIGENCE
ANALYSTS, IN THE PERIOD 1975-1979, BUT BY THE END
OF 1979 THERE WAS SUFFICIENT SUPPORTING EVIDENCE
TO CROSS-CHECK THE EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS ATTACKS. PHYSICIANS FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT DISPELLED THEORIES THAT THE
HMONG WERE ONLY SUFFERING FROM NATURAL DISEASES.

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AFGHANISTAN: THE BACKGROUND PROFILE OF THE VICTIMS
AND OBSERVERS OF CW USE IN AFGHANISTAN IS EVEN MORE
VARIED THAN FOR LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA. A SAMPLING OF THE
HUMAN TESTIMONY IS CONTAINED IN THE TWO STATE DEPARTMENT
REPORTS AND THE UN REPORT, BUT THERE ARE MANY MORE
ACCOUNTS THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED. IN GENERAL,

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KAMPUCHEA: TESTIMONY ON CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN
KAMPUCHEA CAME NOT ONLY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN
FACTION (POL POT'S ORGANIZATION), BUT ALSO FROM THE
NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS RESISTING THE VIETNAMESE FORCES.
HOWEVER, US ANALYSTS REMAINED SUSPICIOUS OF PUBLIC
CHARGES MADE BY THE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN SPOKESMAN
FROM 1978-1980, UNTIL CONFIRMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM
INDEPENDENT SOURCES. VIETNAMESE DEFECTORS DESCRIBED
RECEIVING SOVIET SUPPLIED CHEMICAL WEAPONS, NOT ONLY
IN KAMPUCHEA, BUT ON THE CHINESE BORDER IN 1979. SEVERAL
OF THE VIETNAMESE USED THE WEAPONS OR SAW THEM USED.
LIKE LAOS, THE VICTIMS WERE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
UNLIKE LAOS, JOURNALISTS, PHYSICIANS, NURSES AND NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAD ACCESS TO KAMPUCHEA,
THUS BEING ABLE TO EXAMINE AND INTERVIEW VICTIMS
SHORTLY AFTER AN ATTACK. MOREOVER, INTELLIGENCE
COULD MORE EASILY BE COLLECTED BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY
OF THE FIGHTING TO THE THAI BORDER. IT WAS NOT THAT
DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHEN AND WHERE AN ARTILLERY
OR AIR ATTACK HAD TAKEN PLACE. IN REACTION TO
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, PHYSICAL AND BIOMEDICAL
SAMPLES COULD BE COLLECTED SHORTLY AFTER CHEMICAL
WEAPONS WERE USED. IN A FEW CASES BODIES OF GAS
VICTIMS WERE EXAMINED. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WERE
PRESENT IN KAMPUCHEAN FIELD HOSPITALS WHEN BLOOD WAS
DRAWN FOR SHIPMENT TO THE US FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.
THEREFORE, KAMPUCHEA PROVIDED MORE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR RAPID COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES THAN WAS
THE CASE IN LAOS WHERE IT TOOK WEEKS FOR VICTIMS TO
REACH THAILAND. MOREOVER, THE THAI MILITARY COULD
MORE CLOSELY OBSERVE THE FIGHTING IN KAMPUCHEA AND
WERE ABLE TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION OF
CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS
AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. IN SOME CASES THAI MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN OBSERVERS REPORTED SEEING CHEMICAL
ATTACKS OR RESIDUES (USUALLY IN POWDER FORM) THAT

REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

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THERE IS TESTIMONY FROM MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM THE DIFFERENT TRIBAL AREAS WHO SPEAK SEVERAL LANGUAGES AND ADHERE TO DIVERSE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL BELIEFS. REFUGEES SPAN THE SPECTRUM OF AFGHAN SOCIETY: POLITICAL, MILITARY, PROFESSIONAL, FARMER, PEASANT AND BUSINESS. NOT ALL EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS COME FROM MEMBERS OF THE RESISTANCE. INVESTIGATORS HAVE HAD TO WORK HARD TO GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT CHEMICAL ATTACKS BECAUSE THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE PUBLIC APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE AGAINST THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF THEIR COUNTRY. IT HAS NOT BEEN UNCOMMON FOR AFGHANS TO QUESTION WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PUT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. IN THEIR VIEW, CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE HEAVY USE OF INCENDIARY WEAPONS LIKE NAPALM, ARE ALL BEING USED IN A LIKE MANNER TO SUBJUGATE THE POPULATION TO SOVIET CONTROL. HOWEVER, SOME MEMBERS OF THE RESISTANCE HAVE GONE BACK INTO AFGHANISTAN TO COLLECT INFORMATION AND SAMPLES, AND IN SEVERAL CASES FILMS WERE MADE OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS. A CAPTURED GAS MASK AND A SAMPLE OF CONTAMINATED WHEAT WAS ANALYZED IN THE US AND FOUND TO CONTAIN THE SAME TOXIN IDENTIFIED ON SAMPLES FROM LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA.

- DEFECTORS, AFGHAN AND SOVIET, HAVE PROVIDED SOME OF THE MOST VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE TYPES OF CHEMICAL AGENT THAT HAVE BEEN USED BY SOVIET FORCES. LIKE KAMPUCHEA, THE US HAS GOOD OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND CAN CONFIRM OR REFUTE HUMAN SOURCE REPORTING BY CROSS-CHECKING THE DETAILS OF A VICTIM'S STORY. PHYSICIANS AND JOURNALISTS, SOME WITH ACCESS TO AFGHANISTAN, HAVE PROVIDED VALUABLE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC ATTACKS AND MEDICAL SYMPTOMS. DR. B. A. ZIKRIA, PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS AND A PULMONARY SPECIALIST, HAS EXAMINED VICTIMS INSIDE AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. JOURNALISTS FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVE FILED REPORTS ON SPECIFIC ATTACKS, IN SOME CASES HAVING OBSERVED PLANES OR HELICOPTERS DISSEMINATING CHEMICAL AND INCENDIARY WEAPONS. A DUTCH JOURNALIST, BERND DEBRUIN, FILMED A HELICOPTER DROPPING A CANNISTER WHICH CAUSED A YELLOWISH CLOUD IN 1980. HE ALSO FILMED VICTIMS AND WAS HIMSELF AFFECTED BY THE TOXIC AGENT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IN SUM, THE HUMAN TESTIMONY FROM AFGHANISTAN COMES FROM SUCH A VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT A CONFIDENT ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE THAT THE SOVIET FORCES HAVE USED A RANGE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS ON THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE AND CIVILIAN POPULATION SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1979.

OTHER COUNTRIES. HUMAN TESTIMONY HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTED ONLY IN THE BORDER AREAS OF LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN. SOURCES IN THE US, EUROPE AND ASIA HAVE PROVIDED FIRST-HAND OR SUPPORTING TESTIMONY. CUBAN, SOVIET, AFGHAN, VIETNAMESE, CHINESE AND MIDDLE EASTERN SOURCES HAVE BEEN DEBRIEFED IN OTHER REGIONS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE OR THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH SOVIET TRAINING ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE US GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION FROM CUBAN, SOVIET, AFGHAN, VIETNAMESE, EUROPEAN AND CHINESE SOURCES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DEVELOPED A CHEMICAL MINE WHICH CONTAINS TOXIN IN AERESOL FORM. SUCH A MINE HAS BEEN USED IN KAMPUCHEA, AND IN ONE CASE, BLOOD DRAWN FROM A VICTIM EXPOSED TO THE AGENT FROM A MINE WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN TOXIN.

DEFECTOR REPORTING

- THE TESTIMONY OF DEFECTORS TENDS TO BE OVERLOOKED AND DOES NOT RECEIVE THE SAME ATTENTION AS THE REFUGEE REPORTS. US ANALYSTS FOUND STRIKING SIMILARITIES WHEN COMPARING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DEFECTORS AS WELL AS THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE DEFECTOR REPORTS AND THE OTHER EVIDENCE THAT WAS AVAILABLE.

- THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL TEAM THAT INTERVIEWED HANOI VICTIMS IN 1979 CONCLUDED THAT THREE CLASSES OF AGENT HAD BEEN USED:

- -- IRRITANT OR RIOT CONTROL AGENTS
- -- NERVE GAS
- -- UNKNOWN AGENT OR COMBINATION OF AGENTS THAT CAUSED A VARIETY OF UNFAMILIAR SYMPTOMS THAT COULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH KNOWN AGENTS.

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-- YRBY GOVERNMENT, A SOVIET CW SPECIALIST WHO DEFECTED, DESCRIBED CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AFTER CHEMICAL ATTACKS, INCLUDING HIS FINDING OF INTERNAL BLEEDING IN AFGHANS WHEN HE PERFORMED AUTOPSIES IN THE FIELD.

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-- AN AFGHAN PATHOLOGIST DESCRIBED HOW HE COLLECTED SOIL SAMPLES AFTER A SOVIET CHEMICAL ATTACK TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION.

-- ONE AFGHAN DEFECTOR IDENTIFIED WHERE THE SOVIET FORCES STORED PHOSGENE, DIPHOSENE AND THE NERVE AGENTS SARIN AND SOMAN. HE ALSO LISTED WHERE AND WHEN THE SPECIFIC AGENTS HAD BEEN USED. (THIS INFORMATION MATCHED EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON SOVIET OPERATIONS.)

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-- A SOVIET SOLDIER WHO DEFECTED TO THE AFGHANS DESCRIBED HOW CONTAINERS OF LETHAL CHEMICALS WERE DROPPED FROM HELICOPTERS.

- IN 1979, TOXINS HAD NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE CAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS. HOWEVER, THE IDENTIFICATION OF THREE CLASSES OF AGENTS WAS A PERCEPTIVE ASSESSMENT IN LIGHT OF THE DATA AVAILABLE TODAY. MOREOVER, THE WIDE-RANGE OF MEDICAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IS NOW KNOWN TO RESULT FROM THE LEVEL AND ROUTE OF EXPOSURE. DEFECTORS ADDED INFORMATION THAT COULD NOT BE OBTAINED BY INTERVIEWS WITH VICTIMS, MEDICAL EXAMS AND SAMPLE ANALYSIS.

-- ANATOLY ZAKHAROV, A SOVIET SOLDIER INTERVIEWED BY A BRITISH JOURNALIST IN 1982, REVEALED THAT AT HIS BASE THE SOVIETS HAD A "100 PERCENT" LETHAL AGENT THAT WAS DELIVERED BY ROCKETS. THIS AGENT CAUSED THE SKIN TO BECOME VERY SOFT AFTER DEATH. HE ALSO SAID THAT SOVIET FORCES AT HIS BASE HAD STORES OF "PICRIC ACID" AND AN INCAPACITATING AGENT, WHICH WERE SOMETIMES USED TOGETHER.

- VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH SOVIET SUPPLIED CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AND USED THEM IN SOME CASES, DESCRIBED AGENTS THAT IRRITATE, INCAPACITATE (CAUSE UNCONSCIOUSNESS), CREATE ILLNESS AND SKIN DISORDERS, OR THAT KILL IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS. A VIETNAMESE PRIVATE TOLD OF SOVIET ADVISORS FIRING A CHEMICAL AGENTS FROM A HAND HELD WEAPON (OH-10) WHICH PRODUCED A GREYISH, WHITE AND GREEN CLOUD THAT KILLED QUICKLY. THIS EVENT OCCURED IN KAMPUCHEA, BUT AN ACCOUNT FROM LAOS DESCRIBED A SOVIET ADVISOR FIRING THE SAME TYPE OF WEAPON, WITH THE SAME LETHAL RESULT. ANOTHER VIETNAMESE SOLDIER USED A SHOULDER FIRED WEAPON TO SPREAD A GAS THAT RENDERED KAMPUCHEAN SOLDIERS UNCONSCIOUS SO THEY COULD BE CAPTURED. YET ANOTHER DESCRIBED BLACK SMOKE FROM ARTILLERY SHELLS WHICH PRODUCED ITCHY SKIN, WEAKNESS, SKIN LESIONS AND DECAYING SKIN, OFTEN RESULTING IN DEATH FROM INTERNAL BLEEDING.

- AFGHAN AND SOVIET MILITARY DEFECTORS DESCRIBE CLASSES OF AGENTS SIMILAR TO THE VIETNAMESE. IN SOME CASES THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, COLOR OF SMOKE, ASSOCIATED ODOR AND THE MEDICAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS ARE TOO SIMILAR TO BE REGARDED AS COINCIDENCE.

-- A FORMER AFGHAN HELICOPTER PILOT TOLD OF DROPPING CANNISTERS TO TOXIC SMOKE, TEAR GAS AND AN ANTI-RESPIRATORY GAS THAT MAKES THE SKIN VERY SOFT AFTER DEATH.

-- AN AFGHAN OFFICER IN 1981 SAID THE SOVIETS SUPPLIED FOUR AGENTS: ONE WAS AN INCAPACITANT AND THE OTHERS WERE LETHAL, IN SOME CASES TURNING THE SKIN A DARK COLOR AFTER DEATH.

-- A RESISTANCE LEADER, FAMILIAR WITH SOVIET CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY VIRTUE OF HIS TRAINING IN THE ARMY, SAID THAT BESIDES IRRITANTS AND HALLUCINOGENIC GAS, A LETHAL SUBSTANCE IN THE FORM OF A WHITE POWDER

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- -- AN AFGHAN AIRPORT OFFICIAL WHO LEFT THE COUNTRY DISCOVERED THAT CANNISTERS STORED AT THE QANDAHAR AIRFIELD CONTAINED THREE AGENTS: INCAPACITANTS, BLISTERING AND ONE THAT SUFFOCATES. ONE GAVE OFF A YELLOW SMOKE.

- -- AN AFGHAN PHYSICIAN WHO ESCAPED TO PAKISTAN HAD TREATED 15 AFGHAN VICTIMS OF A CHEMICAL ATTACK BROUGHT TO KABUL BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FORCES. THEY ALL HAD RED LESIONS ON THEIR SKIN.

- -- A FORMER AFGHAN OFFICER LISTED FOUR AGENTS PROVIDED TO THE AFGHAN MILITARY; IRRITANTS, INCAPACITANTS, A BLISTER AGENT AND A LETHAL AGENT THAT CAUSED SEVERE SYMPTOMS BEFORE DEATH.

- -- BRIG. GENERAL WATAY, CHIEF OF THE CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE 99TH AFGHAN ROCKET REGIMENT, SAID THAT THE SOVIETS STARTED USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN APRIL 1979. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A WRITER FROM JANE'S WEAPONS OF THE WORLD, HE CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TESTING NEW GASES IN AFGHANISTAN THAT WERE UNKNOWN IN THE WEST. ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT, THE SOVIETS USE PHOSPHOROUS AND SULPHUR IN LIQUID AND GAS FORM WHICH CAUSES SUFFOCATION, BURNS, NERVOUS DISORDERS AND IRRITATION OF THE SKIN.

- SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT US ANALYSTS, WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEBRIEFING OF THESE DEFECTORS AND THE ABILITY TO CROSS-CHECK THEIR STORIES, BECAME CONVINCED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BROUGHT A VARIETY OF CHEMICAL AGENTS INTO AFGHANISTAN AND HAD USED THEM ON A SELECTIVE BASIS FROM 1979 THRU 1982. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE OFFICIAL DEBRIEFINGS OF DEFECTORS, OR CANNOT REINTERVIEW THEM, WILL BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE SOURCE'S CREDIBILITY. IN SOME CASES, HOWEVER, DEFECTORS WERE NOT RELUCTANT TO BE NAMED AND THEY HAVE BEEN REINTERVIEWED BY NON-US REPORTERS AND OFFICIALS. REGARDLESS, THIS BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEFECTOR INFORMATION WAS INCLUDED TO POINT OUT THAT HUMAN TESTIMONY USED BY THE US CAME FROM NOT ONLY "REFUGEES", BUT INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON WHEN AND HOW CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE EMPLOYED IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES.

THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS

- JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS ARE SINGLED OUT IN THIS DISCUSSION OF HUMAN TESTIMONY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT

ONLY REPORTED THE STORIES ABOUT CHEMICAL WARFARE, THEY HAVE ALSO BECOME SOURCES OF FIRST-HAND INFORMATION. THEY DESERVE MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR BRINGING THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE ISSUE TO THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS KEEPING THE ISSUE ALIVE IN THE FACE OF REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO DOWNPLAY ITS IMPORTANCE OR SHELF IT ALTOGETHER. THERE IS YET ANOTHER REASON TO SINGLE THE JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FROM MANY COUNTRIES WHO HAVE OFTEN RISKED THEIR LIVES TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM DENIED AREAS. VERY FEW OF THESE INDIVIDUALS COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE US, NOR IN MANY CASES COULD THEY BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE POLICIES OF THE US ADMINISTRATION IN POWER AT THE TIME THEY WERE WRITING. THE MAJORITY OF THE PRESS ARTICLES ON CW USE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED THE US GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ISSUE. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN A UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE VIETNAMESE FOR USING CHEMICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS BY JOURNALISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN PAPERS AND MAGAZINES THAT SPAN THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT. THEREFORE, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT MANY OF THESE WRITERS HAVE EXPRESSED VIEWS BASED ON THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT AND EVIDENCE, INDEPENDENT OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

- STERLING SEAGRAVES, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK YELLOW RAIN: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE TERROR OF CHEMICAL WARFARE, DEVOTED AS MUCH TIME IN HIS BOOK TO THE INEPTNESS OF THE US ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS AND THE NEED TO STOP THE PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AS HE DID ON HIS INVESTIGATION OF CHEMICAL

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WARFARE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN. NEVERTHELESS, SEAGRAVES WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THAT TOXINS WERE WHAT HAD BEEN CAUSING THE MYSTERIOUS SYMPTOMS IN LAOS. HIS INTERVIEWS IN PAKISTAN AND THAILAND ALSO REVEALED THE STRIKING RESEMBLANCE OF THE DESCRIPTIONS OF DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND MEDICAL SYMPTOMS BY PEOPLE FROM TWO SEPARATE REGIONS IN THE SAME TIME FRAME.

- JANE HAMILTON-MERRITT SPENT MANY YEARS WORKING WITH THE HMONG AND URGED THE US GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. HER ARTICLE IN READER'S DIGEST, OCTOBER 1980, "GASS WARFARE IN LAOS: COMMUNISM'S DRIVE TO ANNIHILATE A PEOPLE", DESCRIBED HER PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN INTERVIEWING GAS VICTIMS. THERE IS A STRIKING COMPARISON BETWEEN THE SYMPTOMS OF HER FRIEND, NHIA YANG VANG, WHO HAD CHANGED FROM A VIGOROUS MAN OF 40 YEARS TO A "SKELETON" WITH RECURRENT CHEST PAINS, DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING AND LOSS OF APPETITE TO THE SYMPTOMS OF A VIRILE, MIDDLE-AGED AFGHAN LEADER EXAMINED BY DR. ZIKRIA IN PAKISTAN WHO LOOKED LIKE A WITHERED, OLD MAN IN A FILM TAKEN OF THE EXAMINATION.

- DUTCH JOURNALIST, BERND DEBRUIN, FILMED A SOVIET HELICOPTER DROPPING A CANNISTER WHICH BURST INTO A YELLOW CLOUD DURING HIS TREK WITH THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE IN AUGUST 1980. HE TOOK PICTURES OF VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK AS WELL AS SKIN LESIONS ON MEN AND CHILDREN WHO WALKED THROUGH A YELLOWISH POWDER ON THE GROUND. BLISTERS BROKE OUT ON HIS HANDS FROM EXPOSURE TO THE YELLOW CLOUD AND HE WAS ILL FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS ACCORDING TO GERMAN PHYSICIANS WHO EXAMINED HIM LATER. HIS STORY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE NEWSHET. ONE MONTH BEFORE DEBRUIN SAW THE CHEMICAL ATTACK, NINETEEN HMONG DESCRIBED HOW THEIR VILLAGE WAS HIT WITH AN EXPLODING BOMB THAT PRODUCED A YELLOW CLOUD OF POWDER. SOME DIED IN HOURS, SOME THE NEXT DAY, WHILE OTHERS BECAME ILL AND HAD BLISTERS ON THEIR SKIN. COMPLETE MEDICAL EXAMS, INCLUDING X-RAYS AND BLOOD ANALYSIS, RULED OUT KNOWN NATURAL DISEASES LIKE TB TO EXPLAIN THE DAMAGE TO THE LUNGS. THEIR BLISTERS WERE SMALL AND HARD LIKE THOSE ON DEBRUIN'S HANDS. LIKE DEBRUIN, THEY REMAINED ILL FOR A LONG PERIOD. LIKEWISE, DEBRUIN'S PICTURE OF THE BOMB AND HIS DESCRIPTION OF A DULL THUD, RATHER THAN A LOUD EXPLOSION, WAS STRIKINGLY SIMILAR TO THE HMONG ACCOUNT. DEBRUIN'S ACCOUNT WAS LIGHTLY DISMISSED BY UN INVESTIGATORS, BUT NOT BY US AND EUROPEAN

ANALYSTS WHO CAREFULLY COMPARED THE DATA FROM LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN, FINDING MANY SUCH STRIKING SIMILARITIES.

- ROBERT L. BARTLEY AND WILLIAM P. KUCEWICZ OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, A NEWSPAPER THAT HAS CONSISTENTLY KEPT THE EVIDENCE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE BEFORE THE PUBLIC, WROTE A LENGTHY ASSESSMENT IN THE SPRING 1983 ISSUE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TITLED "YELLOW RAIN AND THE FUTURE OF ARMS AGREEMENTS."

- LUCIO LAMI, AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST, HAS WRITTEN A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN MILAN'S "IL GIORNALE NUOVO" BASED ON HIS INTERVIEWS IN THAILAND WITH CW VICTIMS AND DEFECTORS. THE ARTICLES INCLUDE THE LENGTHY TRANSCRIPTS OF THE INTERVIEWS PROVIDING CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, PARTICULARLY FROM VIETNAMESE CAPTAIN NGUYEN QUAN WHO DESCRIBES THE SOVIET SUPPORTED CHEMICAL WARFARE ORGANIZATION AND AGENTS USED IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA. HIS ARTICLES ALSO SEVERLY CRITICIZE US AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRESS FOR NOT PRESSING THE ISSUE.

- MANY MORE JOURNALISTS FROM THE UK, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE TRAVELED INTO THE DENIED AREAS AND REPORTED ON CHEMICAL WARFARE. THEY HAVE ALSO BROUGHT OUT SAMPLES OF CONTAMINATED MATERIAL FOR ANALYSIS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. OF COURSE THERE ARE JOURNALISTS WHO SERIOUSLY SOUGHT EVIDENCE AND COULDN'T FIND ANY, WHICH IS UNDERSTANDABLE WHEN ONE EXAMINES THE TIMING AND LOCATION OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS. THERE ARE ALSO JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS WHO HAVE WORKED HARD TO DISPROVE THE

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US EVIDENCE. SOME OF THESE WRITERS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE CIA HAS FABRICATED THE WHOLE ISSUE, BUT THAT NOTION HAS NOT GAINED MANY FOLLOWERS.

- GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO WRITTEN ARTICLES SUPPORTING THE US EVIDENCE. REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN JIM LEACH URGED THE US GOVERNMENT TO INTENSIFY ITS INVESTIGATION AND PERSONALLY INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE INVESTIGATION. LIKEWISE, DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ HAS WRITTEN ARTICLES DEFENDING THE US EVIDENCE. OTHER CONGRESSMEN, SENATORS AND GOVERNORS HAVE WRITTEN ARTICLES OR SUBMITTED TESTIMONY IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE CONDEMNED THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. NATO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON BEHALF OF ALL COUNTRIES EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONTINUE TO BE USED. LASTLY, THE LAW ASIA SOCIETY, MADE UP OF LAWYERS AND JURISTS FROM TWELVE ASIAN COUNTRIES, CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION IN THAILAND AND ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "ON THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE CONSENSUS OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE WAS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES EXISTED WHICH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE A REASONABLE PERSON THAT THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD, BUT SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT OF SOME FORM OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA.

THE ROLE OF PHYSICIANS

- DURING A HEATED DEBATE ON THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE, A PROFESSOR REMARKED THAT MEDICINE IS NOT A "HARD SCIENCE" AND DOCTORS' CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS COULD NOT BE USED AS PROOF THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED. PERHAPS THE PHYSICIANS THAT HAVE MADE SUCH A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE INVESTIGATION WOULD CONCEDE THAT SOME OF THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS ARE PUZZLING, BUT THEY WOULD ALSO STATE THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF POSITIVELY IDENTIFYING CERTAIN DISEASES AND CAN ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE SYMPTOMS THEY OBSERVE. THUS, PHYSICIANS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STATE WITH CONFIDENCE WHAT DISEASES THE HMONG, KAMPUCHEANS AND AFGHANS WERE NOT SUFFERING FROM AND THEY CAN LIMIT THE RANGE OF POSSIBLE DISEASES TO BE EXAMINED.

- -- TWO FRENCH DOCTORS WORKING IN LAOS, WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE ON THE LOCAL DISEASES, WERE ABLE TO STATE IN 1978 THAT IT APPEARED THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS WERE BEING USED ON THE HMONG.

THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL TEAM, HEADED BY COL. CHARLES LEWIS, CHIEF OF DERMATOLOGY AT BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS, LEFT WASHINGTON D.C. IN 1979 WITH SOME SKEPTICISM AND RETURNED CONVINCED THAT ONLY SEVERAL TYPES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS WOULD EXPLAIN THE MEDICAL SYMPTOMS THEY OBSERVED IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THAILAND.

- -- DR. AMOS TOWNSEND OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, SPENT YEARS EXAMINING THE HMONG AND KAMPUCHEAN CW VICTIMS. HE ALSO COLLECTED PHYSICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SAMPLES, INCLUDING CONTROL SAMPLES, TO ASSIST THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN IDENTIFYING THE AGENTS BEING USED. SEVERAL NURSES HE WORKED WITH IN THE FIELD HOSPITALS EVENTUALLY WERE CONVINCED THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS CAUSED THE UNUSUAL SYMPTOMS THEY HAD TREATED OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. THE UN REPORT CONTAINS THEIR WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

- DR. BERNARD WAGNER, A PROFESSOR OF MEDICAL PATHOLOGY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, CONDUCTED A FACT-FINDING VISIT TO THAILAND IN 1983 AND CONCLUDED THAT TOXINS WERE BEING USED AS WEAPONS.

- -- DR. B. A. ZIKRIA, A PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, FOUND THAT AFGHANS WHO HAD ESCAPED TO PAKISTAN WERE SUFFERING FROM A VARIETY OF SYMPTOMS HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN AS A PULMONARY SPECIALIST ON SMOKE INHALATION. HIS CLINICAL EXAMINATION WAS RECORDED ON FILM AND HE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE US CONGRESS THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT CHEMICAL

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WEAPONS WHICH CAUSE SEVERE DETERIORATION OF THE
BODY HAVE BEEN USED ON THE AFGHANS.

- DR. RICHARD HARRUFF EXAMINED HMONG REFUGEES
IN 1980 AND CONCLUDED THERE WAS A LOW INCIDENCE
OF TUBERCULOSIS, DISPELLING YET ANOTHER ALTERNATE
EXPLANATION THAT WAS OFFERED FOR THE UNUSUAL LUNG
PROBLEMS FOUND IN REFUGEES WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN
IN A CHEMICAL ATTACK. IN HIS ARTICLE "CHEMICAL
AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE IN ASIA", THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JULY 1983, HARRUFF STATED
THAT HIS CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY OTHER
INVESTIGATORS, BUT HE WAS AMAZED AT THE LACK OF
INTEREST SHOWN BY THE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY
ON THE PLIGHT OF THE HMONG PEOPLE.

- MANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION
HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS. DR. STAFFORD
BOURKE AND DR. BIRD, AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, CONDUCTED
EXAMINATIONS OF ALLEGED GAS VICTIMS AT THEIR WORLD
VISION HOSPITAL IN VAN VINAI REFUGEE CAMP WITH AN
EFFICIENCY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE GIVEN THE
FACILITIES AND NUMBER OF PATIENTS. THEIR TESTIMONY
APPEARS IN THE UN REPORT. LIKEWISE, THE CANADIAN
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEY, SUBMITTED TO THE UN,
PROVIDED A USEFUL GUIDELINE FOR FUTURE MEDICAL
SURVEYS IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE. MUCH WORK NEEDS
TO BE DONE BY QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL TO
CORRELATE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS FROM THE
THREE COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO DISTINGUISH VICTIMS OF
NATURAL DISEASE FROM THOSE EXPOSED TO CHEMICAL
WEAPONS. PERHAPS THE RECENT EXPERIENCE OF SWEDISH,
AUSTRIAN, SWISS AND BRITISH PHYSICIANS IN TREATING
THE IRANIAN CHEMICAL WARFARE VICTIMS WILL STIR MORE
INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM. THE BUDGET FOR THE US
ARMY PROGRAM ON MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE WAS ALMOST
CUT YEARS AGO UNTIL IT WAS POINTED OUT TO THE CONGRESS
WHAT A VALUABLE SERVICE THESE MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
ON CHEMICAL WARFARE PROVIDE.

THE ROLE OF THE SCIENTISTS

- SCIENTISTS FROM MANY DISCIPLINES HAVE TACKLED
WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK IN THE INVESTIGATION:
THE ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER WHAT SPECIFIC AGENTS HAVE
OR HAVE NOT BEEN USED. MANY SCIENTISTS HAVE
ESTABLISHED A DEMANDING SET OF CRITERIA TO BE USED
IN DETERMINING WHETHER SPECIFIC CHEMICAL AGENTS
WERE EMPLOYED AT A GIVEN TIME. SOME OF THE SPECIALISTS
WILL NOT BE CONVINCED UNLESS THEY PERSONALLY CAN

COLLECTED CONTAMINATED SAMPLES AND ANALYZE THEM IN THEIR
OWN LABORATORIES. WHILE THE DISCOVERY OF TOXINS
IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES HAS GONE
RELATIVELY UNCHALLENGED, SCIENTISTS HAVE QUESTIONED
THE ORIGIN AND CREDIBILITY OF THE SAMPLES AS WELL AS
THE CAUSE FOR THE PRESENCE OF TOXINS. MOREOVER, THERE
HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT CALL FOR MORE TESTS OF CONTROL
SAMPLES TO DETERMINE THE NATURAL OCCURENCE OF SPECIFIC
TOXINS IN THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY WERE COLLECTED.

- WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH ABSOLUTE
SCIENTIFIC PROOF THAT SPECIFIC CHEMICAL WEAPONS
HAVE BEEN USED IN AREAS DENIED TO INVESTIGATORS IS
A DEBATABLE SUBJECT. EVEN WHEN MUNITIONS WERE
TAKEN FROM THE IRANIAN BATTLEFIELD BY THE UN TEAM AND
THE AGENTS USED IDENTIFIED AS MUSTARD AND NERVE GAS,
THERE WAS NOT ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT THE IRAQI FORCES HAD
FIRED THE SHELLS OR DROPPED THE BOMBS. THEREFORE,
PRODUCING A MUNITION FILLED WITH AN AGENT WILL NOT
MEET THE SCIENTIFIC REQUIREMENTS TO IDENTIFY THE
GUILTY PARTY, OR CONNECT THE MUNITION TO THE SYMPTOMS
OF THE ALLEGED VICTIMS. THEREFORE, WE ARE FACED
WITH A SITUATION WHERE THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
(SAMPLE ANALYSIS) MUST BE CORRELATED WITH EVIDENCE
PROVIDED BY EYEWITNESSES, DEFECTORS, PHYSICIANS,
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND HISTORICAL RECORDS ON
CHEMICAL WARFARE. THIS WAS THE APPROACH TAKEN
BY THE US GOVERNMENT THAT LED TO THE CHARGES THAT
CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND AFGHANISTAN. SCIENTISTS, INSIDE AND OUT OF THE
GOVERNMENT, HAVE WORKED FOR YEARS TO POSITIVELY
IDENTIFY THE AGENTS THAT HAVE BEEN USED.

- --DR. CHESTER MIROCHA, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA,

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- --FRENCH SCIENTISTS HAVE ALSO FOUND TRICHOHECENES IN SAMPLES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK ANNOUNCED IN 1983 THAT POSITIVE TRACES OF TOXIN HAD BEEN FOUND IN A NUMBER OF SAMPLES COLLECTED BY THE FRENCH. THAI CHEMICAL WARFARE SPECIALISTS HAVE SUPPORTED FINDINGS BY OTHER COUNTRIES, THAT TOXINS HAVE BEEN USED AS WEAPONS, THROUGH THE ANALYSIS PERFORMED IN THAI LABORATORIES.

THE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE ON YELLOW RAIN

- A NUMBER OF PROMINENT SCIENTISTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY LEVELLED THEIR CRITICISM ON THE US GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION, EVEN THOUGH SCIENTISTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTORS OF THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT TOXINS BEING USED AS WEAPONS. CRITICISM HAS BEEN NARROWLY FOCUSED ON THE TOXIN ISSUE, WITH VERY LITTLE DISCUSSION DEVOTED TO OTHER AGENTS AND THE EVIDENCE BEYOND THAT OBTAINED FROM SAMPLE ANALYSIS. POLITICAL, RATHER THAN SCIENTIFIC WRITERS, HAVE CHARGED THAT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE HAS BEEN FABRICATED BY THE UNITED STATES TO FURTHER ITS OWN INTERESTS. SCIENTIFIC CRITICS RECOGNIZE THAT TRICHOHECENE TOXINS HAVE SHOWN UP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS, UNEXPLAINED HEALTH PROBLEMS EVIDENT IN THE HMONG AND KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEE POPULATION. SOME OF THESE SCIENTISTS ARE EVEN WILLING TO CONCEDE THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS, OTHER THAN TOXINS, HAVE BEEN USED. ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF THE DEBATE IS THAT IT REMAINS FIXED ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, WITH LITTLE ATTENTION PAID TO THE EVIDENCE FROM AFGHANISTAN.

- TWO EARLY HYPOTHESES DID NOT STAND UP TO SCIENTIFIC SCRUTINY. INITIALLY, VIETNAMESE FORCES WERE SAID TO BE USING ONLY CAPTURED US RIOT CONTROL AGENTS (CS GAS) AND THE SOVIETS, IT WAS HELD, WERE ONLY USING NON-LETHAL IRRITANTS LIKE TEAR GAS, CS AND ADAMSITE ON THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE. UNLESS ONE IS PREPARED TO BELIEVE THAT MOST OF THE HUMAN TESTIMONY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION IS FALSE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO EQUATE THESE TWO POINTS OF VIEW WITH THE EVIDENCE.

- THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, IN A DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CONCLUDED THAT THE US USE OF DEFOLIANTS IN VIETNAM CHANGED THE ECOLOGY, ALLOWING ELEPHANT GRASS TO FLOURISH AND PRODUCE FUSARIUM SPORES THAT WERE BORNE BY THE WINDS TO LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA, EVENTUALLY PRODUCING THE TRICHOHECENE TOXINS. THE UN INVESTIGATIVE GROUP FOUND THIS EXPLANATION IMPLAUSIBLE BECAUSE TOO MANY UNLIKELY EVENTS WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR

TO SUPPORT THIS EXPLANATION. THE SOVIET DOCUMENT DID NOT OFFER AN EXPLANATION ON HOW THE WIND WOULD SELECTIVELY DELIVER THE SPORES TO SOME AREAS OF LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA, AND NOT OTHERS, NOR DID IT SAY WHY THE SPORES DIDN'T GO INTO THAILAND. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES RECOGNIZED THAT TRICHOHECENE TOXINS HAD SHOWN UP IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA SINCE THE FIGHTING THERE HAD INTENSIFIED. ACCORDING TO BIOLOGISTS, THE SOVIETS WERE EVEN WRONG IN THEIR OPENING ASSUMPTION THAT US USE OF DEFOLIANTS HAD CAUSED ELEPHANT GRASS TO FLOURISH.

- THE MOST WELL-KNOWN CRITICISM OF THE US EVIDENCE ON TOXIN USE WAS PUT FORTH IN AN ARTICLE IN SCIENCE IN LATE 1983. PROFESSOR MATTHEW MESELSON, A BIOCHEMIST FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY; JULIAN PERRY ROBINSON OF SUSSEX UNIVERSITY; AND PETER ASHTON OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM, PRESENTED THEIR CONCLUSION THAT THE PRESENCE OF TRICHOHECENE TOXINS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE. THEIR INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT SWARMS OF BEES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE A "YELLOW RAIN" THAT MATCHES THE DESCRIPTIONS PROVIDED BY SO MANY HMONG REFUGEES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACKS. THESE PARTICULAR BEES INGEST SEVERAL TYPES OF POLLEN DURING THEIR FLIGHTS IN THE SPRING AND CLEAR THEIR SYSTEM OF THE DIGESTED POLLEN IN SMALL, LIQUID DROPS THAT FORM SMALL YELLOW SPOTS ON VEGETATION. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN, ACCORDING TO THE HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPED BY THE THREE AUTHORS, WHY SEVERAL TYPES OF POLLEN HAVE BEEN FOUND IN SPOTS ON VEGETATION THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF CHEMICAL WARFARE SPRAYS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CHARACTERIZE THIS HYPOTHESIS MUCH FURTHER BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF WRITING OR DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE ON THE DETAILS OF THE ASSESSMENT. THEREFORE, QUESTIONS

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1. WHEN DOES THE "YELLOW RAIN" CAUSED BY BEES OCCUR?

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A PREVIOUS HYPOTHESIS OF PROFESSOR MESELSON, WHICH PRECEDED HIS STUDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BEES, WAS THAT THE US HAD ONLY FOUND TOXINS IN SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE SPRING MONTHS. WHILE THAT IS TRUE, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, THAT PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS IS THE DRY SEASON WHEN THE FIGHTING HAS BEEN THE HEAVIEST. COLLECTION EFFORTS HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED IN THAT PERIOD, PARTICULARLY IN KAMPUCHEA, BECAUSE FIGHTING HAS BEEN CLOSE TO THE THAI BORDER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT POSITIVE SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED FROM ATTACKS IN THE SPRING, PARTICULARLY MARCH, BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF "YELLOW RAIN" OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKENLY CAUSED BY BEES. VICTIMS REPORTED ARTILLERY SHELLING OR MINES AS THE CAUSE OF THE GAS. THERE IS ALSO A QUESTION ABOUT THE 1977 CHINESE STUDY THAT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY CITED AS CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT BEES CAUSE "YELLOW RAIN". THE CHINESE REPORT STATES THAT THE EVENT OCCURRED IN "SEPTEMBER" AND THERE IS NO MENTION OF ILLNESS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BEE RAIN.

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ARE POSED TO THOSE SCIENTISTS WHO HOLD THAT THIS HYPOTHESIS CAN WITHSTAND SCIENTIFIC SCRUTINY.

- 1. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE "YELLOW RAIN" CAUSED BY THE BEES AND THE MEDICAL PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY THE HMONG AND THE KAMPUCHEANS? DOES THE HYPOTHESIS INCLUDE THE JUDGMENT THAT THE BEE DROPPINGS, WHICH INCLUDE POLLEN, PROVIDE A GOOD MEDIUM FOR THE GROWTH OF TRICHOHECENE PRODUCING FUSARIUM? IF SO, HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR THE TOXINS TO BE PRODUCED? COULD FOOD SOURCES, OR WATER, HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED IN THIS MANNER? SEVERAL TOXICOLOGISTS HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN REPLIES IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS TO THOSE THAT HAVE SUGGESTED THIS AS A CAUSE FOR THE PRESENCE OF TRICHOHECENES. DR. MIROCHA, DR. ROSEN, DR. SCHIEFER, AND OTHERS QUESTION THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF THIS HYPOTHESIS.
- 2. IF QUESTION ONE DOES NOT ADDRESS THE HYPOTHESIS PROPERLY, THEN ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE "YELLOW RAIN" OF THE BEES HAS BEEN MISTAKEN AS CHEMICAL WARFARE AND THE TOXINS HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE FOOD CHAIN OR THE WATER IN SOME OTHER WAY? OR, ARE THE MEDICAL PROBLEMS MISTAKENLY CONFUSED AS BEING FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS ACTUALLY THE RESULT OF DISEASES, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN?
- 3. IF THERE IS A NATURAL EXPLANATION FOR THE PRESENCE OF TRICHOHECENE TOXINS ON VEGETATION, IN WATER AND IN THE BODIES OF THE HMONG AND THE KAMPUCHEANS, THEN WHY HAVEN'T THE LAO AND THE VIETNAMESE REPORTED BY NOW THAT THEIR TROOPS AND CIVILIANS SUFFER FROM THE SAME MYSTERIOUS SYMPTOMS? IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT HAS THE CAPABILITY TO DETECT TOXINS AT THE LEVELS FOUND BY TOXICOLOGISTS LIKE DR. MIROCHA, BUT CERTAINLY WITH 40,000 OR SO VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOS AND OVER 150,000 IN KAMPUCHEA, ALL OPERATING IN THE AREAS WHERE CHEMICAL ATTACKS HAVE ALLEGEDLY TAKEN PLACE, ONE WOULD THINK THAT THESE TROOPS WOULD BE AFFECTED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AND THE RESISTANCE FORCES. WE CERTAINLY CAN'T BE DEALING WITH A DISEASE THAT ONLY ATTACKS THOSE RESISTING THE COMMUNIST REGIMES IN POWER. SOME LAO VILLAGERS HAVE REPORTED BEING SUBJECTED TO CHEMICAL ATTACKS BY HELICOPTER, CAUSING THE LOCAL LAO MILITARY TO BE DETERMINED AT THE VIETNAMESE, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY THE LAO OR VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT THAT POPULATIONS UNDER THEIR CONTROL HAVE EXPERIENCED MEDICAL PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE HMONG AND KAMPUCHEANS. THE IDEA MAY OCCUR TO THEM IN THE FUTURE, BUT IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO ACHIEVE ANY

- 5. COULD THE "YELLOW RAIN" FROM BEES START AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY? THERE ARE A GOOD NUMBER OF REPORTS OF YELLOW MATERIAL BEING SPREAD ON VILLAGES AND CROPS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR IN LAOS, AND ONE WELL-STUDIED CASE, THAILAND. DOES THE BEE HYPOTHESIS EXTEND TO THE FEBRUARY 19 INCIDENT IN THAILAND THAT WAS STUDIED BY THE CANADIAN TEAM, IN ADDITION TO THE US, FRENCH, UK, AUSTRALIA, THE UN AND OTHERS? THE UN REPORT DOCUMENTS THE TESTIMONY OF EYEWITNESSES AND INCLUDES THE CANADIAN ASSESSMENT. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE AGREEMENT THAT THE YELLOW MATERIAL SPREAD OVER THE

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VILLAGE CAUSED THE INCREASED INCIDENCE OF ILLNESS, WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. COULD TOXINS HAVE GROWN ON THE BEE DROPPINGS THAT FAST, ASSUMING BEES CAN'T CARRY THE TOXINS IN THEIR BODY AND EXCRETE THEM WITH THE POLLEN? EYEWITNESSES SAID THE YELLOW MATERIAL CAME FROM AN AIRPLANE. THESE WERE THAI VILLAGERS, NOT MEMBERS OF A SUSPECT RESISTANCE. WERE THEY LYING TOO OR HAD THEY BEEN CONFUSED LIKE THE HMONG AND THE KAMPUCHEANS? LOW LEVELS OF TRICHOHECENE TOXINS WERE IN THE YELLOW MATERIAL, SEVERAL LABORATORIES CONFIRMED THE FINDINGS, BUT POLLEN WAS ALSO IN THE SAMPLES. WHY THE VIETNAMESE SPRAYED THIS MATERIAL ON A THAI VILLAGE IS NOT KNOWN. IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT OR THE VIETNAMESE WERE TRYING TO DISCREDIT THE US EVIDENCE BY DROPPING A RELATIVELY HARMLESS YELLOW MATERIAL WHERE INVESTIGATORS COULD READILY COLLECT SAMPLES. THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TEAM HAD NOT BEEN IN THE AREA.

6. DR. MIROCHA HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL TIMES THAT THERE WAS NO POLLEN IN THE SAMPLES IN WHICH HE FOUND THE HIGH LEVELS OF TOXIN. FURTHERMORE, THE VEGETATION SAMPLES IN WHICH HE FOUND TRICHOHECENES WERE COVERED WITH SMALL YELLOW SPOTS THAT DO NOT LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE LARGER SPOTS OF BEE EXCREMENT. THEREFORE, MICROSCOPIC COMPARISONS OF ALLEGED "YELLOW RAIN" SAMPLES (NOT PROVIDED BY DR. MIROCHA OR ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS FOUND TOXINS IN VEGETATION SAMPLES) WITH AUTHENTICATED BEE EXCREMENT CAN ONLY BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SOME SAMPLES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE. AN ARTICLE BY ALAASTAIR HAYE IN THE NEW SCIENTIST, MARCH 22, 1984, DESCRIBES THE US EVIDENCE AS WEAK AND PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF THE MICROSCOPIC PHOTO COMPARISON. IN OTHER SAMPLES, WHICH DID NOT HAVE TOXIN, LABORATORIES HAVE FOUND SEVERAL TYPES OF POLLEN. UK AND AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN CITED AS HAVING FOUND ONLY POLLEN. IN SOME CASES THE US ARMY FOUND ONLY POLLEN. WOULD THOSE WHO CONTEND THAT "YELLOW RAIN" IS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE, AND THAT THERE IS NO PROOF THAT TOXINS HAVE BEEN USED AS WEAPONS, AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSITION THAT SOME SAMPLES, BUT NOT ALL, HAVE BEEN COVERED WITH BEE EXCREMENT? IT IS NOT CONCEIVABLE THAT PERSONS COLLECTING SAMPLES OF VEGETATION IN AREAS WHERE CHEMICAL ATTACKS HAVE OCCURRED, OR HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO OCCUR, HAVE COLLECTED MATERIAL COVERED WITH SPOTS CAUSED BY BEES OR HAVE COLLECTED AUTHENTIC CHEMICAL WARFARE SAMPLES THAT ALSO HAD BEE DROPPINGS ON THEM. IN OTHER WORDS, PROFESSOR MESELSON MAY HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER TO A PUZZLING QUESTION: WHY HAVE

SOME LABORATORIES FOUND SEVERAL TYPES OF POLLEN IN A SMALL YELLOW SPOT? IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE THAT IN SOME CASES THE HMONG MISTOOK YELLOW RAIN CAUSED BY BEES FOR A CHEMICAL ATTACK, BUT MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED ON THE HMONG'S FAMILIARITY WITH THE NATURAL ACTIVITIES OF BEES. THE HMONG ARE KNOWN TO HARVEST HONEY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY WOULD NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE SEASONAL HABITS OF BEES.

GIVEN THE MANY QUESTIONS LEFT UNANSWERED BY THIS ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS AND THE LACK OF DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH, IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT A VERY LIMITED SCIENTIFIC FINDING ABOUT BEES HAS BEEN STRETCHED TOO FAR IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROVE THAT THE EVIDENCE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IS NOT CREDIBLE. SCIENTISTS HAVE A LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO DEBATE SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS AND QUESTION HYPOTHESES, BUT WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH EINSTEIN'S THEORY OF RELATIVITY HERE. PEOPLES FROM THREE COUNTRIES, WHO ARE RULED BY GOVERNMENTS THAT DO NOT ALLOW INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATORS ACCESS TO THE AREAS OF ALLEGED CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACKS, HAVE ASKED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO STOP THE USE OF THESE INHUMAN WEAPONS BEFORE MORE OF THEIR PEOPLE ARE KILLED OR INJURED. ALAASTAIR HAYE IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT IN HIS OBSERVATION (ARTICLE CITED ABOVE) THAT "AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, UNDER UN AUSPICES OF THE AREAS WHERE YELLOW RAIN IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN USED IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA MIGHT HAVE HELPED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE". IN THE ABSENCE OF THAT IDEAL, GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ANALYSTS HAVE TO WORK WITH THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION. RARELY DOES A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR SEE THE CRIME. THESE CASES ARE MORE AKIN TO FORENSIC INQUIRY THAN TO SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS IN THE LABORATORY. THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO STOP THE USE OF CHEMICAL

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WEAPONS IS BEING IMPEDED BY THE CHALLENGE TO THE CREDIBILITY OF THE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE ON TOXIN USE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE THE INTENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC CRITICS TO DISCREDIT ALL EVIDENCE FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES, THAT HAS BEEN THE END RESULT IN TERMS OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION. THEREFORE, THE SCIENTIFIC CRITICS HAVE A MORAL AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC OBLIGATION TO FULLY DOCUMENT THEIR CASE.

THE US GOVERNMENT KNEW FULL WELL THAT IT ACCEPTED SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN IT TOOK THE HMONG, KAMPUCHEANS AND AFGHANS ON AS DEFENDENTS AND FORMALLY CHARGED THE VIETNAMESE AND THE SOVIETS WITH VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES. THAT IS WHY IT TOOK SEVERAL YEARS TO ASSESS THE EVIDENCE AND COMPILE A CONVINCING CASE THAT COULD BE USED IN PUBLIC. RATHER THAN MOVE TOO QUICKLY, AS SOME HAVE CHARGED, THE US DID NOT FORMALLY PRESENT EVIDENCE ON LAOS FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST REPORT OF A CHEMICAL ATTACK, AND THEN IN GUARDED LANGUAGE. IT TOOK TWO YEARS OF STUDY TO ARRIVE AT CONVINCING EVIDENCE ON KAMPUCHEA, AND ONE YEAR ON AFGHANISTAN. SECRETARY HAIG FIRST ANNOUNCED THAT MYCOTOXINS HAD BEEN USED ON SEPTEMBER 1981. THERE WAS GOOD REASON FOR BEING CONFIDENT THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE AGENT THAT HAD ALLUDED EXPERTS FOR SO LONG WAS ACTUALLY A COMBINATION OF TOXINS. BY THE TIME OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT, US OFFICIALS HAD STATED AT SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN.

BEFORE SECRETARY HAIG'S ANNOUNCEMENT, US ANALYSTS HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN DEVELOPING MYCOTOXINS AS WEAPONS FOR MANY YEARS, A DEVELOPMENT THAT HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES. BY 1981, US INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION MEANS WERE ESTABLISHED TO COLLECT ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE TWO REGIONS, ALLOWING A CAPABILITY TO DETERMINE WHEN SOME CHEMICAL ATTACKS TOOK PLACE. TRAINED TEAMS COULD BE DIRECTED TO ATTACK SITES TO COLLECT SAMPLES AND GATHER FIRST-HAND INFORMATION FROM EYE-WITNESSES. THE FIRST SAMPLE, IN WHICH DR. MIROCHA FOUND HIGH LEVELS OF TRICHOHECENE TOXINS, WAS A LEAF AND STEM COLLECTED BY A TEAM WHO ALSO BROUGHT BACK OTHER SAMPLES OF VEGETATION AND WATER. IN ADDITION, THEY EXAMINED THE BODIES OF THE DEAD KAMPUCHEAN SOLDIERS AND REPORTED RAPID NEOROSIS OF THE INNER LINING OF THE GUT, A PARTICULAR SYMPTOM OF TRICHOHECENE POISONING. SIX MONTHS AFTER THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, THE US GOVERNMENT PRESENTED A DOCUMENT TO THE CONGRESS AND THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH WAS BASED ON A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE. BY

THAT TIME, MANY MORE SAMPLES HAD BEEN ANALYZED AND OTHER NEW INFORMATION CONFIRMED THE PREVIOUS CONCLUSIONS THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS HAD BEEN USED IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES. US POLICY WAS, AND STILL IS, THAT INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE SHOULD BE RELEASED TO THE UN AND THE PUBLIC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE US INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN TO STOP THE CHEMICAL ATTACKS AND DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THESE WEAPONS FROM BEING USED AGAIN IN ANY REGION OF THE WORLD. DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF THE US CHARGES AND THE CREDIBILITY OF THE EVIDENCE, WHICH HAS STEMMED FROM THE ON-GOING SCIENTIFIC DEBATE ABOUT "YELLOW RAIN", HAS WEAKENED INTERNATIONAL ATTEMPTS TO STOP THIS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THE WORLD CONGRESS ON CHEMICAL WARFARE TO BE HELD IN GENT, BELGIUM, FROM MAY 21-23, WILL ONCE AGAIN BRING TOGETHER CONCERNED EXPERTS FROM MANY COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE EVIDENCE AND PROPOSE NEW METHODS FOR ESTABLISHING THE SCIENTIFIC "TRUTH". UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, EGYPTIAN GENERAL ESMAT EZZ, WHO HEADED THE UN INVESTIGATION ON SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN, WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON NEW INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE CASES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE. THESE PROCEDURES WERE BYPASSED WHEN THE UN DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE THE LATEST CASE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE BY IRAQI FORCES ON THE IRANIANS. THE WORK DONE BY THIS UN GROUP, SOME OF WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED IN UN DOCUMENT A/38/435, 19 OCTOBER 1983, OFFERS GOOD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ATTENDEES OF THE WORLD CONGRESS TO DISCUSS. PROPOSALS ON HOW TO CONDUCT BETTER INVESTIGATIONS IN THE FUTURE IS AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION TOPIC, BUT THE WORLD CONGRESS IS FACED WITH AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF HOW TO RESOLVE THE SCIENTIFIC

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AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME BY THESE WEAPONS THAT
MANKIND SOUGHT TO BAN FROM THE BATTLEFIELD IN 1925.

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DEBATE ON WHAT HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. THIS MORAL AND LEGAL ISSUE, WHICH INVOLVES THE PLIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, CANNOT WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE TO MAKE UP IT'S MIND ABOUT THE FACTS. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THE EVIDENCE WITH SHORT ARTICLES IN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS TO COMPILER THEIR CASE SCIENTIFICALLY SO THAT OTHER SCIENTISTS, CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERTS, INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS, CONGRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY BODIES AND THE PUBLIC CAN STUDY THE CHALLENGE AND OFFER REBUTTALS TO TANGIBLE, DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE.

THE FLOW OF EVIDENCE CONTINUES

THE US GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT IN IT'S ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSIONS, BUT DISSATISFIED THAT AGENTS OTHER THAN TOXINS HAVE NOT BEEN COLLECTED AND ANALYZED TO DETERMINE THEIR CHEMICAL PROPERTIES. BESIDES STOPPING THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON WESTERN NATIONS TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE INVENTORIES OF POTENTIAL ADVERGARIES. MOREOVER, THE MORE WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS BEING USED, THE MORE QUICKLY WE CAN DEVELOP ANTIDOTES TO HELP THE VICTIMS. REPORTS OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND AFGHANISTAN CONTINUE TO BE RECEIVED AND ANALYZED. A US TEAM OF SPECIALISTS IN THAILAND, WORKING WITH EXPERTS AND OFFICIALS FROM OT ER COUNTRIES, ENSURES THAT INFORMATION AND SAMPLES ARE PASSED IN A TIMELY FASHION TO ANALYSTS. DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN ARE ALSO MONITORED, EVEN THOUGH REPORTS OF CHEMICAL ATTACKS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED. NEW CLAIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE IN THE RECENT SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN THE PANSJIR VALLEY CANNOT BE IGNORED, ALTHOUGH THEY MUST BE CAREFULLY CHECKED. THE USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS BY IRAQ ADDS ANOTHER CASE TO BE INVESTIGATED THOROUGHLY. ALLEGED ETHIOPIAN USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ON THE ERRITREAN RESISTANCE WAS NEVER PROPERLY INVESTIGATED AND FEW FACTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO THE CLAIMS.

HOPEFULLY, THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MORE CASES TO INVESTIGATE. PRUDENCE DICTATES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BE BETTER PREPARED TO QUICKLY INVESTIGATE, USING PROPER PROCEDURES, WHEN THE WARNING OF NEW CHEMICAL ATTACKS IS FIRST SOUNDED. OTHERWISE, WE WILL AGAIN FACE THE HORRIBLE PROSPECT THAT INNOCENT AND UNPROTECTED PEOPLE WILL BE KILLED AND INJURED OVER

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