

TO : SAC, Vientiane, Laos  
 FROM : Bob Worley, CDA/Xieng Xeun  
 SUBJECT : Monthly Report - July, 1967

## I. SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS:

The Nam Khan bridge in Xieng Xeun has been completed except for flooring, since the first week in May. The lumber ordered for the bridge has been cancelled and now reordered. Unless someone gets on top of this, rainy season will be over before the bridge is completed. With rainy season here, vehicles are no longer able to ford the stream. Besides the fact that Xieng Xeun and five other cluster villages can no longer be reached by vehicle, the majority of the rainy season rice programs are located on the south side of the stream. This bridge and the Houei Thao bridge should be of high priority since both are on RLG 13, and are very vital both for Xieng Xeun and the cluster programs.

Both the Multi-Purpose Building and the Xieng Xeun Group Scholaire have been completed for over 1 1/2 years, and so far an all weather road to these facilities has not been constructed. One kilometer of road is all that is necessary to service both structures. With plans being drawn up for training programs at the MPB, this road should be constructed in the near future.

## II. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A. General: For information on the Maiban-Tasseng Training Program, refer to attached Project Report Form.

B. Agriculture: ADO distributed 1160 kgs. of improved seeds along with the fertilizer under the half-sack program. There are twenty farmers from six villages taking part in this program.

The four rice demonstrations (comprising approximately one hectare) have been sown and will be ready for transplanting the first week in August. IR-8 rice seed was planted at Ma Ka and Ban Sa, and Sarpa-tong variety at Ban Ene and Xieng Xeun.

At the present time interest towards second cropping this coming dry season is quite high. The big problem is going to be convincing the farmers that they have enough water for a second crop. In some cases the problem is not the lack of water, but a lack of proper water management practices. So in an effort to overcome this problem, a TCW technician will be assigned to work with villagers whose land is irrigated from one of the six dams in the cluster. Also, a training program in water management and rice cultivation is being planned for the latter part of September or first of October.

A survey taken in Ban Sa Iy on the dry season vegetable program, showed that fourteen farmers earned 325,000 kip from vegetables. The vegetables which brought the largest income were garlic, head cabbage

onions, and Chinese cabbage.

Several reports have been received by the Houng office on insect damage to upland rice. The CDA has been to two of these sites, and found that grasshopper infestation is causing the damage. So far insecticides and sprayers have been distributed to forty eight families.

C. Education: Activity Plan No. 23, school construction at Ban Houei Hia and Houei Khot, has been approved. Lumber has already been cut for the school at Houei Hia and construction on both schools will begin this coming dry season.

D. Security: On July 20 at approximately 11:30 PM Pathet Lao forces set a charge of explosive on each of the eight posts supporting the Houei Thao bridge, located one mile from Xieng Xeun. Even though the posts were almost totally damaged, the beam supporting the floor and the floor itself were not damaged and were able to support a jeep or other small vehicle. Since then the army has cut posts and repaired it as best they could. This bridge should have been repaired as soon as possible after it was done in order to try and discourage such action in the future. But eleven days have past and the bridge is only partly repaired.

The following night, July 21, at 1:30 AM, Pathet Lao again set charges of explosives on two D-7 bulldozers and one farm tractor belonging to Travaux Publique. The tractor was completely destroyed and the motors in the D-7s will have to be replaced along with other repairs. The camp site is located 1 1/2 miles from Xieng Xeun. The five T.P. employees at the camp were bound but unharmed. They identified the Pathet Lao as nine Lao and two Vietnamese.

E. Public Health: One thousand ninety three patients were treated at the dispensary this reporting period. With the transfer of the RLG medic from the Xieng Xeun Dispensary to Luang Prabang, Tiao Vanthavong Souk Oulailak has been assigned to take his place.

Activity Plan No. 25, construction of the dispensary in Ban Xieng Lom, has been approved. Construction will begin this coming dry season.