

TO : Mr. R. J. Stone, AC/Southeast
THRU : J. T. Wright, C-1/Thakhek
FROM : Val Peterson, C-1/Thakhek
SUBJECT : Monthly Report July 1967.

311 people (102 families) arrived from 4 muongs this month. 57 tons of rice and 22 tons PL-480 were distributed to approximately 7,000 people. Delays in PL-480 shipments have caused problems in that we have now been unable to provide any food-for-work for 4 months, and this month it was necessary to distribute rice two weeks prior to distributing PL-480, which means people had eaten most of their rice before receiving the PL-480 - a difficult situation.

A generally encouraging month, as rains have come to keep most of the rice alive - in fact, though a few people lost as much as half their rice crop during the mid-season dry spell, most of the rice looks exceptionally good this year. The IVSers (Russells and Percival and assistants) are now carrying the major portion of resettlement program execution. Thus, in spite of difficulties due to transportation shortages, resettlement is progressing.

Perhaps the single most encouraging thing has been the ability of the RIG/SW staff, under Mr. Bounhot, to take an increasing role in the management of the whole program. One of the most important results of this has been the designation of two field counterparts for the IVSers; 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.

The new dispensary at Hin Boun # 1 is completed, and repair of the one at Song Hong is under way, the latter begun by the villagers only after the medic and nurse decided to move to another village until the people rebuilt the delapidated old temporary dispensary. The IVS house at Nam Thone should be completed next month, as should the new field house at Song Hong.

The primary school inspector has expressed pleasure with the progress being made by the IVSers and their RIG/SW counterparts in getting the temporary schools built in many sites, for which he asked our help. Many of the buildings are nearly complete, and all 11 should be ready for school in September. See Russell's and Percival's reports for details.

At the request of villagers in many villages, we are planning to assist interested villagers to buy young ducks from Thailand. Initial estimates indicate interest in various villages of purchasing a total of as many as 3,000 ducks. This program is being worked out in cooperation with the RIG Veterinary Service staff here.

The major tasks which are to be carried out are:

1. Involvement of RII/Ag. personnel in carrying out the resettlement agriculture program at the field level. The Provincial Agriculture Chief has agreed in principle, but practice is something else.
2. Preparation of locations for 8 temporary villages to move to permanently - mostly in the section of the forest reserve for which official permission has finally been received.
3. Movement of families at all sites onto permanent home-lots, so that land title can be granted.
4. Establishment of several hundred families on paddy land.
5. Successful repayments of the first real loans in the program - rice seed and buffalo loans. This will be a big step toward self-reliance of these people.

cc : E.G. Ruoff (2)