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Richard *Paul*

LARRY - FILE

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 15 June 1972

FROM : John W. MacQueen, AD/RA *John W. MacQueen*

SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - May 1972

I. GENERAL

Enemy occupation of the provincial capital of Wapikhamthong Province, Khong Sedone, on 17 May, precipitated a flow of refugees from that city into both Pakse and Savannakhet. At month's end, Pakse counted 5,040 new refugees and Savannakhet 2,364. The result was a net increase nationwide of 6,277 refugees over the previous month. Other areas of the country, particularly Ban Houei Sai and Luang Prabang, continued to report the arrival of new refugees due to enemy harassment although not on the scale experienced in Regions III and IV. These increases were offset by continued movement of refugees back to original home sites or becoming self-sufficient and no longer requiring support.

Although not entirely unexpected, the occupation of Khong Sedone occurred quickly and the movement of refugees out of the area was rapid. Local officials in both Pakse and Savannakhet moved immediately to provide shelter and commodity support for those requiring assistance. Roughly 50% of the refugees in Pakse opted to stay with friends and relatives and the balance are being cared for in schools.

On 1 May a barge enroute to Luang Prabang was stopped by the Pathet Lao and 60 drums of gasoline for Sayaboury and 110 drums for Luang Prabang were off-loaded into the river. This was followed by a similar incident on 5 May when a barge was again stopped by the PL and 120 bags of USAID rice carried off.

Sayaboury, on 27 May, reported the arrival of twelve ethnic Yumbri (commonly called Phi Thong Luang) (Yellowleaf) Tribe. This was one of the rare occasions when members of this primitive tribe have elected to seek assistance. The group was composed of ten women and children and two males.

DISTR: OD, DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/PE, 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

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The completion of ORA sponsored pre-fabricated steel warehouses is largely contingent upon the arrival of parts ordered from the United States. These parts are scheduled to be in country approximately 30 July. The RLG Ban Amone warehouse is now ready for steel erection, RLG That Khao site will be ready in three weeks, and the Wattay site in six weeks. Erection can be completed even in inclement weather. Work also has commenced on the Savannakhet warehouse.

The RLG Ministry of Social Welfare vehicles during the month commenced hauling program cargoes and reached a tonnage of 100,000 kilos. This included PL-480 commodities, rice, vegetable seed and household items ordinarily issued to refugees. Two loads were also moved to Site 272 on a trial basis. In succeeding months, as more trucks are returned to service from the MSW repair facility, monthly tonnage could rise to 400,000 kilos. If this goal is realized, the need for contract hauling and USAID/MTB assistance will be greatly reduced, especially for those commodities to be issued to refugees on the Vientiane Plain.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Vientiane Plain

The Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma, together with Ambassador Godley and Director Mann, visited the Hin Heup refugee relocation project on 21 May 1972. As a result of their visit final approval was given to extend the all weather road from Hin Heup into the Ban Done Valley next dry season.

A special status report on the Vientiane Plain is being prepared by this office and will be distributed at a later date.

Savannakhet

The Seno Project is nearing completion. At the end of May, 284 buffalo loans had been made. Ministry of Social Welfare tractors plowed land for 53 families. All refugee related construction activities have been completed with the exception of the repair to the dam, which is now underway.

At the Thasano Relocation Site, work is progressing very well with the main road now 90% completed and the Nam Bo Bridge 100% completed. Village streets within the 16 village complex are 20% completed.

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Pakse

Poor security in the area hampered relocation efforts. Some progress was reported, however, on the bridges and fish pond in the Phou Ba Chiang Project.

Luang Prabang

The dry season road linking Xieng Ngeum and Muong Nane was completed. Also, village site clearing and village street construction was begun in the Long Nam Khan refugee relocation villages.

III. PERSONNEL

Jack Williamson, Refugee Affairs Officer, returned 31 May 1972 from TDY Washington, D. C. where he participated in hearings held by the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees chaired by Senator Kennedy.

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>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Rice	3,649.9 MT	4,295.47 MT
Meat	299.9	179.32
Salt	98.64	115.64
Rice (local purchase)	<u>6.57</u>	<u>1.62</u>
	4,055.01 MT	4,592.05 MT

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<u>Item</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Mosquito nets	1,485	5,651
Mats	1,328	3,993
Blankets	2,348	4,633
Pans	4,905	4,570
Tools	4,342	3,829
Plastic (rolls)	205	2,222
Cloth (meters)	5,641	366
Clothing (piece)	1,829	8,020
Pots	1,767	9,630
Water buckets	665	1,385
Candles	432	-0-
Rice seed(hill variety)	225.8 MT	74.87 MT
Shovels	79	27
Blacksmith tongs	7	9
Blacksmith hammer	-0-	11
Hoes	89	-0-
Spoons	598	12,876
Machete	16	-0-

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:W/Cluken  mbb

Denotes Relo
ation Project

REFUGEE RECEIVING FOOD AND
REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES
RECEIVING
REHABILITA-
TION ONLY.

MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT
FOR MAY 1972
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

AREA REGION	FULL SUPPORT		PART SUPPORT		REFUGEE RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY		Total April	Total May	Net Change
	For April	For May	For April	For May	For April	For May			
Don Houe Sa	17,469	18,895					17,469	18,895	+1,426
Luang Prabang	38,902	38,357					38,902	38,357	-545
Sayaboury	2,114	2,039					2,114	2,039	-75
REGION I									
N. Rim PD	9,925	9,925					9,925	9,925	
SE Rim PD	3,751	4,292					3,751	4,292	+541
Central 272	97,672	105,115					97,672	105,115	+7,443
REGION II									
Champasak	740	740					740	740	
Savannakhet	10,185	13,645	2,912	2,912			13,097	16,557	+3,460
PKSE	14,534	20,160					14,534	20,160	+5,626
Sthandone	434	434					434	434	
REGION III									
Vientiane Plain	4,933	28,981	24,917	5,000			31,164	38,981	+7,817
Paksane	9,981	9,815			503		10,484	10,315	-169
Vang Vieng Muong Kasy	12,786	5,972	979	979			13,765	6,951	-6,814
TOTALS	231,673	258,370	28,808	8,891	503		260,984	267,261	+6,277

Remarks

BHS: Most additions resulted from refugee move to escape Pj harassment and recruitment. Major increases occurred at LS-177 Pak Ngao (PC-4253), Nam Dao (PC-4841) and Muong Ngeun (QB-2172). LP: The net decrease resulted from departure of 1,152 XK Meo from Kio Ny and Phou Chia to MR II. Additions were caused by arrival of 607 Meo at LS-4 from enemy controlled Phasane (TG-2070) and Pha Lang Mou (LS 170).

SBY: Decrease resulted when a group of Region I Meo at Nam Hia (QB 6408) returned to the rolls in MR II.

MR II: Major increases due to return of Meo formerly on rolls at LP SBY, VTE and Paksane. Most of these people were received at LS-211 and LS-349.

SVKT: The net increase resulted when 2364 people escaped from enemy occupied Khone Sedone and 887 people escaped enemy attacks at Lai Ka Tha, Muong Chon, etc. Small decreases also occurred from Dong Hene and Arsapane areas.

PKSE: 5,000 Refugees from Khone Sedone accounted for most of the increase. Other additions came from Nong Houa Khoui (WR-988) and Nong Keng (WB 9491), to escape enemy harassment.

VTE: Decrease when Region I Meo returned to MR I.

VTE PLAIN: Increase due to eligibility review.

PSN: Net decrease when 1,152 Meo returned to MR I.

PK: Continued to receive many refugees to their old villages resulted in net population decrease.