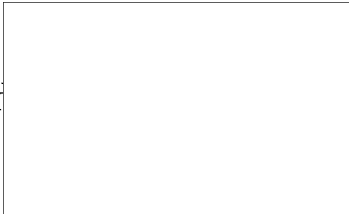


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29 March 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:



Science and Technology

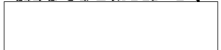
Division

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SUBJECT:

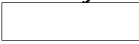
Recent Press on "Bees and Yellow Rain"

1. Recent newspaper and magazine articles about "Yellow rain" incorrectly link the position of the Department of State on chemical weapons use in Asia to refugee reports that confuse spots on the ground to stories about chemical attacks. Publicity about a recent trip to Thailand by scientists who observed a "bee defecation flight" is certain to further confuse readers, most of whom haven't read even the two unclassified State Department White Papers. The State positions are actually based on over twenty coordinated Intelligence Memoranda, Assessments, NIDs, and especially three Special National Intelligence Estimates.



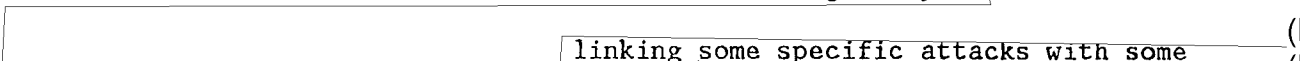
(b)(3)

2. Refugee reports were used often to target collection, and many physician's reports on victims were helpful in determining that non-traditional agents were often being used. But, the Intelligence Community has been persuaded primarily by other data, and the fact that bees may drop yellow material and refugees confuse spots is not relevant to that data. Furthermore, many refugees have reported to us since 1979 that similarities existed between residues of bee "cleansing" flights in the springtime and yellow rain attacks... to those who had not seen an attack by AN-2 spray aircraft, helicopters, or who had not themselves been victims.



(b)(3)

3. Also, community judgments that mycotoxins were possibly one of the ingredients in some chemical mixtures was based originally on



(b)(1)

linking some specific attacks with some refugee claims of symptoms and autopsy findings consistent with mycotoxicosis. Only later were toxins actually chemically identified in many physical and biological samples, autopsy tissues, and gas masks. No toxins have been found in control samples from unexposed refugees, bee excrement, physical samples of food, vegetation, water or other material from "non-attack" control sites.

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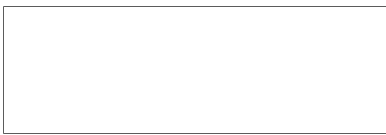
4.



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SUBJECT: Recent Press on "Bees and Yellow Rain"

5. A summary of the intelligence data is attached, taken from the recent SNIE 11-17-83 on "Implications of Soviet Use of Chemical and Toxin Weapons" (b)(3)

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