

COLLECTION:
ACFOA Human Rights Office – East Timor files

SERIES / FOLDER GROUP
Actions / Campaigns

SUB-SERIES
Santa Cruz Massacre

FOLDER TITLE
NGO Responses – Mystery tablet

DATE RANGE
1993-1994

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STATEMENT

EML(Instruments) Pty. Ltd.
 HERMAN TECHNOLOGY PARK
 677 SPRINGVALE RD, MULGRAVE 3170
 TELEPHONE: 560.5022

EML(Instruments) Pty.
 Ltd.
 677 SPRINGVALE ROAD
 MULGRAVE VIC 3170

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
 124 NAPIER STREET
 FITZROY VIC
 3065

PERIOD

MAY 1994

ACFOA

ACCOUNT NUMBER

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
 124 NAPIER STREET
 FITZROY VIC

REF No. CUSTOMER ACFOA
 DATE MAY 1994

| DATE | DETAILS | TOTAL |
|------|-----------------|--------|
| | BROUGHT FORWARD | 320.00 |

PO by Juan

Chosen GENL

6-7-94

Per

MYSTERY TABLET

Post deli

Wassere

| BALANCE DETAILS | | | | AMOUNT DUE |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|
| 90 DAY | 60 DAY | 30 DAY | CURRENT | |
| 0.00 | 320.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 320.00 |

| AMOUNT DUE |
|------------|
| 320.00 |

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION
 WITH YOUR PAYMENT



2

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

FAXED
19.5.94
to Chris

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

Fax no: (03) 416 2746

To: ANA DE JUAN / CHRIS WENNER / JOHN MILGER

Fax no: _____ No of pages 2

Sender: PAT WALSH Date 19.5.94

Remarks _____

A REMINDER THAT THIS INVOICE HAS NOT BEEN
PAID. I FAXED DETAILED ORIGINAL TO YOU ON
28 MARCH 1994 WOULD APPRECIATE IF PAYMENT
COULD BE MADE DIRECT TO EML. PLS NOTIFY ^{ME} WHEN
THIS HAS HAPPENED

BEST WISHES *Pat Walsh*

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505

0011-44-71-3239150



EML (INSTRUMENTS) PTY LTD

(A.C.N. 007 032 331)

Herman Technology Park
677 Springvale Road
MULGRAVE VIC. 3170

Telephone: (03) 560 5022
Facsimile: (03) 560 5355
International: (+613)



FAXED
28/3/93
to Chris - Wilson
Home fax
PW

Invoice No. 679

Date: 30-12-93

ACFOA Human Rights Office
124 Napier Street
Fitzroy
VIC 3065

Attention: Mr. Pat Walsh

Your Order No. tba

INVOICE

Analysis of Tablet Sample (Part 2)

Our Laboratory Report : 9312-72

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Unit Price</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | IR Analysis of tablet sample | \$120.00 | \$120.00 |
| | | | _____ |
| | | | \$120.00 |
| | | | ===== |

Terms : 14 days

Please ensure this invoice is passed to your Accounts Payable Department.



EML (INSTRUMENTS) PTY LTD

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Herman Technology Park
677 Springvale Road
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Facsimile: (03) 560 5355
International: (+613)



Laboratory Report

No.: 9312-72

Date: 30-12-93

ACFOA Human Rights Office
124 Napier Street
Fitzroy
VIC 3065

Attention: Mr. Pat Walsh

Your Ref. tba

Project Title : Analysis of Tablet Sample (Part 2)

Total Pages in Report : 3

Sample Retention: 30 days after Report Date unless otherwise arranged

Managing Director : Dr. Vyt Garnys
Ph.D., B.Sc., MRACI, AIMM, IIAQA

Laboratory Director : J.F. Wilson
C.Chem, MRSC, MRACI

Analyst in Charge : Roland Engelhardt
B. Sc. (Chem)

9312-72

Sample Description

| EMLI# | Date Received | Sample Description |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 33655 | 14-12-93 | Tablet Sample (white, powdered) |

Analysis

The powdered sample (EMLI # 33655) was suitably prepared for infra red analysis. The sample was scanned within the region of 4000 cm^{-1} to 400 cm^{-1} and the transmission spectrum of the sample compared to a reference spectrum of paraformaldehyde.

Results

The sample (tablet) and reference (paraformaldehyde) spectra showed good spectral agreement, i.e. sample displayed predominant spectral characteristics of paraformaldehyde.

Conclusion

Infra red analysis of the sample indicates that the material may contain paraformaldehyde, a white powder with a strong pungent odour of formaldehyde. This is consistent with the olfactory examination of the sample, as it also exhibits a strong odour of formaldehyde. This observation lends further support to the infra red analysis results.

Paraformaldehyde, a polymerised form of formaldehyde, has many applications including sterilizing sick rooms, clothing, linen and sick room utensils. It is an active ingredient in some contraceptive creams and may also be used as a fumigant. ⁽¹⁾

References

- ⁽¹⁾ Merck, Index, ninth Edition 1976.

9312-72

Parameters Reported :

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Method:</u> | <u>Units:</u> | Detection Limits (+/-) | Precision (Rel. %) |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| IR Scans | EMLI | ----- | not applicable | ----- |

Parameters Reported :

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>References & Techniques</u> |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
|--------------|------------------------------------|

| | |
|----------|--|
| IR Scans | KBr pellet / IR Scan 4000 - 400 cm ⁻¹ / reference material comparison |
|----------|--|



EML (INSTRUMENTS) PTY LTD

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International: (+ 613)



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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Office and Laboratories : 677 Springvale Rd
MULGRAVE VIC. 3170

TEL (03) 560 5022
FAX (03) 560 5355

TO : Mr Pat Walsh

FAX : (03) 416 2746

OF : ACFOA Human Rights
Programme.

TEL : (03) 417 7505

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| DATE : 23.12.93 | NO. OF PAGES TO FOLLOW : C+1 |
| SENDER : R. Engelhardt | |

Subject : Oxalate Residues in Tablet Sample

Dear Sir

Draft report on tablet analysis. I hope this will be of assistance to you.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Remarks : All results in this facsimile are interim only and are transmitted as an indication subject to QC verification in our signed report.
The results should not be used for final or critical decisions.

*JUN
What has all this been about?
kind regards
PAT*

Re:- Oxalic Acid Analysis of Tablet Sample

Sample Description

| EMI.# | Date Received | Sample Description |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 33655 | 14-12-93 | Tablet Sample (white, powdered) |

Analysis

The powdered sample was suitably derivatised and analysed by capillary GC-MS for the qualitative presence of oxalic acid or inorganic oxalate salts. The sample (in duplicate), a reference standard of oxalic acid and the sample spiked with oxalic acid were tested for oxalate residues. The sample, spiked sample and reference standard (oxalic acid) were compared according to chromatographic retention and mass spectral characteristics.

Results

| EMI.# | Assay (qualitative) | Result |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 33655 | oxalic acid & oxalate salts | not detected |

Comments

The sample showed no presence of oxalic acid or inorganic oxalate salts. However a strong distinctive odour of formaldehyde was noted upon olfactory examination of the product. From this observation there exists a strong possibility that the tablet contains formaldehyde residues, probably in the form of paraformaldehyde (polymerised formaldehyde) which is a white powder with a strong pungent odour of formaldehyde.

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**C.N.R.M.
FAX MESSAGE**

TO : Pat WALSH Fax N°: 03 416 2746
 From : Juan Federer Fax N°: + 089 855622
 Date : 2 December 93 Pages: 1
 Ref : Chris Wenner Tablet

Dear Pat,

Further to our telephone conversation today, I would like to inform you that the tablet Chris Wenner brought back from his trip has been posted to you today.

According to Chris, priests in ET gave it to him saying that such tablets were fed by hospital personnel, under the orders of military people, to those rounded up after 12 November. Those who took them died shortly afterwards. Two people did not swallow the tablets, but coughed them up and run away. They gave evidence of their experience to Chris, and their tablets are the ones he brought out. Chris needs laboratory analysis certificates showing that the tablets are toxic, to prove the allegations in his forthcoming film that surviving people were deliberately poisoned after 12 November.

After much searching, I was referred to Mr Roland Engelhardt of EML Instruments, Herman Technology Park, 677 Springvale Road, Mulgrave 3170. ph 03 560 5022, fx 03 560 5355. He agreed that his company could do chemical analysis of the tablet to determine its contents.

Initially they would make a 'UCMS' test for organic toxic components. I indicated that an earlier assessment we obtained in Darwin, suggested it may contain ammonium oxalate. This test would cost somewhere between \$100 to \$150. They could also easily check obvious inorganic poisons such as arsenic, mercury etc. Mr Engelhardt added. I told him I doubted that such were present, but if it is no expense, they might check for these as well. Time needed was estimated at one week.

If all of that was inconclusive, further tests would be needed, but for this we would need cost estimates first, and would have to approve it.

Mr Engelhardt was only told that we are a Darwin group interested in human rights, and that this tablet was given to us by someone who came from a neighbouring country where it is allegedly used to inflict damage to the population. We were hoping to forward the tablet to him through a Melbourne associate, and need a written report.

Thank you for your kind help. As soon as a report is available, it needs to be faxed to Chris Wenner, (his private phone is +44 81 994 5292, fax still being installed).

Best Regards,

Juan.

*Tablet sent
13/12/93*

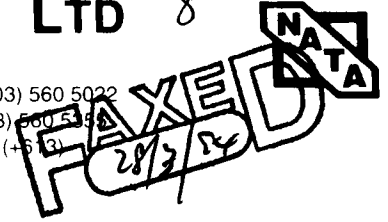


EML (INSTRUMENTS) PTY LTD 8

(A.C.N. 007 032 331)

Herman Technology Park
677 Springvale Road
MULGRAVE VIC. 3170

Telephone: (03) 560 5022
Facsimile: (03) 560 5034
International: (+61 3)



Invoice No. 663

Date: 24-12-93

ACFOA Human Rights Office
124 Napier Street
Fitzroy
VIC 3065

Attention: Mr. Pat Walsh

Your Order No. tba

INVOICE

Oxalic Acid Analysis of Tablet Sample

Our Laboratory Report : 9312-40

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Unit Price</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Qualitative Identification of oxalic acid residues in tablet sample | \$200.00 | \$200.00 |
| | | | ----- |
| | | | \$200.00 |
| | | | ===== |

Terms : 14 days

Please ensure this invoice is passed to your Accounts Payable Department.



EML (INSTRUMENTS) PTY LTD

(A.C.N. 007 032 331)

Herman Technology Park
677 Springvale Road
MULGRAVE VIC. 3170

Telephone: (03) 560 5022
Facsimile: (03) 560 5025
International: +613



FAXED

Laboratory Report

No.: 9312-40

Date: 24-12-93

ACFOA Human Rights Office
124 Napier Street
Fitzroy
VIC 3065

Attention: Mr. Pat Walsh

Your Ref. tba

Project Title : Oxalic Acid Analysis of Tablet Sample

Total Pages in Report : 3

Sample Retention: 30 days after Report Date unless otherwise arranged

Managing Director : Dr. Vyt Garnys
Ph.D., B.Sc., MRACI, AIMM, IIAQA

Laboratory Director : J.F. Wilson
C.Chem, MRSC, MRACI

Analyst in Charge : Roland Engelhardt
B. Sc. (Chem)

**Sample Description**

| EMLI# | Date Received | Sample Description |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 33655 | 14-12-93 | Tablet Sample (white, powdered) |

Analysis

The powdered sample was suitably derivatised and analysed by capillary GC-MS for the qualitative presence of oxalic acid or inorganic oxalate salts. The sample (in duplicate), a reference standard of oxalic acid and the sample spiked with oxalic acid were tested for oxalate residues. The sample, spiked sample and reference standard (oxalic acid) were compared according to chromatographic retention and mass spectral characteristics.

Results

| EMLI# | Assay (qualitative) | Result |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 33655 | oxalic acid & oxalate salts | not detected |

Comments

The sample showed no presence of oxalic acid or inorganic oxalate salts. However a strong distinctive odour of formaldehyde was noted upon olfactory examination of the product. From this observation there exists a strong possibility that the tablet contains formaldehyde residues, probably in the form of paraformaldehyde (polymerised formaldehyde) which is a white powder with a strong pungent odour of formaldehyde.

FAXED
9312-40**Parameters Reported :**

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Method:</u> | <u>Units:</u> | Detection Limits (+/-) | Precision (Rel. %) |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Oxalic Acid / Oxalates (qualitative) | EMLI | ----- | not applicable | ----- |

Parameters Reported :

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>References & Techniques</u> |
|------------------------|--|
| Oxalic Acid / oxalates | TMS derivatives / capillary GC-MS / retention and mass spectral comparisons / replicate and spiked sample analysis / reference oxalic acid analysis. |

celec

Dr Vyt Garmys
Ph.D., MRACI, AIMM, ISIAQ,
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Mulgrave, Victoria 3170
Australia
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celec

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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

Fax no: (03) 416 2746

To: DR VYT GARNYS

Fax no: _____

No of pages 2

Sender: PAT WALSH

Date 14/2/94

Remarks _____

VYT - AM FORWARDING THE FOLLOWING FAX AS
ANA DE JUAN (FOR CHRIS WENNER) HAS NOT SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT CONTACTING YOU DIRECT. THE
WHOLE MATTER IS DECIDELY BACK IN THE
PUBLIC DOMAIN.

KIND REGARDS *Pat Walsh*

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID
(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

MEMO TO: Mr Chris Wenner
FROM: Pat Walsh
DATE: 2 February 1994
SUBJECT: powder analysis

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505
Fax (03) 416 2746

Dear Chris

I am writing to advise on the state of play regarding the powder you brought from East Timor which, you are no doubt aware, Juan Federer asked me to assist with in Melbourne.

After completing a couple of analyses, the lab people asked to have a meeting with me to brief them on the whole issue and to discuss what to do next. This meeting was held yesterday following which I received the attached fax. I was completely open with them about who was involved, the circumstances and the politics of the issue.

Their principal questions are: who is their client; what will be done with their opinion and on what terms; the need for a complete analysis of the substance with associated costs; a discussion with yourself about how you came by the powder; a second opinion from another analyst and of course whether the client wishes them to continue.

My advice was simply that I was acting purely in a helping capacity and that you/John Pilger are the clients and that therefore they should begin dealing direct with you on all the matters of concern to them.

By way of background you should know that their initial findings caused them enough concern to seek me out for an extensive discussion about what they were getting themselves into. At the same time, they were very decent to deal with, and stressed their commitment to providing an opinion without fear or favour.

I pointed out that I thought there was more than one tablet (powder) and that I assumed that had been analysed but I had no idea, if so, what the result had been.

I hope this is helpful. The next step is up to you and I suggest that you deal direct with Dr Vyt Garnys.

With every best wish

Pat Walsh
Pat Walsh

14 NAPIER CLOSE, DEAKIN ACT 2600 • PRIVATE BAG 3, DEAKIN ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE: (06) 285 1816 • FAX: (06) 285 1720 • EMAIL: APC Networks peg:acfoa
President: John Mavor • Executive Director: Russell Rollason

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Consulting Enterprises in Technology

Cetec Pty. Ltd.

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677 Springvale Road
Mulgrave, Victoria 3170
Australia

Telephone (03) 560 5022

Facsimile: (03) 560 5355
International: (+613)

Fax (03) 560 5355

2 February 1994

Australian Council for Overseas Aid
124 Napier Street
Fitzroy 3065

Fax 416-2746
Phone 417-7505

Attention: Mr. Pat Walsh
The Director, Human Rights in the Region

Further to our discussion today and your kind description of the background for the need to analyse the submitted tablet powder samples, we propose the following actions:

1. Clarify who is the client able to receive report and be responsible for invoice.
2. Discuss background and requirements with ultimate users of our information i.e probably Chris Wenner, British Journalist.
3. Discuss if comparative analyses have been done elsewhere.
4. Further analyses to better determine the composition of the tablet would be as follows:

What was the original appearance/markings on the table.

| | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| 4.1 | Metals screen | |
| | a) Majors - Na, K, Ca, Mg, | \$200 |
| | b) Minors - Hg, As, Pb, Cd, Cu, Zn, Fe | \$300 |
| 4.2 | Crystalline Components | |
| | X-Ray Diffraction Scan | \$250 |
| 4.3 | General Organic Scan | |
| | a) Gas Chromatography - Mass Spectrometry - Pyrolysis | \$500 |
| | b) Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen | \$100 |
| | c) Paraformaldehyde | \$100 |
| 4.4 | Communication and Reporting | <u>\$500</u> |
| | Budget (approximately) | \$2000 |


CETEC PTY LTD (Consulting Enterprises In Technology)

2

- 5.0 If not done, all or part of above to be cross checked by an alternative laboratory of our choice.
- 6.0 Work to date **\$320**
(for oxalate by GCMS and paraformaldehyde by IR)

We propose to release this report subject to our approved nominated distribution and subject to the above action.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Vyt Garnys
Ph.D., A.R.A.C.I., A.I.M.M., I.S.I.A.Q.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

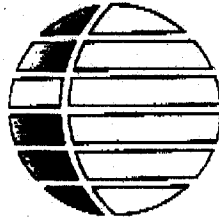
CHRIS WENNER

Phone home : 44 - 81 - 994 5292
 office : 44 - 81 - 847 4580
 central tv: #4 - 71 - 637 4602

fax personal office : 44 - 81 - 847 1779

central tv : 44 - 71 - ~~323~~ 9150
 (if its urgent write a covering letter to
 either ANA de SUAN or DAVID MONROE
 asking them to pass on to him)

Central Productions Ltd
46 Charlotte Street
London
W1P 1LX



**CENTRAL
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TELEFAX

14
Telephone 071-637 4602
Telex 291721
Fax 071-580 7780

FAXED
6 Vyt Garry

TO: PAT WALSH
FAX NO: 010 613 416 2746
FROM: Ana De Juan
OUR FAX: (44-71)-580-7780
DATE: 9 February 1994

PAGES TO FOLLOW INC THIS SHEET

If you have any problems receiving this fax please call:
(44-71) 637-4602

MESSAGE

Dear Pat Walsh,

THE TABLET

We have now, through the Metropolitan Police Forensic Laboratory finally discovered that the tablet is para-formaldehyde. Of the many doctors and specialists we have spoken to, every one of them has said that under no circumstances should anyone ever be given these tablets.

So, please do not go ahead with any more research into this.

If you would like more information on this, please let me know.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Ana De Juan



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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID
(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

13 December 1993

Mr Roland Engelhardt
EML Instruments
Herman Technology Park
677 Springvale Rd
Mulgrave 3170

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
122 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505

Dear Roland

Following our phone conversation today, I am forwarding the tablet I spoke of for your chemical examination.

As agreed, it would be useful if the results of your initial tests could be made known to us before Christmas. I would appreciate receiving a copy of your report to Dr Federer by fax to my number (03) 416 2746, as soon as you can oblige.

Thankyou for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

(Mr) Pat Walsh
DIRECTOR, ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM