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TO: DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA, TREASURY DEPT,
ZEN/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, ZEN/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
STAFF, ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS,
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI, CDRWESTCOM FT
SHAFTER HI, COMIPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI,
COMSEVENTHFLT, 13AF CLARK AB PI.

SERIAL:
DIST: 15 SEPTEMBER 1982
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ WNINTEL--NOFORN
COUNTRY: VIETNAM/KAMPUCHEA
SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WARFARE ORIENTATION OF PAVN 689TH BORDER SECURITY
REGIMENT, FIFTH DIVISION, DEPLOYMENT OF THE 689TH BSR

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SUMMARY: IN MID-JULY 1982, THE TRAINING OFFICER OF THE PAVN

689TH BSR, FIFTH DIVISION, CONDUCTED A ONE-DAY CHEMICAL WARFARE ORIENTATION FOR THE NEW RECRUITS AT THE BSR HEADQUARTERS LOCATED AT THMA POK (TA 9042), BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, KAMPUCHEA. HE GAVE DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE CHEMICAL AGENTS WHICH WERE FATAL TO THOSE EXPOSED, INSTRUCTED THE RECRUITS ON HOW TO COUNTER THESE AGENTS, AND ALSO DESCRIBED TWO CHEMICAL DEFOLIANTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MID JULY 1982, MORE THAN 250 RECRUITS OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) 689TH BORDER SECURITY REGIMENT (BSR), FIFTH DIVISION, ATTENDED A ONE-DAY ORIENTATION ON CHEMICAL WARFARE AT THE 689TH BSR HEADQUARTERS AT THMA POK (TA 9042), BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, KAMPUCHEA. SECOND LIEUTENANT (FNU) ((DUONG)), A 33-YEAR OLD NORTHERNER AND THE TRAINING OFFICER OF THE 689TH BSR, CONDUCTED THE ORIENTATION. DUONG LECTURED ON THREE CHEMICAL AGENTS WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS LIGHT, MEDIUM, AND HEAVY STRENGTH AND WHICH COULD BE DELIVERED IN SHELLS OF HEAVY ARTILLERY AND MORTARS, MINES, AND GRENADES. THESE AGENTS WERE DESCRIBED AS USUALLY HAVING NO ODOR OR COLOR AND AS HAVING NO APPARENT EFFECT ON VEGETATION. DUONG PREFACED HIS LECTURE FOR THE NEW RECRUITS AS AN INTRODUCTION TO CHEMICAL WARFARE AND HOW TO COUNTER ITS EFFECTS WHEN USED BY THE ENEMY.

2. THE LIGHT STRENGTH AGENT AFFECTED THE SKIN OF THE VICTIM AND PRODUCED SORES WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY SPREAD ALL OVER THE BODY AND CAUSE DEATH. IT WAS A COLORLESS, ODORLESS LIQUID WHICH WOULD NOT MIX WITH WATER BUT WOULD DISSOLVE IN A CHEMICAL BASE SOLUTION. MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THOSE EXPOSED TO THE LIGHT STRENGTH AGENT COULD LAST AS LONG AS SIX MONTHS, AND EVEN AFTER THE TREATMENT, THOSE EXPOSED WOULD BEAR BLACK AND BLUE MARKS AND ROUGH SKIN. THOSE WHO SURVIVED EXPOSURE WOULD BECOME STERILE. DUONG CITED ONE WOMAN WAREHOUSE MANAGER OF HIS FORMER UNIT WHO DID NOT TAKE THE PRECAUTION OF WEARING A PROTECTIVE JACKET AND DEVELOPED SORES WHILE WORKING IN A WAREHOUSE WHICH WAS USED TO STORE THIS MATERIAL. SHE WAS TREATED AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SIX MONTHS AND RELEASED, BUT AFTER ONE MONTH, SHE REDEVELOPED THE SORES. COMMENT: DUONG DID NOT IDENTIFY HIS FORMER UNIT OR ITS LOCATION. THE FORM IN WHICH THESE CHEMICAL AGENTS WERE STORED WAS ALSO NOT REVEALED.)

3. THE MEDIUM STRENGTH AGENT WAS ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN OR THROUGH THE LUNG MEMBRANE WHEN INHALED. IT PRODUCED SYMPTOMS OF DELIRIUM AND HIGH FEVER IN THOSE INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED AND WOULD CAUSE DEATH WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS. ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION ON THOSE EXPOSED WAS SUGGESTED AS FIRST AID.

4. THE HEAVY STRENGTH AGENT PRODUCED SYMPTOMS OF CRYING, HIGH FEVER, AND DELIRIUM -- LOSS OF MIND CONTROL CHARACTERIZED BY EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR. DEATH OCCURRED 15 MINUTES AFTER EXPOSURE. A VICTIM STOOD A VERY SLIM CHANCE OF SURVIVAL UNLESS HE OR SHE WAS GIVEN IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION.

5. TO COUNTER THE CHEMICALS, SOVIET GAS MASKS WERE TO BE DISTRIBUTED. DUONG INSTRUCTED THE RECRUITS TO USE A WET HANDKERCHIEF TO PREVENT INHALATION OF THE CHEMICALS IF GAS MASKS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. THOSE EXPOSED WERE TO USE A SELF-ADMINISTERED INJECTION OF AN ANTIDOTE WHICH WOULD BE ADMINISTERED IN THE THIGH. THIS WOULD TEMPORARILY COUNTERACT THE AGENT WHILE AWAITING MEDICAL TREATMENT.

6. DURING THE ONE-DAY CHEMICAL WARFARE ORIENTATION, DUONG ALSO DISCUSSED TWO TYPES OF CHEMICAL DEFOLIANTS. THESE ALSO WERE DESCRIBED AS HEAVY AND LIGHT STRENGTH CHEMICALS. A SMALL AMOUNT OF THE HEAVY STRENGTH CHEMICAL ON JUST A SMALL PORTION OF THE LEAVES OF A TREE WAS CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE WHOLE TREE. THE LIGHT STRENGTH CHEMICAL AFFECTED ONLY THE AREA ON WHICH IT WAS APPLIED. DUONG COMMENTED THAT HUMANS EXPOSED TO THIS

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CHEMICAL WOULD HAVE A HIGH PROBABILITY OF BEARING DEFORMED CHILDREN. DUONG ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CHEMICAL DEFOLIANTS.

7. DUONG ALSO CONDUCTED SIMILAR CHEMICAL WARFARE ORIENTATION DURING 9-11 AUGUST 1982 FOR THE NEW RECRUITS ARRIVING AT THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF 212TH BATTALION, 689TH BSR, FIFTH DIVISION, LOCATED AT AMPIL LAKE (TA 7653), THMA POK DISTRICT, BATTAMBANG PROVINCE. AS OF MID-AUGUST THE 19 MEN OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLATOON, 212TH BATTALION, HAD NOT RECEIVED GAS MASKS AND ONLY THREE MEN OF A TOTAL OF SEVEN TO NINE MEN IN EACH INFANTRY SQUAD OF THE 212TH BATTALION HAD RECEIVED GAS MASKS.

COMMENT: THE GAS MASKS WHICH WERE ISSUED TO THE 212TH BATTALION, 689TH BSR, WERE MADE OF IVORY COLORED PLASTIC.)

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8. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 689TH BSR (AKA - 8TH BSR) WAS LOCATED AT THMA POK (TA 9042), BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, KAMPUCHEA. THE 689TH BSR WAS COMMANDED BY MAJOR (FNU) ((NET)), A 45-YEAR OLD NORTHERNER, AND CONSISTED OF THE 212TH, THE 620TH, AND THE 416TH BATTALIONS.

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A. THE 212TH BATTALION COMMANDED BY SENIOR CAPTIAN NGO VAN ((SAU)), ALIAS SAU ((HANH)), A 40-YEAR OLD NORTHERNER, WAS DEPLOYED AT LAKE AMPIL (TA 7653). THE BATTALION HAD A STRENGTH OF 350 MEN AND WAS EQUIPPED WITH ONE H-12 (107MM) ROCKET LAUNCHER.

B. THE 520TH BATTALION WAS LOCATED AT KANDOL VILLAGE (TA 8446), THMA POK DISTRICT, BATTAMBANG PROVINCE.

C. COMMENT:

THE 416TH BATTALION WAS DEPLOYED AT SDAU VILLAGE (TA 7846), THMA POK DISTRICT, BATTAMBANG PROVINCE.)

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REPORT CLASS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~/WARNING:NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS. ALL PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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