

July 31, 1967

TO: Mr. E. G. Stouff, A/ADRD
THRU: Dwane L. Hammer, AAC/LP *DWH*
FROM: George A. Ridenour, CDAA/Sayaboury
SUBJECT: Monthly Narrative Report for July, 1967
(cover addition to project report forms)

Sayaboury Non-Cluster

This report concerns only those activities outside of Muong Phiang cluster with which I have had time to become involved since appointment as CDAA/Sayaboury.

Sayaboury Market Construction: This project has not been reported on since approval of the activity plan. When this reporter has gathered the needed information from the Sayaboury RIG officials, appropriate project report forms will be completed detailing past progress. In brief, as of this date, considerable sand and gravel has been hauled to the construction site, the old market building is now being raised by Travaux Public, and all commodities and construction equipment are on hand in Sayaboury. PWD carpenter foremen are expected to arrive early in August to initiate actual construction.

Refugee Relief and Resettlement: 500-600 refugees have moved from the Hong Sa area to near Xiong Hone, reportedly of their own volition for purposes of farming more fertile land abundant in the Xiong Hone valley. I have not yet visited the area, but have forwarded all relevant correspondence received by the Sayaboury Khoueng office to the Refugee Relief and Resettlement Branch. The Luang Prabang area operations officer, Mr. Dakan, is expected to ground survey the refugees' needs and determine the amount of relief support warranted on the part of USAID-RIG offices.

Muong Phiang Cluster

Significant Events and Accomplishments: For detailed reports of activities of the public health service, veterinary service, agriculture extension service, and home economics service, please see the attached narrative reports of Mr. Constancio Ariola, OB Public Health Nurse, Mr. Fidel Tamayo, USAID Contract livestock technician, Mr. Richard Augspurger, IVS Agriculturalist, and Mrs. Joanne Augspurger, IVS Home Economist, and the accompanying project report forms related to their respective project activities.

Other information related to agricultural development activity and extension activities in the cluster contained in the reports of Mr. Edward Fallon, ADO/Sayaboury and Mr. Willson Lane, Agriculture Extension/Sayaboury, and progress on continued construction of the Hia-Nakok irrigation system is reported in an attached report form.

Bueng Phiang Training Center Activities

Public Health (see Constancio Ariola's report) The English version of the training manual and syllabus for mother and child health training is nearing completion in draft. This draft will be forwarded to USAID/PHD and OB/Vientiane for technical approval early in August. Color transparency photographs were taken of the visual aid material.

Home Economics (see Joanne Augspurger's report) The AP to support a home economics training program in clothing construction has been completed in draft for submission to Vientiane offices following obtainment of local signatures the first week in August.

Livestock Management (see Fidel Tamayo's report and project report forms) Formal evaluation procedures are now finalized for quantifiably measuring the degree of success or failure of the training given villa, or livestock raisers under AP 19. When all materials are translated into Lao and their use mastered by the resident RIG Veterinary Service Agents, Fidel Tamayo will be transferred to other parts of Laos for the organization of similar training endeavors. This move is anticipated to occur in late August. Color transparency photographs were taken of the visual aids.

Village Agricultural Training-AP 20 AP 20 was approved during the month to support the training of farmer leaders in all cluster villages in the techniques of improved rice production and irrigation water management techniques. The approach of the original plan may be altered considerably for the initial training efforts in order to use AP 20 to directly support achievement of the cluster's goals for hectares under dry season rice production this coming dry season.

Construction Skills Training This aspect of the cluster's school construction projects is very encouraging. Eleven of the original twelve trainees selected are still participants in the program and are satisfactorily scoring in both the theoretical and practical skills of their on-the-job training.

Information Program Training (see project report form of Nancy Gdenour) Two trainees from Dong Heng, Savannakhet, received Bueng Phiang's three week practical course in the operation of a cluster newspaper and information program. The two Lao trainees were RDD field assistants, Outha and Somphong.

CRA Village Level Workers In Service Training The four CRA worker trainees from Muong Phiang Cluster returned from CRA/VTE pre-service training the first week of the month. A four month on-the-job training schedule has been organized and is presently in effect to enable the village workers to completely comprehend the operations of each technical service working in the cluster. This training plan coordinates the programs of the RIG services and this writer has been pleased with the positive response of each service in assisting with the orientation training of the village workers.

Market in Muong Phiang As a result of a cluster staff meeting of all chiefs of service chaired by the Mai Dan of Muong Phiang on July 18, general agreement was reached to have all personnel place major emphasis to encourage the use of the Muong Phiang market building by the cluster villagers. The Buddhist holiday, July 21, was set as the first day of the market and a major promotion campaign was waged on July 19-20 to notify all villagers in Tasseng Muong Phiang to bring produce for sale to the market on July 21. An impressive amount of produce was sold during the morning and a regular market lasting one hour early each morning has been instituted as a result of the promotional opening on July 21. Continued promotional efforts will be made to increase the use of the market for the purposes it was intended to be used when it was constructed.

Refugee Relief and Resettlement Enough rice has now been located locally to feed the Nam Pang refugee village until their rice harvest. Using project advance funds for purchase of relief rice in the local area, we have thus been able to effect a considerable saving over the cost of shipping relief rice from Vientiane.

The blacksmith tool program has virtually been silenced by the smiths' work in their own fields this month. Production will hopefully resume in August.

Only eight Meo farmers from Ham Hia, of the original twenty two who agreed to plant paddy this season, have actually planted paddy rice as of this date.

Some of the others are merely idly waiting for the crawler tractor working on the Hia-Makok irrigation system to clear their farmlots for them, while others are still attempting the land clearing job by hand. Neither method is desirable, but the tractor has remaining work on the canal system before more land can be cleared using the tractor. Hopefully, the tractor can assist in clearing more farm lots during August for those Meo farmers who have evidenced a sincere desire to help themselves first.

Administrative Support Activity Construction of the new motor pool-garage-generator house complex is eighty percent completed. Fences are being moved to enlarge the area needed for parking and maintenance of vehicles.

Guest rooms have been remodeled in the cluster center building to provide room for four visiting technicians overnight in Muong Phiang. Guest House kitchen facilities have been improved, and increased office space has been made possible by rearrangement of partitions in the main building. Storage bins for project commodities are being constructed in the main building's storeroom. All carpentry work is being accomplished by the area's staff MTE carpenter.

A request for a new 6 KVA diesel generator to serve as standby and alternate to our larger generator was granted, and the new generator has been received and installed.

Visitors and TDY Technicians to Muong Phiang Cluster During July

July 3-5	Kenneth Meyers, Engineering Aid, R/D
July 5-8	Richard and Judy Stuke, IVS/D
July 11-13	Mrs. Marge Huxtable, USAID/CD, Dong Hene

GR:ss/LF