

### 3.0 General Situation in Southeast Asia During February, 1982

The month of February is in the middle to later part of the "dry" season in Southeast Asia, and therefore the time for military operations.

3.1 In Kampuchea, the Vietnamese-Kampuchean troops made a concerted effort to break down the remaining Khmer Rouge resistance.

On February 11, 1982, a Vietnamese aircraft crash-landed inside Thailand in the area of Pong Namron<sup>1)</sup> (location ① on map, following page). On February 13, 1982, "the Vietnamese forces fired artillery shells with gas canisters into areas around Khao Din (Kampuchea)"<sup>1)</sup>.

A few days later (Feb. 15, 1982), five Thai border patrol policemen were killed during a clash with about 300-400 intruding Vietnamese soldiers inside Thailand<sup>2)</sup>. A spokesman of the Thai Supreme Command said that the Vietnamese were in pursuit of Khmer Rouge. This incident took place at Ban Saptali, which is also in the Pong Namron district (① on map). On February 19, 1982<sup>3)</sup>, a twin-propellered airplane, coming from Kampuchea, sprayed a light yellow chemical dust over Ban Saptali and four other villages, again in the Pong Namron district<sup>3)</sup>. This attack took place 8 km inside Thailand. The villagers were evacuated.

A day later, it was reported<sup>4)</sup> that the yellowish chemical "is unlikely to be 'Yellow Rain'". The collection of the substance was carried out without any safety measures, and leaf samples as well as parts of a tin roof were sent to a number of laboratories in Bangkok, including the Department of Clinical Microbiology, Siriraj Hospital, and the Armed Forces Institute of Medical Sciences.

A few miles north of the site of this attack, heavy fighting continued inside Kampuchea, close to Aranj Prathet (Nong Pru) (map location ②), which is the area where a Khmer Rouge camp was visited by the principal investigator on February 19, 1982. During the visit, the distant noise of artillery shelling was very noticeable.

<sup>1)</sup>The Nation (Bangkok) Feb. 17, 1982

<sup>2)</sup>The Nation (Bangkok) Feb. 19, 1982

<sup>3)</sup>Bangkok Post and The Nation, Feb. 21, 1982

<sup>4)</sup>The Nation (Bangkok) Feb. 22, 1982 and Bangkok Post, Feb. 24, 1982