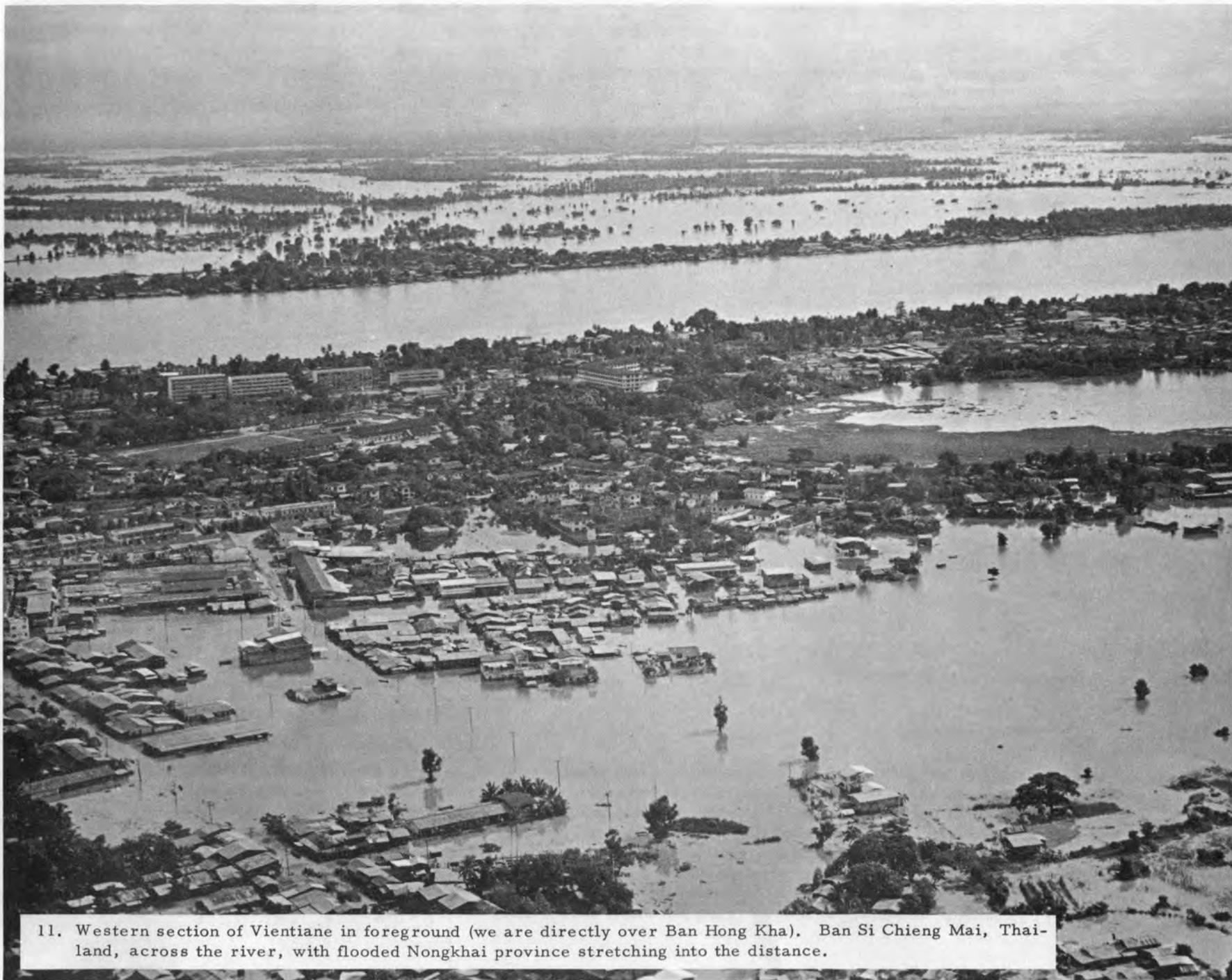




10. Looking north up Lane Xang Avenue from a spot above the Royal Palace in Vientiane, August 25, 1971. To the left of the Monument is the USAID complex in the American Embassy's Na Hai Diao compound. At right center, Vientiane's morning market is in full blast, and beyond it the huge Ministry of Interior building. A secondary system of dikes, within the city, protected this area from extensive flooding -- the main commercial and governmental section of the city and the largest part of its population. The water that topped the dike just upriver from Wattay was kept to the north of the main city, flowing from left to right across the top of the picture, joining in the far distance with the backflow from the flooded areas downstream from Vientiane. The Mekong River -- its bank almost directly beneath us -- flows from left to right, perpendicular to Lane Xang Avenue.



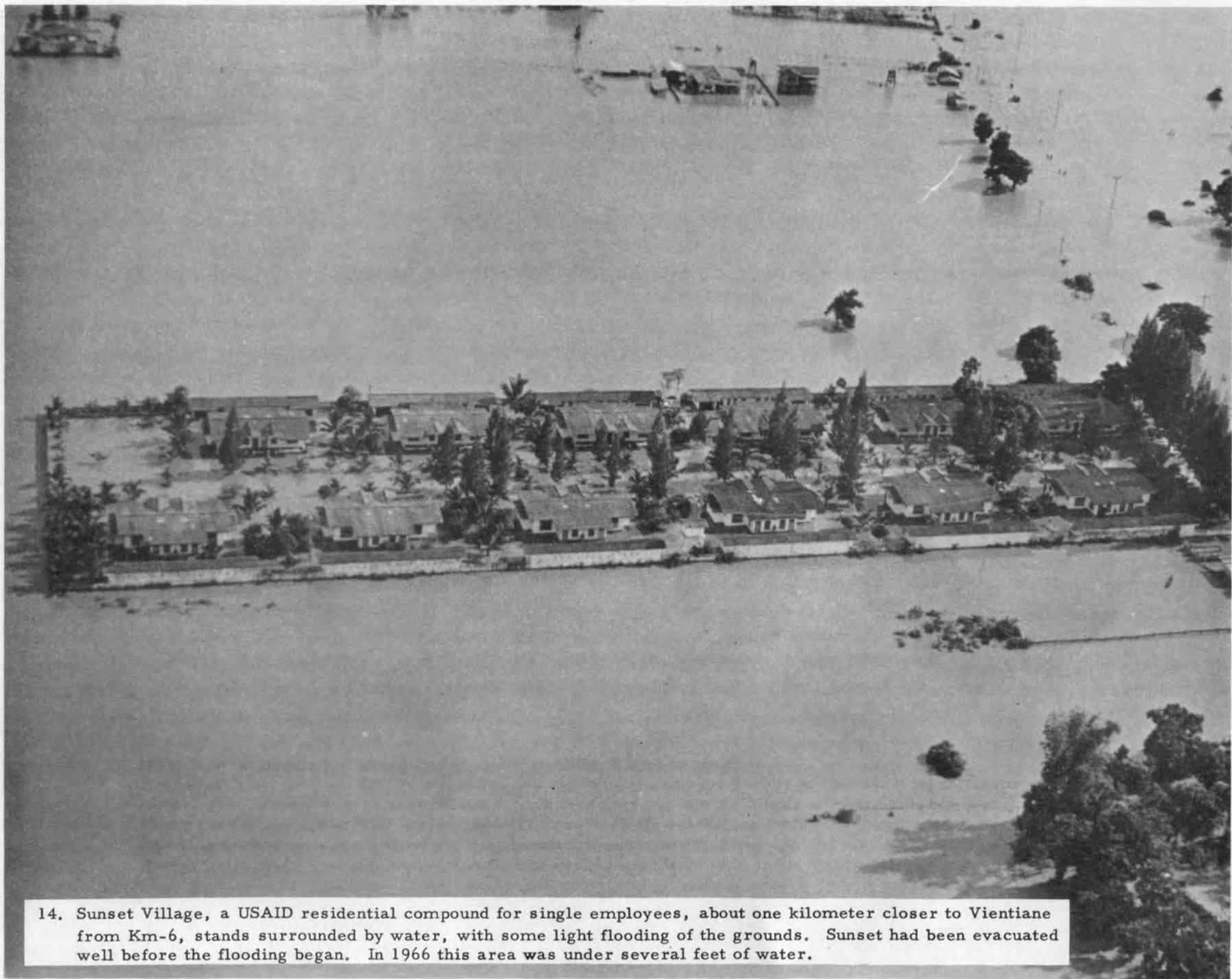
11. Western section of Vientiane in foreground (we are directly over Ban Hong Kha). Ban Si Chieng Mai, Thailand, across the river, with flooded Nongkhai province stretching into the distance.



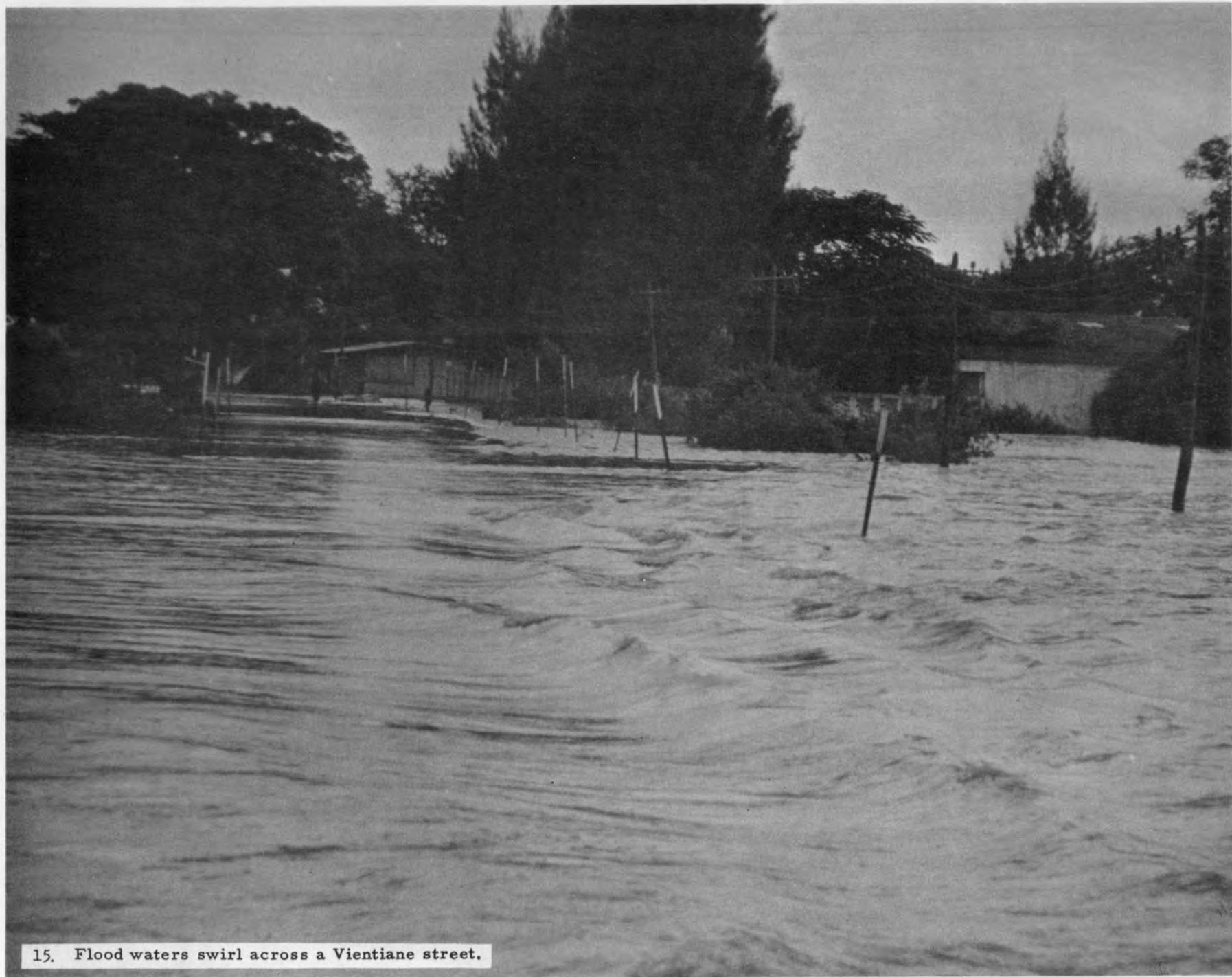
12. Thadeua road, the main highway south toward the Thadeua-Nongkhai ferry from Vientiane, with entrance to Chinaimo military base at extreme right. About 50 cm. of water over road.



13. Seen from a point directly over the new (under construction) town houses at USAID residential compound at KM-6, Vientiane. The National Highway cuts across the upper part of the picture, north to the left. When this picture was taken on August 25, transportation between KM-6 and the city was being maintained by means of 6x6 trucks, equipped with seats. The dry road, cutting across the picture just below center, is the perimeter road outside KM-6, running toward the radio station and the power substation behind KM-6. Although floodwaters reached the gate to KM-6 (center left) and flooded the houses in the annex (along perimeter road), there was no flooding in KM-6 itself. Note swimming pool at lower left.



14. Sunset Village, a USAID residential compound for single employees, about one kilometer closer to Vientiane from Km-6, stands surrounded by water, with some light flooding of the grounds. Sunset had been evacuated well before the flooding began. In 1966 this area was under several feet of water.



15. Flood waters swirl across a Vientiane street.



FLOOD WATCH OFFICER'S ROOM  
GUEST HOUSE 312  
Tel. 6168



Handwritten notes and a printed document are pinned to the wall to the right of the clock.

A printed document is pinned to the wall above the desk area.

Another printed document is pinned to the wall on the far right.



16. When the Mekong reached 11.5 meters a flood watch was established on a 24-hour schedule, manned during the night by two officers. It was located in the USAID emergency action room, where there is access to all voice radio channels used by the Mission, and to the SEACOM telephone system. At regular intervals, flood information and instructions to Mission personnel were broadcast over citizens band Channel 9, which is reserved for emergency action use by the U.S. Mission. All Mission personnel (Americans) are supplied with CB-9 receiving sets, and during the emergency everyone listened faithfully to Wilma Ditter, Office of Management secretary, whose other role is JANO (Joint Alert and Notification Officer) radio operator. Hunter Fitzgerald, USAID Educational Advisor, is taking his turn at the flood watch.



17. Every truck became a bus in Vientiane.



18. Another Vientiane street, showing the rush of the current.