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OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mang, Director 20 February 1971
FROM : *J. W. MacQueen*
John W. MacQueen, AD/RA
SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - January 1971

GENERAL

The total number of refugees reported at month's end stood at 132,400, a net reduction of 16,032 persons from the previous month. Taken at face value this information is misleading and does not reflect the true state of affairs as wide-spread enemy activity during the month resulted in tens of thousands of persons being displaced from their homes, often for the second and third times. In many cases, as in the Luang Prabang area, many of those forced from their homes were already on the rolls receiving support. Serious threats existed in several areas, notably Ban Houei Sait, Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng and Thakhek. The mass movement of refugees coupled with interdicted supply lines, forced field staffs to use ingenuity and hard work in meeting unexpected situations. It is to the credit of all of these officers, both U.S. and local employees, that emergency situations were met, supplies distributed within a timely manner, and shelter provided at a few hours notice.

Military Region I:

Ban Houei Sait: 1,740 new refugees added to the rolls during the month; however, the situation was so fluid with countless numbers of other refugees on the move seeking sanctuary that accurate figures were unobtainable. As a measure of the situation, early in the month refugees moved to LS 118 and LS 13A, both of which subsequently were overrun again forcing the refugees to move elsewhere. Many of the refugees crossed the Mekong River into Thailand to escape real or imagined threats to their security.

Luang Prabang: Over five thousand refugees added to rolls as the enemy brought pressure on the Kiang Ngeun area: Kio Nya, Long Nam

DISTR: DD, DD, AD/M, AD/FCN, AD/P, AD/BAI, EPM(2), AD/FC, SAO(2), FFIC (ORU), AC, BNS, LP, VCS, Stry, Sykt, Pakse, XI, AD Director, Chief, Liaison, AD/...

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Khan Valley and other points. Refugees moved closer in to Luang Prabang itself or fled into Sayaboury province. As security improved at months end refugees were being urged to return to their former homes.

Sayaboury: No significant changes reported but at months end some refugees from Luang Prabang were reported moving into the area.

Military Region II:

P.V.J: The enemy remained active throughout the region with little direct effect on the number of refugees reported. Almost 30,000 refugees were removed from support rolls as it was determined that they were self sufficient in rice.

Military Region III:

Thakhek: One of the focal points of enemy activities resulting in considerable numbers of refugees generated. Many sought sanctuary in Thakhek City itself where security remained dubious while others moved to such widely separated points as Savannakhet and the Vientiane Plain area. Thakhek itself registered 3,262 refugees.

Savannakhet: Savannakhet area continued to receive refugees from Khammouane Province who were provided support. Temporary refugee shelters were constructed with the help of the refugees to provide immediate housing in the Thasane refugee site. Almost 7,000 Kengkok town residents who had sought sanctuary in Savannakhet returned to Kengkok with improvement of security in that area.

Military Region IV:

Pakse: During the month a total of 3,074 new refugees, mainly from Saravane area, were recorded bringing the present total of refugees up to 29,053. Continued fighting made it improbable that these refugees could expect to return at an early date. Most of these new refugees came into Khong Sedone and were later moved to other locations such as Selambam and Phou Ba Chieng. On the other hand, some refugees commenced to return to areas surrounding Khong Sedone. Local staff continued surveying older refugee families to determine their degree of self-sufficiency and in some cases removing them from the support rolls.

Military Region V:

Vientiane Plain Area: Considerable movement of refugees continued in view of events in Thakhek and Paksane areas. Early in the month 7,177 refugees on partial support were temporarily suspended from further assistance as their areas came under enemy control. Some 4,000 persons left Muang Kassy Yang Vieng area. Of these, approximately 2,000 opted to live in Vientiane or remained in Phone Hong. Another 2,216 located at Hat Deua along the Nam Lik River and have been receiving full support. Details of the numerous moves are recorded in the remarks section of the attached statistical summary.

Other Comments:

Travel of Ministry Official: Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, Director General of the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare was accompanied by Mr. Jack Williamson, ORA Refugee Affairs Officer, on a visit to Thailand 20 - 24 January. Purpose of the visit was to observe procedures at Wat Than Krabok which location has been active in the treatment of opium addicts. Also visited during the trip was the Thai government agricultural experiment station at Tha Pra, Khonkaen Province, Thailand. Information was obtained about the possibility of introducing new crops into the refugee program in Laos.

Mr. Man Traivmany, Director of Resettlement, RLG Ministry of Social Welfare, George Cosgrove, Chief Relocation Branch ORA and Supanya Rohitastira of the ORA visited Thailand from 29 January through 4 February. During this time they investigated tapioca manufacturing at Chon Buri and observed the growing of cassava. Also visited was the Thai government resettlement program at Rayong where cassava is an important agricultural product. The Thai Ministry of Agriculture and the Social Welfare Departments were contacted relative to information regarding resettlement efforts of that government.

Warehouse Program: The Consolidated Rice Warehouse facility at Wattay Airport remains in partial use only as the bagging operations at KM 4 will not be moved to Wattay until completion of inside dividers. At the Pakhao Center, changes in the requirement for knee walls and reconstruction of pillars not originally planned moved completion date back by approximately three weeks. The RLG Ministry of Social Welfare warehouse personnel have made good progress in organizing of supplies in the newly completed facility at That Khao. Substandard buildings are being emptied and contents are being identified and placed in the new building.

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II RELOCATION ACTIVITIES:

A major portion of the month was spent in drawing up post hostilities contingency plans in the event of a cease fire in the near future. The ORA Relocation Branch has been assigned to work with the RLG Ministry of the Plan to determine reconstruction activities and priorities.

Vientiane Plain: The Tha Deua and Saythany Muong Committees completed their review of surveyed land in Refugee Reserve Areas 4 and 5 and presented the findings to the Khoueng Committee. The Muong Committees reported that of 249 plots surveyed only 57 are uncontested. Final determination on the remaining 192 plots is now being made by the Khoueng Committee. The Cadastral Survey Teams are now working in Reserve Areas 2, 3, 6, and 8.

The approximately 3,000 Thakhek area refugees presently living on the Vientiane Plain began site clearing for five new villages at Pak Sap (TF 1508). An access trail has been cut and the survey for approximately three kilometers of road is nearing completion.

Savannakhet: Activity Proposals for the temporary relocation of Thakhek refugees in the Thasano Extension were approved and village site clearing and house construction has progressed extremely well.

Pakse: USAID and RLG officials were able to move back in the Phou Ea Chiang Project area as security improved. Village site surveys, housing, and classroom construction was proceeding at an accelerated pace.

III PERSONNEL:

Wale Chubbuck, Assistant Food For Peace Officer resigned his position effective 20 January 1973 and returned to the U.S.A. Robert Hearn was appointed Assistant Food For Peace Officer.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE:

See attached report

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V. LOGISTICS:

The following items were distributed nationwide for the periods shown.
PL 480 Title II items are reported as an enclosure to this report.

<u>Item</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
Rice	3,682.81 MT	3,102.03 MT
Meat	20,044 cases	19,244 cases
Salt	25.61 MT	94.06 MT
Mosquito Nets	4,506	9,794
Sleeping mats	4,110	11,701
Blankets	6,848	11,911
Water buckets	2,171	2,845
Cooking Pots	2,341	3,125
Steamers	2,217	3,547
Saute Pans	1,381	3,070
Plates	8,427	10,272
Wash basin	1,543	1,054
Tools	3,435	8,141
Plastic rolls	103	1,542
Clothing piece	4,223	3,971
Steel bars	1,154	1,082

Attachments (2)

- 1) Monthly Refugee Status Report
- 2) FFP Monthly Report

ORA:WCL:mhb

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1973 POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION	Full Support		Partial Support		REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY		Totals December	Totals January	Net Change
	For Dec	For Jan	For Dec	For Jan	For Dec	For Jan			
Region I									
Ban Houei Sai	19,196	20,936					19,196	20,936	+ 1,740
Chang Prahang	32,511	38,324					32,511	38,324	+ 5,813
Savathong	1,663	275					1,663	275	- 1,388
Region II									
Bim PD	9,335	9,335					9,335	9,335	
Bim PDI	4,255	2,685					4,255	2,685	- 1,570
Area 272	124,251	135,034	5,051	15,886			129,302	150,920	- 21,618
Region III									
Chokok	3,217	3,535	555	1,499			3,772	5,034	+ 1,262
Savathong	28,063	9,724	2,678	2,578			30,741	12,302	- 18,439
Region IV									
Kae	25,492	28,403	487	-0-			25,979	28,403	+ 2,424
Phadon	18	-0-					18	-0-	18
Region V									
TE Plain	1,553	4,467	-0-	1,383			1,553	5,850	+ 4,297
Kassane	2,559	2,398	171	50			2,730	2,448	- 282
Chang Vieng	-0-	3,327	7,377	461			7,377	3,788	- 3,589
TOTAL	252,113	208,443	16,319	23,957			268,432	232,400	- 36,032

REMARKS

BHS: 1,794 new refugees added to support rolls with significant number of others displaced but not accounted for. Enemy threats continue.

LP: 8,498 new refugees added to rolls having come from Xieng Ngeum and Long Nam Khan Valley Kio Nya areas. 3,916 dropped as enemy gained control Kio Nya-Muong Nane Valley (TG-1586). Others dropped after recount.

SBY: 1,388 removed from rolls having gained self-sufficiency.

SE Bim PD: 1,570 removed from rolls having gained self-sufficiency.

CENTRAL PD: 44,906 removed from rolls having gained self-sufficiency. 5,026 forced from homes but relocated within area without change in support status.

THK: 4,000 refugees added to rolls through enemy activity. 880 removed from rolls after moving from sites.

SVKI: 8,845 refugees dropped from rolls as they returned to homes in Keangkok, Khong Sedone and Saphathong. 11,195 dropped from rolls for refusing to leave Savannakhet for relocation sites. 2,856 new refugees from Khammouane Province and 881 from Phalane and Thakhek areas.

Pakser: 2,873 new refugees from Saravang added for support upon arrival Khong Sedone. 487 removed from rolls having reached self-sufficiency.

VTE Plain: 4,297 new refugees added coming from Vang Vieng, Khammouane province and Muong Kassy and Thakhek.

PSN: 111 new refugees added coming from Thakhek and Khammouane Provinces. 200 refugees dropped after move from Mang Daneg Site to Ban Xon (LS-272).

