



# FACTS

## RURAL PUBLIC WORKS

A Project of the USAID Mission to Laos

# PHOTOGRAPHS

When Rural Public Works was established as a project in 1963, its center of operations was rural Laos and its most important activities were the construction of secondary roads, schools, and dispensaries in rural Laos. These activities continue, however, the project now includes the construction of dams, irrigation and drainage systems, dikes and flood-control structures, all-weather roads, bridges, airfields, hospitals, schools, housing and administrative facilities, public buildings and offices in urban Laos.

The table illustrates the range of construction projects carried out under Rural Public Works. The 30 projects listed were either in process or completed as of May 31, 1973. They range in complexity and cost from the Maternal and Child Health Center, Mahosot Hospital, Vien-

tiane, \$749,000, (photo below) to a police post on the Vientiane Plain, \$800.

Figure 1 shows the 70.6 km (44-mi) road which is under construction between Ban Xon and Long Tieng in Xieng Khouang Province at an estimated cost of \$3,474,000. The road is built over rugged mountainous terrain. It will link with a road west from Ban Xon to Houei Pamone on Route 13, which connects Vientiane with Luang Prabang, the Royal Capital.

Figure 2 shows the Dong Kalume flood plain, a 5,000-ha (12,250-acre) tract of rich agricultural land which stretches 20 km (12 mi) along the Mekong River. The land is used primarily for growing rice; however, tobacco and vegetables grow in the irrigated areas. In the past, rising waters of the Mekong River flooded the land during the rains.



Rural Public Works in 1970 began constructing an extensive dike-road system with drain channels and flood-control structures to prevent flood-level waters from inundating and destroying the crops. This project of 24 km (15 mi) of road-dikes, 4,700 m of deep drain channels, 5 reinforced concrete flood-control structures with automatic control gates was completed in 1972 at a cost of \$460,000. Two crops a year can now be grown on this land because of these flood-protection measures.

In one phase of its operations, Rural Public Works functions as a construction contracting organization within USAID which provides its services to other USAID projects. For agriculture, Rural Public Works constructs rice storage warehouses, fish ponds, irrigation systems; for public health, hospitals, maternal and child health centers, dispensaries; for education, teacher training facilities, dormitories, primary and secondary schools.

In a second phase of its operations, Rural Public Works utilizes the services of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command representative in Laos, OICC, to provide estimates, plans, and supervision for projects that are built each year by private construction companies.

In a third phase, Rural Public Works functions as an on-the-job training unit: Unskilled laborers are trained as construction equipment operators, mechanics, carpenters, masons, plumbers, and electricians; people in villages are trained in the more efficient use of local materials and in construction techniques.

USAID funding for Rural Public Works, FY 1964 - FY 1972, totals \$23,114,000; FY 1973 funding is estimated at \$2,821,000. These funds cover the cost of U.S. personnel assigned to the project, equipment, commodities, and participant training.



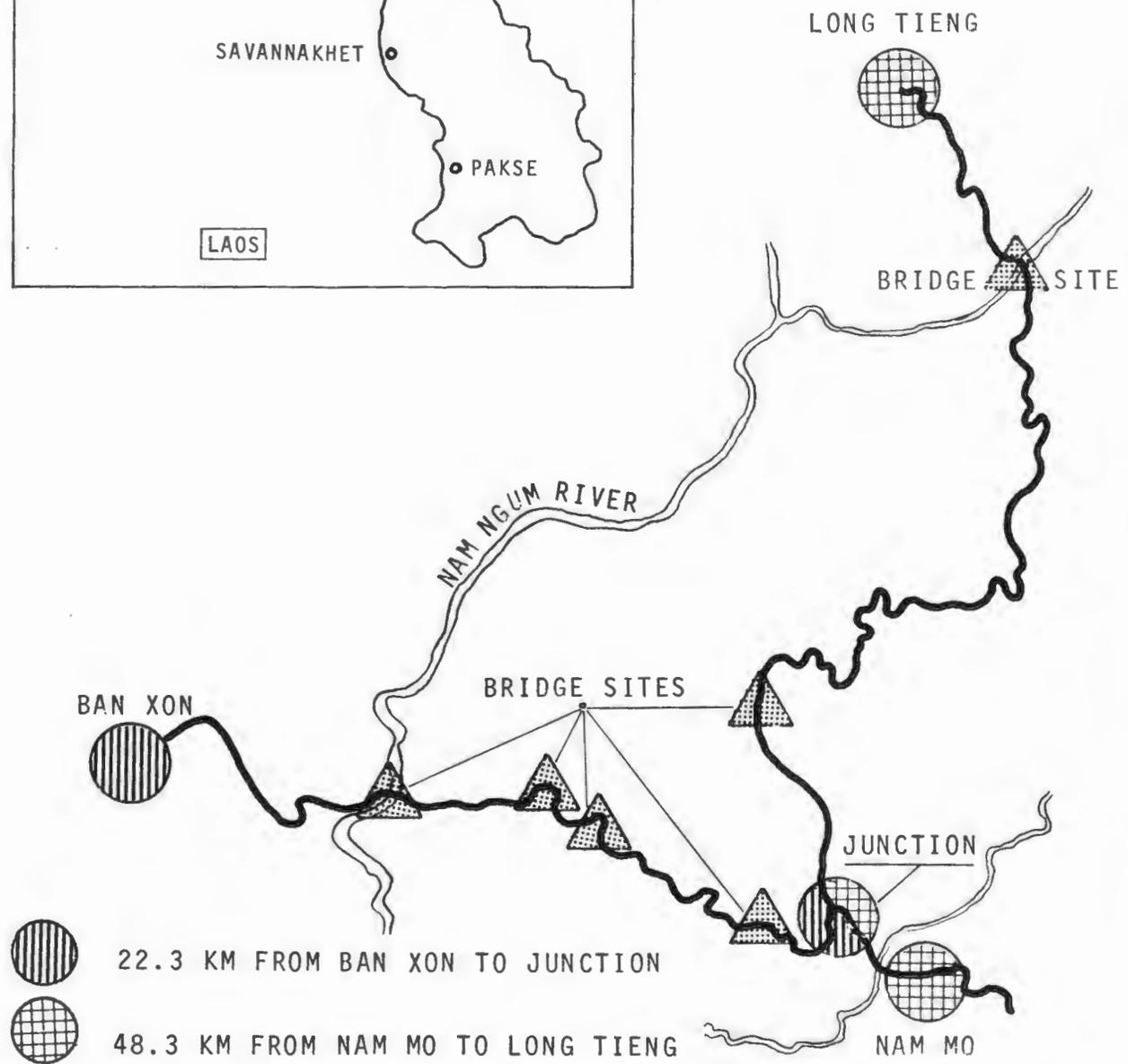
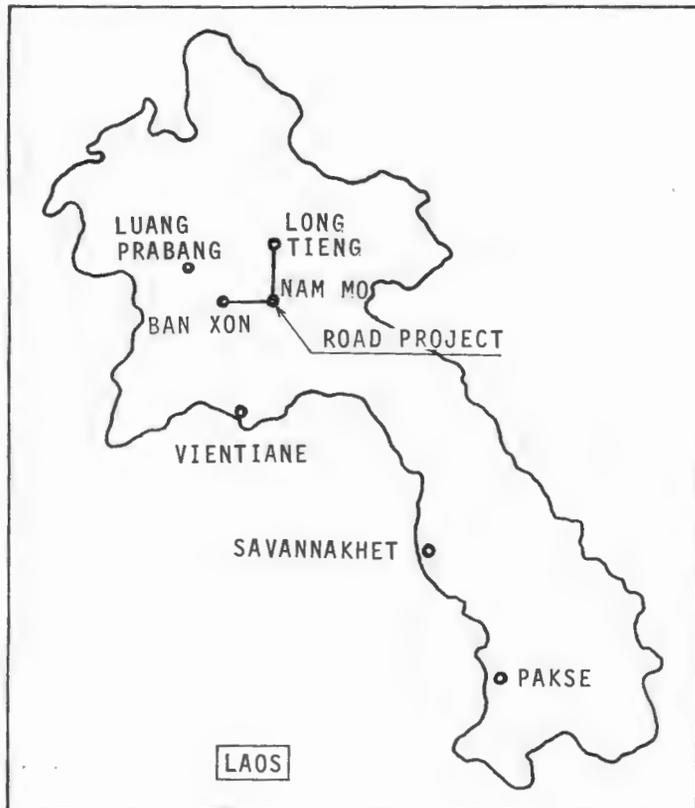
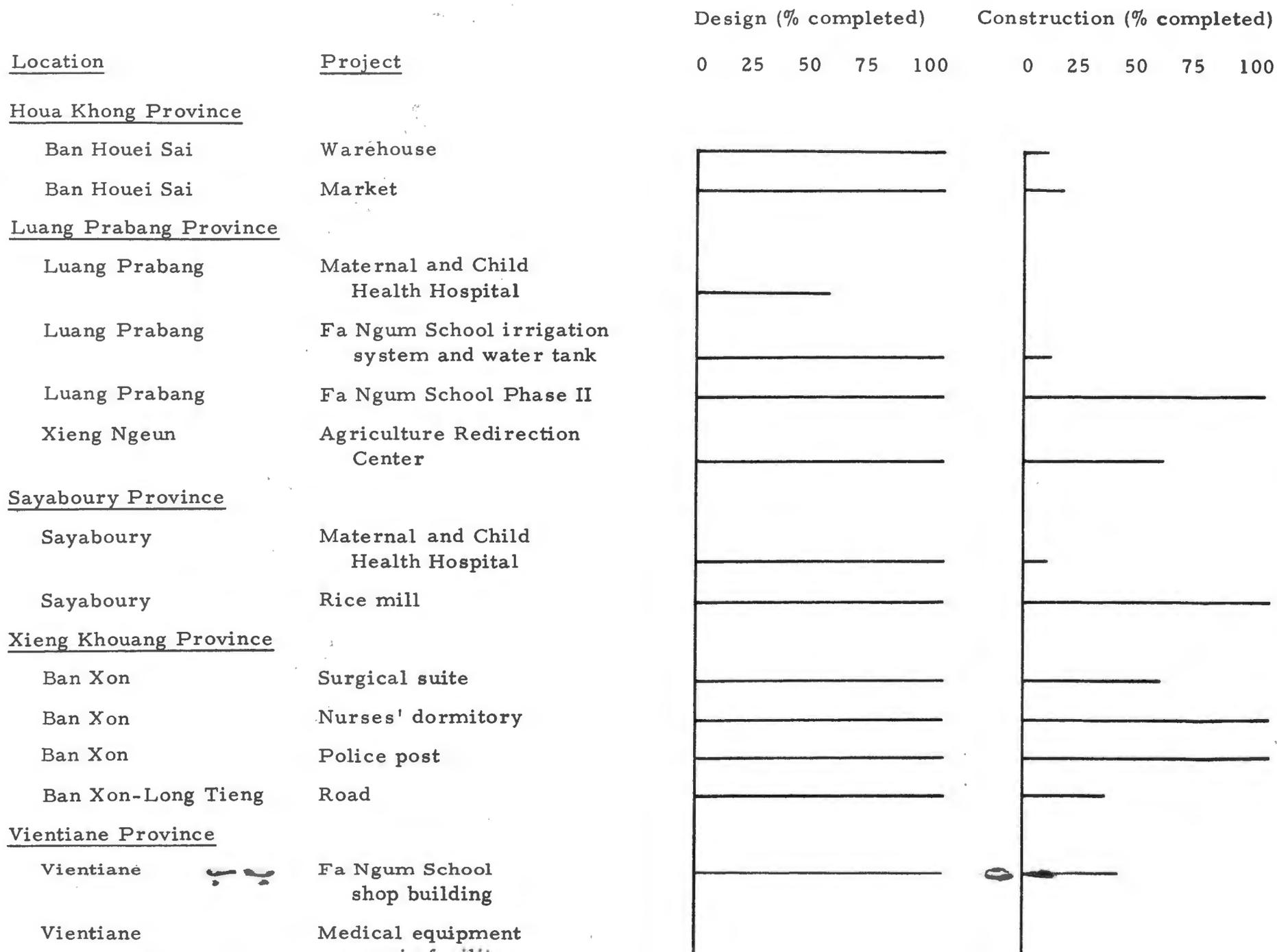


Fig. 1 - Ban Xon-Long Tieng Road

# RURAL PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

May 31, 1973



Vientiane	Fa Ngum School shop building		
Vientiane	Medical equipment repair facility		
Vientiane Plain	Customs post		
Vientiane Plain	Dike		
Vientiane Plain	Dike/road and flood control structure		
Vientiane Plain Km-52	Meo refugee village road		
Vientiane Plain Km - 52	Maternal and Child Health Center, Mahosot Hospital		
Phone Savone	Secondary school		
Vientiane	Curriculum Center, Fa Ngum School		
Vientiane	Police Academy, Phase IV		
Vientiane	Detoxification Center, Mahosot Hospital		
<u>Savannakhet Province</u>			
Kengkok	Hospital ward		
Thasano	Refugee Reception Center		
Thasano	Road construction		
Savannakhet	Maternal and Child Health Hospital		
<u>Sedone Province</u>			
Phou Ba Chiang	Refugee access road		
Pakse	Fa Ngum School		
Pakse	Maternal and Child Health Hospital		

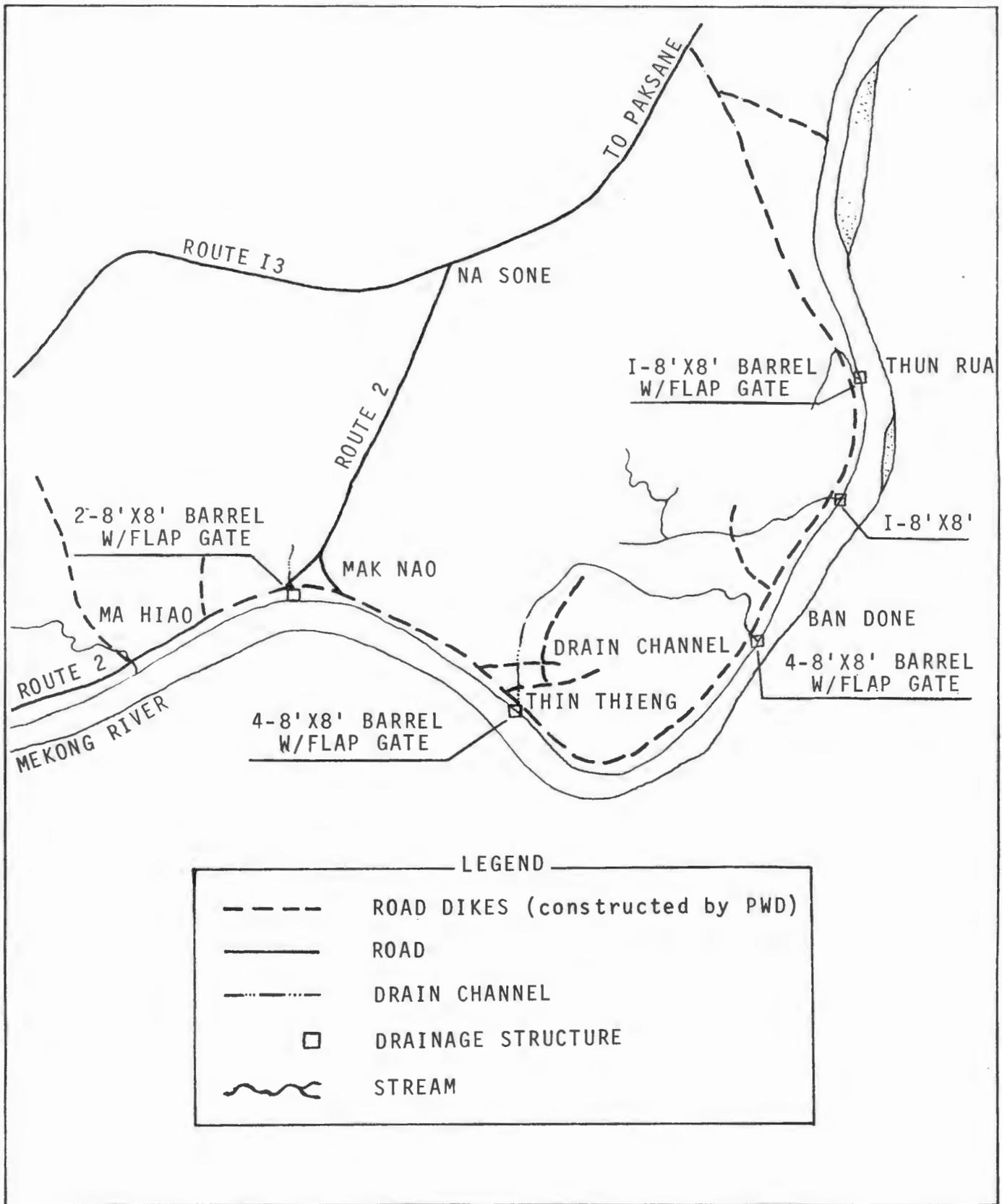


Fig. 2 - Flood control system, Dong Kalume plain.



