

4.4 Natural Occurrence of Diseases That Cause Rapid Death in Humans and Animals

As described in Appendix V, anthrax, botulism and rabies are epizootic diseases that occur naturally in Thailand and probably also in surrounding countries. Cattle intoxications due to plant poisons are not uncommon, neither are other diseases that are prevalent in subtropical countries. None of these diseases occur with nearly the rapidity that is reported from the alleged chemical warfare attacks.

4.5 Suggestions for Verification Procedures

Diseases due to mycotoxins are a relatively new field of research and the numerous difficulties that are encountered during the elucidation of natural mycotoxin outbreaks are well documented in the literature.

In order to determine whether mycotoxins might have been used as warfare agents, a thorough knowledge of the naturally occurring mycotoxins is the basis from which aimed investigations have to start. Appendix VI provides some suggestions on how one might proceed.

4.6 Comments on the UN Experts' Report

Although the UN experts were of the opinion that their report was inconclusive, one has to admire the thoroughness and objectivity of the approach. However, a number of minor misinformations have found their way into the report which are briefly discussed in Appendix VII.