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PLAN FOR ACCELERATED FEEDBACK RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE  
FOR VIENTIANE PLAIN REFUGEES

(This plan supports the Director's memo  
of 8 May 1970, Vientiane Plain Refugees)

I. OBJECTIVE

To provide heavy engineering equipment and other support necessary for assisting the Royal Lao Government's efforts for expeditiously resettling refugees in the Vientiane Plain area.

II. GENERAL PLAN

The resettlement of the large numbers of refugees that have been relocated on the Vientiane Plain is moving progressively along under the efforts of the Ministry of Social Welfare/RLG, supported as necessary by the USAID Refugee Resettlement Branch. Joint RLG/USAID activity plans have been prepared, providing funds, equipment, supplies and procedures for a measured, time-phased resettlement program. However, the wet season is approaching and there are certain land clearing, shelter and other welfare requirements that are beyond the RLG and refugees' capabilities to accomplish within a reasonable time frame, particularly from the standpoint of normalizing their village existence as soon as possible.

It is therefore the decision of the Director to provide emergency assistance to the villages listed below in the order of priority of their hardship circumstances. This initial list is based on development assistance for the next 15 days. By the end of that period a more detailed survey will have determined the priority for the remaining 17 refugee sites.

- 1. THA NGON (NEUN KHAM)
- 2. PHONG SAI (BAN PAO)
- 3. DONG KALIME
- 4. BAN MAK HIEO

## II - REFINED PLAN

### A. Authority

1. General supervision of the refugee efforts on the Muangxay Plain will be by the Area Coordinator, Vientiane Province. He will coordinate directly as necessary with the RIG, the Rural Development Division, and other divisions and branches of the mission in accomplishing assigned resettlement tasks.

2. The Assistant Director/Field Operations will be responsible for overall planning and coordination.

3. Mr. Philip Schreiber, CDAA is assigned fulltime to monitoring, expediting and follow-up on RIG/USAID assistance in support of these refugee villages. Under the general supervision of the AC/Vientiane, he will coordinate his efforts with the Refugee Relief and Resettlement Branch of the Rural Development Division. He will assist the AC/Vientiane in directing and coordinating the efforts of augmentation personnel who may be assigned to assist in refugee tasks.

4. All other divisions and branches of USAID/Laos are directed to provide priority action on support requests for this program that are stamped "Refugee Relief." This indicator will be applied to requests by the Refugee Relief and Resettlement Officer only.

### B. Immediate Action

#### 1. Public Works Division

a. Two (2) bulldozers will be moved by Monday, 11 May to the Nyan for clearing home sites, dispensaries and crop planting as needed. Refugee Relief Branch will provide RIG guide and equipment. AC/Vientiane check on security with Emergency and Evacuation Officer, NCT.

b. Additional well rig will be made available ASAP by pulling back from Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, or Pakse.

c. Proceed immediately to construct a bridge on the road giving access to the village at the foothill of Phou Khaokhay

Work on Public Roads

Provide estimate for construction of 1 kilometer of road from the NGTN to RIG-13. Cost to be charged to Refugee Relief Fund. Work to be done by BPR/TP.

Human Development Division

Provide the Office of the Director by Monday, 11 May, a detailed check list of the following for each refugee site:

- (1) Need for housing
- (2) Dispensary
- (3) School
- (4) Clearing for home sites and garden
- (5) Rice planting needs
- (6) Water requirements
- (7) RLG services provided and needed

By Monday, 11 May in coordination with AC/VTE provide to the Director recommendations for STOL strips that will be needed in the areas.

Ascertain if additional trucks are required to carry military supplies to The Ngou. If so, two more will be made available on request to MIB.

Management

Coordinating with AC/VTE make immediate security arrangements of refugee sites and pertinent operating areas and roads. Particular attention to be given to the eight sites off RIG-13 south and the three sites off RIG-13 north.

Starting Monday, 11 May Air Support Branch make all helicopters available to the Area Coordinator, Vientiane 2 helicopters days a week. AC/VTE will be control officer for the use of all helicopters. (See paragraph 5 below)

Adequate communications will be assured with the area.

Area Coordinator, Vientiane

a. Mr. Philip Schreiber, CEAA for AC/V's starting 11 May will visit each site weekly, and to the maximum extent feasible, in coordination with the Refugee Relief Officer and AC/V's other responsible officials in the Ministries of Social Welfare, National Economy, Public Works, Education, and Health also make such visits as appropriate.

b. Mr. Schreiber will prepare a weekly status report for the Director on the condition of the villages and refugees, to include actions required, actions lagging, progress in clearing and planting, changes in village population, health conditions, educational needs, requirements for other RLG services, and problems requiring policy-level attention.

Follow on Actions

Rural Development Division

During the week of 10-16 May the following actions will be taken under the general coordination of AD/FC.

a. On the basis of information obtained in paragraph 2 (a) (check list of needs of villages) develop a work schedule for the next 30 days establishing priorities and requirements.

(1) Get refugees at all sites out of provisional housing into individual family housing.

(2) Get vegetable gardens planted and dry-land rice planted to the largest extent possible in the time available.

(3) Get basic services established at each site: school (with books, teacher, etc.), dispensary (with appropriate medical services), water source adequate for village population, and surface access of some kind, usable, if possible, during the rains, or alternately, access by air, preferably STOL aircraft.

(4) Get necessary transportation, materiel for clearing and construction, commodities, and personnel in place at the proper time to accomplish (1), (2), and (3) above in the shortest time possible.

The above will be coordinated with AC/VTE.

Assistant Director Field Operations

While the above follow-on actions are taking place, staff in the Program Branch and divisions, will analyze existing files and other documentation already in place to assure that all field files are properly documented and that duplicating and overlapping efforts are avoided. An overall Field Project Plan will be developed to finalize these efforts towards the Director's goals. It is expected not later than 22 May 1970.

IV. USDA Divisions and Branches of USAID not covered above are participants supporting this plan on request.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
LMO:LEW:war:bas:5-11-70

US/CI/O, ID, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/PE, AD/FO, AGR, RDD, RER-5, EDU, FWO, IND, BPA, SEC, TRP, MTE, TEL, AC/VIE, CM, PMB, RC, ASB, IND, SY (5/11/70)