

IVS/EDU

TO : Mr. Joseph A. Hendenhall, Director

FROM : Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet.

SUBJECT : Monthly Activities Report, July 1967

GENERAL :

Construction projects in the Savannakhet area were left practically idle in many villages where the populace has begun to work in the fields. In many cases, these farmers are doing so in hopeful anticipation of sufficient rainfall for transplanting because as of the end of July rainfall was far below normal for this region. No serious crop damages have been reported, however many seed beds are getting pretty high and many rice fields have barely enough water in them to sustain plant life.

The population census in Savannakhet went into full swing during the month and collection of census material appeared to be a little ahead of schedule. IVSer Jan Wilczek has been working with this project at the ground level and will phase into the Public Health Program as soon as it is completed.

The American Community in Savannakhet held a July 4th picnic for RIG civilian and military officials as well as many of Savannakhet's leading citizens. The picnic was held in the spacious surroundings of the AC's house and from outward appearance seemed to be successful and worthy of repetition.

This AC abandoned his post during the last two weeks of July and enjoyed a relaxed vacation in Thailand. It was a little injurious to his pride, however very encouraging from the workload standpoint, that his services were not found to be indispensable.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS -

1. Agriculture

*Irregular*

- a. Seven IR-8 demonstrations sites, consisting of 28,000 m<sup>2</sup>, were transplanted during the month. Approximately 200 people attended the transplanting at Ban Nong Hong at the invitation of Colonel Nouphe, GM 18 Commander.
- b. One 20m x 8 m pond in Ban Nong Hong and one 16m x 16m pond in Ban Bak ( Kengkok Cluster ) have been stocked with 1,100 and 800 carp fingerling tails. Two other ponds are being constructed and will be stocked with fish already purchased under an SRDP. A demonstration of fish raising in paddies was also started in the Kengkok Cluster during the month.

- c. The Nong Bok Irrigation Project work has been completed until the beginning of the next dry season. At Bung San Tha, the dam, with a steel culvert and control gates, is finished as is the large culvert, under the main road, with the control gates in place.
- d. Construction of the rice seed warehouse in Nong Bok is virtually completed.
- d. Work was again started on the irrigation ditch in Ban Nong Hong. This project was abandoned temporarily when Mr. Modesto and his crew were transferred to the Nong Bok project.
- f. On July 26th, Messrs Don Davis, Van Henderson and various members of the Provincial Agriculture staff made a preliminary investigation of a potential irrigation project on the Champhone River between Lahanam and Kengkok. This project was recommended by Mr. Phiak, one of the leading agriculture exponents in this province, and if successful would make approximately 8,000 hectares available for rice production.

## 2. Education -

- a. In-Service Training Course for Primary School Teachers was held during the month. Thirty five teachers, as well as five soldiers, who serve as instructors in this area, completed this three week course.
- b. Construction of the Technical School, Savannakhet, addition continues. One metal brake and one drilling machine, received from USAID/Vte were delivered to the school.
- c. Temporary schools in the Refugee Resettlement program, Khammouane Province, have almost all been completed and it is certain that all eleven will be ready when school opens in September.

## 3. Public Health -

- a. A Public Health warehouse and office was established in Savannakhet in preparation for the arrival of a Direct Hire Public Health Advisor.
- b. The dispensaries at Ban Nakala and Dong Doc Maj Lahanam Cluster were staffed with Medics during the month.
- c. The New dispensary at Hin Boun 1, Khammouane Province, as well as the second dispensary at Ban Dong Kasene Forward

Area, were completed during the month.

- d. Dr. Weldon and Mr. Batholomew inspected dispensaries and the Public Health Program in both Khammouane and Savannakhet Provinces.

#### 4. Public works -

- a. One drilled well was completed at the Phonesavanh School, Savannakhet, before the well rig was moved to Luang Prabang. Two additional wells, programmed for Savannakhet City, were temporarily abandoned because local officials and this Regional Headquarters could not agree on sites to be selected.
- b. Public works assistance to Nong Bok irrigation project and the dispensary at Dong Kasene is completed. Crews remain in the Dong Hene Cluster, working on Muong Phalane reconstruction and the Cluster Center Building in Dong Hene. A large crew remains in the Lahnam Cluster working the saw mill there and eight other on-going construction projects.

#### 5. Refugee Relief -

Perhaps the single most encouraging break-through in administering the refugee relief program has been the ability of the RIG/SW staff, under the direction of newly assigned Mr. Bounhot, to take an increasing role in the management of the whole program. Two field counterparts for IVSers, working in the program, have been designated; one for the northern area, out of Nam Thone, and one for the southern area, out of Song Hong. These two young men both seem interested and capable, and have been designated as counterparts for all phases of the field work, including the clothing, crafts and shingle programs.

#### VISITORS :

1. Mr. Carlson, O/AMI, visited the Savannakhet Sawmill Cooperative on July 3rd.
2. Mr. Hurwich, DCM, and Colonels Balwin and Miller, ANCA, visited Savannakhet on July 5th. Colonel Miller returned to this region for area orientation during the period 16-18 July.
3. Dr. Andrus, Chief, ED Div, and Mr. Doug Harris, Vocational Advisor, visited Savannakhet and the In Service Teacher's Training Course.
4. Drs. Sugitani and Ishii, Fisheries Team, visited Savannakhet and Kengkok to assist in stocking selected fishponds.

#### ⑧ Inclosures/Monthly Reports