



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION PH-08

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 56822
STATE FOR PH/TMP, EA/TB

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, TH, LA
SUBJECT: HMONG CBW SAMPLE

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).
2. A U.S. CITIZEN WORKING AT BAN VINAI HAS OBTAINED A TWO-MONTH OLD FETUS ABORTED BY A HMONG WOMAN WHO, HE SAYS, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN VICTIM OF APPROXIMATELY TEN CHEMICAL ATTACKS IN LAOS. THE HMONG HAVE PROVIDED THE FETUS WITH THE STIPULATION THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED FOR ANALYSIS ONLY TO DR. RICHARD HARRUFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY, GRADY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, ATLANTA, GEORGIA (404) 588-4123. DR. HARRUFF PREVIOUSLY WORKED AT BAN VINAI CAMP.

3. ACCORDING TO THE VOLUNTARY WORKER, THE HMONG INSIST ON THIS ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE THEY ARE DEEPLY FRUSTRATED AT THE LACK OF FEEDBACK FROM THE U.S. ON SAMPLES THEY HAVE PROVIDED TO THE USG. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY UPSET THAT THEY HAVE EARNED NOTHING ABOUT THE RESULTS OF BLOOD SAMPLES WHICH THEY HAVE PROVIDED, IN THEIR CULTURE.
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TURAL VIEW, AT CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL COST. (COMMENT)

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HMONG TRADITIONALLY HOLD THAT THE BODY IS UNABLE TO REPLACE BLOOD IT HAS LOST; THUS A GIFT OF BLOOD LEAVES THE BODY PERMANENTLY DEFICIENT. END COMMENT.)

4. THE CBM VICTIM ABORTED THE FETUS ON OCTOBER 23. THE WOMAN LIVED IN THE VICINITY OF TF7478. HER HUSBAND WAS A MEMBER OF A RESISTANCE GROUP HEADED BY WHICH PROVIDED SAMPLES TO EMBASSY BANGKOK IN MID-JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. THE SAMPLES WERE NUMBERS 15 AND 16 IN THE EMBASSY SERIES, SENT UNDER HAS INQUIRED MANY TIMES ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE SAMPLES. (b)(2) (b)(7) (b)(7)(C)

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EMBOFF ARRIVED IN BANGKOK AFTER DR. HARRUFF LEFT THAILAND, DR. HARRUFF IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO US AS A PHYSICIAN DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE HMONG. WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUESTION HIS INTEGRITY. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT WE COULD OBTAIN GREATER COOPERATION FROM THE HMONG IF WE COULD SHARE ANALYSIS RESULTS WITH THEM. WE ALSO RISK THE DRYING UP OF THE MAJOR SOURCE OF SAMPLES BY FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THEIR REQUEST. WE SEE NO DIFFICULTY WITH PROVIDING THE FETUS TO DR. HARRUFF, WHO WE UNDERSTAND HAS AGREED TO ARRANGE FOR ITS ANALYSIS FOR PRESENCE OF MYCOTOXINS, BUT WILL BE GUIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THIS. PLEASE PROVIDE RESPONSE BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE MESSAGE.

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