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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS

TO: The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Refugee Affairs
DATE: 30 August 1974
FROM: W. Mansborn, AL/RA
SUBJECT: Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report - Aug 1974

1. GENERAL

The total number of refugees reported to month end reached an all time high with 157,156 persons on the rolls. This situation will probably continue for the next year when individual families replant their rice fields. The most serious problem facing the Mission is the depletion of rice reserves in Thailand or any other source after September.

Military Region 1

Ban Hong, Sg: Large number of members of refugees reported. The field staff continues to make efforts to verify numbers of refugees carried on the rolls.

Luang Prabang: The refugee situation remains stable with no changes reported during the month.

Sayaboury: 750 Men working for from Luang Prabang area added to support rolls upon resettling north of Houei Seck (QB 06227). Balance of increase due to former refugees requiring assistance upon depletion of family rice reserves.

Military Region 3

Norte Rim PD: No change during reporting period.

SE Rim PD: No change during reporting period.

Central 27: Increase reflects former refugees being added to the rolls upon depletion of family rice reserves.

DISTR: OD, OD, AD/M, AD/FCN, AD/P, AD/RA(9), EPM, AD/PO, SMD, Z, FFPO, AC, B/S, LP, XK, Sby, Svkt, Pakse, etc.
All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk Aid/W/S

Military Region III:

Tiakhet: 332 refugees reported coming from Ban Phavang (VE 5 7577) and an additional 175 from Ban Na Kham (VE 005302). Both of these areas being in enemy hands.

Svannakhet: A slight decrease was realized in the number of refugees reported. The number of new refugees totaled 109 coming from Phalane Saphangthong and Aisaphuan. However, 163 were dropped from the rolls upon determination that they had departed for their former homes.

Military Region IV:

Paksane: The addition of 1,005 refugees to the rolls is accounted for in the main by former refugees being added to the rolls upon depletion of family rice supplies. No new refugees were reported; however, a small number of refugees departed for their homes in Saravane Province.

Military Region V:

Vientiane Plain: Total refugees recorded declined by 33 for the reporting period. During the month however, 278 new refugees arrived from Khammouane province and were added to the rolls as well as 113 former refugees added because of depletion of family rice stocks. A total of 989 refugees were removed from the rolls upon moving to former homes.

Paksane: Local staff determined that 1213 refugees carried on the rolls no longer required assistance or had moved from the area and were accordingly removed therefrom. Thirty new refugees were added upon arrival from Ban Hat Saythani.

Vang Vieng: Little change over previous month with only 6 new refugees added upon arrival in the area.

Other Comments

The non availability of rice from Thailand after present contracts are completed was of grave concern to the Mission at month's end. Thailand is the prime source of the rice requirements of the refugee program but in view of the shortfall of the past rice harvest, Thailand

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has informed the Mission it will not be able to continue this arrangement in the near future. Alternate sources of supply have also been explored with little or no success. Efforts are still being made to alleviate this situation as it is estimated that rice stocks on hand or to be available will be exhausted by September.

Mr. Norman Sweet, Thai Lao desk officer, AID/W was given a briefing on refugee affairs 7 July 1973.

The RLC Commissioner of the Plain was provided a comprehensive briefing of the refugee program on 10 Jul. 1973 by members of the staff of the Office of Refugee Affairs.

Warehouse Construction. The surfacing of the open storage area at the Pha Khao Supply Center is now 50% completed. An Activity Proposal is now awaiting final approval to provide shelter over the ORA Wattay Warehouse loading docks and for repairing the roads to the warehouse complex.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Aerial Survey Projects: The aerial photo dwelling count for MR II has been completed, except for the areas around LS-272 and LS 66. The photography used was marginal in quality and the accuracy of the count is being evaluated through field sampling.

Slope maps of the same area (MR II) are being measured. The slope classes used are the following: 0-5° - flat land for paddy; 5°-15° - gently sloping land for terracing; 15°-40° - sloping land for tree crops and slash and burn agriculture; 40° plus - very steep slopes for forest cover only.

The general current land use map is being developed using panoramic photographs.

A visit to Chiang Mai was made by George Cosgrove and Mr. Heng Thung to the Northern Agricultural Center, which is under U.N. sponsorship. The center is attempting to establish an aerial photo branch and it is hoped that cooperation and interchange can be developed with USAID/Laos.

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Mr. Ough Tin of the Tribal Research Center provided us with documents and discussed the resettlement programs of the Thai Government. His data and field experience was most useful in formulating the land requirements for resettlement.

Vientiane Plain:

Cadastral Survey: Survey teams continue to work in Areas #7 and #8. Lotteries for land in these areas are to be held in August. The RLG now seems to have procedures worked out whereby land claims and other problems encountered in land distribution is being handled more expeditiously.

KM 52:

The new road into the refugee areas is moving along as scheduled.

Other Resettlement Projects (Vte Plain):

All other projects are moving along at a slower rate due to the rain and rice planting season.

Savannakhet:

Thasano Project. Work is continuing at a normal rate. Difficulties are still being reported in procuring logs to cut lumber for projects covered by Activity Plans.

Thakhek:

Resettlement of 5,000 refugees along route 13 north to Pak Hin Boun is now about 50% complete. Three drilled wells have been completed and the rig will continue working on four more that are planned. The HD-16 bulldozer has completed work on two sites. Six temporary schools are now planned for construction. The Primary School Inspector of Khammouane has agreed to provide 14 teachers for these schools.

Pakse:

The RLG/MSW, Iseki land tractors are still plowing paddy land for refugees in Khong Sedone. Everyone is reported to be very pleased with this project.

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Houei Nam Park:

Work is proceeding on cultivation permits. New maps have been prepared, and all necessary paper work is underway.

Phou Ba Chiang:

RLC proposes enlarging originally proposed boundaries of project and agrees to push for land certificates for both home plots and farm plots as soon as possible.

Spraying of rice fields infested with grasshoppers has begun on a limited basis.

III. PERSONNEL

Refugee Operations Officer at Luang Prabang, Fritz Benson, departed for home leave 1 July 1973.

William Jackson, Refugee Operations Officer at Xieng Khouang, departed for home leave on 9 July 1973.

Dan Ruffino, Refugee Operations Officer at Luang Prabang, returned from home leave on 18 July 1973.

Larry Martin, Refugee Operations Officer was placed on TDY Luang Prabang, 26 July 1973, during the absence of Fritz Benson. Mr. Martin previously was on TDY at Vang Vieng during the absence of Barnett Chesin, CDAA/Vang Vieng.

Hugh W. Fincher has been detailed from AD/M to the ORA as of 30 July 1973.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See Attached Report.

Mr. C. A. Mann, Director
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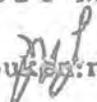
V. LOGISTICS

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>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Salt	114.08 MT	125.58 MT
Rice	4,146.63 "	3,405.73 "
Meat	5,592 cs	5,651 cs
Mosquito Nets	752	627
Sleeping Mats	1,554	1,456
Blankets	2,752	3,257
Water Buckets	1,619	426
Cooking Pots	408	752
Steamers	654	502
Saute Pans	1,005	547
Dishes	4,315	2,739
Wash Basin	247	110
Tools	2,087	927
Plastic rolls	292	91
Clothing, piece	2,938	7,003
Steel Bars	183	161

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCL :mhb

