

LARRY W.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 16 May 1972

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

SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - April 1972

1. GENERAL

The total number of refugees reported nationwide as of the close of the month indicated a decrease from the March total by 1,962 persons. No single factor can be attributed to this decline as relatively small numbers of new refugees continue to be reported in Ban Houei Sai, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Pakse and the Vientiane Plain due to enemy activity. This was offset by movement of previously reported refugees to their original homesites and continued review of eligibility for assistance by field staffs. Details for each Region are indicated on the Monthly Refugee Status Report, attached.

Warehouse construction continues on schedule. Wattay warehouse reports 80 percent completion on excavation of the foundation. It is estimated that this work and the necessary fill will take two weeks, after which concrete work can start. The Ministry of Social Welfare warehouse at That Khao has all fill work completed and pouring of concrete will start shortly. The Ban Amone Warehouse, also a Ministry of Social Welfare structure, has concrete work completed and erection of the building itself is now contingent upon arrival of parts on order from the United States.

The large body of Meo refugees, who earlier this year moved from Xieng Khouang Province due to enemy action into Kio Nya and Phou Chia of Luang Prabang Province, were to move to Ban Xon the first week in May. The move was to be in accordance with a plan drawn up by RLG officials, which entailed the use of vehicles, airplanes, and movement by foot. As many of the refugees have been on the move since departure from their original homes, an exact count of the number of persons involved cannot yet be determined.

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, BH3,
Svkt, Pkse, XK, All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk-AID/W

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II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Good weather and relatively good security has permitted re-location projects to progress at a satisfactory pace during the month in most parts of the country. An overview of the major projects is listed below:

Vientiane Plain

Priority continues to be given to the Tha Ngone Reserve area. Construction of permanent housing is in the final stages of completion. Work has continued on permanent classrooms during the month. Ministry of Social Welfare bulldozers and farm tractors are still in the process of preparing land for rice cultivation for this planting season. The matter of land disputes in the area has been noted to the office of the Prime Minister by the Ministry of Social Welfare in a formal letter asking for clarification of policy and guidance for the future.

The Hin Heup project is now 85 percent completed. Housing and roads are almost entirely finished and sixteen out of twenty temporary classrooms ready for use. Work on other projects such as temples has been started. All refugee families have been provided with upland seed rice at the rate of 18 kilos per family. This amount of seed should be adequate for planting two rai of land, which each family attests to having cleared.

Savannakhet

Progress continues to be reported in the Thasano Relocation area. Road work is moving very well with all 22 kilometers being completed within the next forty-five days. A second well is now being drilled in each village site.

All building projects are completed at the Seno Relocation site. Seeds and fertilizer have been distributed to the settlers. Buffalo Loan Program is moving again with 208 animals purchased to date.

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Pakse

By the close of the month, 804 families, comprising of 4,605 persons, have returned to the Phou Ba Chiang Relocation Site. It is estimated that as many as 825 additional families may be moving into the area during the month of May. In order to accommodate all of the refugees, four additional villages are being surveyed along the six kilometers of secondary access road and will be known as Villages 12, 13, 14, and 15. At the same time, sites for temporary dispensaries have been selected and well drilling continues. Distribution of mosquito nets, machetes and axes, family seed packets, and rice seed has also taken place. Every effort will be made towards resettling the refugees before the rainy season in order to give them an opportunity to finish clearing their land.

Luang Prabang

Work in the Xieng Ngeun-Muong Nane valley site continues with refugees completing their homes and clearing land for rice.

III. PERSONNEL

Jack Williamson, Refugee Affairs Officer who was on R & R, departed Bangkok 30 April for Washington, D. C. to prepare for hearings scheduled for 9 May by the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees, chaired by Senator Kennedy.

John L. Williams and family departed on home leave 20 April and expect to return to post on or about 9 June.

VI. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

V. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLIES

See following page

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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>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Rice	3,870.2 MT	3,649.9 MT
Meat	365.04MT	299.90 MT
Salt	105.60 MT	98.64 MT
Rice (local purchase)	<u>- 0 -</u>	<u>6.57 MT</u>
	4,340.84 MT	4,055.01 MT
Mosquito Nets	3,472	1,485
Mats	4,502	1,328
Blankets	5,840	2,348
Pans	8,800	4,905
Tools	3,644	4,342
Plastic (rolls)	400	205
Cloth (meters)	6,343	5,641
Clothing (piece)	6,579	1,829
Pots	6,835	1,767
Water Buckets	- 0 -	665
Candles	- 0 -	432
Rice Seed (hill variety)	- 0 -	225.8 MT
Shovels	- 0 -	79
Blacksmith tongs	- 0 -	7
Hoes	- 0 -	89
Spoons	- 0 -	598
Machete	- 0 -	16

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCLuken: 

Population Breakdown By Region

AREA	FULL SUPPORT		PART SUPPORT		REFUGEE RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY		Total March	April	Net Change
	For March	For April	For March	For April	For March	For April			
REGION I									
Bun Houei Sai	17,343	17,469					17,343		+ 126
Muang Prabang	42,516	38,902					42,516		- 3,614
Savahoury	2,114	2,114					2,114		
REGION II									
Sei M PDI	9,925	9,925					9,925		
Sei M PDI	3,741	3,741					3,741		- 1,010
Central 272	97,672	97,672					97,672		
REGION III									
Thakhek	740	740	85				825		- 85
Wavannakhet	9,654	10,185	2,955	2,912			12,609		+ 488
REGION IV									
Paksae	13,621	14,534					13,621		+ 913
Silbandone	356	434					356		+ 78
REGION V									
Vientiane	4,933	4,933					4,933		
VTE Plain	8,247	8,247	24,917	24,917			33,164		
Paksane	7,607	9,981			2,967	503	10,574		+ 2,967
Muang Vieng Muong Kassy	13,544	12,786	1,004	979			14,548		- 758
TOTALS	231,013	231,673	28,966	28,808	2,967	503	262,986		- 652

Remarks

BHS: Enemy recruitment activity prompted moves from Houei Hok (QB 4370), Houei Peukhat (QB 5170) and Man Le (QB 4470) areas.

LP: The net decrease resulted from departure of 3,600 X K Meo from Kio Ngaa & LS-25 areas to MR II and removal of 4,483 refugees from full support after support review by RLG. Main additions caused by military activity in Pha Theung (TG-1696) and Nam Khan River areas.

MR II: Increases due to old refugees being put back on the rolls as rice reserves became exhausted.

THK: Decrease resulted when partial support refugees were determined self sufficient and dropped from the rolls.

SVKT: Continued arrival of refugees from the Muong Atsaphone and Dong Hene areas accounted for the main increase.

PKSE: Continued military activity in the Paksong area and the arrival of several groups of refugees from Saravane accounted for most of the increase. Most of these have settled at KM-13 and KM-25 Saigon Road.

STD: Refugees from Oudomsouk arriving at Hatsa-Khoun accounted for the increase.

PSN: Net reduction occurred after a review of eligibility roll.

VV/MK: Improved security in the Muong Kassy area prompted several groups of refugees to return to original villages resulting in the net decrease.