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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8995

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 06157

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 11/16/09 (MARTINDELL, A.C.) OR-M  
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TGEN, NZ  
SUBJECT: (S) SITREP V: POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF SOUTHERN  
- HEMISPHERE NUCLEAR TEST

REF: STATE 296643

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER OTHER "TESTABLE" SOURCES OF POSSIBLE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION, AN EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE BY PHONE WITH PROFESSOR RICHARD BATT, HEAD OF THE BIOCHEMISTRY/BIOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT AT MASSEY UNIVERSITY IN PALMERSTON NORTH (BATT'S PHONE NUMBER IS 69099, EXT. 806) ON NOVEMBER 16. PROFESSOR BATT SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN SENDING SHEEP AND CALF THYROID GLANDS TO PROFESSOR VAN MIDDLESWORTH, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE IN MEMPHIS, FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS. THIS IS PART OF A WORLDWIDE SCHEME WHICH BATT BELIEVES IS SPONSORED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR RADIATION AND RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT ALL OVER THE WORLD. ORDINARILY, PROFESSOR BATT HAS SENT ONE SHIPMENT OF THESE GLANDS PER MONTH WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE, BUT OCCASIONALLY, AS DURING THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS, HE SENT SAMPLES

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EVERY ONE OR TWO WEEKS.

3. BATT SAID HE SENT A SAMPLE TO MIDDLESWORTH ON NOVEMBER 1, BUT WHEN HE SPOKE WITH HIM BY PHONE ON NOVEMBER 14, THE SHIPMENT HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. THOSE SAMPLES SENT ON NOVEMBER 1 WERE THE FIRST IN THE PAST 2 1/2 MONTHS, SINCE THERE HAD BEEN A BREAK IN THE KILLING SEASON AND NO GLANDS WERE AVAILABLE. SHEEP AND CALF THYROIDS ARE ALSO SENT FROM MELBOURNE, ACCORDING TO BATT, AND SAMPLES SENT FROM MELBOURNE ON NOVEMBER 1 HAD REACHED MIDDLESWORTH. THESE SAMPLES SHOWED ZERO RPT ZERO ABNORMAL RADIOACTIVITY. BATT SAID MIDDLESWORTH BELIEVES THAT THIS INDICATES ALMOST CERTAINLY THAT THERE WAS NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE IN SEPTEMBER AND HE (BATT) AGREES WITH THIS CONCLUSION. AS SOON AS THE NOVEMBER 1 SAMPLE FROM N.Z. ARRIVES IN MEMPHIS AND IS TESTED, MIDDLESWORTH WILL CALL BATT TO GIVE HIM THE RESULTS. WE HAVE ASKED BATT TO TELEPHONE THE EMBASSY ASAP WHEN HE RECEIVED NEWS OF ANY KIND.

4. BATT WAS VERY SKEPTICAL OF THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE NUCLEAR SCIENCES INSTITUTE IN WELLINGTON POINTING TOWARD POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT THE NATIONAL RADIATION LABORATORY IN CHRISTCHURCH HAS NOT DETECTED ANYTHING ABNORMAL AND THAT THE NUCLEAR SCIENCES INSTITUTE, WHICH REPORTED THE RADIOACTIVITY IN RAINWATER, IS, HE BELIEVES, NOT QUALIFIED TO MAKE SUCH JUDGMENTS. BATT SAID THE LOW AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVITY ALLEGEDLY DETECTED IS, IN HIS OPINION, WITHIN THE NORMAL FLUCTUATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND HE WAS SLIGHTLY CONTEMPTUOUS OF THE NUCLEAR SCIENCES INSTITUTE. BATT SAID THAT

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MIDDLESWORTH'S TRACK RECORD OF DETECTING NUCLEAR  
EXPLOSIONS IS EXCELLENT AND HE BELIEVES THERE CAN BE  
NO ERROR AFTER MIDDLESWORTH TESTS THE SAMPLES HE  
SENT NOVEMBER 1. MARTINDELL

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