

HUNTER 7  
LARRY

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director January 21, 1972

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

SUBJECT: Office of Refugee Affairs Monthly Report - December 1971

I. General

North Vietnamese forces began their dry-season offensive in mid-December with successful attacks on government positions on the Plain of Jars in northeast Laos, and positions at Saravane, Thateng and Paksong in southern Laos. By New Year's Day Lao Government forces had regrouped in rear areas under cover of intensive air bombardment, which slowed the NVA advance. This enemy offensive has started approximately two months earlier than last year.

Because of the intensity of the attacks this year, including heavy artillery and tanks, the civilian population has dispersed more on the news of impending attacks than actual contact. The main role of the Office of Refugee Affairs during this period has been to work with the Lao Government leadership to reduce panic among the fleeing refugees and insure government assistance to displaced persons on a timely basis.

Despite the fact that by the end of December approximately 45,000 persons had been displaced, there was a net decrease of over 42,000 in the refugee population. This is attributed to:

1. A large number of refugees attaining self-sufficiency, at least for the present, as a result of the 1971 rice harvest and the completion of resettlement projects.
2. The fact that the bulk of the 45,000 persons displaced did not cause any change in the total numbers as they were refugees from prior year's military action and were already on the full support refugee rolls.

As predicted in the October 8, 1971, Weekly Refugee Status Report, there has been a sharp decline in the number of refugees requiring USAID assistance. Since October 1, 1971, nearly 68,500 refugees have

attained self-sufficiency and have been dropped from the support rolls. This decline is consistent with the general trend established over the past nine years.

(See attached graph.)

## II. Resettlement

The Refugee Resettlement projects continued to progress throughout the country despite tenuous military situation in some parts of the country.

### Vientiane Plain

The main priority continues to be development of reserve area #3. Roads between the complex of Ban-Y-Lai and Veun Kham villages (seven in all) are nearing completion. The 5 km. road from route 13 to Y-Lai #1 is approximately 80% complete.

All bulldozers (8) of the MSW are deployed on the Vientiane Plain and are engaged in village site clearing with exception of the two large German dozers which are clearing paddy land for refugee villagers.

The MSW, CRA and USAID/AGR are now engaged in an extensive detailed land classification survey of the ten refugee reserve areas on the Vientiane Plain. Preliminary studies were made earlier, however, the objective of the new survey is to determine the availability of potential wet paddy land that can be developed with the use of heavy engineering equipment. This information will provide the key to continued development of each area. This is a difficult project since much of the suitable areas are subject to flooding in the rainy season. These areas subject to flooding will also be examined however as to the possibility of planting floating rice in them. ORA resettlement office is beginning an experiment utilizing the 1/7000 scale Pa Mouang areal photography for cadastral survey of the refugees areas. As a pilot we are enlarging selected portions of reserve area 3 to a scale of 1/2000. These pictures will be used to identify the boundaries of individual farm land and hopefully will reduce the amount of tedious conventional survey required before land titles can be awarded. The enlarged photos will also be useful in land classification work.

Recent meetings were held between CRA and AGR to discuss plans for the development of extensive fish culture projects within the various

resettlement areas on the Vientiane Plain. These projects will also be extended to project sites in other provinces. Mr. Sugitani has been given a list of areas by priority in which to begin his surveys.

The 9 km. road providing access into reserve area 2 which parallels the Nom Choing river is nearing completion. The area will be utilized to establish permanent villages for refugees coming from the reservoir of the Nam Ngum Dam plus other PDJ refugees in the general area. The next road project for the PWD equipment in that area is Reserve Area I with a road from Kok Kieng paralleling the Nom Luck river for 5 km. Also awaiting final approval is the Houei Thonh (Veterans Reservoir) Dam project for Disabled Veterans. All documentation has been prepared and is in the Program Office. The final decision on this must be made soon since it will require approximately five months to complete.

#### Savannakhet

Construction of the access road for the Thasano Project is underway. The right-of-way has been cleared, bridge sites surveyed and surfacing has begun. Five village sites have been selected, wells are being drilled. All project documentation obligating funds for the project are complete. The first village will be occupied soon.

In Seno USAID and RLG agriculture are actively assisting villages in vegetable and other programs; MSW has sent a rice mill and two additional tractors to Savannakhet for use in the project area.

#### Pakse

In the Pakse area the Phou Ba Chiang resettlement project is progressing despite the sometimes tenuous military situation in the area. Most of the problems regarding the land reserve have been settled locally. A letter has been written to the MSW requesting that they take formal cabinet action to identify the project area. The access road has been surveyed a distance of 11 km. The right-of-way has been cleared to the 7 km. mark. Bridges and culverts are under construction. Village #1 has been occupied with 88 families.

Village #2 is under construction and the sites for 3 and 4 have been surveyed. Thatch roofing is being stockpiled for distribution.

The refugees are very enthusiastic about the new project and despite the current military situation, morale is high.

At Houei Nam Phak cadastral survey has begun for distribution of farm land. This hopefully will encourage the villagers to accelerate the difficult task of clearing the farm land by slash and burn methods. All fund obligation documentation for the project has been completed.

### Ban Amone Land Development Center

A counterpart kip account has been established in the RLG National Treasury for the payroll of local employees of the Ban Amone Center. This will remove the 70 local employees from the USAID rolls. Action is now underway to place the US and TCN employees under a contract with the RLG.

Details were also worked out during December for the connection of the electrical service. This involved several meetings with the Chief of the RLG Electric Company and negotiations with the Commissioner of Rural Affairs, regarding sharing of the existing transformer.

Harold Daveler was very helpful with the negotiations. Action continues to complete equipment of the shop and erect the pre-fab warehouse for the area. The water system was planned and documentation completed. This will be a joint project of ORA and CDB as the system will also serve the Ban Amone Training Center.

The MSW is establishing a fruit tree nursery for the propagation of fruit tree seedlings for distribution to refugees. They have hired a highly qualified Thai to run it. The nursery is located across the road from the tractor park. The present objective of the nursery is 10,000 mango seedlings for distribution by May of '972. ORA has turned over the project to USAID Agriculture who have agreed to assist in its development.

### III. Personnel

Mr. Larry Berger returned from leave in the States on Dec. 8 and has been temporarily assigned to CRA headquarters in Vientiane.

Mr. Tom Baranyi departed on December 11 for one month's leave in the States. Mr. Fritz Benson was temporarily assigned to AC/Xieng Khoung during Mr. Baranyi's absence.

IV. Food for Peace

See attached report.

V. Logistics and SuppliesFood Distributed to Refugees

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>November Metric Tons</u>	<u>December Metric Tons</u>
Rice	4,707.8	3,627.2
Meat	363.8	288.2
Salt	229.0	71.1
Cornmeal	2.6	-
Noodles	149.4	140.0
Salad Oil	29.3	1.3
Dry Milk	1.6	-
Bulgur Wheat	.9	11.0
WSB	10.5	-
CSM	5.8	-
Paddy Rice	<u>82.5</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total :</b>	<b>5,583.2</b>	<b>4,138.8</b>

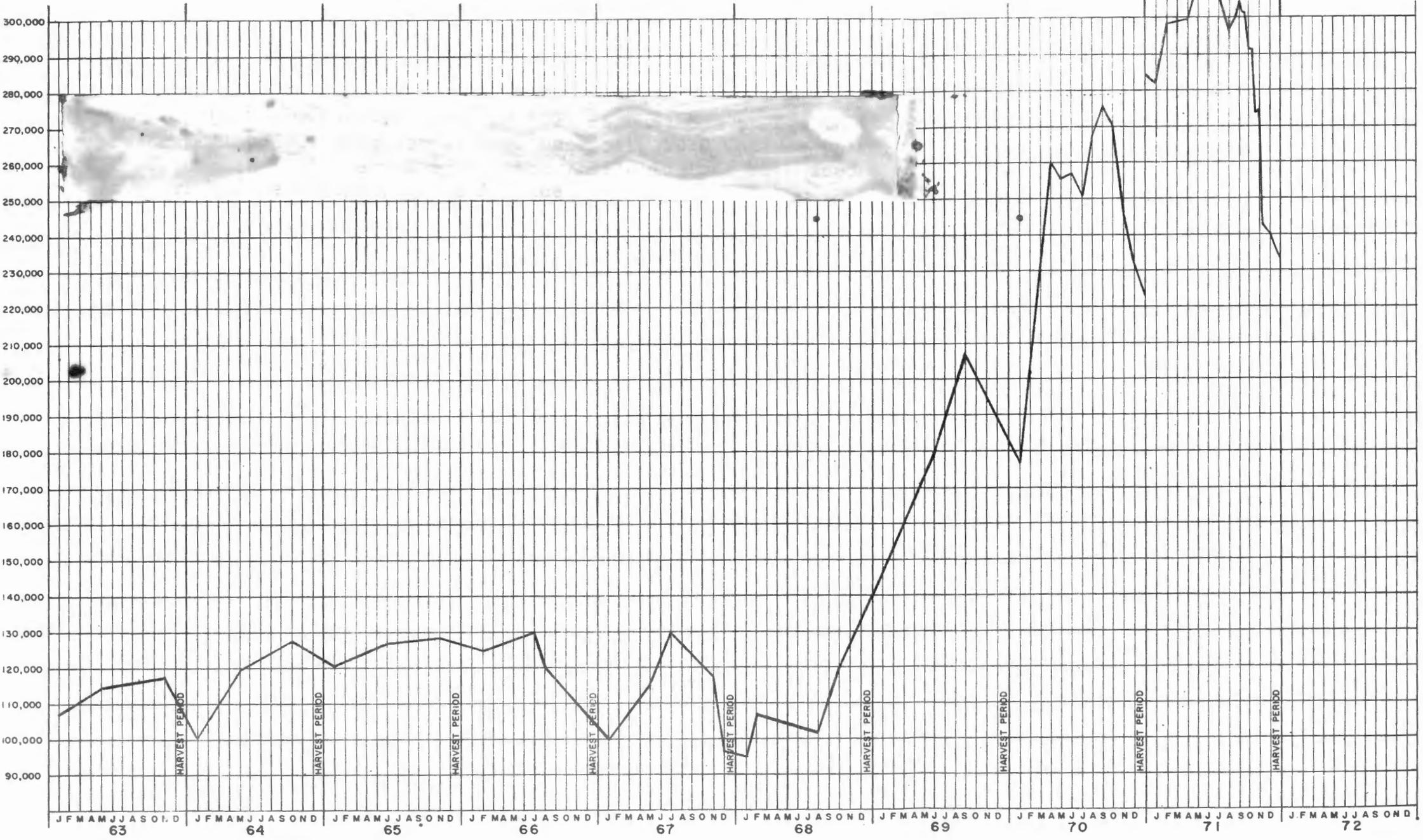
ORA:JLWilliams:rp

**Attachments:**

- 1) Graph - Displaced Population due to Military Action 63 71
- 2) FFP Monthly Report
- 3) Monthly Refugee Status Report

DIST: OD, DD, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/PE, AD/RA(5), EPM(2),  
SMB(2), FFPO, C&R(3), AC/Vte, Sby, LP, BHS, Svkt, Pkse, XK,  
All Division Chiefs, Laos Desk-AID/W.

# DISPLACED POPULATION DUE TO MILITARY ACTION 63-71



REFUGEES RECEIVING FOOD AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

REFUGEES RECEIVING REHABILITATION ONLY

MONTHLY REFUGEE STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1977  
Population Breakdown By

AREA	FULL SUPPORT		PART SUPPORT		REHABILITATION ONLY		Total For Nov	Total For Dec	Net Change
	For Nov	For Dec	For Nov	For Dec	For Nov	For Dec			
<b>REGION I</b>									
New Hanoi Sat	16,203	16,007	-	-	-	-	16,203	16,007	- 196
Long Pradang	37,052	37,079	-	-	-	-	37,052	37,079	+ 27
Savaboury	5,384	1,947	1,401	-	-	-	6,785	1,947	-4,838
<b>REGION II</b>									
Siem Reap PDJ	12,091	12,091	-	-	-	-	12,091	12,091	-
IS-25 Area	2,868	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,868	2,000	- 868
Siem Reap PDJ	10,362	3,376	683	-	-	-	11,045	3,376	-7,669
Central 272	19,556	97,208	5,534	2,200	-	-	124,090	99,408	-24,682
<b>REGION III</b>									
Dakhek	715	740	88	88	-	-	803	828	+ 25
*Savannakhet	11,274	9,714	-	-	-	-	11,274	9,714	-1,560
<b>REGION IV</b>									
*Pakse	7,873	8,742	2,416	2,416	-	-	10,289	11,158	+ 869
Siemhandone	288	323	-	-	-	-	288	323	+ 35
<b>REGION V</b>									
*Vte Plain	26,996	27,200	780	780	-	-	27,776	27,980	+ 204
*Paksane	8,583	8,530	238	238	-	-	8,821	8,768	- 53
Vang Vieng Muong Kassy	6,951	3,532	-	-	-	-	6,951	3,532	-3,419
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>266,196</b>	<b>228,489</b>	<b>10,140</b>	<b>5,722</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>276,336</b>	<b>234,211</b>	<b>-42,125</b>

**BHS:** 138 people moved to Ban Kon Ton (P...) movements resulted in Ban Houei Thine and Theung to escape.

**LP:** 27 Lac Theung moved to Pak Lung (S...) for PL harassment.

**SBY:** The eligible 4977 people had escaped from Ban Nam (QA-6594) after...

**REGION II:** IS-25 Area to live near the central 272 land Siem Reap PDJ have attained...

**TKK:** 10 people moved to Ban Nam Thong Ban Done Me (VF...) to enemy activity.

**SVKT:** The 3,074 refugees did not request food assistance... they received Muong Phalang/D... to the Savannakhet.

**PKE:** Enemy activity 80,396 from Ban...

**SDN:** Enemy harassment (WA-9452) to Ban...

**VTE:** 117 tons of... distribution to...

**PSN:** Over 700 people -53 due to recount.

**VV/MK:** 3419 refugees attained self-sufficiency for the time being.

**Remarks:**

(PB 5986) and 20 people attained self-sufficiency. New military operations in the (1977) which allowed 88 Lao Ban Nam Muong (QB 8581) at Houei Kan No: (SG-8824) due to PL harassment.

...conducted disclosed that... sufficient 139 Meo escaped from Ban Nam (QA-6564) to Ban Nam Pouli and their village.

...have left the IS-25 another 160 have left for... lack of adequate farm... 272; 32,35 refugees... for the time being.

... (VF 6923) moved... and 12 people from Ban Nam Sy (VF-0827) due to poor security.

... refugees did not request one month's emergency support... PL/NVA activity in the... for 760 people in...

... Saravane area drove (848-089) into Pakse.

... 22 from Ban Tha Phou (WA-9561).

... has been purchased for (204 due to recount).

... moved to permanent sites,

... attained self-sufficiency.