FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

VIETNAM - NATO'S TESTING FIELD FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

by

K. Schumacher

Reproduced by the CLEARINGHOUSE for Federal Scientific & Technical Information, Springfield, VA 22151
EDITED TRANSLATION

VIETNAM - NATO'S TESTING FIELD FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

By: K. Schumacher

English pages: 6

Source: Zeitschrift für Militärmedizin
(Military Medicine Journal), No. 2, 1968, pp. 82-84.

Translated under: Contract No. F33657-70-D-0607

THIS TRANSLATION IS A RENDITION OF THE ORIGINAL FOREIGN TEXT WITHOUT ANY ANALYTICAL OR EDITORIAL COMMENT. STATEMENTS OR THEORIES ADVOCATED OR IMPLIED ARE THOSE OF THE SOURCE AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE POSITION OR OPINION OF THE FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION.

PREPARED BY:
TRANSLATION DIVISION
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
WP-afb, Ohio.

Date 17 Mar 1970
VIETNAM – NATO’S TESTING FIELD FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Dr. K. Schumacher, Major in the Medical Service

On the basis of facts known from the press and from statements made by the FLN (National Liberation Front), we will attempt to review the individual stages of the "chemical warfare" in South Vietnam, describe the objectives and effects, unmask the USA's demagoguery, and evaluate the use of CW (Chemische Kampfstoffe; Chemical weapons) in South Vietnam.

American military officials and economists frequently complain that in the United States approximately 180 million persons inhabit a territory of less than 10 million square kilometers, while in the Soviet Union approximately 210 million persons inhabit an area of about 22 million square kilometers, and that the military industry in the United States is limited to a few large centers which can be easily destroyed with nuclear weapons.

When in August 1953 the Soviet Union detonated its first operational nuclear weapon and in this way overtook the United States in applied technology, the United States was annually allocating 31.1 million dollars for the development of chemical weapons (CW) and biological weapons (BW).

1960 the amount was 103.4 million dollars
1961 133.3 million dollars
1963 to 1966 200.0 million dollars
1967 230.0 million dollars
Obviously, these figures are not very trustworthy, since they were taken from the NATO press into which they might have been tossed haphazardly. However, the comprehensive growth of chemical weapons, organic phosphates, and psychic and sabotage poisons, as well as the appearance of new irritating substances, clearly demonstrate that expenditures for this purpose are increasing.

The loss of supremacy in nuclear weapons and the powerful defensive potential of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries with a more advantageous population density and distribution of defensive industries are objective reasons for the fact that some NATO countries, especially the United States, devote so much attention to chemical and biological weapons.

Naturally, the NATO professional press does not emphasize these reasons. A biased interpretation of the comparative effects of individual mass destruction methods (IMDM) usually is as follows:

- chemical and biological weapons are more economical than nuclear weapons; they can be manufactured secretly at small costs and achieve their appropriate material importance;
- chemical and biological weapons are tactically very versatile; they can defend routes of transportation and rail junctions as well as other objects militarily advantageous to their users; the extent, onset, and duration of the effect can be adjusted to the tactical requirements "in doses";
- chemical and biological weapons offer great advantages in a "limited war."

The use of chemical weapons in the dirty war waged by the United States, its allies and accomplices against the Vietnamese people courageously fighting for their freedom and independence must therefore be regarded as a test of new chemical weapons and utilization of their tactical versatility.

Table 1 contains a summary of the chemical weapons used by the United States in the "chemical war" which it began in 1961 against the inhabitants of South Vietnam.
Table 1. Chemical weapons used by the United States in South Vietnam (1961-1966).1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemicals Used</th>
<th>Method of Application</th>
<th>Physical Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2, 4-D, 2, 4, 5-T, 2, 4, 5-T-etachlorobenzylidenemalonitrile</td>
<td>Destruction of cover and destruction of foil</td>
<td>What it produces a white smoke affecting plant and weapon equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium cyanide (time-release)</td>
<td>Injection into plants</td>
<td>Can affect animals entering the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloropicrin</td>
<td>Injection into plants</td>
<td>Can affect animals entering the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic phosphorus (TS)</td>
<td>Injection into plants</td>
<td>Can affect animals entering the area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

1. The table was prepared on the basis of information supplied by South Vietnam's National Liberation Front.

2. The indirect poisoning of useful animals is caused by the fact that, after application of herbicides, the animals eat poisonous plants which they normally avoid. Furthermore, fodder plants undergo changes leading to accumulation of toxic substances, for example, potassium nitrate.

3. There are various opinions as to what irritating agent is concealed under the American cover designation, TS. According to FLN statements, it is thiophosgene. According to American publications (mainly from the US Army Chemical Center, Maryland) it is more probable that it is o-chlorobenzylidene malonitrile that has been included in the US Army equipment as a "means for combating riots."

4. FLN organizations have mentioned Tabun, Sarin, and Somch. However, the utilization of those toxic chemical weapons prior to...
the development of V-agents completely contradicts the well-known inclination of USA imperialists to present their "chemical warfare" as philanthropic actions for combating weeds and insects or, at worst, for "combating riots" as they do in their own country. When herbicides that are highly toxic for unarmored animals are used in appropriate doses, the same effects may be expected to emerge in unprotected human beings.

The exact extent of damage done by the United States in South Vietnam through the use of chemical weapons cannot be estimated. It is known that the application of herbicides in August through October alone, in 1962, in the ß-Cambodge, destroyed 1,200 hectares of mangrove forests. However, the annually repeated application of herbicides started in August, 1961, during which year a 24 kilometer long and 550 meter wide strip south of the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam was presumably "radically cleared of all plant growth."

According to FLN statements of 13 March 1966, 700,000 hectares of useful crops were destroyed, thousands of persons were killed, and hundreds of thousands were poisoned.

In the western area alone, 150,000 to 200,000 persons were cited as injured by "poison gas." This figure approximately corresponds to the casualties suffered by Germany, England, and France, the main participants in the "chemical warfare" of World War I. It amounts to about one-fifth of the total number of CW injured persons recorded by all countries participating in that war.

These figures show the complete invalidity of arguments in regard to killing weeds with usual herbicides, combating pests with commercial insecticides, and suppressing riots with means that are used for policing purposes in the United States.

The true intention is revealed by the facts that:
- the application of lime nitrogen as fertilizer and weed killer requires eye protection and impervious garments, while aromatic
nitrogen compounds nor similar inorganic require protective devices not only for eyes and the skin but also for breathing;...
Colgan Government 3 in the opinion of the controlled force, the military operation given initially becomes more understandable.

The application of toxic compounds has shown that:
- new methods and new tactics (GMOs) and BMG, held
- and the operation of new tactics (GMOs) and BMG, held
- have results that are not only devastating, but also
  of the war more intense.

Considering the new military situation resulting from
the South Vietnamese war, population, the new war area, and
the specific military conditions, the armed forces have
achieved in proving devastating results.

In conclusion, we may say that "chemical warfare" will have
a specific character in each different war area. The crimes
committed in Vietnam should inspire us to do everything possible
to frustrate the imperialist plans.

References

1. Betz, Ch. d. chem. Krieg in USA in "American United
   States' Chemical Warfare in South Vietnam", VII.-Wes. 5 (1964), 9,
   1167.

   Anw. v. Herodoto (Military Use of Herbicides).

3. Vojenska Technika (Military Technology), Prague, T (1965),
   p. 12.

5 Editorial Comment: In this connection, the following
   information was recently disclosed: testimony given to the
   Washington committee in the proclamation of the RDA on the
   For example, in 1968 the Bayer AG late January formed with
   Chemagro Corporation, an American subsidiary which ran "the
   United States' and Pharma's lead chemical for herbicides. Chemagro
   Corporation's corporation with the Army Medical Corps for 1968.

P.I.-Ts. 12/91.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY WORDS</th>
<th>LINE A</th>
<th>LINE B</th>
<th>LINE C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Warfare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison Effect</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detonating Agent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallucinogen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva Convention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>