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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 16 April 1973  
FROM : *John W. MacQueen*  
John W. MacQueen, AD/RA  
SUBJECT : Office of Refugee Affairs  
Monthly Report - March 1973

I. GENERAL

Continued military activity, particularly in the northern areas of the Kingdom and in the south, generated new refugees so that at the end of March the total number of refugees carried on the rolls increased by 20,551 over the previous month. The total number of refugees reported at the end of March 1973 stood at 281,226 compared with 262,945 one year ago.

Military Region I

Ban Houei Sai: The situation in this area continues to be grave and the net reduction in number of refugees reported is primarily the result of the loss of 23 sites during the past few months. The refugees at these sites were dropped from the rolls as they either dispersed to other areas or were under enemy control. Some fled into Burma or Thailand while others sought sanctuary in RLG controlled areas. Many of these are now again being picked up at other sites and provided with assistance.

Luang Prabang: The situation has stabilized somewhat and refugees are being encouraged to return to their former sites in the Pak O1 - Pak Xuang areas north of LP. Areas adjacent to Xieng Ngeun, including the Long Nam Khan Valley south of LP, has remained quiet and refugees are moving back into these areas also. The movement has been slow as the enemy's presence is still noticeable but relatively inactive.

Sayaboury: Area has remained quiet with no change in number of refugees being assisted.

DISTR: OD, DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/P, AD/RA(9), EPM(2), AD/FO, SMD(2), FFPO, C&R(3), AC: BHS, LP, XK, Vte, Sby, Svkt, Pakse, All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk-AID/W(3)

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### Military Region II

Central 272: Additions to the rolls were primarily because of insufficient family rice reserves. Movement of refugees occurred but this was mainly due to families going to areas where they would have an opportunity to plant a rice crop.

### Military Region III

Thakhek: Refugees continued to move into Thakhek proper or to Vientiane and Savannakhet due to enemy activity, particularly north of Thakhek. Those moving to Savannakhet came principally from the Muong Sebangfai area south of Thakhek and to east of RLG Route 13.

Savannakhet: Refugees continued coming from Thakhek and Khammouane Province in general. Many of the temporary refugees who had crossed the Sebangfai River from Khammouane Province returned to their villages in the Nong Bok area after these places had been secured by FARK. The Thasano refugee project counted a total of 1,318 families at month's end while 673 families were reported in the Thasano Extension. According to sources in Savannakhet, refugees are moving because of heavy fighting, enemy conscription of men, and levying of taxes by the enemy.

### Military Region IV

Pakse: Most of the new arrivals in Pakse reportedly came from Saravane. Areas of Wapikhamthong Province are sufficiently secure so that an estimated 150 families have returned and the remaining 350 will return during April. USAID and local military officials are providing transportation so that families can move with all of their possessions including the wood and bamboo salvaged from their temporary houses. Distribution of commodities is being made to 31 different locations in Wapikhamthong Province.

### Military Region V

Vientiane Plain: During the month 2,555 refugees from the Vang Vieng - Muong Kassy area returned to their former homes. Many of these were temporarily provided care at Hat Deua. Also, 500 Nam Thon (TF 2834) returned to their home area. Khammouane Province refugees continued to arrive with 656 reporting in at Pak Sap and 1,260 additional counted in Vientiane.

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Paksane: The situation remained relatively stable with the majority of those added being families without sufficient rice reserves.

Vang Vieng: Little change in the situation during the month with about an equal number being removed from the rolls because they no longer required support and others added as they returned to the area from places of temporary refuge.

### Other Comments

The Consolidated Rice Warehouse facility at Wattay Airport is completed except for the outside security fencing and surfacing of road areas. Plans were being made to move the KM-4 bagging and receiving/shipping activities to Wattay. (This was actually accomplished on 8 April). At Phak Khao, warehouse No. 1 is completed, the second will be finished by the end of April and the third building will be well under way by early May.

During 15 and 16 March, Dr. John Hannah, Administrator for the Agency for International Development, visited Laos. Dr. Hannah made a helicopter flight over refugee areas on the Vientiane Plain and visited LS-272. On 9 March, Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw, Head of the Department of Nutrition, MIT, was given comprehensive briefing on the refugee assistance program by the staff of ORA.

On 22 March, the Council of the Cabinet (RLG) approved the merger of the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare equipment at Ban Amone with that of the RLG Ministry of Public Works. Details concerning this proposed change, including the status of personnel involved, will be discussed between the two Ministries.

## II. RELOCATION ACTIVITIES

### Vientiane Plain:

Cadastral Survey: Now that procedural problems have been worked out and experience gained in the field, the ten survey teams are in full swing. At the present time the survey teams are working areas 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

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Pak Sap: The project area presently has 2,891 Khammouane Province refugees on full support. Five resettlement sites have been cleared and burned off. Housing construction is 50% completed in all sites with the exception of Site #3. Temporary roads into the resettlement sites and connecting roads to all five have been completed. A twelve classroom school is planned between Sites 2 and 3 and necessary land has been cleared. Construction materials are available. Under the guidance of Larry Woodson, USAID/EDU, students from Vientiane have assisted in clearing of school land and preliminary construction work.

Nam Cheng: Road construction into Nam Cheng relocation area KM 52 is now 80% completed.

Pakse:

Phu Ba Chieng: Land clearing and house construction continued during the month, with new houses for this year totaling 201 to date. More will be completed before the rainy season. Grass thatch is being distributed on a regular basis. One dispensary, one temple, and the Chao Muong's office have been completed this month. A significant amount of work is being done on village streets in the project. Survey work is being done by ORA personnel and actual clearance is being carried out by PWD equipment.

Savannakhet:

Thasano Project: The domestic water reservoir #2 is now completed. Reservoir #1 is completely fenced preparatory to stocking of fish during the coming rainy season. Market construction is 80% and work will be finished by 15 April. The PWD sawmill cut lumber for 84 permanent houses during the month and to date a total of 371 families have received lumber in the project.

Thasano Extension: Road work has been completed and refugees continue to build their houses and dig wells in the area.

Ban Houei Sai:

Houei Nam Ngam Refugee Site: Three permanent dug wells have been completed. Three kms of road to the Mekong River completed. Clearing of two village sites is now 75% complete and a third site is reported to be 50% complete.

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III. PERSONNEL

No change.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE

See attached report.

V. LOGISTICS

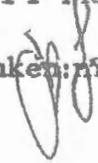
The following items were distributed nationwide for the periods shown. PL 480 Title II items are reported as an enclosure to this report.

<u>Item</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
Rice	3,257.30 MT	3,879.57 MT
Meat	13,186 cases	13,499 cases
Salt	86.70 MT	83.22 MT
Mosquito Nets	6,749	6,647
Sleeping mats	6,802	6,314
Blankets	8,028	8,802
Water buckets	5,147	2,848
Cooking pots	4,707	3,502
Steamers	4,664	2,302
Saute Pans	3,038	5,433
Dishes	13,303	17,249
Wash basin	1,382	2,105
Tools	9,942	9,378
Plastic, rolls	410	205
Clothing, piece	4,594	11,870
Steel bars	1,212	3,089

Attachments (2)

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

ORA:WCLuken:mhb



*Denotes Relocation Project Area	REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE				REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABI- LITATION ONLY		MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1973 POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY REGION			REMARKS
	Full Support		Partial Support		For Feb	For March	Totals February	Totals March	Net Change	
	For Feb	For Mar	For Feb	For March						
REGION										
MR - I										
Fan Houei Sai	29,505	23,428					29,505	23,428	- 6,077	BHS: 23 DZ's, 6,697 refugees deleted as now in enemy territory. 1,000 moved to Thailand. LS-93 area people trickle into RLG areas.
Luang Prabang	35,379	35,307	865	865			36,244	36,172	- 72	LP: 454 refugees LS-355 back on full support. Various internal shifts and changes due to recount.
Sayaboury	868	868	280	280			1,148	1,148	-	SBY: No change.
MR - II										N. RIM PDJ: No change.
N. Rim PDJ	9,872	9,872					9,872	9,872	-	SE RIM PDJ: - 74 recount.
SE Rim PDJ	4,129	4,055					4,129	4,055	- 74	CENTRAL 272: 15,631 added full support due insufficient rice harvest. Other internal shifts and recounts account for other increases.
Central 272	101,076	116,924		1,100			101,076	118,024	+ 16,948	TKK: 957 refugees to Hin Boun north of TKK due fighting. Remainder fled T-28 bombing.
Sub-Total)	115,077	(130,851)		(1,100)			(115,077)	(131,951)	+ 16,874	SVKT: Major increases 4,114 refugees from Khammouane and 2,352 from Muong Phaiane.
MR - III										PAKSE: Major change 1,600 Khong Sedone refugees self sufficient. 1,856 refugees from Saravane.
Thakhek	4,613	6,815	2,421	2,421			7,034	9,236	+ 2,202	VTE Plain: Major moves 1,916 refugees from Khammouane; 500 displaced from Nam Thon but return home: 2,555 return VV/MK.
Savannakhet	12,045	18,448	2,678	2,678			14,723	21,126	+ 6,403	PAKSANE: 887 refugees returned full support due insufficient harvest: 157 moved to LS-360.
MR - IV										VV/MK: Major change 288 refugees self-sufficient 363 new refugees added.
* Pakse	31,927	33,407	6,102	6,681			38,029	40,088	+ 2,059	
Sithandone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
MR - V										
VTE Plain	10,787	8,794	970	1,260			11,757	10,059	- 1,698	
* Paksane	2,490	2,357		887			2,490	3,244	+ 754	
Vang Vieng	4,102	4,221	566	554			4,668	4,774	+ 106	
TOTAL	246,793	264,501	13,883	16,726			260,675	281,226	+ 20,551	