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RE PORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~/WNINTEL--NOFORN

COUNTRY LAOS

SUBJECT FURTHER EVIDENCE OF POISONOUS GASES USED AGAINST HMONG
RESISTANCE IN THE PHOU BIA AREA, LPDR

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SOURCE

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SUMMARY:

[REDACTED] SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND LPDR MILITARY FORCES TRIED TO ELIMINATE HMONG RESISTANCE THROUGH THE USE OF GROUND ATTACKS SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND LIGHT-OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT DISPENSING TOXIC CHEMICALS DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1977 TO JUNE 1978. THE CHEMICALS, DESCRIBED AS YELLOW, RED AND WHITE SMOKE, KILLED AND CONTAMINATED LARGE NUMBERS OF THE HMONG SOCIETY AND VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED THEIR EXISTENCE IN THIS PART OF THE LPDR. END SUMMARY.

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1. [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE WERE 500 PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) "INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LABORERS" WORKING AT THONG HAI HIN (UG0751), XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, LPDR. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THONG HAI HIN, WHICH IS SITUATED IN THE PLAIN OF JARS IN NORTHEASTERN LPDR, IS THE LOCATION OF A NEW AIRFIELD COMPLETED IN MID-1979 BY PAVN CONSTRUCTION DIVISION 530.) [REDACTED] LPLA AND PAVN AUTHORITIES WERE TELLING LOCAL INHABITANTS, IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO CREATE FEAR SO VILLAGERS WOULD LEAVE THE PHOU BIA AREA, THAT THEY PLANNED TO MIX CHEMICALS WITH FOOD SUPPLIES TO BE SOLD TO HMONG PEOPLE IN THE PHOU BIA AREA. [REDACTED] THEY ALSO INDICATED L-19 AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED TO SPREAD CW AGENTS OVER VILLAGE AGRICULTURAL FIELDS IN THE PHOU BIA AREA IN AN EFFORT TO DESTROY THE ECONOMY AND TO HAVE PAVN/LPLA TROOPS SWEEP THE AREAS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE.

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3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ON 15 MAY AN ENEMY FORCE LAUNCHED AN ATTACK IN THE AREA OF BAN PHA NGAM (TG1655) AND BAN PHA POU (TG1558). [REDACTED] THE HMONG PEOPLE FOUGHT BACK BRAVELY AGAINST AN ENEMY THAT USED AN L-19 AIRCRAFT TO FIRE CW AGENTS INTO THE AREA. [REDACTED] 36 PERSONS DIED INSTANTLY WHILE AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER FLED PANIC STRICKEN INTO THE JUNGLE AND DISPERSED. THE CW AGENTS USED WERE DESCRIBED AS BEING THREE SEPARATE COLORS - YELLOW, RED AND WHITE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ON 3 JUNE A L-19 AIRCRAFT FIRED CW AGENTS INTO THE AREA CAUSING 12 DEATHS AND SEVERAL PEOPLE TO SUFFER ACUTE DIARRHEA. [REDACTED] THOSE CONTAMINATED WERE EXPECTED TO DIE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR THEM. THE GAS USED IN THIS ATTACK WAS ALSO DESCRIBED AS RED, YELLOW AND WHITE SMOKE.

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4. ON 26 JUNE 1977, HMONG RESISTANCE FORCES STATED THAT THE LPDR AUTHORITIES WERE USING SEVERAL PAVN BATTALIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH CW ATTACKS IN ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE HMONG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AREA. IT WAS NOTED THAT AREAS UNDER HMONG RESISTANCE CONTROL WERE GROWING SMALLER, AND HMONG LEADERS WERE ASKED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE DIED. ON 5 JULY, A PAVN LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT FIRED CW ROCKETS INTO AREAS NEAR NAM MOH (TF8487) AND BAN HOUAY KAPLANG (TF8284), ONE ROCKET AT EACH LOCATION, WITH THE RESULT OF TWO PERSONS BEING KILLED INSTANTLY, 47 OTHER CONTAMINATED, AND EIGHT DOMESTIC ANIMALS KILLED. ALSO ON 5 JULY, A L-19 AIRCRAFT FIRED SIX CW ROCKETS INTO A MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF TF8678 WITH THE RESULT OF 20 PEOPLE CONTAMINATED, TWO DOMESTIC ANIMALS KILLED, AND TWO HOUSES DAMAGED FROM BEING HIT BY THE ROCKETS. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GASES WAS THE SAME AS THAT REPORTED EARLIER.

5.

[REDACTED] THERE HAD BEEN FOUR MAJOR ATTACKS BY PAVN/LPLA TROOPS IN THE AREAS OF PHOU KNANNOK (TF-7881), PHOU XENOY (TF6290), NAM KOUB (TF6785), HOUAY KAPLANG (TF8483) AND HUAI KHIMIN (TF8898). THESE OPERATIONS WERE SUPPORTED WITH 105MM, 155MM, AND 130MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS, TANKS, AND AIR STRIKES. CASUALTY FIGURES WERE 219 PAVN/LPLA KILLED AND 18 WOUNDED; WHILE RESISTANCE LOSSES NUMBERED 480 KILLED, 230 WOUNDED, AND 2,918 CAPTURED. THERE WERE 67 HAMLETS DESTROYED AND AN ESTIMATED 1,188 HOUSES BURNED DOWN. PAVN/LPLA CW ATTACKS BY L-19 AIRCRAFT CAUSED 81 DEATHS AND 165 PEOPLE CONTAMINATED; THE GAS USED WAS DESCRIBED AS RED, WHITE AND YELLOW SMOKE.

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[REDACTED] 43 PAVN/LPLA PERSONNEL HAD BEEN KILLED AND 32 OTHERS WOUNDED IN CLASHES WITH ANTI-LPDR FORCES; WHILE HMONG RESISTANCE FORCES HAD CASUALTIES OF 22 PERSONS KILLED AND 22 WOUNDED. PAVN/LPLA L-19 AIRCRAFT CONTINUED THEIR AIR STRIKES WITH 25 MISSIONS REPORTED AND 229 CW ROCKETS FIRED INTO THE AREA AROUND PHOU HE (TF9479). DURING THESE CW ATTACKS 16 PERSONS WERE KILLED, 69 OTHERS CONTAMINATED, 39 DOMESTIC ANIMALS KILLED AND 96 HOUSES DESTROYED.

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6. FURTHER CW INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN MARCH 1978 WHEN ON 4 MARCH, ABOUT 0930 HOURS, AN L-19 AIRCRAFT CONDUCTED A CW AIR STRIKE IN THE AREA OF UG2304, XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE. THIRTY CHILDREN, ALL UNDER THE AGE OF TWO YEARS, WERE KILLED AND 50 OTHER PERSONS WERE CONTAMINATED. ON 10 MARCH, ANOTHER CW AIR STRIKE IN THE AREAS OF BAN PAYAKHA (TG9804) AND BAN NONG THA NGOK (TF9698) RESULTED IN 25 PEOPLE KILLED AND OVER 100 OTHERS CONTAMINATED.

[REDACTED] CONFIRMED THE 4 MARCH CW AIR STRIKE WHICH KILLED 30 CHILDREN. [REDACTED] THE AIRCRAFT HAD APPROACHED HIS AREA FROM THE NORTH AND FIRED TWO CW ROCKETS WHICH EXPLODED IN RED SMOKE AND SIX ORDINARY ROCKETS. THERE WAS NO MEDICINE TO TREAT THE 50 CONTAMINATED VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK.

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COMMENT:

[REDACTED] HMONG RESIDENTS OF THE PHOU BIA AREA HAD BECOME ISOLATED AND HAD LOST CONTACT WITH ONE ANOTHER. THIS DISPERSING OF THE HMONG

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WAS ATTRIBUTED TO ENEMY ARTILLERY SHELLINGS AND AIR STRIKES WHICH HAD CAUSED THE HMONG AREA TO SHRINK TO THREE FOURTHS ITS ORIGINAL SIZE AND FOOD SUPPLIES TO FALL INTO PAVN/LPLA HANDS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN ESTIMATED 95 PERCENT OF THE HMONG POPULATION WAS SUFFERING FROM VERY POOR MORALE, ABOUT 80 PERCENT WERE LIVING UNDER STARVATION CONDITIONS, AND ABOUT 50 PERCENT WERE ILL BECAUSE OF CW CONTAMINATION AND MALNUTRITION.) [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE SIZE OF THE HMONG POPULATION IN MARCH 1978 IS NOT KNOWN.) FROM 29 MARCH-5 APRIL, L-19 AIRCRAFT FIRED 212 CW ROCKETS INTO THE AREAS OF BAN THON KHEMI (UF0277) AND MUANG CHA (TF9887) WHICH WERE IN ADDITION TO 612 ROUNDS OF 105MM AND 122MM ARTILLERY SHELLS FIRED FROM THE AREA OF TF9991. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT 200 PERSONS WERE KILLED FROM BOTH CW AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS WITH ANOTHER 100 SUFFERING FROM CW CONTAMINATION.

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7. ON 6 APRIL 1978, ABOUT 0600 HOURS, TWO PAVN/LPLA BATTALIONS FROM THE AREA OF PHOU PHA DOY (UF1895) LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON HMONG PEOPLE IN THE AREAS OF UG1102, UG1502, AND UG1602 WITH SUPPORT OF TWO 105MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS POSITIONED AT PHOU PHA DOY. TWO L-19 AIRCRAFT WERE USED IN THE OPERATION AND FIRED CW ROCKETS INTO THE AREAS NOTED. THE PAVN/LPLA OPERATION, WHICH LASTED FIVE DAYS AND CAUSED 24 ANTI-LPDR PERSONNEL KILLED AND FOUR OTHERS WOUNDED, ALSO EFFECTIVELY DISLODGED THE RESISTANCE FROM THE AREAS AND SCATTERED THEM TO JUNGLE AREAS IN UG1505 AND UG1905. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ON 9 APRIL, A COMBINED FORCE OF PAVN/LPLA TROOPS, WHICH WAS ESTIMATED AT 4,000 MEN, LAUNCHED A COORDINATED ATTACK ON AREAS OF BAN NANGEUN (UF1796), BAN SAMTIAN (UF-2690), UF2966, UF2952, UF2091, AND UF2191. PAVN/LPLA TROOPS WERE SUPPORTED

IN THE ATTACK BY TWO 105MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS POSITIONED NEAR PHOU PHA DOY, ONE 105MM ARTILLERY PIECE IN AN AREA OF NAM FENG (UF1293), AND TWO 122MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS IN AN AREA OF TF9991. [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY 3,000 ROUNDS WERE FIRED BY THE PAVN/LPLA FORCE DURING THE THREE-DAY OPERATION. ALSO USED WERE L-19 AIRCRAFT FIRING CW ROCKETS. PAVN/LPLA CAUSALTIES WERE BELIEVED TO BE 41 KILLED AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER WOUNDED. APPROXIMATELY 100 HMONG WERE KILLED BY TOXIC GAS. ALSO KILLED, DESTROYED, OR CAPTURED WERE DOMESTICATED ANIMALS AND HMONG RICE STORAGE FACILITIES. APPROXIMATELY 8,000 PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO FLEE INTO JUNGLE AREAS AROUND UF3195 WHERE FAMILIES HID WHILE HMONG SOLDIERS BEGAN TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR FUTURE CLASHES WITH THE PAVN/LPLA FORCES.

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8. FROM 6-28 APRIL, L-19 AIRCRAFT ARMED WITH CW ROCKETS CONDUCTED ALMOST DAILY RAIDS IN THE AREA OF MUANG AO NEUA (UF0781) WHERE 64 CW ROCKETS WERE FIRED AND CAUSED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF CASUALTIES. IN THE SAME PERIOD, 6-11 APRIL, TWO PAVN/LPLA BATTALIONS MOVED FROM MUANG OM (VF1895) TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN AREAS OF UG1102, UG1502, UG1602, AND THE AREA OF THAEM (NCA), WHICH THEY EVENTUALLY CAME TO OCCUPY. HMONG PEOPLE WHO WERE ABLE TO FLEE THESE AREAS MOVED TO PHOU LAN (UG2114) WHERE ON 28 APRIL THEY CAME UNDER CW AERIAL ATTACK WHICH RESULTED IN 39 PEOPLE KILLED AND 54 OTHERS CONTAMINATED. ON 10-11 MAY, A L-19 AIRCRAFT FIRED CW ROCKETS IN AN AREA OF TAM KHAI

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(TF9696) WHICH KILLED SEVEN PERSONS AND CONTAMINATED 24 OTHERS. ON 7 JUNE, L-19 AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY FIRED 96 CW ROCKETS AT THE HMONG RESISTANCE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AT TAM KHAI ALONG WITH ARTILLERY SUPPORT. AS A RESULT OF THE CW STRIKE, 13 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND EIGHT OTHERS WERE CONTAMINATED. DURING THE PERIOD 21 JUNE TO 7 JULY, PAVN/LPLA FORCES ATTACKED THE PHOU LAN AREA. LIGHT OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT CARRYING CW ROCKETS CONDUCTED FOUR MISSIONS PER DAY AND CAUSED 76 DEATHS AND 41 OTHERS TO BE CONTAMINATED. ARTILLERY FIRE USED IN SUPPORT OF THE PAVN/LPLA OPERATION CAUSED A TOTAL CASUALTY COUNT AMONG HMONG INHABITANTS OF 730 KILLED AND 254 WOUNDED. PAVN/LPLA CASUALTY FIGURES WERE 40 KILLED.

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REPORT CLASS SECRET/WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED-NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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ALL PORTIONS

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CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT

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