

HUNTER 7.
LARRY

MEMORANDUM

TO : See Distribution December 20, 1971

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

SUBJECT: Resettlement Review, 14 December 1971

The meeting was opened by Mr. Chandler, DD, who announced that three projects were to be implemented: (1) construct a road from Xieng Ngeun to Muong Ngan, (2) construct, for the RLG, the Khao Liao waterworks flood dike, and (3) proceed with the narcotics control program.

Mr. Chandler re-emphasized that refugees still have top priority but that due to uncertain Congressional funding support we should be cautious in our use of resources. Working within these resources we are trying to upgrade the standard of living of the refugees. In conjunction with the financial problems, we can assume FY 72 programs can be carried out but that the Mission should use Kip as judiciously as dollars, since unnecessary use of Kip in turn puts a demand on dollars, thereby cutting into dollar resources.

Mr. Sanford Stone, AC/Savannakhet, gave a briefing on Seno, Dong Hene and the new Thasano Resettlement Area.

SENO

All of the originally planned projects are completed. January will be cut-off date for rice issue, although the rice harvest was not too good and four villages planted late. Request for further support will be on a case-by-case basis. Questions arose as to what had been done in stocking fish in the reservoirs.

Action: Mr. Chandler asked that Mr. Sugitani be contacted about past, present and future introduction of fish into the Seno reservoirs.

DONG HENE

The Chao Mung has returned and after January 1972 rice support will be on a case-by-case basis. Until the internal/external security is assured, planned projects are suspended.

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Action: Mr. Chandler suggested that 15 March 1972 be set as a suspense date on whether or not to proceed with construction.

THASANO

This project will resettle about 6,000 people, many of whom are coming out of the Phalane area. The road survey is completed and 16 sites will be available in addition to 5 potential dam sites. The entire road when completed will be an RLG road. Indigenous villagers living in the project area will be given title to land up to three hectares. It is programmed to construct 1,050 houses in the project. Discussion has taken place regarding the purchase of lumber from local mills sans tax and at a reduced rate. House designs have been modified after consultation with Seno refugees.

Action:

Mr. Chandler requested a thorough comparison study of USAID milled lumber versus locally purchased lumber.

These new people will need buffalos. It was pointed out by Gerry Nell that the refugees will plant upland rice the first year while clearing and building houses. Permanent schools, dispensaries, etc. will be built later.

GENERAL

Mr. Chandler stated that any request for new reception centers for emergency refugees moves which should be thoroughly vetted for justification, and unless demonstrably and urgently needed, discouraged.

The MSW representative has been evicted from his office in the municipal building and is requesting a new office and maybe a warehouse. The possibility of putting the MSW in the new SMB warehouse in Savannakhet was discussed.

Action

Mr. Chandler expressed reservations about having MSW personnel in SMB warehouse and suggested MSW keep their old office.

Area Coordinator will make recommendations on office space for the Ministry of Social Welfare in Savannakhet.

Medical facilities are good with temporary dispensaries moving with new refugees. Private voluntary groups also support medical programs.

Mr. Mann reiterated that refugees still have top priority in the Mission and stressed that the availability of money will be difficult.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT - PAKSE

I. Number of Refugees:

At the present time we carry on our rolls the names of 1,393 families (8,357 persons) receiving full support and 441 families (2,416 persons) receiving partial support.

II. Land Resettlement Areas:

We have four resettlement areas to work with. The 441 families on partial support will probably not need resettlement. The 1,393 other families will be cared for as follows:

1. Khong Island	Families	48
2. Houei Nam Phak	"	178
3. Phou Ba Chiang	"	1,167
4. Phonethong	Held families in reserve for emergency	

Total 1,393

III. Programs:

1. Khong Island:

Thirty families have been resettled in Muong Sane and now have land. They may be dropped from support this December 31, 1971.

Eighteen families are living in Hat Saikhoun. These 18 families are complaining they as yet do not have adequate farmland to support themselves. Mr. Thongsing (CDA) in Khong Island is now checking the situation and will make recommendations for any further action.

2. Houei Nam Phak

The project was started in February 1969 with joint cooperation of USAID and the RLG. The first phase was to assist the refugees with house construction at Village #1 Ban Phao Samphanh. There were 66 families of refugees from Ban Phalong, Bungkham and Ban Kayo Saravane Province who were selected by the Sub-Committee of Pakse to resettle in the project at that time. About one or two months later, 7 families of Kenglay refugees also were selected for the project site. The total now living at Village #1 is 73 families, 464 people.

The construction of houses, school, dispensary, office, co-op store and staff houses were completed 100% by late 1969. Five PWD carpenters assisted the villagers with construction and one Mighty Might sawmill plus one merchant sawmill were in operation.

In May 1969 construction of a dam was begun. The construction of the dam is now 100% completed. Canal construction has been postponed because of short budget and poor security, although the survey of the canal and laterals was made in 1970. We are now waiting for Vientiane approval to construct the canal. Villagers, of course, expect the canal to bring water to their paddyland so they can cultivate their paddy fields in the dry season also.

Land

Nine hundred hectares of a 5,000 hectare forest reserve were provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare for the resettlement of 213 refugee families and 100 families of disabled war veterans. Two hundred and forty hectares of land have been cleared for the villagers to make their hai fields and paddy fields. Each refugee family has received 2 hectares of paddyland.

In late 1970 an RLG Social Welfare, CRA, and USAID staff were assigned to work in the project full time. The PSI Pakse has provided five teachers to teach the refugee children in Ban Phao Samphanh. A medic also has been assigned to work there full time.

Construction of Village #2: (on-going project AP #PK-1-015

Village #2 is now under construction with 20 hectares of forest land cleared and self-help housing started. Sixteen houses have been built and 124 houses are under construction. These houses should be completed in late 1972. Villagers are now cutting logs for their house construction.

At the present, there are 115 families with 680 people on the project site. These people have been selected by the Sub-Committee headed by Chao Muong Oui Visaysack, Chao Muong Pakse. These people have made up their minds to live in the project site permanently. Twelve families of disabled war veterans from KM-24 also have been selected for the project. Ten more refugee families will be selected to reach the total of 140 families.

3. Phonethong:

This area has been surveyed and has received Khoueng approval as a resettlement area. The soils are only marginal in quality and wells are necessary to provide drinking water. It is across the Mekong

River and quite distant from the main population center of Pakse, and therefore most refugees are reluctant to settle there. The Phonethong area will be held in reserve for any future emergency and no work will be done for the present time.

4. Phou Ba Chiang:

The major resettlement effort will be centered in Phou Ba Chiang.

Land

Social Welfare is requesting an area of approximately 10,000 hectares behind Phou Ba Chiang mountain. As of December 8, 1971, however, there has not been a definite written decision as to the exact border between the resettlement area and the land claimed by Prince Boun Oum.

APs

a. Two APs have been submitted to Vientiane:

#1 - provides costing of road construction

#2 - provides for construction of villages to house 1,000 families

b. Drilled wells will be covered by the area well drilling AP. Plans for the actual drilling have been discussed with Earl Young (PWD).

c. Mr. Richard Costantino (EDU) has been consulted concerning future schools. It is felt that four schools of 8 classrooms each may be required. The APs will be written when definite locations are established.

d. Mr. Donald Dougan (PHD) has been consulted regarding dispensaries and medics. Actual APs will be written when definite locations are decided upon.

e. Mr. Donald Dulitz (AGR) has also been informed of the project. We both agree that we will utilize Roger Trillanes and his nine agriculture field assistants, plus the staff and expertise from KM-4 training farm with little or no extra expense required.

Staff:

a. Survey (3 crews). Renato Pastorizo and 13 assistants. Plus 15 daily hire (K 250) brush cutting workers.

- b. AGR, Roger Trillanes -- 50% of him time
4 field assistants.
- c. CDA Khamtanh Mounivong thatch cutting crew, tree cutters, etc.
paid by day 30 persons.
- d. Social Welfare (RLG):
 - 1. Mr. Bounthom (Officer) time 100%
 - 2. Mr. Khamtanh (Officer) time 50%
 - 3. Mr. Noukham (Driver) time 50%
 - 4. Mr. Chan (Driver) time 50%

Equipment:

- a. Jeep Vehicle for survey crew (full time)
- b. Jeep Vehicle for AGR crew (full time)
- c. 4 x 4 Vehicle for CDA Khamtanh
and assistants (full time)
- d. M-211 or M-35 to transport
refugees (full time)
- e. M-211 or M-35 to transport
refugees, haul thatch and
supplies, etc. (full time)
- f. Chain saws, etc. to be supplied by ORA/Vientiane

Materials:

- a. Covered in APs #1 and #2.
- b. Thatch fields cost K28,000. Thatch cutters paid K300 per day.
Thatch now ready for Village #1, 88 families and Village #2,
75 families.

Progress:

a. Roads:

- 1. Bulldozers have cleared right-of-way thru Village #1 plus
half of village streets. Approximately 5 kilometers from
entry at KM-12.
- 2. 4 temporary bridges have been built by using gas drum culverts.
- 3. The survey crew has laid out the center line approximately 2
kilometers north of Village #1 and is progressing further every day.

Villages:

a. The land has been surveyed and distributed to the villagers of #1. They are now in process of clearing sites and beginning temporary house construction. Thatch will be delivered to the village site Thursday, December 9, 1971.

b. The villages will use stream water temporarily but two wells per village will be drilled. Earl Young promises to begin the first well soon after December 15, 1971.

c. The survey crews are now working to stake out village site #2. They will have it ready next week.

RLG Social Welfare has been slow in handing in the complete refugee groups according to village placement but promise complete listing by December 10, 1971.

Roger Trillanes has staked out an area near the stream at Village #1 and will be starting seed beds for peppers, papaya, and vegetables as soon as possible. He will also develop bananas and pineapples for shoots (suckers) production to provide the villagers with fruit stock in the rainy season.

A program of fruit tree nursery graftings may be developed later.

Schedule:

a. We hope to be able to survey and distribute village sites at the rate of one village per week. This means we hope to have all villagers in place by the end of March.

b. This jungle is pretty heavy and land clearing may be slow but we hope each family can clear enough by the rainy season, so they can raise enough for self-support. The amount of bulldozer time to clear land will depend on how fast road construction moves along. Hopefully, we will be able to use the two D-16s for three months apiece on land clearing to ensure that the villagers can plant enough to support themselves.

c. If everything works out to the fullest extent by December 31, 1972 there will be no refugees in Pakse on full support.

The Chao Khoueng of Khong Sedone is anticipating an influx of approximately 500 refugee families from the Saravane area. Seventy-six families have come in and are settled in Ban Nong Hoi where they will be welcome for at least two years.

The remainder of the 500 families (if and when they come) will be temporarily received at the KM-11 camp. Then they will be resettled across the river from Khong Sedone on the road to Na Tan Dong. The CRA chief will be in charge of the project and USAID has promised to support it. There is adequate free land for the number of families expected.

Phou Ba Chiang

Discussion followed the problem of a small sector of land included in a Forestry Reserve Ordinance of 1950 and sections of land claimed by Prince Boun Cum. RLG officials are confident that the Forestry Reserve Ordinance will be rescinded. Mr. Mann asked why Boun Oum's land was not used as it lay along the existing highway and would not require a long road. Mr. Mann suggested that a statement from Boun Cum saying his land would be available, if needed, should be acquired. Mr. Connick stated that the proposed site had better land than Boun Oum's and that his land was heavily farmed by existing villages - thus being of limited value to the project.

Mr. Mann questioned security on the area. Mr. Connick stated that (1) the area had been insecure due to its inaccessibility and (2) judgment of all concerned that this is the best site.

Houei Nam Pak

During a discussion on whether or not to complete the canal, Mr. Haffner recommended that a thorough review of the project be made based on the fact that without the dam/canal we have a model village with nothing to support it. Mr. Mann said we could not afford to lose more equipment at HNP. The Director stated that he wanted a clear picture on security and then a recommendation based on priorities as to just what course to follow. Mr. Gibson/PWD stated he had no equipment for a canal project unless it was pulled from other projects. Mr. Mann stated HNP must be postponed. Meanwhile AD/FO and AC/Pakse will evaluate security conditions for Phou Ba Chiang and Houei Nam Pak projects and report to Director.

Short discussion was held on ralliers and refugees in Khong Sedone.

Earl J. Young/AC-Vientiane

Mr. Young reviewed the major resettlement areas in Vientiane Province. Hopefully after elections we can get a settlement on the Ban Done question based on no road construction. Mr. Gibson stated there are plans for the Nam Pot-Hat Deua Road. Mr. Haffner suggested that river travel be more thoroughly investigated.

Action: AC has action on this requirement. Mr. Mann stressed that the construction of an earth water storage dam for the Veterans' Village is a project to which USAID is committed this dry season.

Mr. Mann stressed that no USAID employees were to get involved in the projected movement of Meo off Phu Khao Kwai. Mr. Mann stated the problems involved in the move.

Action: Mr. Mann emphasized that only Mr. John MacQueen, Mr. Jack Williamson or Mr. Hugh Brady or other delegated authorities were authorized to discuss resettlement plans with Mr. Keo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare.

Discussion ensued on the South Nam Ngum area road/dike in Area #3, as to problem of flooding from the Mekong or Nam Ngum. Mr. Robb pointed out that during the flood the road/dike was breached at a predetermined point to give some control over the water.

Action: Mr. Robb stated he would have all available information in a week as to the recommended course of action, i. e., reconstruction of the road/dike, construction of a bridge at the critical flow point or installation of additional culverts to handle the flood water.

Mr. Mann questioned if any planned refugee villages are being built merely for aesthetic purposes. Mr. Young and Mr. MacQueen pointed out that many refugee villages are too large. By building more manageable sized villages the general conditions of the villagers are improved.

Discussion ensued regarding raising 5 kilometers of Route 2A at Ban Thin in the South Nam Ngum area which Mr. Young thought was included in the Dry Season Review. Mr. Mann stated we must be sure that the road is programmed. The highway must be raised at least 50 centimeters to prevent flooding of paddyland and villages by the Mekong River.

PAKSANE

It is proposed to move 2,000 people from the Nam Ngiap to the old ferry area in the Pak Kha Din region.

Action: Mr. Mann stated he wants, in writing, complete appraisal of our programs -- what, when, how, benchmarks, who is doing what and why. Acting AD/PE was given the task of preparing the appraisal.

Mr. Hugh Brady - Ban Amone

Mr. Brady gave a background on Ban Amone and the equipment received by the RLG from donor countries. Mr. Mann asked how the equipment fits into the overall program can/does USAID make use of equipment on projects? Suggested equipment be put to use clearing village sites.

Mr. Mann stated he would not pay for transportation to move this equipment without knowing what it was doing and where it was being transferred on the Vientiane Plain.

The general problem of the "brand" and multi-national varieties of equipment was stressed by Mr. Brady. He pointed out the reluctance of the RLG in refusing any and all donor countries which has caused a parts shortage. Mr. Brady outlined the maintenance program he has set up -- to include 117 local employees, 2 Americans and one TCN to supervise the maintenance of the equipment.

EDUCATION

Mr. Norman Green, Chief, Education, stated there is a 7% increase in teachers each year. Based on this he recommends new classrooms should be limited to 7% in each PSI area. Question was raised by Mr. MacQueen regarding the phasing out of resettlement projects and evaluation of projects for future programs.

Construction of schools was discussed in relationship to impractical design and construction. Mr. Gibson stated that PWD is now exercising more control over OICC plans.

In a general discussion garden plots near refugee houses was discussed and the method of land allocation, i. e., everyone assigned a plot or let local leaders assign land plots. Mr. Stone requested a list of long supply items from SMB. Camp construction charges and items not listed on the AP by managing groups against ORA funds was discussed. This subject to be reviewed by Program Office, PWD and ORA.

ORA:EK:iv:1/5/72

DIST: OD/DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/PE, AC/Vte, AC/Svkt, AC/Pkse,
EDU, PWD, ORA, C&R

APPROVED:


James B. Chandler, Deputy Director