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LARRY W.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 16 October 1972
FROM : John W. MacQueen, AD/RA *John W. MacQueen*
SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - September 1972

I. GENERAL

The number of refugees increased during the month by a net of 6,817 persons for a month-end total of 308,297. Of this total, over 4,500 were new refugees. Although military activity remained at a relatively low level, new refugees continued to be reported in the central 272 area of Region II and in Pakse of Region IV. The latter coming primarily from the Ban Wapi area where military activity reduced security. Some refugees returned to the Khong Sedone area; however, the city itself attracted few returning refugees in view of intermittent enemy initiated incidents. The Phou Ba Chiang Relocation Site experienced an improvement in security with the result that USAID distribution and some development programs were recommenced. Programs of this nature have been at a standstill since 17 August. Should the situation remain stable it is expected that 3,000 to 5,000 additional refugees will move to the location by the end of December.

The problem of late and incomplete deliveries by the Public Warehouse Organization (PWO) of contracted glutinous rice continued throughout September in Pakse, Savannakhet, and Ban Houei Sai. To fulfill requirements at Ban Houei Sai, PWO resorted to delivery of 100 metric tons of non-glutinous rice, the only such delivery made thus far. All PWO contracts, with the possible exception of Ban Houei Sai, will be completed approximately 30 November. The price of rice on the new contracts will be contingent upon the degree of success of the rice harvest in Thailand which will be partially completed at that time. It can be expected that PWO will ask for a substantial price increase in view of the predicted shortage in harvest and in an effort to recoup some of their losses sustained on the present contract.

DISTR: OD, DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/P, AD/RA(9), EPM(2), AD/FO, SMB(2), FFPO, C&R(3), AC: Vte, Sby, LP, BHS, Svkt, Pkse, XK, All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk-AID/W(3)

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Early in the month AD/RA and staff from SMB visited Ban Houei Sai and concurred in the necessity to further expand the warehouse at that location in view of the necessity to store greater quantities of PL 480 commodities. This expansion will also require relocation of the present operations office. Activity Proposals are now being processed to provide funds for these changes.

On September 29 Mr. Keo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare and Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, Director General of the Ministry of Social Welfare went to Ban Houei Sai to assist in the explanation of the RLG position regarding the culture of opium to the Joint Staff of MR I. They were accompanied by Mr. James Chandler and the RLG Secretaries of State for Public Health and Rural Affairs.

The RLG Warehouse at That Khao is now completed. The Consolidated Rice Warehouse facility at Wattay Airport has 95% of foundation work completed with steel erection scheduled to commence in twenty days. The steel prefabricated warehouse in Savannakhet is 80% completed with paneling now being installed. Completion is expected by 30 October. At the Pha Khao complex site preparation is completed and work on the foundations for the new food storage facilities has started. Two of the three units of Pascoe type buildings planned are immediately available and the third has been placed on order from the manufacturer. The former were obtained from excess property sources in Vietnam; however, that supply has now been depleted. The requirement for additional storage at Pha Khao was necessitated by the failure of the owner of the warehouse at KM 14 to renew the present lease, which terminates 1 March 1973. No other storage facilities meeting the minimum standards for bulk food storage were available locally, therefore, the decision was made to construct additional warehouses at the Pha Khao site. Requirements for storage space for food commodities, particularly PL 480 will increase considerably during the coming months in view of Mission policy to substitute PL 480 food for 50% of the current rice ration for refugees.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Cadastral Survey: The cadastral survey of refugee reserve areas on the Vientiane Plain, which began in reserve area #4 (Phone Soi) in late August, is well underway. Approximately 50% of available land in Area #4 has been surveyed and divided into plots for allocation to refugee families. This portion of the survey is expected to be completed by the end of October.

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It has been particularly encouraging to note the active role the RLG is taking in planning and implementing the survey. The Lao Cadastral Service chief surveyor assigned to the project, Mr. Prayny, has assumed supervision of the project in the field. Mr. Surit of the Ministry of Social Welfare is reportedly working hard to draw up cultivation permits to be issued to the refugees as land is allocated. The initiative is clearly in the hands of the RLG with USAID serving in a technical advisory capacity only.

Ban Amone Equipment Center: Of major concern during the past several months has been the establishment of a procedure for contracting, collecting and depositing monies earned by the Ban Amone Equipment Center through custom work. On 8 September 1972, during a meeting attended by various Ministry of Social Welfare officials and staff of the Office of Refugee Affairs and the Office of Finance, the present Ban Amone accounting system was reviewed. During the course of the meeting it became apparent that some improvements were needed and Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, Director General of the Ministry, asked Mr. John Coughlin, USAID/OFIN to study the operation in greater depth and prepare some recommendations. This has been done and is presently in the hands of the Ministry for review.

Current Status of Relocation Sites: An airgram was prepared and sent to AID/W on 21 September 1972 summarizing the status of all activities in the various relocation sites. Copies can be obtained from C&R. Reference: Airgram, TOAID A-565, Subject: Refugee Resettlement Program dated 21 September 1972.

III. PERSONNEL

George Cosgrove returned from home leave on 1 September and assumed his duties as Chief, Relocation Branch.

Wayne Johnson returned from home leave on 10 September and assumed his duties as Refugee Operations Officer at Ban Houei Sai.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

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V. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLIES

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>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Rice	4,027.88 MT	3,809.54 MT
Meat	7,373 cases	14,444 cases
Salt	103.76 MT	123.32 MT
Mosquito Nets	2,611	1,322
Sleeping Mats	2,592	1,424
Blankets	180	2,672
Water Buckets	1,012	667
Cooking Pots	917	670
Steamer	806	717
Saute Pan	744	364
Bowls	3,874	3,518
Plates	176	
Wash Basin	146	268
Tools	1,759	573
Plastic rolls	591	257
Clothing (piece)	6,317	4,227
Amals	13	11
Steel Bars		17

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCluken:mhb

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD AND
REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES
RECEIVING
REHABILITATION
ASSISTANCE
ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT
FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1972
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

REGION I	Full Support		Partial Support		REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE ONLY		Total for August	Total for September	Net Change
	For August	For Sept	For August	For Sept	For August	For Sept			
Ban Houei Sai	19,669	19,658					19,669	19,658	- 11
Luang Prabang	44,838	43,079					44,838	43,079	- 1,759
Sayaboury	1,968	1,982					1,968	1,982	+ 14
REGION II									
N. Rim PDJ	8,924	8,924					8,924	8,924	
Central 272	119,040	118,867	3,122	4,753			122,362	123,620	+ 1,258
SE Rim PDJ	4,255	4,255					4,255	4,255	
XXXXXXXXXX									XXXXXXXXXX
REGION III									
Thakhek	618	618					618	618	
Savannakhet	12,439	12,449	2,912	2,912			15,351	15,361	+ 10
REGION IV									
Pakse	25,820	27,349					25,820	27,349	+ 1,529
Sithandone	484	484					484	484	
REGION V									
VTE Plain	33,088	33,388	780	6,664			33,868	40,052	+ 6,184
Paksane	9,504	9,460			209	209	9,713	9,669	- 44
VV/M Kassy	12,631	12,267	979	979			13,610	13,246	- 364
TOTAL	293,278	292,780	7,993	15,308	209	209	301,480	308,297	+ 6,817

REMARKS

BHS: Eligibility changes, net decrease 11.

LP: 850 new dependent refugees. 2,609 removed from rolls after eligibility reviews.

SBY: 49 new Mao refugees added to support rolls, and 35 other refugees returned to Luang Prabang area.

PDJ & 272 Area: 1,966 new refugees added to food support rolls, and 688 removed after eligibility review at the Central 272 Site.

TKK: No changes.

SVKT: 186 new refugees from Ban Wap area set off 186 other refugees who were dropped after eligibility review.

PKSE: 1,529 new refugees from Khong Sedone area.

STHDN: No changes.

VTE Plain: Large group of refugees from MR given a special rice distribution thru October per request of Ministry of Social Welfare.

PSN: 24 refugees moved to Long Chiang, and another 20 dropped from rolls after recount.

VV/MK: Decrease due to administrative shift of responsibility.