



FACTS

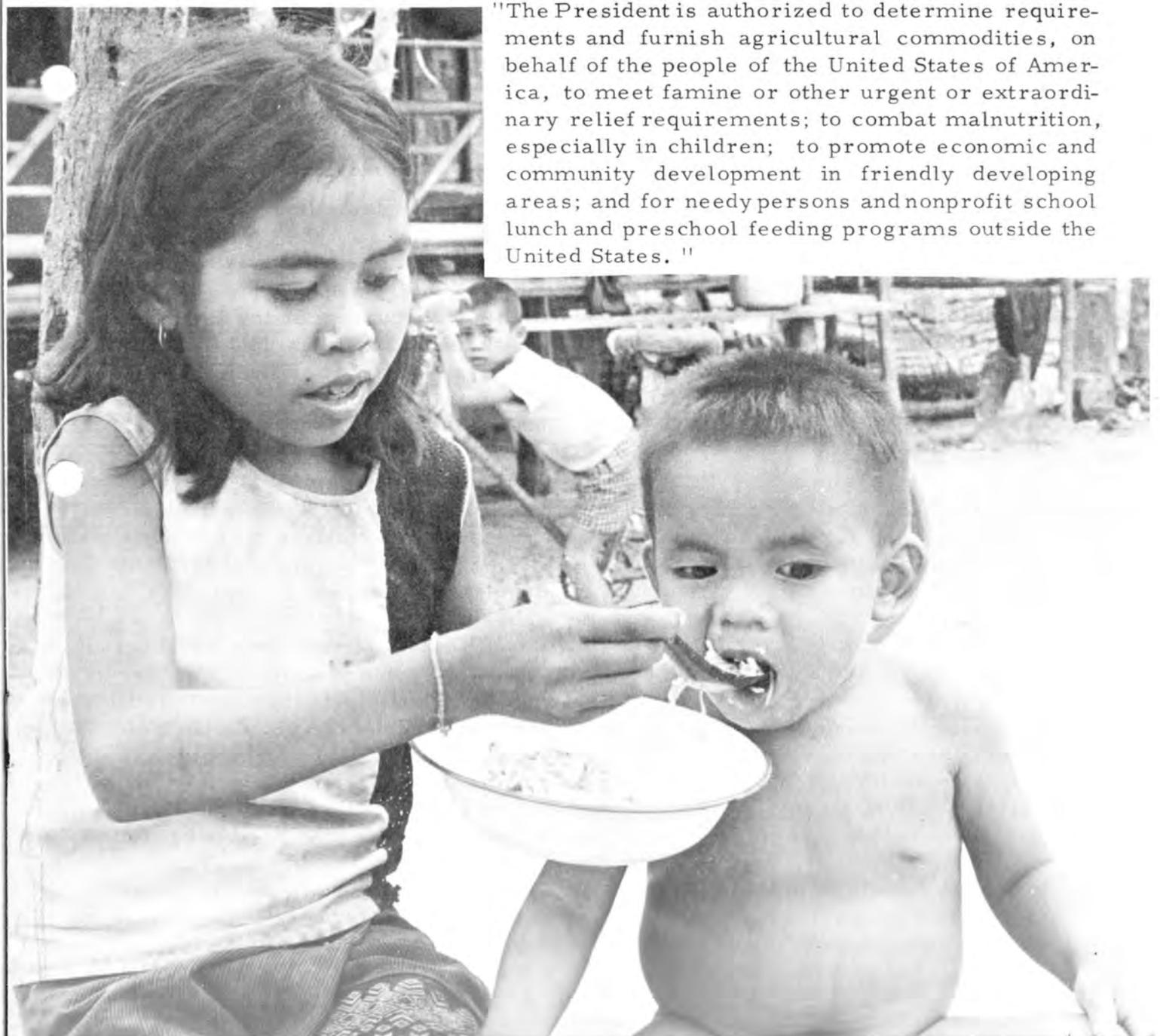
PL-480 LAOS REPORT

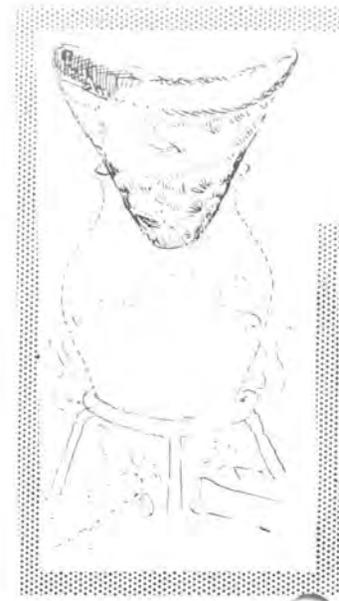
USAID Mission to Laos

PHOTOGRAPHS

Over the past five years, the United States has shipped to Laos 28,088 MT of PL-480 foodstuffs: cornmeal, bulgur wheat, flour, wheat soya blend (WSB), corn soya milk (CSM), nonfat dry milk, vegetable oil. These PL-480 foods help to feed refugees and other people in need in Laos. They are provided by the U.S. Government under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as Amended, Public Law 480, Title II, Section 201 which reads:

"The President is authorized to determine requirements and furnish agricultural commodities, on behalf of the people of the United States of America, to meet famine or other urgent or extraordinary relief requirements; to combat malnutrition, especially in children; to promote economic and community development in friendly developing areas; and for needy persons and nonprofit school lunch and preschool feeding programs outside the United States. "





PL-480 food being distributed at Ban Houie Sai, in the northwestern portion of Laos.

Commodity donations under Title II are made under government-to-government agreement, through American nonprofit voluntary agencies, or through multilateral organizations such as the World Food Program of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations. Laos participates in the PL-480 program through two of these channels for the transfer of Title II commodities---under government-to-government agreement and through the nonprofit voluntary agency, Catholic Relief Services.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development (AID) administer the Title II program. The Department of Agriculture determines the types, quantities, and value of the commodities that are available for shipment and arranges the ocean transportation except for those commodities that are shipped by voluntary agencies.

Program operations are the responsibility of AID and AID overseas Missions which, after a request from the government of the country in which they are located, submit a proposal to AID for that country's participation in the Title II program. These proposals are based on the food needs of the people. In 1966, when refugees in Laos numbered approximately 125,000, Laos and the United States entered into the government-to-government agreement under which PL-480 Title II commodities are "furnished by the United States to the Royal Lao Government for the relief and resettlement of these displaced persons."

In kind and quantity of Title II commodities furnished under the government-to-government agreement, the PL-480 program in Laos encompasses two phases: the initial phase from 1966 through 1969 and the expanded program of

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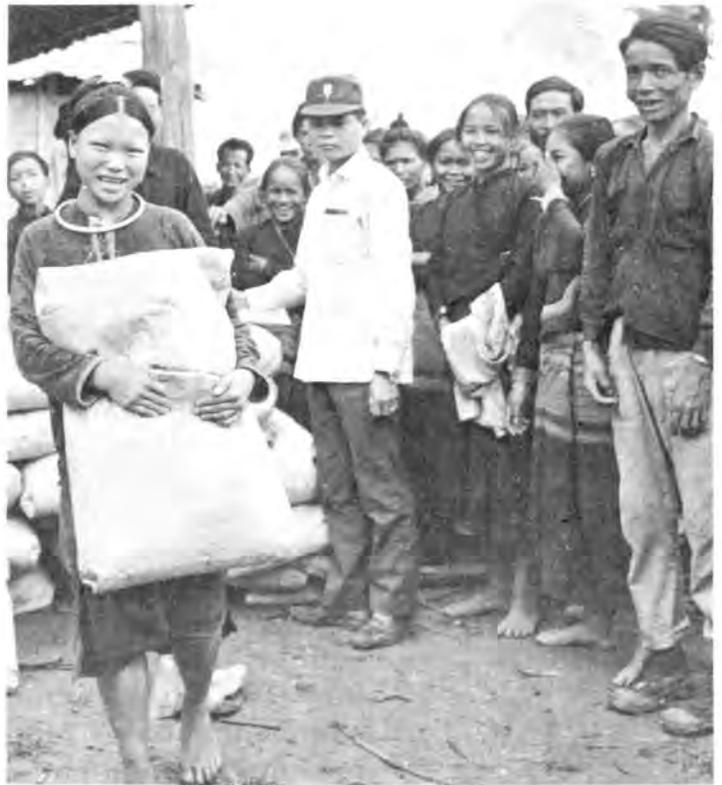
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PL-480 foods adapt easily to the Lao method of cooking. Noodles and bulgur wheat mix readily with rice; corn meal is soaked, wrapped in banana leaves and then steamed.

the present phase. During the three years from 1966 through 1969, the United States shipped to Laos 11,650 MT of Title II commodities: 8,230 MT of cornmeal, 350 MT of vegetable oil, and 3,070 MT of bulgur wheat. These commodities were distributed among approximately 100,000 refugees and 60,000 victims of the 1966 flood on the Mekong River.

In late 1969, when refugees in Laos numbered over 200,000, the PL-480 program was expanded in quantity and kind of commodities provided under Title II. Compared with an annual average of 3,500 MT for the previous three years, the expanded program called for 8,456 MT of Title II commodities in 1971 and for 11,850 MT in 1972. In addition to cornmeal, bulgur wheat, flour, and vegetable oil, the program includes nonfat dry milk and the high-protein WSB and CSM. These high-protein foods are distributed among the refugees to increase caloric and protein intake.

Caloric and protein requirements are based on international nutrition standards; however, local conditions and the experience of the USAID medical staff working with refugees also apply. Refugees on full food allowance receive 500 gm of glutinous rice per person per day with periodic issues of canned meat and salt. As a replacement for rice, a target has been established that will provide up to 50 percent of the calories in refugee rations; concentrated food preparations such as WSB and CSM now replace 30 percent of the protein requirement. These standard



Above: A Thai Dam girl of the hill tribes receives a sack of cornmeal.

Below: A hill tribe family samples cornmeal prepared in a dish very similar to Italian-style polenta.





At the noodle factory, machines cut up dough into long strands of noodles which are then taken to large drying rooms where currents of circulating air dry out the noodles before they are packed for shipment to the PL-480 food distribution sites.



requirements are altered among those refugees who suffer from malnutrition, intestinal parasites, and endemic malaria, or those who are engaged in hard manual labor. Under these conditions, PL-480 foods are used to supplement the basic ration.

An estimated 276,000 refugees will receive PL-480 foods on a replacement basis during 1972. At present, PL-480 foods replace the rice ration at 40 sites on the Vientiane Plain at a monthly rate of 7 kg of PL-480 foods for 8 kg of rice. During 1972, the expanded PL-480 Title II program, if realized fully, will achieve a foreign exchange saving of \$1.5 million by reducing the requirement for commercial purchase of rice and protein supplement.

With the exception of cornmeal, vegetable oil, and flour to a degree, the Title II commodities introduced under the expanded program were unknown among the Lao. These new foods were included in the program for two reasons: their high nutrition value and their adaptability to substitution for the ingredients of familiar foods.

Noodles are manufactured in Vientiane distribution among the refugees under a USAID contract with a Lao company. The noodles are made from an enriched formula which consists of 10 percent WSB, 5 percent nonfat dry milk, and 85 percent wheat flour. The result is a noodle of 15 percent high-quality protein content. In their manufacture, locally procured salt produced in Vientiane Province is used at the rate of 150 MT a year. The company produces 10 MT of noodles per day; its capacity is being expanded to produce 14 MT per day to meet increasing demand. The noodles are trucked or airdropped to refugee sites. About 3,000 MT have been distributed to date; distribution is at the rate of about 300 MT each month.

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Since the first PL-480 foods began to arrive in Laos, home economists of the Royal Lao Government have worked with home demonstration agents in teaching the use of these ingredients in preparing foods familiar to the Lao: Among the Meo and other hill tribes of Laos, cornmeal prepared as polenta and as corn fritters; among the Lao, noodles for soups and fried noodles. The training sessions held in Vientiane are attended by home demonstration agents from the provinces and by refugee girls who return to their villages to teach the other women of the villages how to use the new ingredients.

Since 1968, PL-480 textiles have been used to help provide clothing for refugees. A total of 517,920 meters of cotton cloth and 17 bales of raw cotton have been shipped under Title II. Clothes for refugees are produced at two locations in Laos. At Ban Houei Sai in northern Laos, refugee women attend sewing classes where they make clothes for their families and for other refugees under the supervision of a home economist of the Ministry of Social Welfare. In the small town of Thakhek near the provincial capital of Savannakhet in central Laos, refugee women cut the cloth at a building on the USAID compound. The material, cut to patterns for shirts, pants, blouses and skirts, is then issued as piecework to women in the refugee villages. The women who participate in this small cottage industry earn about Kip 8,000 (\$13.35) a month, often the only cash income in the family.

PL-480 Title II commodities are shipped from the United States to Bangkok, the ocean port of entry for Laos. From Bangkok, they are trucked 400 miles



Cartons of nonfat dry milk being unloaded at a USAID depot for redistribution to PL-480 food-issuing sites.

A home demonstration agent supervises the preparation of the Lao food kha non, using PL-480 foods. The milk in the bag (lower right) is reconstituted nonfat dry milk.



across Thailand to Nongkhai and from there by ferry to Thanaleng, the port of entry for Laos on the Mekong River near Vientiane. PL-480 commodities are stored in two USAID warehouses; commodity withdrawals are by joint authorization of USAID and the Royal Lao Government Ministry of Social Welfare.

The first PL-480 foods shipped to Laos were distributed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) under an agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Until 1966, CRS acted as consignee for the PL-480 foods which USAID distributed among refugees.



During its 15 years in Laos, CRS has distributed 17,772 MT of PL-480 foods to schools, institutions, hospitals, orphanages, and destitute families. Beginning with a few hundred people in 1957, CRS now distributes 200 MT of Title II commodities a year among 58,600 people. These commodities consist of bulgur wheat, rolled oats, flour, CSM, WSB, nonfat dry milk, and vegetable oil. The recipients are primarily nursing and expectant mothers, children, the ill, and destitute families. In its work with the refugees, CRS distributes PL-480 foods as a replacement for rice among 36,000 refugees on the Vientiane Plain.

RLG home economists conduct classes for home demonstration agents on how to substitute the new PL-480 foods for traditional ingredients, after which the agents pass on this information to the village women by actual cooking demonstrations.



Upper left: Boxes of cotton cloth being opened at the USAID compound, Thakhek. Upper right: At Ban Houei Sai, a refugee girl learns how to make clothing with a sewing machine. Below: Refugee women learn basic sewing techniques.



PL - 480 TITLE II FOOD PROGRAM

December 1969 - August 1972

Commodity	Quantity MT	Value US \$
Cornmeal	7,000	672,900
Bulgur wheat	2,000	187,400
Flour	5,100	518,800
WSB	1,678	316,700
CSM	1,778	363,100
Nonfat dry milk	1,310	1,030,150
Vegetable oil	1,440	609,200
Total	20,306 <u>a/</u>	\$ 3,698,250

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Of this total, 10,893 MT have arrived in Laos, with the remaining 9,413 MT scheduled for delivery by June 1973.

PL - 480 TITLE II COTTON, 1968 - 1972

Commodity	Quantity		Value US \$
	Meters	Bales	
Cotton, raw		17	1,600
Broadcloth	360,000		
Muslin	17,920		
Denim	140,000		328,400
Total	517,920	17	\$ 330,000



August 1972