

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

19 September 1973

FROM : *Jack L. Williamson*
Jack L. Williamson, AAD/RASUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report August 1973I. GENERAL

The total number of refugees on the rolls now totals 170 925 persons a jump of 12 769 from the previous month. Former refugees in need of assistance accounts for the bulk of the increase. Food supplies for the refugees continue to be a serious problem area for the Mission

Military Region I:

Ban Houei Sai: A slight overall decline in total number of refugees was reported. However 474 new refugees were recorded as having come from PL areas to escape harassment.

Luang Prabang: The increase reported at months end is accounted for by former refugees being added to the rolls as family rice stores become depleted.

Sayaboury: The additions to the rolls are former refugees whose stocks of rice are depleted.

Military Region II:

North Rim PDJ: Situation stable with one family of eight moving from area.

SE Rim PDJ: Increase in number reported is due to former refugees being added to rolls as private stocks of rice are exhausted.

Central 272: Same as for SE Rim PDJ.

DISTR: OD DD AD/M AD/FIN AD P, AD/RA(9) EPM, AD/FO
SMD(2), FFPO AC:BS LP XK, Sby Svkt, Pakse Vte
All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk-AID (W 5)

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Military Region III:

Thakhek: Situation remains somewhat fluid with refugees arriving and departing. 169 new refugees picked up on the rolls coming from PL controlled area of Phontiou (VE 5978).

Savannakhet: Decrease in number of refugees carried on the rolls was reported as a result of verification procedures carried out by field personnel.

Military Region IV:

Pakse: Refugees continue to move in and out of refugee sites with a net reduction in numbers of 136 persons. Of those leaving the area 658 were reported to have returned to Saravane.

Military Region V:

Vientiane Plain: Increase primarily due to former refugees being added to the rolls upon depletion of family rice stocks. However 81 new refugees were reported as arriving from Thakhek area.

Paksane: An increase of 1365 reported of which ten were new refugees with the balance being former refugees who require assistance at this time of the year.

Vang Vieng: A net reduction of 320 refugees recorded at month's end. 74 new refugees added, however coming from Pha No (TF 2910).

Other Comments:

At month's end the problem of future rice supplies for refugees had not yet been resolved. Efforts continued to be made at all levels to obtain firm commitments from potential suppliers.

The Federal Republic of Germany offered to provide the RLG the following commodities for Lao refugees. Many of these items have already been received by the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare:

X
700,000 cans of fish
4,000 mosquito nets
4,000 sleeping mats
16,000 kilograms of dried chili peppers

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The Federal Republic of Germany has reserved 300,000 Deutsche Marks for the procurement of the above items, with purchase being made in Thailand.

* (The RLG also received 163,500 metal roofing sheets from the Royal Thai Government. A portion of these sheets will be available for refugees; however final allocation of the gift to various RLG Ministries will be done by the Prime Minister's Office.

Warehouse Construction: The surfacing of the open storage area at the Pha Khao Supply Center is now 90% completed. PWD is providing continuous maintenance on the roads and loading area of the ORA Wattay warehouse to insure access to this area during the present rainy season. Work has not yet started on constructing shelters over the ORA loading docks. The expansion of the warehouse at BHS is now 40% completed.

Monsignor Andrew P. Landi, Assistant Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services visited ORA Office 13 August 1973 and discussed broad outlines of the role CRS might play in Laos during the coming months. Further discussion were held on this same matter with the Reverend Father Robert L. Charlebois, Regional Director Far East, Catholic Relief Services, on his visit to Laos on 20 August.

All officers of the ORA were advised of the contents of Action Memo 74-15 dated 30 August 1973 regarding conservation of energy.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Aerial Survey: Field checks were made in MR II to verify and correct dwelling count data obtained from aerial photos. This data, together with information on current land use, has been put into a special preliminary population and land capability report on MR II. The report will be presented to the Mission Director in mid September.

Cadastral Survey: Country-wide, a total of 11,098 hectares have been surveyed for allocation to refugee families. Of the total surveyed, 3,671 hectares have been distributed to 2,094 families. Cultivation

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permits have been issued to 315 families and paperwork is in process for 1,779 families.

Statistics for major areas are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Surveyed to Date</u>	<u>Distributed to Date</u>	<u>Cultivation Permits Issued to date</u>
Vientiane Plain	6,550 ha.	523 ha.	315
Seno	1,050 ha	1,050 ha	In process
Thasano	1,700 ha.	1,700 ha.	In process
Houei Nam Pak	398 ha	398 ha	In process
Phou Ba Chiang	<u>1,400 ha</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	11,098 ha	3,671 ha	315

Vientiane Plain: Major activity involved RLG efforts to settle land problems. The RLG took the first decisive action against land claimants when the Khoueng Land Committee decided against a claimant to a large land tract in Na Khoum Noi area, Reserve #3. Hopefully, this has established a precedent which will expedite settlement of other claims.

Savannakhet: Work is continuing at a normal rate in the Thasano Project. Difficulties are still being experienced in procuring logs for lumber to be used for projects covered by activity plans.

Thakhek: The well rig has drilled nine wells in the resettlement villages. There are four more wells to be drilled.

Pakse Area:

Khong Sedone: Hand tractor and buffalo programs were completed. The tractors plowed 110 hectares while the rented buffalo plowed another 163 hectares.

Phou Ba Chiang: Five hand tractors were assigned to plow land for three groups of refugees in an area north of Village #11. These people have found an area which they are developing into paddy fields.

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Houei Nam Pak: Work was begun on preparation of cultivation permits for issuance to all refugee families in the project. The permits are expected to be issued in late September.

III. PERSONNEL

Mr. Bradley Babson, summer intern from Princeton University completed his assignment and departed Laos on 11 August 1973.

Mr. Robert Lester on TDY from Washington, completed his assignment as Acting Food For Peace Officer and departed Laos on 10 August.

✓ Mr. Roger G. Sprowls, Food For Peace Officer, returned from home leave on 26 August and re-assumed his duties.

✓ Mr. Frederick Benson returned from home leave on 30 August and returned to his duty post at Luang Prabang as Refugee Operations Officer.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

V. LOGISTICS

The following items were distributed nationwide for the periods shown. PL 480 Title II commodities are reported as an enclosure to this report.

<u>Item</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Salt	125,58 MT	55,72 MT
Rice	3,405.73 "	3,616.47 "
Meat	5,651 Cs	3,097 Cs
Mosquito Nets	627	1,636
Sleeping Mats	1,456	1,317
Blankets	3,257	1,833
Water Buckets	426	583
Cooking Pots	752	320
Steamers	502	279
Saute Pans	547	248

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<u>Item</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Dishes	2,739	1,201
Wash Basin	110	75
Tools	427	351
Plastic rolls	91	34
Clothing piece	7,003	3,412
Steel Bars	161	63

Attachments 2

1. Monthly Refugee Status Report
2. FFP Monthly Report

ORA:WCLukemhb

REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD
AND
REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES
RECEIVING
REHABILITATION ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT
FOR MONTH OF AUGUST 1973
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

	FULL SUPPORT		PARTIAL SUPPORT				For July	For Aug	Net Change
	For July	For Aug	For July	For Aug					
MR I									
Ban Houei Sai	28,447	27,982					28,447	27,982	- 465
Luang Prabang	34,793	47,441	6,899				41,692	47,441	+ 5,749
Sayaboury	1,118	1,118	720	3,008			1,838	4,126	+ 2,288
MR II									
N. Rim PDJ	10,332	10,324					10,332	10,324	- 8
SE. Rim PDJ	4,571	5,830					4,571	5,830	+ 1,259
Central 272	136,833	135,746	5,723	5,723			136,833	135,746	+ 2,636
Sub-Total	148,013	151,900	(1,721)	(5,723)			(151,736)	155,281	+ 4,887
MR III									
Thakhek	5,585	5,344					5,585	5,344	+ 241
Savannakhet	14,381	13,995	2,795	2,145			14,126	16,140	+ 1,866
MR IV									
Paksane	39,317	39,196	10,100	10,527			49,919	49,723	+ 196
MR V									
VTE Plain	45,231	46,333	93	81			45,324	46,414	+ 1,088
Paksane	1,079	1,089		1,353			1,079	2,442	+ 1,363
Yang Vieng	2,367	2,367	5,041	4,627			7,408	7,000	+ 408
TOTALS	328,856	344,859	29,921	26,086			358,776	370,969	+ 12,193

REMARKS

BHS: During verification of rolls, a net loss of 465 refugees was realized. However, 474 new were counted during this review having come from PL areas.

LP: 5,749 former refugees added to the rolls after determination of need

SBY: 2,288 former refugees added to rolls after determination of need.

N. Rim PDJ: One family of 8 dropped upon removal from area.

S. Rim PDJ: 1,259 former refugees added during review

Central 272: 2,636 former refugees added upon depletion of rice stocks

Thakhek: 370 refugees dropped during eligibility review. 40 dropped upon returning to home area of Phontou (VE59/8) 169 new refugees added coming from the same area

SVKT: A net of 386 refugees dropped during recount

Pakse: 691 dropped from rolls of which 658 returned to Savane and balance because of eligibility 495 added because of need of which 9 were new refugees from Ban Keng Sim (XC389529)

VTE Plain: A net of 1,088 added to rolls during review. Of these, 81 were new arrivals from Thakhek area

Paksane: 1,355 former refugees added upon depletion of family rice. Additionally, 10 new refugees from Nam Thone (LS141A) added.

VV. Mtk: 458 refugees dropped during eligibility review. 64 former refugees added as family rice stores depleted and 74 new refugees added coming from Phou No (TF 2910)