

interested organizations. As a part of this overview, it suggested that a field trip to test and validate proposed procedures under operational conditions would be beneficial.

A "case study" scenario was developed and, in March-April 1984, a Canadian team (two epidemiologists and a laboratory technician) simulated the undertaking of a field investigation in Southeast Asia, using commercially available equipment and transportation. Medical doctors proceeded to Thailand in mid-March, and meetings took place there with Thai officials and medical officers over the next two weeks. Body-fluid samples were then collected over approximately a three-week period in April.

Development and validation of the analytical procedure took much longer than expected, due to problems involved with co-extractants and the need to develop new sample clean-up procedures. In view of the large number of samples, it was necessary to schedule instrument (GC/MS) time around other higher priority work of the laboratory. It had been predicted that the testing of specimens would proceed over the next 6-12 months. As it turned out, method development took approximately 8 months and analysis was performed during the following 2 months, with the laboratory effort being terminated after 10 months. All blood samples and certain key urine samples were tested. The scientist responsible for the analysis visited Thailand and met with Thai officials and