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OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Nason, Director  
FROM : John W. MacQueen, AD/IA  
SUBJECT: Office of Refugee Affairs  
Monthly Report February 1973

I. GENERAL:

At month's end, the total of refugees reported stood at 280,575, a net increase over the previous month of 28,275. One year ago the refugee population stood at 237,975. Enemy pressures continued during the month in most areas and showed little signs of abating in spite of the cease fire which came into effect on 22 February. Most areas continued to report increases in the number of refugees on the rolls with the exception of Luang Prabang, which showed a trend of refugees returning to their former locations, such as the Xieng Ngeun area.

Military Region I:

Ban Houei Saly: The situation which prevailed in January continued during the month of February with large numbers of persons on the move. The fall of LS 135, LS 210, LS 18A, LS 118, LS 320, LS 357, LS 359 and Muong Mueng (LS 93), the latter after the cease fire, created waves of people moving towards the Mekong. Much of the movement was based on rumor and attempts by local officials to stem the flow of refugees proved of little avail. It is estimated that 3,500 people have crossed into Thailand and as many as 10 thousand E Kaw tribe people have fled into Burma. The actual area now under RLG control is confined primarily to a narrow strip of land along the banks of the Mekong River.

Luang Prabang: Security has improved somewhat enabling some refugees to return to areas they occupied prior to recent enemy activities. This is particularly true in the Xieng Ngeun area.

Sayaboury: Refugee situation remained fairly stable with only minor numbers of new refugees added during the month. The new refugees came primarily from the Luang Prabang area of Muong Mai early in the month.

DISTR: OD, DD, AD/A, AD/AIN, AD/S, AD/BA(9), BPM(2), AD/FO, SMIX(2), PFPD, C&BI(1), AC: BHS, LP, XK, SIA, Sby, SMI, Pakeg, All Division Chiefs, Liaison Desk (AD/W) (1)

15 March 1973

Military Region II:

PDI: Although considerable movement of refugees occurred in the area, little if any was caused by enemy aggression. Additions to the rolls were primarily for administrative reasons.

Military Region III:

Thakhek: Although the number of refugees reported on the rolls remained relatively stable during the month, additional refugees continued to leave the area in the face of continued enemy harassment. These refugees moved in the main towards Savannakhet and Vientiane where they were added to the rolls.

Savannakhet: At month's end upwards of 8,000 refugees were counted as coming from Khammouane Province and are now located in refugee sites in Savannakhet. These refugees are reluctant to return to their original homes as yet, particularly in face of recent flag raising activities by the PL. Approximately 60 refugees who returned to Khong Sedone last month have returned to Keangkak.

Military Region IV:

Pakse: The large increase in the number of new refugees can be attributed to arrival of almost 8,000 persons from Saravane at Khong Sedone during the month. In general the enemy remained active in Saravane Province as well as southern Champassak and northern Sithandone. Most of Sedone and Wapikharthong Provinces remained under RLG control. Three new refugee sites opened in order to accommodate influx of new refugees.

Military Region V:

Vientiane Plain: Considerable numbers of refugees continued to report into the area from Thakhek as well as Vang Vieng. The latter group were encouraged to return to their original homes and by month's end most of the 2,535 total had returned to their villages in the vicinity of Vang Vieng and Muong Kasey.

15 March 1971

Patanae: The enemy remained active in area with some refugee movements reported. Movement into area was offset by those moving elsewhere.

Vang Viang: The new refugees reported came from areas north of Vang Vieng where the enemy has continued to be active.

#### Other Comments:

During the latter part of the month a supply of heavy mesh wire was received making it possible to complete the inside dividers of the Consolidated Rice Warehouse facility at Wattay Airport. With the installation of these dividers and completion of work on the outside area, it is estimated that by the latter part of March the bagging operation at KM-4 can be moved to Wattay. One warehouse is completed at the Pakhao Center with steel being erected for the second unit and work well underway on the knee walls of the third unit. This latter unit is expected to arrive at the Port of Bangkok during March. The RLG Ministry of Social Welfare has completed its reorganization of supplies and all sub-standard buildings in the complex are now empty.

## II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Vientiane Plain: The cadastral survey of refugee reserve areas is gathering momentum as experienced gained during the survey of Areas #4 and #5 has enabled many procedural problems to be ironed out. At the present time there are 30 surveyors divided into ten teams working in reserve areas numbers 2, 3, and 6. The following is a report by areas:

Area #4 - Phone Sai: A total of 210 hectares of potential paddy land has been surveyed. However, local villagers have made claims against all but seven hectares. The Khoueng Committee is in the process of reviewing these claims and their decision is expected by mid-March. In view of the minimal amount of uncontested land available, allocation of land to refugees in the area will not be possible until the decision of the Khoueng Committee is made known.

15 March 1973

Area #5 - Dong Kalune: A total of 173 hectares of potential paddy land has been surveyed. Of this total, 73 hectares are uncontested by local villagers. A land lottery was held by the Chao Muong's Committee on 15 February and one-hectare plots were distributed to 53 refugee families in two villages. Cultivation permits have been prepared and submitted to the Chao Khoueng for signature. The remaining 20 hectares of uncontested land will be distributed along with that portion of the 100 hectares of contested land that the Khoueng Committee determines should be allocated to refugees.

Area #6 - Ban Phao: At the present time there are two teams surveying 5,300 hectares of land. As Area #6 consists primarily of lands suitable for upland farming, it is being divided into four hectare units. Sixty-one of these have been completed to date. It should be noted that prior to the beginning of the survey, the Deputy Chao Muong of Muong Saythany, the Deputy Tassang of the area, Mr. Surit of the Ministry of Social Welfare, a local Colonel of the FAR, and Mr. Robert McClymonds representing ORA flew over and stopped at various villages in the area. Most of the villages contacted stated there should be little contested land in Area #6. An additional survey team is being assigned to this area with completion date of survey projected to be May of this year.

Area #3 - Ban Y Lai: A survey of 3,500 hectares of rice farming land is now underway with 1,000 hectares completed. Three survey teams assisted by 12 laborers are working the area. It will be up to the decision of the Muong and Khoueng Committees to determine what percentage of the land surveyed will be available for refugees.

On 27 February a land lottery was held at Ban Y Lai #1. A total of 152 one-hectare plots were distributed to families in Ban Y Lai #2 and #3. The Muong Committee is presently reviewing claims against several of the plots before issuing cultivation permits. Further land allocations will be effected through land lotteries as land disputes and cadastral surveys are completed.

Area #2 - Muong Cao: Area #2 involves approximately 2,247 hectares of potential rice farming land. One cadastral survey team is presently assigned to the area and two more teams will be assigned by

15 March 1973

mid-March. These teams will be working with the refugees to identify land they are presently farming. Thirty hectares have been surveyed and maps forwarded to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Chao Khoueng for issuance of cultivation permits.

Other Areas: Surveys will begin in Areas 1, 7, 8, 9, and 10 as work is completed in the above areas.

Fak Sap: The Thakhek area refugees presently living at Fak Sap have completed clearing five new village sites. Access roads now connect three of the villages and connecting roads for the last two will be finished in March using Ministry of Social Welfare bulldozers. Construction of housing is also expected to begin in March.

#### Savannakhet:

Thasano Relocation Project: Work was begun on a rural market using self help labor. Construction should be completed by the end of March. Survey for farm land has been completed for nine villages, however, farm land within the reserve area is becoming scarce for the remaining seven villages.

Thasano Extension: At the present there are some 666 refugee families from Thakhek living in the area. To date, 531 houses have been completed with work continuing on the remainder.

Seno: Ministry of Social Welfare tractors from Ban Amone have plowed approximately 180 hectares of rice land. The remaining 62 hectares should be completed in time for the planting season.

#### Pakse:

Phou Ma Chiang: Considerable progress was shown during the past month in development activities. A total of ten drilled wells have been added to the area as well as four schools totalling ten classrooms were completed.

15 March 1973

III. PERSONNEL:

George F. Grabow was assigned to the ORA under a contract arrangement with the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare effective 18 February 1973. Mr. Grabow will be a Refugee Operations Officer and have field assignments.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE:

See attached report.

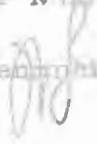
V. LOGISTICS:

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>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Rice	3,102.03 MT	3,257.30 MT
Meat	19,244 cases	13,186 cases
Salt	94.06 MT	86.70 MT
Mosquito Nets	9,791	6,749
Sleeping mats	11,701	6,802
Blankets	11,911	8,028
Water buckets	2,845	5,147
Cooking pots	3,125	4,707
Steamers	3,547	4,664
Saute Pans	5,070	3,038
Plates	10,272	13,303
Wash basin	1,054	1,382
Tools	8,141	9,942
Plastic, rolls	1,542	110
Clothing, piece	3,971	4,594
Steel bars	1,082	1,212

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCL 

Donor  
Relocation  
Project Area

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD  
AND  
REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES  
RECEIVING  
REHABILITATION  
ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEES STATUS REPORT  
FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1973  
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION	Full Support		Partial Support		REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY		Totals January	Totals February	Net Change
	For Jan	For Feb	For Jan	For Feb	For Jan	For Feb			
MR									
220 Suay Sak	20,936	29,505					20,936	29,505	+ 8,569
Luang Prahang	38,324	35,379		865			38,324	36,244	- 2,080
Amnong	275	868		280			275	1,148	+ 873
	4,335	9,972					4,335	9,972	- 537
	2,685	4,29					2,685	4,29	- 1,604
TOTAL 272	85,034	101,076	15,886				100,920	115,076	+ 14,156
	97,054	113,077					112,940	115,077	+ 2,137
	1,555	4,813	1,495	2,421			7,034	7,034	
Samnang	9,724	12,045	2,678	2,678			12,402	14,723	+ 2,321
	28,403	31,927	-0-	6,102			28,403	38,029	+ 9,626
272	-0-	-0-					-0-	-0-	
VTE Plain	4,467	10,787	1,383	970			5,850	11,757	+ 5,907
Phakane	2,398	2,490	50				2,448	2,490	+ 42
Vang Vieng	3,327	4,102	461	566			3,788	4,668	+ 880
TOTAL	208,443	246,793	23,957	13,882			232,400	260,675	+ 28,275

REMARKS

**BHS** - Enemy particularly aggressive in this area generally forcing people to move towards Mekong River and some crossing into Thailand. Fall of LS-118 and LS-118A (Nam Yu) and LS-93 generated most of the new refugees.

**LP** - 3,584 Xieng Ngeun refugees dropped from rolls as they returned to home sites. 865 Meo refugees added at Phou Din Deng (SG-9365).

**SBY** - 389 Lao and Lao Tueng from Muong Met area added plus 204 Meo from LS-354 and Houei Vat Kang (TG-1696).

**N Rim PDI** - Additions due to recount of refugees.

**S E. Rim PDI** - 1,570 refugees added with 144 dropped.

**Central 272** - Considerable movement of refugees within area with little change in totals.

**THK** - Numbers of refugees remained stable during period.

**SVKT** - Influx of new refugees continued from Saphangthong Atsophon, Thakhek and Phalane.

**Pakse** - 7,959 Saravane refugees added to rolls upon arrival. Khong Sedone. Additional 1,687 refugees returned to their original homes and were placed on full support rolls.

**VTE Plain** - 1,014 Refugees from Thakhek added to rolls. As well as 337 from Vang Vieng. 5,999 refugees at Hin Heup added to rolls.

**PSN** - 179 New Refugees from Nam Thone added. Offset by those moving from area to LS-272 or opting to live with relatives rather than remain in refugee sites.

**VV** - 1,188 new refugees added in Pha Tang (TG-3012) and Ban Nyiu (TF-4387) areas. 308 dropped from rolls due to recount or removing from area.