

lated by the U.S. There were no reports of projectile vomiting, immediate onset of symptoms and immediate death ... The spectacular effects described by the U.S. in its public presentations are not supported by the Hmong.<sup>38</sup>

Dr. Schiefer joins this challenge to Washington's "perfect fit" conjecture:

Not consistent with the assumption of T-2 toxin and similar trichothecenes as principal causative agents are the reports of immediate death after spraying of "yellow rain". This group of trichothecenes will not cause immediate death unless one would assume that a vehicle, like DMSO (Dimethyl sulfoxide, a strong solvent) was used to facilitate the entrance of trichothecenes into the body. As of the day of writing of this evaluation (June 1982) there have been no reports of finding DMSO in any of the samples of alleged chemical warfare attacks.<sup>39</sup>

At Ban Vinai in May 1982, a Canadian immigration officer interviewed four emigres from Hmong villages in a river valley 25 kilometers southwest of Phu Bia mountain, who "claimed to have heard, but not seen a jet aircraft fly over their villages. They then observed a wet, yellow sticky substance fall to the ground where it formed into small beads. Several witnesses were actually hit by the substance. The witnesses claimed that a total of approximately eighty persons died in their villages, although the maximum seen by any one witness was sixteen deaths".<sup>40</sup> Three of the four men independently asserted to the Canadian official that they per-

sonally saw sixteen people die in their own village.<sup>41</sup>

Nevertheless, when the United Nations Experts Group found three of the four Canadian respondents at Ban Vinai and interviewed them six months later, their stories differed greatly. "Only one witness claimed to have seen one fatality resulting from the attack. The witness who, according to the (Canadian) submission, claimed to have observed 16 deaths, stated that this referred to 16 animals that died".<sup>42</sup> The reasons for the marked discrepancies between the Canadian and UN versions of the stated events and supposed consequences cannot be determined. But they suggest that Ottawa may have incautiously accepted other details of Hmong chemical warfare stories as well. Given the absence of any nonverbal evidence of deaths due to the chemical poisoning of the Hmong people by Vietnamese forces, the DEA Report cannot be cited to substantiate U.S. accusations of extensive chemical attacks in the Phu Bia area since 1975.

Health and Welfare Canada screened blood samples drawn from the four Ban Vinai witnesses for trichothecene toxins. The laboratory report states that the presence of trichothecenes in the blood samples "has not been established".<sup>43</sup> The bodies of two of these men were disfigured by skin lesions, but despite Ottawa's juxtaposi-