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Thru: Mr. J.T. Ward CDA JNK  
Fr: B. Chassis CDA Neng Bek to *Chassis*  
Subj: Monthly Report.

#### I Personnel:

July has been a period of steady attrition for this cluster. With the departure of Bill Blanning, end of tour, and the transfer of the Weythmans to Thakhek, this cluster is now without any Americans other than the CDA. This CDA has pointed out the need for at least one other American living in the cluster. Should an agriculturist net be available, we would be willing to have another generalist here. The problem is a simple one. The distances to be covered in the cluster preclude the CDA being on top of all projects, and the IVS special assistant will be involved in the information and training programs. This will mean a very real gap between planning and implementation, unless someone can be found to help, by the end of this rainy season.

We have now recalled the two IVS assistants, Sankhit and Chareak, from training in Lahamas Cluster; but their efforts will be primarily in the construction field. This brings up one more point. This cluster can not stand any more losses of personnel. It is not so much that we are losing personnel as it is the fact that a team, which took a year to build, can be broken up in a matter of months. Should we, at any time this year, be forced to replace any of the key Lao, we will be hard put to maintain work at any reasonable level. This is an important point, as three of these men are IVSers, and subject to change of station outside of our control.

#### II Home Economics:

With Miss Semmay now leaving for further training in Thailand, and Gerri Weythman unable to get into the cluster, effort will have to be continued on an ad hoc basis. Gaysera, the other home economist will continue to work with us; but with Gerri unable to come, and her assistant waiting for a callit seems obvious that any real program is out of the question. This is especially true as Gerri is now getting involved in Thakhek and the refugee area programs.

#### III Famine Relief:

Efforts in this field slowed down due to a lack of Bulgar Wheat. After Neng Bek stores were used up, we were informed that new supplies had not arrived in Thakhek. With the arrival of the new Bulgar Wheat, we expect to expand the program. At present, there are approximately two hundred people receiving feed through this feed for work program.