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CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 52553

E.O.: 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREF, SHUM, MOPS, LA, TH SUBJECT: ALLEGED ATROCITY IN LAOS

REF: STATE 229816

LETTER SENT BY
LETTER BY
LETTER

WAS BRITFED (BY LAO CONTACTS) CONCERNING ALLEGED VIETNAMESE OR SOVIET USE OF CBW WEAPONRY IN LAOS. THESE REPORTS COVER PERIOD NOV 1984-FEB 85. LETTER'S THESE REPORTS COVER PERIOD NOV 1984-FEB 85. LETTER'S THESE REPORT OF MOST SERIOUS CHARGE, HOWEVER, RELATES TO REPORT OF MASSACRE COMMITTED ON MAY 15, 1985, IN WHICH "APPROXIMATELY 5,000 CIVILIANS WERE ORDERED INTO A CAYE AT MATELY 5,000 CIVILIANS WERE GROSSED." THESE CIVILIANS U.G. 332 800 and WERE 'GASSED." THESE CIVILIANS U.G. 332 803" ON MAY 14, REPORTEDLY WERE CAPTURED "AT U.G. 332 803" ON MAY 14, FOLIOWING A MAY 13 BATTLE IN WHICH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS FOLLOWING A MAY 13 BATTLE IN WHICH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES AT HANDS OF VIETNAMESE AND PATHET LAO SOLDIERS. ACCORDING TO LETTER, DECISION TO GAS 5,000 CIVILIANS WAS MADE BY LAO "PRIME MINISTER CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPAILMENT OF GIATS A/ODGARS

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"USING THE 8-41 POISON CANNISTER AND IT SHOULD BE DONE WITHIN 24 HOURS." SOME 25 INTENDED VICTIMS REPORTEDLY ESCAPED BEING DRIVEN INTO CAVE AND ARRIVED "IN A SAFE AREA ON MAY 19, 1985."

IN A SAFE AREA ON MAY 19, 1985.

2. CLOHY CBW TEAM IS LOOKING INTO SEVERAL INCIDENTS CITED AND, WHEN ITS REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WILL REPORT FINDINGS. THIS MESSAGE FOCUSES EXCLUSIVELY ON ALLEGED MAY 15 MASSACRE. OUR EFFORTS TO DATE DO NOT ENABLE US TO CONFIRM ANY DETAILS OF INCIDENT DESCRIBED IN

-- IN AUG 19 CBW TEAM PHYSICIAN MET WITHE HMONG LEADER AT CHIANG KHAM CAMP IN NORTHERN THAILAND. HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED MASSACRE. HE ASSERTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 20 RESISTANCE FIGHTERS IN AREA HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO SUSPECTED CHEMICAL AGENTS OVER PAST FEW YEARS, BUT NONE HAD BEEN SO EXPOSED RECENTLY. TEAM WAS INVITED TO INTERVIEW THESE PERSONS AT A LATER DATE.

--TEAM PHYSICIAN VISITED BAN VINAI REFUGEE CAMP (NORTHEASTERN THAILAND) AUG 21. HMONG LEADER HAD HEARD ABOUT SUCH AN INCIDENT, BUT KNEW OF NO EYE-WITNESSES. TEAM'S THREE CAMP CONTACTS HAD NO INFORMATION REGARDING ATTACK:

--TEAM HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HMONG COMMUNITY LEADERS,
PERSONAL CONTACTS IN BANGKOK, AND ALL SOURCE INFORMATION
AT EMBASSY: HOWEVER, NONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ANY
INFORMATION ABOUT ALLEGED INCIDENT.

3. (204) ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUEST NAMES OF EYE-WITNESSES AND FURTHER DETAILS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO HER;

-- THAT DEPARTMENT ADVISE IF CAVES LARGE ENOUGH TO COMM. 5, 000 PEOPLE ARE KNOWN TO EXIST AT U.G. 332 820.

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