

context it is interesting to note that many alleged victims of "Yellow Rain" complain about respiratory problems many months after the initial attack<sup>1)</sup>.

The possibility that "Yellow Rain" may contain trichothecenes is further corroborated by reports of the effects on plants. The toxic effects of trichothecenes on plants are well documented<sup>2)</sup>, and from the interviews (see Appendix I), the principal investigator gained the impression that plants became yellow and died within a period of 10-14 days after a "Yellow Rain" attack. Further, it has been said that pigs which ate these yellow leaves started to vomit, an observation that would support a diagnosis of trichothecene toxicosis (see "Interviews", Appendix I).

The hypothesis that mycotoxins (trichothecenes) have been used in gas attacks is also supported by recently released information from the United States Mission to the United Nations. It was stated<sup>3)</sup> that a metabolite of T-2 toxin, the deacetylated T-2 toxin form called HT-2 toxin<sup>4)</sup>, was found in the blood of two alleged victims.

Another aspect in support of the hypothesis that trichothecenes have been used is the level of mycotoxins found in some samples from foliage which was analyzed by Dr. J. Rosen, Rutgers University<sup>5)</sup>. Dr. Rosen found deoxynivalenol (vomitoxin), T-2 toxin and diacetoxyscirpenol concentrations of 50 ppm; in addition, zearalenone was found. Those levels are unusually high when compared with findings of trichothecenes in mouldy feeds<sup>6)</sup>.

1) Verbal communications from various physicians working in refugee camps.

2) Reiss, J. Effects of mycotoxins on higher plants, algae, fungi and bacteria, pp. 119-143 in: *Mycotoxic Fungi, Mycotoxins, Mycotoxicoses*. An Encyclopedic Handbook, Vol. 3. T.D. Wyllie and L.G. Morehouse, eds. Marcel Dekker, New York and Basel, 1978.

3) United States Department of State, Special Report #98: Chemical Warfare in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. Report to the Congress from Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr., March 22, 1982.

4) Ellison, R.A., Kotsonis, F.N. *In vitro* metabolism of T-2 toxin. *Appl. Microbiol.*, 27, 423-424, 1974.

5) Transcript of ABC-TV News: Rain of Terror, Dec. 21, 1981.

6) Ueno, Y. Trichothecene Mycotoxins: Mycology, Chemistry, and Toxicology. Chapter 10, pp. 301-353 in: *Adv. Nutr. Res.*, Vol. 3. H.H. Draper, ed. Plenum Press, N.Y., 1980; and personal observations during five years of feed testing in Saskatoon.