

TO: Mr. Chester Brown, COP/IVS Vte. July 31, 1967
FROM: Robert L. Grover, F.A.T. Muong Nane IVS
SUBJECT: Monthly Report July 1967

Early this month attended USAID Ag. meeting in Vientiane. We were informed as to the Mission's goal in rice production in Laos and the part IVS is expected to play in achieving this goal.

Checked over the seed plots of Sampathong and IR-8 in Muong Nane with Lao agent. It becomes increasingly evident that the Lao Ag. Agents constitute the biggest hurdle to overcome in bringing improved rice growing practices to the attention of the ultimate rice producer. The information brought back to the Muong by the Agents from rice demonstrations in other Muongs is inaccurate, this accompanied by the Ag. Agent's lack of motivation creates a real threat to the successful completion of rice demonstrations.

The lack of a definite plan for distribution of fertilizer as well as timely transportation of fertilizer could mean that the program would fall short of anticipated goals. In order for this to jell into a "go-go" program - definitive action by All in Agriculture, from the top down, will be needed to make it possible for the IVSer to carry out a successful program.

Definite enthusiasm shown by the farmers of Muong Nane for more dams and more irrigated paddies is the one bright spot this month.

Security: Due to increased activity of the Unfriendlies - steps have been taken in this Muong to assure the security of the Americans present. It is quite evident that these Lao soldiers are lacking in training in regards to combating counter-insurgency; however, continuing communication with all protective branches concerned, gives us some measure of security, but not, as yet, at a really desirable level.