

~~CE #7~~ ~~DAH~~ A-08
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OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 22 January 1973
FROM : *John W. MacQueen*
John W. MacQueen, AD/RA
Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report December 1972

GENERAL

The total number of refugees reported at month end stood at 17,000 which represents a net decline from the previous month of 17,000. In the main, most of those removed from the rolls were refugees who had a sufficient stock of rice on hand and no longer required this type of assistance. The enemy remained active during the month with the result that several thousand new refugees were added to the rolls. Comments relative to each Military Region are as follows:

Military Region I:

Central Highlands: A total of 5,087 newly displaced refugees were added and added to the rolls. These people fled military activity primarily from the LS 316, LS 335, LS 353, and LS 359 areas. In addition, 1,202 refugees and dependent refugees were removed because in some areas where the enemy intensified activity. Several hundred other civilians have fled across the border as their villages became insecure.

Laos: Continued enemy pressures generated 1,000 new refugees from the Bouam Xieng Area (SH 9207)

Summary: No significant changes.

Military Region II:

Laos: Continued fighting around Lou, Thieng (LS 20 A) and at Soun (LS 37) produced no significant civilian movement.

DISTR: OD, DD, AD/M, AD/IN, AD/T, AD/RA(9), EPM(2), AI/PA, SML(2), FPPO G&H(3), AC, Sby, LP, SHS, SMO, SPP, KS. All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk AID/W(3)

Military Region III:

Thakhek: Enemy activity continued heavy in this area causing a great uncertainty within the city itself. During the month an additional 1,000 refugees were accounted for.

Stannakhet: Enemy activities continued during the month and several refugees reported. These are primarily from Khammouane Province. To date 2,018 families (12,491 persons) from Thakhek are reported in Stannakhet.

Military Region IV:

Salween: While military activity remained high in the Saravane (LS 100) and Pakse (LS 05) areas, no significant civilian movement was reported. Civilian authorities returned officially to Khong Sefane (LS 100) however, there has been a large number of internally displaced persons.

Military Region 5:

Yunnan Plain Area: Military activity increased in the Luang Namtha (LS 158) and Ban Long (LS 103) areas. In the Pakse operations (LS 05) and most of the 800 civilian refugees there were displaced to sectors in the Yang Vieng (LS 16), Muong Kassy (LS 215), and Ban Phou Khou (LS 200) areas; the deteriorating military situation has caused the loss of several thousand civilians in the area. By 1973, 100,000 civilians had also been displaced along route RIG 13 north of the Salween River.

Other Comments:

Assistance: The RLC Ministry of Social Welfare received 1,000 tons of rice and other commodities were delivered to the Salween, LS 27, and Pakse.

Warehousing Program: The first unit at the Pakhao center did not begin until 1 March 1973. Work is also progressing on other units. The Consolidated Rice Warehouse (CRW) at the Jay Airport is completed and is being used for air land operations. Plans for building an additional warehouse at Pakse have been approved.

... as leased space is available. Improved stock control program of the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare Warehouse at Thakhek revealed that several items of stock were missing. With the cooperation of the Lao National Police the culprits were identified and a group of current and former Mission Guard employees was...

Departure of Ministry Official: On December 7, H. E. K. Vithakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, departed Vietnam for Bangkok to assume his new position as RLG Ambassador to Thailand. Pending the appointment of a new Secretary of State for Social Welfare the senior officer at the Ministry is Mr. Hountong Soukhavong, Director General of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

DELOCATRY ACTIVITIES

Ban Amone Plant: A new site for the relocation of some 3,000 Khmer refugees has been selected near the village of Pak Sop (10° 12' N, 102° 30' E). The area, located on the bank of the Nam Ngum River, has an abundant supply of natural building materials to facilitate construction of the four planned villages. Approximately three kilometers of dry season access road will be required to open up the area. Equipment from the RLG Ban Amone Equipment Center will be used in clearing village sites.

It is uncertain at this time whether or not the Thakhek refugees will be able to return to their former villages in Khammouane. Existing (temporary) plans are to construct permanent bamboo style houses which, in the event these people do return, might be used as a community center for other groups of refugees. Cost of construction will be negligible as natural building materials, including thatch, are plentiful in the immediate area. The site, situated on the river, has easy access to a good source of water and the refugees can supplement their diets with fish and vegetable gardens.

Ban Amone Equipment Center: The RLG Ministry of Social Welfare announced that it had received approval for the release of \$2.5 million from the RLG Ministry of Finance to be used for purchase of spare parts. This will make it possible to return additional pieces of equipment to service. The Ministry also intends to streamline administrative procedures and effect a reduction in personnel.

These measures auger well for the future of the center and there is a good possibility that it will become self-supporting by the end of FY 71.

Arrangements were made to send two farm tractors with a tractor driver from the Center to Ban Houei Sai to work on the 200 hectares of the Ban Houei Sai Relocation Project.

Savannakhet and Pakse: Mr. George Cosgrove, ORA Relocation Officer, visited both Savannakhet and Pakse to review the status of relocation projects. In Savannakhet, work is underway on the 1,000-hectare project which is presently being used for the temporary relocation of some 9,000 Thakhek refugees. During his visit Activity Proposals were drafted which provided for roads and village sites in the new project.

In Pakse, Mr. Cosgrove worked with the local ORA staff to draft Activity Proposals which will provide assistance to khong (indigenous) villages (by way) returning to their original homes. These proposals contain proposals for reconstruction of damaged houses and other buildings.

(1) SAVANNAKHET: No change during the month.

FOOD FOR PLANTS:

See attached report.

COMMODITIES:

The following items were distributed nationwide for the period 1970-71. PL 480 Title II items are reported as an enclosure.

| Item | November | December |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Rice | 4,254,183 MT | 3,687,011 MT |
| Misc | 22,574 cases | 20,041 cases |
| Salt | 125,174 MT | 21,971 MT |
| Multipurpose Tools | 10,639 | 4,500 |
| Sleeping Mats | 11,210 | 4,110 |
| Baskets | 12,524 | 6,840 |
| Water Buckets | 5,908 | 2,170 |
| Cooking Pots | 5,246 | 2,340 |

Monthly Refugee Report - December

22 January 1973

| <u>Item</u> | <u>November</u> | <u>December</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Swimmers | 5,179 | 2,217 |
| State Plans | 2,410 | 1,331 |
| Fates | 17,839 | 8,417 |
| Veget Basin | 4,970 | 1,511 |
| Wood | 6,228 | 3,430 |
| Identif. Roll | 250 | 171 |
| Clothing plans | 11,777 | 4,811 |
| Steel Bars | 3,637 | 1,177 |

12/1/72 (2)

11. Monthly Refugee Status Report

12. ICP Monthly Report

13. ICP Monthly Report

| Region | REFUGEES REQUIRING FOOD AND REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE | | | | REFUGEES RECEIVING REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE | | MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1978 | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|-----|--|------------------|----------------|
| | Full Support | | Partial Support | | Nov | Dec | Total | Newly Registered | Total |
| | Nov | Dec | Nov | Dec | | | | | |
| Region I | | | | | | | | | |
| Ban Houei Sot | 21,118 | 19,196 | | | | | | 21,118 | -1,922 |
| Luang Prabang | 44,706 | 32,511 | | | | | | 44,706 | -12,195 |
| Vayaboury | 1,665 | 1,663 | | | | | | 1,665 | 2,252 |
| Region II | | | | | | | | | |
| Kim PDI | 9,102 | 7,335 | | | | | | 9,102 | -1,767 |
| Si Khe PDI | 6,255 | 6,255 | | | | | | 6,255 | |
| Partial PDI | 124,116 | 124,251 | 5,071 | 3,051 | | | | 124,116 | -105 |
| Region III | | | | | | | | | |
| Kathek | 3,897 | 3,213 | | 652 | | | | 3,897 | -684 |
| Vannabot | 22,117 | 22,051 | 2,865 | 2,125 | | | | 22,117 | -666 |
| Region IV | | | | | | | | | |
| Chen | 31,228 | 29,773 | | 1,455 | | | | 31,228 | -1,455 |
| Phonone | | | | | | | | | |
| Region V | | | | | | | | | |
| SE Plate | | | | | | | | | |
| Ussoe | | | | | | | | | |
| Luang Vieng | 13,000 | | | | | | | 13,000 | |
| TOTAL | 376,118 | 322,119 | 7,936 | 5,628 | | | | 376,118 | -53,999 |

1,922 new refugees generated this month: mostly from the SH-9207 area. 2,725 refugees on full support were removed from rolls after attaining self sufficiency. Another 536 dependent refugees were captured by the enemy.

1,928 new refugees, mostly from Ban Souam Xieng area (SH-9207), were added to full support rolls. 14,121 fully-supported refugees, including 434 dependents, were removed from the rolls after attaining self-sufficiency.

211 new refugees were added to full support rolls at 15-32.

294 new dependent refugees were added to full support after an eligibility review.

4,576 new refugees generated due to military activity in Khammouane Province. Of this number, 355 were placed on partial support, the remainder on full support. 1,391 refugees on full support were removed from rolls after moving out of province. Another 1,000 were declared as "ghosts" when they decided to return to their home villages.

6,000 new refugees were added to the full support rolls. About 25% of them are from Khammouane Province. 1,512 were removed from the rolls after attaining self-sufficiency.

13,000 new refugees were added to the full support rolls.