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CITE [Redacted]

TO: DIRECTOR [Redacted]

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SUPDATA

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REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~/WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT

COUNTRY LAOS/VIETNAM

SUBJECT [Redacted] LPLA AND PAVN USE OF  
POISON CHEMICALS IN NORTHERN LPDR, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION  
OF OPERATING PROCEDURES (DOI: LATE APRIL 1976 - OCTOBER  
1978)

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SOURCE

[Redacted]

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SUMMARY: FROM LATE 1976 TO OCTOBER 1978, THE LPLA, IN COOPERATION

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WITH THE PAVN, BEGAN FLYING CHEMICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS AGAINST  
HMONG RESISTANCE STRONGHOLDS IN NORTHERN LPDR. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE ROCKETS WERE ORDINARY  
U.S. MANUFACTURED SMOKE-ROCKETS WHICH HAD BEEN STORED AT LONG TIENG  
AND REMOVED TO PHONSAVAN FOR MODIFICATION FOR USE  
AS "POISON" ROCKETS. THE CW MISSIONS WERE  
CARRIED OUT BY L-19 AIRCRAFT FLOWN BY AN LPLA PILOT, BUT WITH EITHER  
A SENIOR LPLA OR PAVN STAFF OFFICER DIRECTING THE MISSION FROM THE  
REAR SEAT. THESE OPERATIONS WERE KNOWN AS "EXTINCT DESTRUCTION  
OPERATIONS." THE CW ROCKETS DETONATED IN THE AIR AND PRODUCED WHITE  
AND BLUE OR RED AND YELLOW SMOKE. USE OF THE L-19 CEASED IN OCTOBER  
1978 WHEN SOVIET MIG-21 AIRCRAFT WAS USED IN COMBAT MISSIONS.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
MISSIONS IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMO-  
CRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) WHICH WERE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO DISPENSE  
TOXIC CHEMICAL AGENTS ON HMONG VILLAGERS IN THE PHOU BIA AREA  
(VICINITY UF0690) OF NORTHERN LPDR. [REDACTED] THE LPLA,  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN), WAS INVOLVED  
IN CONDUCTING CHEMICAL WARFARE (CW) OPERATIONS IN THE LPDR SINCE  
APRIL OR EARLY MAY 1976. AT THAT TIME, TWO LPLA H-34 HELICOPTERS  
WERE FLOWN FROM THE PHONSAVAN AIRFIELD (UG1452), XIENG KHOUANG  
PROVINCE, TO LONG TIENG (UG8113), XIENG KHOUNG PROVINCE, ON A  
SERIES OF FLIGHTS THAT TRANSPORTED ROCKETS BACK TO PHONSAVAN FOR  
STORAGE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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2. BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST 1976, THE LPLA LAUNCHED ATTACKS IN THE AREA OF BOUAMLONG (UG2686), XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, WHICH WAS A STRONGHOLD FOR REMNANTS OF FORMER HMONG GENERAL V A N G PAO. DURING MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE BOUAMLONG AREA, THE LPLA UTILIZED L-19 AIRCRAFT TO CONDUCT ROCKET ATTACKS ON THE HMONG RESISTANCE IN AN EFFORT TO ELIMINATE THEM. HOWEVER, LPLA CREWS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOADING ROCKETS ON THE ATTACK AIRCRAFT NOTED THAT THE ROCKETS THAT HAD BEEN MOVED FROM LONG TIENG TO PHONSAVAN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED, EVEN THOUGH THE ROCKETS STORED AT PHONSAVAN WERE MUCH CLOSER TO THE BOUAMLONG TARGET AREA THAN LONG TIENG WHERE LPLA AIRCRAFT WERE REQUIRED TO RE-ARM.

[REDACTED]

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3 [REDACTED] INITIALLY, H-34 HELICOPTERS WERE USED TO TRANSPORT THE ROCKETS FROM PHONSAVAN TO A DEPOT NEAR THE BAN XON AIRFIELD (TF6094), VIENTIANE PROVINCE, WHERE THEY WERE FITTED ONTO RACKS OF THE L-19 AIRCRAFT FOR MISSIONS IN THE PHOU BIA AREA. LATER, THE ROCKETS FROM PHONSAVAN WERE TRANSPORTED TO BAN XON BY LPLA TRUCKS. COMMENT:

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[REDACTED] THE ORIGINAL U.S.-MANUFACTURED ROCKETS TRANSPORTED FROM LONG TIENG AROUND APRIL OR MAY 1976 TO PHONSAVAN HAD BEEN MOVED WITH THE INTENTION OF MODIFYING THEM FROM ORDINARY SMOKE ROCKETS TO THE SO CALLED "POISON ROCKETS" FOR COMBAT USE IN THE PHOU BIA AREA AND OTHER NEARBY HMONG RESISTANCE AREAS.

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[REDACTED] LPLA COMMANDERS REFERRED TO THESE MISSIONS AS "EXTINCT DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS.") [REDACTED] ALL U.S.-MANUFACTURED ROCKETS WERE STORED WITH THE TIP AND CANISTER KEPT APART; IN OTHER WORDS, THE TWO PARTS HAD TO BE JOINED TOGETHER BEFORE FITTING THEM TO THE RACKS ON THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, ALL THE ROCKETS TRANSPORTED FROM PHONSAVAN TO BAN XON WERE ALREADY FITTED TOGETHER.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE MAJORITY OF THOSE  
ROCKETS, WHICH HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM PHONSAVAN, APPEARED "LOOSE"  
IN THE PORTION WHERE THE TIP AND CANISTER JOINED. [REDACTED] THE  
ORDINARY EXPLOSIVE-TYPE ROCKETS AT LONG TIENG WERE NOTICEABLY MORE  
TIGHTLY CONNECTED - THE TIP AND CANISTER.

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4. IN LATE 1976, IN PREPARATION FOR AIRSTRIKES IN NEW AREAS OF  
PHOU BIA AND KASY (TG1128), LOUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] TWO OR THREE PAVN STAFF OFFICERS, SOMETIMES  
ACCOMPANIED BY ONE LPLA STAFF OFFICER, ON T-41 AIRCRAFT OVER THE  
TARGET AREAS. THE PAVN OFFICERS WERE CONDUCTING A RECONNAISSANCE OF  
THE AREAS IN ANTICIPATION OF LAUNCHING AIRSTRIKES. INITIALLY, THE  
L-19 AIRCRAFT WAS FLOWN ON THE AIRSTRIKE MISSION WITH A PILOT AND  
AN LPLA STAFF OFFICER SITTING IN THE REAR SEAT. HOWEVER, AFTER  
ABOUT TWO-THREE WEEKS, PAVN STAFF OFFICERS BEGAN RIDING IN THE REAR  
SEATS OF THE L-19 AIRCRAFT AND ALTERNATING MISSIONS WITH THE LPLA  
OFFICERS. THE PAVN OFFICERS WHO FLEW THESE MISSIONS SPOKE EXCELLENT  
LAO. BEFORE EACH MISSION, THE PAVN OR LPLA STAFF OFFICER ASSIGNED  
TO THE MISSION WOULD GO OVER TARGET AREAS OUTLINED ON SITUATION MAPS  
TAKEN ALONG. HE WOULD POINT OUT THE TARGETS TO BE ATTACKED. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AT NO TIME DID THE PAVN STAFF OFFICER [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] COMMUNICATE WITH LPLA OFFICERS ON  
THE GROUND AS DID THE LPLA STAFF OFFICERS. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PAVN OFFICERS [REDACTED] ON T-41 RECONNAIS-  
SANCE AND L-19 AIRSTRIKE MISSIONS IN THE HMONG AREAS WERE SWITCHED  
AROUND SO THAT A NEW PAVN OFFICER WAS USED ON EACH MISSION. THE  
AVERAGE AGE OF THESE PAVN STAFF OFFICERS WAS MID-40'S.)

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5 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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THESE LPLA STAFF OFFICERS HELD CONCURRENT POSITIONS IN VARIOUS LPLA BATTALIONS OF XIENG KHOUANG MILITARY REGION. WHEN MILITARY OPERATIONS WERE PLANNED IN A CERTAIN AREA, THESE SENIOR LPLA OFFICERS WERE REASSIGNED TO SPECIAL COMBAT HEADQUARTERS SUCH AS THE LONG TIENG HEADQUARTERS WHICH CONTROLLED OPERATIONS IN THE PHOU BIA AREA OR THE BAN XON HEADQUARTERS AT TF6094 WHICH CONTROLLED GROUND AND AIR OPERATIONS TO AREAS EAST OF THE HEADQUARTERS. EACH LPLA STAFF OFFICER WHO FLEW AN AIRSTRIKE MISSION CARRIED WITH HIM AN AK-47 RIFLE, A SOVIET-MADE AUTOMATIC PISTOL, AND USED AN FM-25 RADIO TRANSCEIVER TO COMMUNICATE FROM THE AIRPLANE TO THE LPLA COMMANDER ON THE GROUND; THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHEN RADIO CONTACT BECAME DIFFICULT AND THE AIRCRAFT RADIO WAS USED TO COMMUNICATE. [REDACTED] COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE STAFF OFFICER AND FIELD COMMANDER WAS CARRIED OUT IN A VOICE USING A CODE BASED ON SIX NUMBERS WHICH COULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD WITHOUT KNOWING THE CODE. THERE WERE OTHER TIMES WHEN THE STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATED IN LAO LANGUAGE, BUT IN THIS INSTANCE TOO THE WORDS USED HAD A PARTICULAR MEANING KNOWN ONLY BETWEEN THE STAFF OFFICER AND THE FIELD COMMANDER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE STAFF OFFICER WOULD SAY, "I AM GOING TO THE RICE FIELD, THE DOG IS EATING RICE, THE HUMAN BEING IS TO DIE OF A DEADLY DISEASE (HAO CHA PAI NA, MAH CHA KIN KHAO, KHON CHA TAI HA)."

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6. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] FLY AT ABOVE NORMAL ALTITUDES WHEN FIRING ROCKETS, OTHERWISE, IT COULD BE HAZARDOUS TO THE PILOT AND THE ACCOMPANYING STAFF OFFICER. BECAUSE OF THIS CONTINUED CAUTIONING ABOUT NOT FLYING AT TOO LOW AN ALTITUDE, [REDACTED] THE SMOKE ROCKETS FIRED AT THE HMONG PEOPLE WERE UNUSUAL.

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[REDACTED] THE SMOKE ROCKETS DETONATED IN THE AIR AND SOME PRODUCED WHITE SMOKE WITH A MIXTURE OF BLUE

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SMOKE WHILE OTHERS PRODUCED RED SMOKE WITH A MIXTURE OF YELLOW. THE ORDINARY EXPLOSIVE-TYPE ROCKETS DETONATED ON IMPACT. THIEP OR HIS

[REDACTED]

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THE TYPE OF OPERATION [REDACTED] WAS TO "WIPE OUT" THE REACTIONARY HMONG PEOPLE. THE PURPOSE OF FIRING THE ROCKETS WAS TO CAUSE THE HMONG PEOPLE TO DIE OUT COMPLETELY. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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7.

[REDACTED]

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THERE WERE TWO TYPES OF ROCKETS. THE FIRST, MOSTLY SMOKE ROCKETS, WERE TO BE FIRED AT TARGETS FAR AWAY FROM COMBINED LPLA AND PAVN TROOPS. THIS WAS TO PREVENT THE FRIENDLY TROOPS FROM BEING EXPOSED TO THE POISON SMOKE. THE SECOND TYPE OF ROCKET WAS THE ORDINARY EXPLOSIVE-TYPE WHICH WAS CONSIDERED A "CLOSE SUPPORT" ROCKET THAT COULD BE FIRED NEAR LPLA AND/OR PAVN TROOP POSITIONS. INITIALLY, THE L-19 AIRCRAFT CARRIED EIGHT ROCKETS - FIVE CLOSE SUPPORT AND THREE SMOKE ROCKETS. LATER, ONLY FOUR ROCKETS WERE CARRIED AND THESE WERE MAINLY SMOKE TYPE.

8.

[REDACTED]

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THOSE L-19 AIRCRAFT PILOTS WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO MISSIONS UTILIZING SMOKE ROCKETS HAD SPECIAL PRIVILEGES. NORMALLY, ALL PILOTS RECEIVED A MONTHLY SALARY OF LAO CURRENCY 12,500 KIP; HOWEVER, L-19 PILOTS FLYING MISSIONS WITH SMOKE ROCKETS RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL FLIGHT PAY OF LAO CURRENCY 3,700 KIP EXTRA PER DAY. ALSO, THESE PILOTS COULD EAT AT THE PHONSAVAN CAFETERIA WITHOUT PAYING. IN

OCTOBER 1978, THE LPLA CEASED USING L-19 AIRCRAFT ON COMBAT MISSIONS, AND BEGAN USING SOVIET MIG-21 AIRCRAFT IN THE PHOU BIA AREAS.

9.

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10.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T/WARNING NOTICE-INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND  
METHODS INVOLVED/NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS-NOT RELEASABLE  
TO CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANTS

[REDACTED]

ALL PORTIONS

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CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT

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