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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann Director

18 Jul 1973

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

SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs
Monthly Report June 1973

I. GENERAL

The total number of refugees carried on the rolls continued to increase over the previous month due in no small part to the seasonal factor of depletion of family rice reserves. This trend will in all probability continue until the next rice harvest in the fall of the year. Small numbers of new refugees continue to be reported but on a lesser scale than in former months.

Military Region I:

Ban Hout Sar: The refugee situation stabilized during the month with a relatively small number of additional refugees reported. The increase was due mainly to former refugees reporting into established centers.

Luang Prabang: Decrease in number of refugees reported reflects refugees returning to original homesites and having sufficient rice stocks for the present time.

Sa aboury: No change during reporting period.

Military Region II:

North Rim PD: No change during reporting period.

SE Rim PD: No change during reporting period.

Central 27: The increase in number of refugees reported was due to depletion of family rice reserves. In the main, these were former refugees who were returned to the rolls.

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

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Military Region III:

Thakhek: Movement of refugees in and out of the area continued during the month with a net reduction of 377 refugees. Fear of military action prompted some refugees to leave their homes while others considered their original homesites secure enough for them to return.

Savannakhet: Situation in Savannakhet similar to that which prevailed during previous month with new refugees coming primarily from Saphangthong and Atsaphone. The principle reason given for leaving their homes was fear of males being drafted into military service by the Pathet Lao. This was offset somewhat with other refugees returning to their original homesites.

Military Region IV:

Pakse: New refugees continue to come into the area from Saravane (190) but the majority of the increase represents families who have returned to the Khong Sedone area and villages in Wapikhamthong Province.

Military Region V:

Vientiane Plain: The Pak Sap refugee sites continue to be attractive to refugees from Khammouane Province with a total of 138 reported this month. The remaining increase represents primarily former refugees added to the rolls after depletion of family food stocks.

Paksane: During eligibility review of refugees, a net increase of 793 was realized representing former refugee families requiring assistance at this time.

Vang Vieng: 2,852 former refugees at the Hinh Tid refugee site were placed on support rolls during eligibility review, while 1,872, mainly in the Muong Kassy area, were removed as no longer requiring assistance.

Other Comments:

Mr. Michael Wiseman from AID/W Laos Desk, arrived in Laos 24 June. During his visit, he was given a briefing on the refugee program and shown the noodle factory and ORA rice handling facilities in the Vientiane area. Mr. Wiseman also had an opportunity to visit Savannakhet, Pakse, IS-272, and the Vientiane Plain where he observed first hand the Mission programs, including the refugee program activities.

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Warehouse Construction: The three new buildings at Pha Khao Supply Center are now completed and available for use. The surfacing of the open storage area is approximately 15% completed. Construction of the temporary warehouse at Ban Ton Pheung (Houa Khong Province) was completed during the month. A new AP is under preparation to provide for surfacing of the approaches and truck parking areas of the Wattay Airport.

Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, Director General of the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare, together with Mr. Manh Traymany and Mr. Sarit of his staff, were in Pakse 26 June to discuss refugee programs with the Cao Khouengs of Wapikhamthong, Sedone, Attapeu, and Saravane Provinces. Central to the meeting was a discussion of the steps necessary to transfer the land, comprising the Phu Ba Chiang and Houei Nam Pak Refugee sites, to the Ministry from the RLG Forests and Water Service. This then would enable the Ministry to ask for a formal reservation of the land from the central government.

II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

Aerial Survey Project. The technical approach, staffing requirements, and cost of the aerial survey have been reviewed and readjusted. Aerial survey specifications have been completed. Equipment requirements for the analysis task have been compiled and a list is ready for the preparation of a PIO/C.

Collection of background information has been started. Data tabulation sheets, mapping categories, are now being developed which will form the basis of the photo interpretation manual. Available aerial photography covering Laos is now being purchased from the Royal Lao Government's Service Geographique.

Vientiane Plain.

Cadastral Survey. Survey teams continue to work in Areas #7 and #8. To date, 6,551 hectares have been surveyed and lotteries held for allocation of 523 hectares. Land claims in Area #3 are still hindering land distribution. However, meetings are being held by the Khouang Committee on these problems. Due to the rain, survey work has slowed down, but this should give the RLG time to work out land claims and other problems they have in land distribution.

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The purchase of 300 lime trees was completed. Well rings were provided for two dug wells in the area.

Pac Sap

Two additional dug wells were completed at Sites #1 and #2. Dispensary was completed at Site #3.

Savannakhet

Thasano. Work is continuing at a normal rate. However, difficulties are now being reported in procuring logs to cut lumber for "AP" Projects (schools, dispensary, office, and police post). 41 families have moved from the main resettlement area into the Thasano extension in order to secure farmland.

Pakse

The 10, RLG/Ministry of Social Welfare, Iseki hand tractors are now plowing rice paddy land for refugees in the Khong Sedone area; to date 320 ha. have been plowed. Cassava cuttings have been distributed to Phou Ba Chiang and Houei Nam Pak relocation sites.

Houei Nam Pak

Work on cultivation permits has started.

Phou Ba Chiang

36 more houses received black plastic and 10 additional homes received grass thatch. Several large areas were set aside as demonstration areas for cassava. Work on cultivation permits has begun in the project areas.

III. PERSONNEL

Ray Grill, Assistant Logistics Officer, departed on home leave 3 June 1973. Tom Culbertson, Refugee Operations Officer, Ban Houei Sai, was placed on TDY in Luang Prabang 26 June pending return of Dan Ruffino from home leave.

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IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

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>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Salt	119.32 MT	114.08 MT
Rice	4,472.01 MT	4,146.63 MT
Meat	8,686 cs	5,592 cs
Mosquito Nets	5,381	752
Sleeping Mats	5,380	1,554
Blankets	5,771	2,752
Water Buckets	3,336	1,619
Cooking Pots	1,749	408
Steamers	1,649	654
Saute Pans	2,139	1,005
Dishes	11,057	4,315
Wash Basin	1,544	247
Tools	4,615	2,087
Plastic, rolls	373	292
Clothing, piece	12,831	2,938
Steel Bars	1,360	183

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCL: [Signature] :mhb

REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REHABILITATION ONLY

FOR MONTH OF JUNE 1973

POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION

	Full Support		Partial Support		REHABILITATION ONLY		Totals May	June	Net Change
	For May	For June	For May	For June	For May	For June			
MR - I									
Ban Houei Sai	27,943	28,296					27,943	28,296	+ 353
Iuang Prabang	36,294	34,793	6,773	6,899			43,067	41,692	- 1,375
Sayaboury	868	868	280	280			1,148	1,148	
MR - II									
N. Rim PDJ	10,332	10,332					10,332	10,332	
SE Rim PDJ	4,571	4,571					4,571	4,571	
Central 272	122,116	129,479	2,860	3,541			124,976	133,020	+ 8,044
(Sub-Total)	157,019	144,382	(2,860)	(3,541)			(139,879)	(147,923)	+ 8,044
MR - III									
Thakhek	4,513	5,128	992				5,505	5,128	- 377
Savannakhet	16,163	16,418	2,745	2,745			18,908	19,163	+ 255
MR - IV									
Pakse	37,359	39,876	8,899	9,038			46,258	48,914	+ 2,656
MR - V									
VTE Plain	44,123	45,359					44,123	45,359	+ 1,236
Paksane	7,204	7,173	275	1,099			7,479	8,272	+ 793
Vang Vieng	4,239	2,367	554	5,035			4,793	7,402	+ 2,609
TOTAL	315,725	324,660	23,378	28,637			339,103	353,297	+ 14,194

MARKS

SBY: increase due to refugees displaced earlier reporting into refugee sites. Small number of refugees returning to original homes.

LP: 116 refugees escaped enemy control at Ban Sop Chouan (TG 4380) and were provided full support upon arrival at Klocachen (LS 04). 122 refugees added during eligibility review. 1,617 dropped from support upon return to original homes.

SBY: No change.

N. Rim PDJ: No change.

SE Rim PDJ: No change.

Central 272: Gain of 8,044 persons during month is attributable to depletion of family rice reserves.

TKK: A total of 615 new refugees from areas north of Thakhek were recorded. This was offset by dropping 992 persons from the rolls.

SVKT: 554 new refugees reported, coming primarily from Saphangthong and Atsaphone. 289 dropped on recount.

Pakse: Increase in number of refugees primarily in Khong Sedone Area and villages in Wapikhamthong Province 190 new refugees from Saravane reported.

VTE Plain: 138 new refugees at Pak Sap Ref Site arriving from Khammouane Prov. Balance of refugees added during recount of refugees added at Tha Bo (UG 6442) 306 deleted during eligibility review or removal from area.

VV/MK: Major changes occurred upon deletion of 1,872 refugees during eligibility review in the Muong Kassy Area.

2,852 former refugees at the Hinh Tid Refugee Site added to partial support.