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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA April 23, 1961
(Interview 1-12)

FROM: William Dean, ORA/Wts 

SUBJECT: Ban Veun Kham (TF 4709)
Refugee Status Report

(Note: Ban Beun Kham contains populations from Tasseng Phan and Tasseng Phiang. The Nai Tassengs of both these Tassengs live at Veun Kham. This interview was done after three previous short visits to Veun Kham. Of the two men, Ounkham, who is the Nai Tasseng Phan, appeared more competent and respected by his people. He kept good records and was never at a loss to supply information requested. On the other hand, Kham Ta, the Nai Tasseng Phiang, does not seem the real source of authority in his Tasseng. Another villager did most of the talking for him. Kham Ta did not know population figures organized and had difficulty deciding how many villagers he had. Unlike Ounkham, he had great difficulty finding the original location of his villages on a map of the PIN area. On several occasions proved incredibly dense about understanding questions. Mr. Phang, the USAID CDA/Salthar, confirmed this impression and observed that Ounkham has generally organized people to perform community projects more often and more successfully than the Nai Tasseng Phiang. Both men stayed with their villagers under the P. L.)

1.) ORIGIN:

A.) Tasseng Phan, Muong Khun Khoueng Xiang Khouang, LS-275 (TG-9647) area on western edge of the Plateau (See map coordinates listed for each village.)

B.) Tasseng Phiang, Muong Pak, Khouang Xiang Khouang, in the L-22 (UG-0552) area on northern edge of the Plateau northward along RN-447 as far as the steel bridge across the Nam Fen (TG-976594).

2.) ETHNIC GROUP: Lao Puan

(Note on Map Coordinates. The village locations given below were given by the villagers from 1:500,000 maps of native area. (5647 IV and 5643 ID. Although fairly good geographical features accurately, the place names were

sometimes incorrect. Some of the villages, for example, are shown with names which now apply only to a few households. Other sections of the village have grown up and given their name to the settlement, or a village has divided. In other cases, a village will have several names used interchangeably. When the villagers identified their old villages by different names than shown on the map the map names are included in parenthesis.)

3. LEADERS:4. CENSUS:

<u>Village</u>	<u>Map</u>	<u>Nathan</u>	<u>Fam.</u>	<u>Pop.</u>
A.) <u>Tasseng Phan:</u> (NatTasseng Ounkham)				
1. <u>Ban Phan</u>.....(TG-967437).... <u>Ti: Duang Ta</u>			30	193
(Ban Nachan)				
2. <u>Ban Na Sai</u>.....(TG-962433).... <u>Chan Toan</u>			40	201
3. <u>Ban Nong</u>.....(TG-976413).... <u>Xieng Duang Xi</u>			23	128
(Ban Nalouang)				
4. <u>Ban Phon Sai</u> .. (TG-940422).. <u>Thao Boua Phanh</u>			30	152
5. <u>Khong Tai</u> (TG-913448).. <u>Thao Duang</u>			21	109
(Ban Khong)				
6. <u>Ban Khong Neua</u> .(TG-913448).. <u>Xieng Ohn</u>			23	127
(Ban Khong)				
7. <u>Ban Waen</u>.....(TG-946458).. <u>Chan Than Da</u>			23	100
(Ban Nakang)				
8. <u>Ban Pung</u> (TG-946458).. <u>Xieng Bounti</u>			21	104
(Ban Nakang)				
9. <u>Ban Thang</u>.....(TG-920477).. <u>Xieng Boua Phanh</u>			21	112
10. <u>Ban Kaw</u>.....(TG-940505).. <u>Chan Ohn</u>			27	146
(Ban Ban)				
				259 / 1,372

(Wat has 10 monks and 7 novices - not included in above figures.)

<u>Village</u>	<u>Map</u>	<u>Naiban</u>	<u>Fam.</u>	<u>Pop.</u>
B.) <u>Tasseng Phiang: (Nai Tasseng Khamta)</u>				
1. Ban Na Tao	.... (UG-023617)	.... Chan Wan Som	.... 49	239
2. Ban Phiang Louang (No Name)	(TG-980595)	.... Xieng Boun Ma	.... 16	66
3. Ban Houei	.... (UG-015585)	.... Tit Wan Di	.... 24	135
4. Ban/Thong (Ban Keng)	.... (UG-030516)	.... Xieng Gan Ha	.... 17	115
5. Ban Teng	.... (UG-036527)	.... Chan Boua Thong	.... 28	147
6. Ban Na Hoi Yai (Ban Na Hoi)	{UG-057527?}	.... Xieng Kham Phan	.... 45	255
7. Ban Na Hoi Noi Ban Bon	(UG-054550?)	.... Tit Faeng	.... 13	56**
8. Ban Ang	.... (UG-052398)	.... Xieng Phom Ma	.... 20	109**
			212	1,112
(Wat has 14 monks and 18 novices - not included in above figures.)				
<u>Veun Kham Total:</u>			471	2,494

** New families in village not included.

Note: Other Tasseng Phan families live at:

- 1) 5 Ban Kaw families at Phu Din Daeng, V. V.
- 2) 2 families at Ban Nong Phu, LS-272 area:
 - a. Family of Sao Ae (from Ban Phon Sai)
 - b. Family of Xieng Ouan (from Ban Pung)
- 3) 20 men in FAR (not counting 7 KIA to date)
- 4) 30 people with P. L. as:
 - a. soldiers; b. prisoners; c. female medics

Other Tasseng Phiang families live at:

- 1) Populations of 2 villages, Ban Na Heuang and Ban Na Bi
- total: 53 families - live at Ban Mak Hiec.
- 2) 1 family from Ban Na Hoi at Pha Khaw - 20-A.
- 3) 4 families at Ban Vang Ky, Vang Vieng.
- 4) 2 families from Ban Teng in Thakhek staying with father
who is chief of Forests & Waters.
- 5) 1 Ban Na Tao family in Na Long Khoun, Phon Hong.
- 6) 25 men in FAR (not counting 9 KIA to date).
- 7) 48 persons with the P. L.

5.) EDUCATION: Than Xao, the principal, was absent. Mr. Si Phan supplied the information.

School: 4 rooms temporary, 4 rooms permanent (abandoned French Agricultural College). Total: 8 rooms. Classrooms are overcrowded, but more will not be added until permanent villages are established and new schools built. (The plan calls for the Tasseng Phiang people to stay and the Tasseng Phan families to move west onto new land.)

Teachers: 8 teachers, 2 RLG/Edu teachers and 6 village teachers ("Khru grek"); the village teachers have been working for about 8 months for a kip 3, 000/month salary - except for one teacher who has not been paid.

Students: 440 persons; 10 are old villagers from the Veun Kham area; the rest are PDJ refugee children.

Approximate breakdown: P. 1 - 300
P. 2 - 70
P. 3 - 50

Total 440

Mr. Si Phan compared the PL and RLG school system as follows:

	Years	
	P. L.	RLG
1. Phatom (elementary)	4	6
2. Mathayom (secondary)	3	3
3. Udom (college)	3	2



NEW FAMILIES WAITING FOR APPROVAL BY HHC/SW

<u>VILLAGE</u>	<u>HEAD OF FAMILY</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>ARRIVED</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
(A) <u>TASSENG PHAN:</u>					
1. Ban Khong Neua	Xiong Khan	7	Mar 11/71	IS-272	Left after Pathet Lao blew up POL dump at airfield.
2. Ban Kaw	Tit La	6	Mar 11/71	IS-272	Left after Pathet Lao blew up POL dump at airfield.
3. Ban Fhon Sai	Luang Tum	6	Mar 11/71	IS-272	Left after Pathet Lao blew up POL dump at airfield.
4. Ban Fhon Sai	Kheng Siphon	6	Jan 17/71	Paksane	Rejoining his old village
5. Ban Waen	Tit Lampha (Father)	5	Apr 4/71	Phu Din Daeng	Rejoining his old village
6. Ban Waen	Sao Noi (Daughter)	2	Apr 4/71	Phu Din Daeng (Veng Vieng)	Mother and child divorced by husband who now lives in Veun Khono.
(B) <u>TASSENG PHING:</u>					
1. Ban Ang	Khong Thong Mai	3	Apr 12/71	Ban Mak Hieo	Rejoining old village
2. Ban Ang	Chan Ohn	9	Apr 18/71	Ban Mak Hieo	Rejoining old village
3. Ban Ang	Chan Boua Hong	7	Apr 17/71	Ban Mak Hieo	Rejoining old village
4. Ban Na Hoi Noi	Kheng Boua Thong	2	Mar 1/71	Phu Din Daeng	Rejoining old village
<u>TOTAL: 10 Families and 59 Persons.</u>					



Teaching Aids Requested:

1. Notebooks. → *Delivered to PSI*
2. Pencils.
3. Textbooks for the students. (Teachers only have them now.)
4. Chalk: The teacher said much more chalk should be provided to allow students to practice their exercises at the board. His estimate of 21 boxes of 100 sticks/month breaks down as follows:

20 boxes sent on 5/4/71

P. 1: 3 boxes/room x 5 rooms = 15 boxes

P. 2: 2 boxes/room x 2 rooms = 4 boxes

P. 3: 2 boxes room x 1 room = 2 boxes

21 boxes/month

- 6.) HEALTH: A temporary dispensary has been constructed in Veun Kham and it is staffed by two PHD medics: Nang Kham Oui, and Nang Si Da. Nang Kham Oui said they each receive a salary of kip 5,000 per month from USAID and are supplied with medicine by the Japanese Field Hospital in Ban Tha Ngon nearby.

Every Monday afternoon a Japanese medical team of 4-6 persons comes to the refugee village to dispense medical treatment. Seriously ill persons are taken to the hospital in Tha Ngon or taken into Vientiane. Very few people had ventured into Vientiane for treatment until a village bus accident which killed two persons and injured twenty-nine. The injured were hospitalized at O. B. in Vientiane and brought back reports of good medical care they received there. In general villagers preferred O. B. to Mahosot Hospital.

The villagers seemed pleased with the present arrangement for medical care. They said the Japanese always had enough medicine and gave many shots. Nang Kham Oui said last month she and Nang Si Da treated about 900 persons, but that so far this month they had treated 1,900 persons, most of whom were children with red, aching eyes and coughs.

Request for Assistance: Nang Kham Oui said they are unable to maintain a sufficient supply of medicine for their needs because they have no way to store it safely. (They go to Tha Ngon twice monthly to restock.) She requested a locked cabinet to keep the medicine. If this were not possible she said a heap and padlock to lock up the storage room would be sufficient if the ceiling of this room could be braced over.

7.) AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK:

Rice: The Tasseng Phan families arrived in Veun Kham on February 7, 1970. The Tasseng Phiang families arrived the following day. An average of 1 rai of upland rice per family was planted that year.

Land Clearing: The villagers have just finished clearing and burning for this year's crop. The villagers estimated an average clearing of 4 rai of land with a few families having as much as 7-8 rai prepared for planting in upland rice when the rains come. They said: "the forest doesn't burn well here, so it is hard to clear land. If it burned more easily we could plant a lot more land. The forest growth is not thick enough and the fire won't burn hot. The wood is not burned up completely. The land is too flat and the wind doesn't blow hard here."

Seed: Both Tasseng Phan and Phiang need new seed but for different reasons:

- A.) Tasseng Phan families are slated to relocate permanently along the new road put in by PWD west of the village. They will be planting paddy this year and so their harvest of upland rice will be unusable for seed. The Nai Tasseng has asked Mr. Som Khouang (RLG/SW - Veun Kham) if the RLG will provide them new seed but has not received a reply yet.
- B.) Tasseng Phiang families will remain more or less in their present location and continue farming upland rice. The Nai Tasseng also requested new seed, however, because the seed harvested from last year is inferior. The rice seed given to them last year by the RLG was simply unmilled rice which was a mix of several varieties of upland rice with some paddy mixed in as well. Kham Ta said they received a very poor harvest from this seed and if they used this in turn for seed their bad experience would be repeated. Because the seed is a mix of many varieties which react differently to differing growing conditions, the resulting crop would not mature together.

Kham Ta asked for a supply of 50 kilograms of good quality rice seed for each of his 212 families: a total of 10.6 metric tons of seed or 106 100 kg. bags. (He estimated a seeding of 12 kilograms per rai, although Adul, USAID/ORR-AGR, said 8 kilograms of good seed would be more realistic.)

Crop Damage: The Veum Kham villagers had received 6 Hudson sprayers last year (T. Phan - 4, T. Phiang -2) and of these, 5 now have broken seals, and 4 have lost their spray tips. The villagers said the two boxes of SEVIN they received were not enough to spray all their fields and in any case the insecticide seemed to have no results when used on the grasshoppers which were the worst pest. (They reported they had not commenced spraying until large numbers of these insects had fully matured, but no one had explained the necessity of spraying immediately on emergence to them.) Other insect pests were stem-borers. Rats, however, were the second worst pest. The Tasseng Phan families reported having 75 rai, out of an estimated 240 rai of upland rice planted, destroyed by water buffalo belonging to the original villagers last year.

Land Problems: Villagers from the original villages of Ban Tha Phok and Dong Yang Liang have moved into the area along the new road which was being cleared as a permanent relocation site for the Tasseng Phan families. The old villagers started fencing off the land, claiming it was theirs all along although it was entirely forest until PWD cut a road through it and made the area more accessible and desirable. The Chao Khoueng of Vientiane ordered these squatters off, and on April 22, Thursday, the Chao Muang Na Sai Thong and the Chao Muang Sathani made an inspection trip and talked to the Naibans of Ban Tha Phok and Dong Yang Liang. The Naibans agreed to move their families off within the next three days.

Vegetable Gardens: Seeds had been distributed four times. The villagers said they had no place to plant, there was no water, and whatever they did plant was eaten by grasshoppers. In fact, some villagers had planted vegetables in their hai fields successfully. Water is a problem in that the few wells they have are too shallow and are used mainly for drinking water. Water for gardens must be hauled from the Nam Ngum. The villagers said it was easier to raise crops in their old homes on the Plaine des Jarres -- there was never any insect or water problem there, although the soil fertility here was about the same.

Peppers: The villagers said that even though their pepper plants grew well they had no flowers or fruit.

Livestock: Chickens, ducks, and a sprinkling of pigs. Many of the chickens die: "I bought 6 chickens from the old village here and they all died in two months."

Service Visits: None of the Veun Kham villagers could remember ever being visited by members of the Agriculture or the Veterinary Service.

8.) COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION: (Approved Families: Phang - 239; Phieng - 185)

PL-480: Unusually large quantities of bulgur and cornmeal were seen stacked under the houses - mainly in the Tasseng Phieng section. The Nai Tasseng Phieng uses bags of bulgur for pillows in his livingroom.

Household Items: Full issues of every item save: a) blankets; one family in T. Phan and one in T. Phieng have not received blankets as yet; b) wash basins; the Nai Tasseng Phan reports that when distribution of this item was made, 2 cases (6 each per case) arrived at Veun Kham with only 5 basins and one case arrived empty. They are short 8 wash basins. Tasseng Phieng is short 2 basins.

Garden Tools: Three Tasseng Phan families have not received mattocks ("chek") yet; full issue of other tools. Villagers wanted to get U. S. -style rakes ("khat") for their gardens.

Blacksmith Tools:

- A. Tasseng Phan has 5 blacksmiths and 5 forges. They have received 5 anvils but are short all other tools as follows: small, ball-pean hammer - 4; small sledge hammer - 1; hack - 3; curved pincers - 8. One of the smiths is now studying at Ban Amone and should get a set of tools there.
- B. Tasseng Phieng: Has 5 blacksmiths and 3 forges. Three sets of tools have been received, lacking the small sledge. The villagers would like to get these hammers as their size and weight makes metal forming easy.

RLW/Social Welfare: Mr. Somkhouang arrived and joined the meeting during the discussion of commodity issues. He showed a sure knowledge of his working area, was at ease with the villagers, and generally corroborated what they said concerning receipt of issued items.

9.) ADDITIONAL REQUESTS:

- A. Villagers asked the rice allowance (now rice/noodles) be increased to include the tractor drivers doing land

clearing (this group of 13 people is currently being fed by the villagers out of their own food stocks) and the monks and novices at the wat (44 persons).

B. Speedy establishment of permanent relocation villages.

ORA:WWDear:vlv:4/29/71

DIST: OD/DD, AC/Vte, CDAA/Schreiber, ORA/JWilliamson,
C&R(3) (ORA-3)