

MEMORANDUM

HUNTER
LARRY

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director December 15, 1971

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

SUBJECT: Office of Refugee Affairs Monthly Report - November 1971

I. General

The Weekly Refugee Status Report for October 8, 1971, stated that, "Traditionally since 1963, with the exception of 1968, the months of October, November, and December have been characterized by relative stability of the military situation and a subsequent decline in the number of refugees requiring USAID assistance."

Indications to date are that this year will be no exception. The current rice harvest and the completion of resettlement projects which had been held up by the rains has enabled nearly 60,400 refugees to attain self-sufficiency since the first of October. However, some areas report that many of these refugees currently self-sufficient have not been able to harvest a crop which will sustain them until the next harvest. This is particularly true in MR II where a general lack of arable land exists as the result of continuous enemy pressures. Support will have to be reinstated when the stock of harvested rice has been exhausted.

II. Resettlement

The Refugee Resettlement Program proceeded on schedule during November. On the Vientiane Plain flood damaged road/dikes were repaired and the PWD crew is now working on the road/dike between Ban Done and Ban Thoun Loua. Two MSW bulldozers are clearing land for 2 village sites at Ban Nong Youy. In the Tha Ngon area 3 new village sites are being cleared and access roads into them are being constructed. Refugees have moved onto permanent home lots in Veun Kham 1 and 2. Permanent lots in Ban Y Lai 3 and 4 are being prepared for occupancy. Clearing of rice paddy land will begin in late December. The area is approximately 800 hectares and four MSW bulldozers will be mobilized for the task.

In Phone Sai 2 MSW bulldozers are clearing Phone Sai village #2. The PWD sawmill is cutting lumber for permanent housing for refugees.

In the Pakse area the AP for the access road into the new Phou Ba Chiang project was approved and work is progressing nicely. Five and a half kilometers of dry weather road has been completed thus far. The first village site has been laid out and the first families will move shortly. The first people to be moved will be the refugees in the KM 4 reception center. Progress in Houie Nam Phay village #2 continues but at a reduced rate because of priority on Phou Ba Chiang.

The Seno project has reached the point where it should be phased out as a refugee project and any other development activities conducted under Community Development and Agriculture. Rice distribution will be cut off soon. Charcoal production is booming and dry season vegetable production for local consumption and for sale is becoming a reality. This all has occurred in two years and two months from conception of the project to date.

The Thasano Resettlement project is in full swing. The Activity Plan for the access road has been approved. The right-of-way surveyed and clearing begun.

Five dam sites for reservoirs have been surveyed. Soil survey is complete and village sites are being selected. Movement of refugees from the Seno Camp into the site should begin in early December.

Staff work continues in setting up the Ban Amone Equipment Center. All paper work is in the mill for establishing the counterpart kip account and arrangements for contract between U. S. employees and the MSW are about complete. The security fence is almost complete. The materials were provided by USAID and the fence erected by a contractor obtained by RLG/MSW. ORA is now in the process of establishing office and maintenance procedures for the center. ORA also is making an effort to obtain tools and shop equipment. Some excess items have been obtained from SMB and PWD. Also, PSD is making an air compressor and other equipment available. Efforts by the Mission Excess Property Officer to obtain equipment for us has so far been unsuccessful.

The Moung Nane-Xieng Ngeun Valley project in Luang Prabang is in the planning stage between ORA Resettlement and MSW Director of Resettlement; however, action is being held in abeyance pending a decision on the road construction.

III. Personnel

I returned from home leave on November 12 to resume my duties as AD/RA. I wish to commend the ORA staff and Mr. Jack Williamson, who was Acting AD/RA, for carrying on the program in a very capable and effective manner during my absence from post.

Mr. Ernest Kuhn also returned from home leave on November 5, and has been reassigned to ORA headquarters. He is currently filling in as Administrative Officer in place of Mr. William Luken who departed for home leave on November 19.

Mr. Roger Sprowls resumed his duties as Food for Peace Officer on November 12 after being in the States for approximately a month to attend the Conference on Nutrition and National Development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and for consultation with Food for Peace officials in Washington. H. E. Keo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, also attended the conference and remained in the States for a two week tour under a partial International Visitor's Grant before returning to Laos.

The Assistant Food for Peace Officer, Mr. Wade Chubbuck, departed Vientiane on November 27 for leave in the States.

During the month 11 RLG Social Welfare personnel returned from Thailand after attending 12 weeks training designed to develop Social Welfare Agents and Resettlement Project Managers.

IV. Food for Peace Program

See attached report.

V. Logistics and SuppliesFood Distributed to Refugees

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>October Metric Tons</u>	<u>November Metric Tons</u>
Rice	5,244.9	4,707.8
Meat	381.0	363.8
Salt	170.9	229.0
Cornmeal	1.8	2.6
Noodles	172.5	149.4
Salad Oil	18.8	29.3
Dry Milk	-	1.6
Bulgur Wheat	-	.9
WSB	-	10.5
CSM	-	5.8
Paddy Rice	-	82.5
Total:	5,989.9	5,583.2

ORA:JWilliams^{gn}:HBrady:viv**Attachments:**

- 1) FFP Monthly Rpt
- 2) Mthly Ref Status Rpt

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.

