

preservative. Each blood specimen (or blood/urine pair, if appropriate) was coded with a unique random 3-digit number. Within a short period of time -- usually 10-30 minutes, but never more than two hours -- specimens were placed in a cooler and chilled (not frozen) using ice packs. Upon return to the "base camp" (i.e., the Canadian embassy in Bangkok), the specimens were locked in a refrigerator in a secure facility.

2.5.2 Site Selection and Sample Collection

The original plan envisaged the collection of blood and urine samples from a variety of sources:

- ill (hospitalized) people in Bangkok;
- healthy Thai civilians or soldiers residing near the Thailand-Burma border and, thus, far removed from any alleged "yellow rain" incidents;
- healthy Thai civilians or soldiers residing near the northern Thailand-Laos border;
- healthy Thai civilians or soldiers residing near the Thailand-Kampuchea border;
- residents of refugee camps in Thailand close to the Thailand-Laos border, but not claiming to have been exposed to "yellow rain";
- residents of refugee camps in Thailand close to the Thailand-Kampuchea border, but not claiming to have been exposed to "yellow rain"; and
- persons claiming to have been subjected to "yellow rain" attacks in the previous six months.