

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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C. (U) ON MAY 23, 1984, MALE REFUGEE HELD AT THE SRI CHIANG MAI POLICE STATION, NONG KHAI PROVINCE, FROM BAN SQUH (UG 3065) STATED THAT HE HEARD OF POISONOUS GAS BEING DELIVERED TO A LARGE RESISTANCE CAMP IN HIS AREA BY AIR (EXPLOSIONS) RPO'S. AN IN DEPTH INTERVIEW WAS NOT CONDUCTED BECAUSE THE INFORMATION WAS NOT FIRST HAND.

D. (U) ON MAY 24, 1984, MALE REFUGEE WHO CLAIMED TO BE A CLOSE RELATIVE OF [redacted] FROM THE SAME VILLAGE OF BAN SQUH, WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE PHON PRISAI POLICE STATION, NONG KHAI PROVINCE. HE STATED THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF NOR SEEN ANY CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN HIS AREA. [redacted] DID STATE THAT THERE WERE

(U) (S)

CBW TEAM WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH THEM TO ENABLE THE TEAM PHYSICIAN TO QUICKLY LOCATE AND EXAMINE [redacted] SKIN LESIONS UPON HIS RETURN FROM CONUS.

8. (U) A UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED THE TEAM CHIEF IN BUNG KAM ON MAY 24, THAT SOME HONG REFUGEES IN BUNG KAM SOLD SOME COUNTERFEIT SILVER TO LOCAL THAI CITIZENS AND THE REPRESENTATIVE FELT REQUIRED TO WARN THE HONG NOT TO ABUSE THAI HOSPITALITY.

C. (U) [redacted] INFORMED MULCHER THAT HE HAD GIVEN AN ACCOUNT OF CBW EXPOSURE TO NURSE ANDREA CROSSLAND APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO WHICH RESULTED IN A TRIP TO A BANGKOK HOSPITAL WHERE A SNIPPET OF SKIN WAS TAKEN FOR TESTING.

(B)(6)

7. (U) COMMENT: NEITHER THE TEAM CHIEF NOR THE THAI CITIZEN ETHNIC HONG INTERPRETER FOUND [redacted] TO BE CREDIBLE WITNESSES OF CBW ATTACKS. THEY SEEMED TO BE FABRICATING THEIR ACCOUNTS DURING THE INTERVIEWS. THE CBW TEAM JOINTLY WITH DAO DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM OF HONG CREDIBILITY IN REF A. THE HONG LEADERSHIP ITSELF HAS BEEN MORE THAN FORTHCOMING IN CAUTIONING USG REPRESENTATIVES ON TOTAL ACCEPTANCE OF HONG ACCOUNTS RE CBW INCIDENTS. THE PRESENT BAN VINAI CAMP LEADER, [redacted] HAS TOLD EVERY MEMBER OF THE CBW TEAM THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHETHER THE GASSING STORIES RESULT FROM CHEMICAL WARFARE OR BEE FECES BUT THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE TEAM TO FIND OUT. NOTE: VU MAI IS THE TITULAR HEAD OF THE HONG IN THE BAN VINAI CAMP BUT HE DOES NOT RESIDE THERE AND IS RARELY PRESENT. THE FORMER HEAD OF THE BAN VINAI CAMP, [redacted]

(B)(6)

INFORMED A U.S. MISSION OFFICER IN DECEMBER, 1980 THAT THE LAST RELIABLE GASSING REPORT THAT HE HAD HEARD CONCERNED AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER, 1979 (REF B). THE FIFTEEN MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN 9/79 AND 12/80 CONTAINED MANY ACCOUNTS OF CBW USE AND [redacted] APPARENTLY FELT OBLIGED TO COMMUNICATE HIS OWN SKEPTICISM OF THEIR ACCURACY. THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER HONG REFUGEES LIE BUT WHETHER HONG REFUGEES ARE ACCURATE REPORTERS OF REALITY. GENERALLY, WE HAVE NOT FOUND THEM TO BE SO AND BELIEVE THAT THEIR STORIES MUST BE SUPPORTED BY EXTERNAL AND, IF POSSIBLE, OBJECTIVE MEANS. DEAN

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E. (U) [redacted] IS A 41 YEAR OLD MALE HONG INTERVIEWED AT BUNG KAM DISTRICT OFFICE, NONG KHAI PROVINCE ON MAY 24, 1984. HE CLAIMED THAT SOMETHING FELL FROM A FOUR ENGINE PROPELLER DRIVEN AIRCRAFT ON APRIL 9, 1984 AND EXPLODED TO BECOME A CLOUD WHICH SETTLED AS YELLOW (GOLD) COLORED SPOTS OVER A VILLAGE NAMED THAM SOUWAY (PHONETIC) (UG 9696) AND THE ADJACENT MOUNTAIN AREA IN QUANG HOC DISTRICT, XIANG KHOANG PROVINCE. [redacted] STATED THAT THE SPOTS WERE IN A CONCENTRATION OF 30 PER SQUARE FOOT AND WOULD HAVE COVERED 15 [redacted] HAD THE TERRAIN BEEN FLAT INSTEAD OF MOUNTAINOUS. [redacted] DELETED THE SILHOUETTE OF A C-119 AS THE DELIVERY PLANE BUT NOTED THAT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT HAVE THE EXTERNAL WING TANKS OF THE SILHOUETTE. HE OBSERVED THE PLANE WITH BINOCULARS FOR FOUR HOURS AND NOTED THAT IT HAD THE LETTERS 18P ON THE TAIL AND UNDER THE WINGS. HE AND EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE BECAME SICK. HE ESPECIALLY MENTIONED A TWO YEAR OLD NIECE NAMED [redacted] WHO WAS SUFFERING FROM BLISTERS. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT ALL ANIMALS IN THE VILLAGE IMMEDIATELY COLLAPSED AND DIED UPON CONTAMINATION. THE CBW TEAM CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHED THE ALLEGED AREA OF BLISTERING ON [redacted] AND REQUESTED TO PHOTOGRAPH THE TWO YEAR OLD NIECE. UPON RETURNING TO THE MAIN HOLDING AREA, [redacted] PRODUCED A MALE CHILD FOR PHOTOGRAPHING. IN ANY CASE, [redacted]

SYMPTOMS WERE A DRUNK LIKE SENSATION AND BLURRED VISION WHICH OCCURRED ABOUT ONE HOUR AFTER EXPOSURE AND LASTED UNTIL THAT EVENING AND BLISTERS ON HIS ARM WHICH OCCURRED TWO DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE AND LASTED FOR TWO WEEKS. HE STATED THAT EVERYONE IN HIS VILLAGE OF 130 PERSONS SUFFERED FROM BLURRED VISION AND VOMITING, SOME WITH BLOOD. THE VOMITING LASTED FROM 10 TO 15 DAYS. HE STATED THAT THE HEALTHY PEOPLE VOMITED FOR 10 DAYS WHILE TWO PEOPLE VOMITED SO MUCH THAT THEY COULD NOT EAT AND DIED.

[redacted] ALSO STATED THAT HE DRANK FROM A STREAM SIX HOURS AFTER THE ATTACK AND BECAME UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWO HOURS AFTERWARDS. THE SPOTS MADE HOLES IN LEAVES THREE DAYS AFTER CONTAMINATION.

5. (U) THIS SAMPLE HAS NOT BEEN SHARED WITH THE ROYAL THAI ARMED FORCES.

USDAO BANGKOK HAS STATED THAT THE FORWARDING OF THIS INFORMATION IS IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE FOLLOWING CIR'S: A-FSC-43689/C-JTE-18464/UPH-12716

6. (U) OTHER DETAILS:
A. (U) [redacted] WILL REMAIN IN THE BAN VINAI CAMP UNTIL OCTOBER, 1984 WHEN THEY PLAN TO RETURN TO LAOS. TWO HONG REFUGEES ASSISTING THE

REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

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