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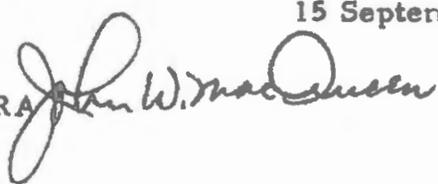
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. James B. Chandler
Acting Director

15 September 1972

FROM : John W. MacQueen, AD/RA



SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - August 1972

I. GENERAL

The total number of refugees declined nationwide during the reporting period for a total 301,480 persons at months end, down from the previous month by 16,604 refugees. The bulk of this reduction occurred in Pakse, where 11,524 Khong Sedone refugees, living in the city, were dropped from the rolls. Refugees in this area are being encouraged to move to a new site at Selabam where regular support will again be provided. This is a decision of the RLC Ministry of Social Welfare. An additional 3,865 returned to their former homes and 4,121 moved from refugee areas to other locations. Military action elsewhere in the Kingdom during the month resulted in only a minor number of new refugees being added for support purposes. The security situation in the area of Khong Sedone did not improve sufficiently to entice large numbers of refugees to return to their homes, contrary to earlier expectations.

Early in the month the Mission established a policy whereby PL-480 foodstuffs were to be substituted for 50% of the current rice ration (refer to para II of the attached Food for Peace Branch Monthly Report for more complete details). The Food For Peace Branch conducted a survey of the impact of this decision and a separate report will be provided the Director on this matter within a short time. Warehouse facilities were determined to be inadequate at Ban Houei Sai, Vientiane, and possibly Pakse for the expanded program. Activity I proposals are being prepared to provide needed space at the first two sites with Pakse still under consideration

The Public Warehouse Organization (PWO), of the Royal Thai Government requested a three month postponement of their contracted deliveries of glutinous rice to the Mission. Fearing a shortage of this type of rice plus uncertainty of prices, PWO felt they would be unable to make scheduled deliveries. A series of meetings have been held to find a mutually acceptable

DISTR: JD, DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/P, AD/RA(9), EPM(2),
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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solution to this problem but no firm decisions have yet been made. During the interim, IWO has been continuing to make deliveries of rice; however delivery has not been as required. This has necessitated movement of rice within country and in some cases borrowing from available sources.

The RLG Ministry of Social Welfare fleet delivered 164 metric tons of commodities as against 135 metric tons the previous months. Performance should increase markedly during the next reporting period as four new cargo trucks were received late in the month. Improvement has also been noted in the Ministry's maintenance unit. Major repairs undertaken included disassembly and repair of front and rear axles, brakes, drive lines and installation of new engines.

The Evaluation Office of the ORA is in process of conducting socio-economic surveys of all refugee resettlement villages. The purpose of the study is to determine the status of each resettlement village in comparison with the older non-refugee villages located in the same areas. A survey of the non-refugee villages has now been completed to establish base line data and the results will be available for distribution shortly. Every family in the village is interviewed and the 160 plus answers are recorded individually and averaged to determine the norm for each village. It is expected that the information collected will prove invaluable in determining future program direction.

Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, Director General of the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare, participated in Chao Moung's Seminars in Luang Prabang and Pakse during the month and made a field trip together with AD/RA to Luang Prabang on refugee matters.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Progress on completion of relocation projects slowed during the month because of weather and in some cases security. The Phu Ba Chieng relocation site in Pakse experienced a series of ambushes which not only interrupted development activities but hampered distribution of commodities. Additional families were reluctant to move into the area and a sense of uneasiness characterized the entire situation.

The Activity Proposal for conducting a cadastral survey within the refugee reserve areas on the Vientiane Plain received final approval. Three

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survey crews, consisting of four Lao Cadastral Service surveyors, six RLG Ministry of Social Welfare surveyors, and eight USAID hourly hire personnel began the initial work during the last week of the month. USAID/PWD is providing two TCN advisors for the project to assist in planning and developing proper surveying techniques. Once these three teams have become familiar with the work, they will be used as the nucleus to form up to nine teams.

III. PERSONNEL

Jack Williamson, Refugee Affairs Officer, departed for home leave on 3 August 1972.

Robert Hearn was appointed as Reports and Statistics Officer on 24 August 1972 with station in Vientiane. Mr. Hearn is with USAID/ORA under a Cooperating Country Contract.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

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>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Rice	4,229.96 MT	4,027.88 MT
Meat	12,609 cases	7,373 cases
Salt	108.38 MT	103.76 MT
Mosquito Nets	2,606	2,611
Sleeping Mats	2,632	2,592
Blankets	3,179	130
Water Buckets	1,041	1,012
Cooking Pots	1,928	917
Steamer	987	806
Saute Pan	617	744
Bowls	-	3,874
Plates	-	176
Wash Basin	-	146
Tools	1,975	1,759
Plastic, rolls	250	591
Clothing (piece)	7,838	6,317
Anvils	63	13

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Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCL :mhb

Population
Project
Area

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD
& REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES
RECEIVING
REHABILITATION
ASSISTANCE
ONLY

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

AREA REGION I	Full Support		Partial Support		REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE ONLY		Total For July	Total For August	Net Change
	For July	For August	For July	For August	For July	For August			
Ban Houei Sai	19,529	19,669					19,529	19,669	+ 140
Luang Prabang	44,423	44,838					44,423	44,838	+ 415
Saysboursy	2,027	1,968	2,509	-			4,536	1,968	- 2,568
REGION II									
N. Rim PDJ	8,924	8,924					8,924	8,924	
S. E. Rim PDJ	4,255	4,255					4,255	4,255	
CENTRAL PDJ	118,163	119,040	5,086	3,322			123,249	122,362	- 887
XXXXXXXXXX									XXXXXX
REGION III									
Thakhek	660	618					660	618	- 42
Savannakhet	14,947	12,439	2,912	2,912			14,783	15,351	+ 568
REGION IV									
Pakse	41,176	25,820					41,176	25,820	-15,356
Sithandone	479	484					479	484	+ 5
REGION V									
VTE Plain	33,088	33,088	780	780			33,868	33,868	
Paksane	9,888	9,504			-	209	9,888	9,713	- 175
VV/Muong Kassy	11,335	12,631	979	979			12,314	13,610	+ 1,296
TOTAL	305,818	293,278	12,266	7,993	-	209	318,084	301,480	16,604

REMARKS

BHS: 19 new refugees from Pak Tha and 121 others declared eligible for full support.
 LP: 1,900 new refugees from Pha Sok area, but 1,485 decrease due to recount
 SBY: Large group were declared ineligible for continued partial support in early August
 CEN/272: 2,658 flood victims removed from rolls in early August, but 1,771 new refugees were added due to low crop yields.
 PKSE: Large groups from Khong Sedone, Attopeu, and Saravane failed to report after original food distribution and were consequently dropped from rolls
 TKK: Small reduction due to a move from temporary relocation sites.
 SVKT: Steady flow in from Khong Sedone, Saphangthong, Atsophone, and Thasano throughout the month.
 STHDN: Moved from Ban Lao to Muong Sene and were placed on full support.
 PSN: 209 refugees at UF 643-421 placed on rehab support 182 removed from rolls for various reasons.
 VV/MK: New additions to full support rolls from Muong Kassy as the group's own rice supply is now depleted.