

SI M 80-10015

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South East Asia - Chemical Warfare

MICRO ONLY

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LAOS

The Vietnamese and Laotian forces have used chemical warfare agents against the Hmong tribesman for a period of more than three years, beginning in 1976. Refugees and other sources provide a story of repeated chemical attacks on civilian populations for the purpose of comp[re]ssing and eliminating the Hmongs. The refugees consistently relate a pattern of employment which includes rockets, spray, artillery weapons. The symptoms described [redacted] lead us to believe that there were three types of chemical agents used: a nerve agent, a riot control agent, and an unknown chemical or combination of chemicals. [redacted] the CW agents probably were supplied to Vietnamese and Laotian forces by the USSR. It is probable that training in the use of CW agents also was provided by the Soviets.

In addition to Hmong tribesmen, the chemical attacks reportedly destroyed large numbers of domestic animals including oxen, swine and chickens.

We believe that CW munitions are stored at Xiang Khoang (Military Region II), Sayannakhet (Military Region III), and Pakse (Military Region IV). The latest reported use of CW against the Hmong was in August 1979.

Kampuchea (Cambodia)

Numerous radio reports and press releases have been received since October 1978 on the use of CW by Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea against Kampuchean dissidents, particularly the Khmer Rouge. Descriptions of symptoms observed in victims of CW attacks were similar to those reported by refugee Hmong tribesmen from Laos and indicate that the same CW agents were used.

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(b)(1)
(b)(3)

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A judgment that CW agents were in fact used against Khmer Rouge forces is difficult to make [redacted] (b)(1)
 [redacted] (b)(3)
 [redacted] (b)(1)
 [redacted] One (b)(3)
 chemical attack reportedly was witnessed by Thai peasants and Khmer refugees. In this attack, an unidentified helicopter dropped poison chemicals into the water supply of the Bon Laem refugee camp incapacitating 70 of the 2000 refugees and killing a small but unknown number. (b)(1)
 A tear gas attack by Vietnamese against soldiers of the Khmer Serei forces was reported [redacted] (b)(3)
 [redacted] also said that he did not believe (b)(1)
 the Vietnamese were using any chemical except tear gas. (b)(3)

If the Vietnamese and their Kampuchean collaborators are not successful in wiping out major resistance in Kampuchea, it is probable that they will resort to greater use of chemical warfare against dissident forces.

Hard evidence that the Vietnamese are employing CW in Laos and Kampuchea will depend on our ability to obtain an environmental sample that is contaminated with a CW agent from a point near a CW attack or on the ability to observe a victim immediately after being dosed with a CW agent. Air, soil, vegetation, water samples contaminated with the CW agent are prime candidates for analysis. Other types of samples are contaminated clothing, blood samples, and spent shells or casings. Care should be exercised in shipping the material for analysis to avoid losing the CW material in the sample by evaporation or degradation; sealed containers are preferable.

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