

HUNTER

EDU A 04

MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Thomas L. Mason, Director May 14, 1971

FROM : John W. McCusker AD/RA *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Refugee Affairs Monthly Report April 1971

I. GENERAL

Enemy attacks on military positions in and around Luang Prabang during the latter part of March resulted in a displacement of 15,500 persons into the city itself and the immediate surrounding area. This number peaked early in April with approximately 4,500 of these displaced persons seeking refuge in schools. The balance chose to live with friends or relatives or in the case of the Meo and Lao Theung exiling themselves at Xieng Mene (TH 0002) on the west bank of the Mekong River across from Luang Prabang proper.

Food and medical support was immediately provided, as well as a program of immunization. This will continue as long as required.

The military situation improved so that by 23 April, Royal Lao Government forces regained several key sites along the Mekong including Pak Luang, Phu O and Bok Van. By month's end the refugees and displaced persons in Luang Prabang were moving to more permanent sites, primarily east and southwest of the city. Persons lodged in schools moved to Phou Mok (SG 9898) south of the city or to areas along the west bank of the Mekong extending from Xieng Mene to Kok Sa Moy. This permitted the schools to be rescheduled for reopening for the new school term. 780 Meo from the Phou Dam, Phou Na Vang area moved to Nam Phou in Sayaboury Province. 1,500 Lao Theung originally from Houei Ya and who were temporarily located at Xieng Mene are to be relocated at Houei Phai, approximately 2 kilometers south of Luang Prabang; this is to be a permanent resettlement site. As RLG forces regained control of the Pak Suang area (north of Luang Prabang), refugees were being encouraged to return to this area. Rice seed is being purchased and will be made available for planting by area refugees as they commence reestablishing themselves.

In the Savannakhet area, 1,540 refugees in the Seno refugee reception site returned to their original homes in the vicinity of Muong Phalane. It is felt, however, they will be returning shortly as the

enemy at month's end occupied Muong Phalane itself and security in the general area commenced to deteriorate.

Conditions elsewhere in the nation remained relatively stable with only minor movements of refugees reported. The total refugee population receiving full support dropped by 8,076 persons during April. This is due in part to movement of refugees to their original homes as in Savannakhet but primarily through reviews of eligibility for full support.

The Vientiane staff of the Office of Refugee Affairs was preoccupied largely during the month with preparation of briefing and explanatory materials utilized during the visit to Laos of Codel Paul N. McCloskey and Jerome Waldie, 14th and 15th April. Similar efforts were required preparatory to opening of hearings by the Kennedy Sub-committee during the latter part of the month. Mr. Jack L. Williamson, Deputy AD/RA, was absent from 17 April to 2 May to assist in the presentations made to the Sub-committee in Washington.

In addition to the foregoing, briefings on the refugee assistance program and the current situation in Laos were given to the following:

Mr. Victor Morgan, Director of SE Asia Bureau, AID/W
Messrs. Hayakawa and Yamashita, Japanese Embassy, Vientiane
Mr. Harold J. Kent, USAID/PSD/Laos
Mr. Leslie Dean, International Development Intern, Laos
Mr. Gordon Diehl, Director of World Vision, Organization,
Monrovia, California

The Secretary of State for Social Welfare was absent from Vientiane from 11-29 April while undergoing medical treatment in Bangkok. This precluded usual contacts with him during the reporting month.

Efforts are being made, in cooperation with the Motor Transport Branch, to stockpile rice and other commodities in Luang Prabang. The office of Refugee Affairs feels there is a strong possibility that Route 13 will be interdicted by the enemy, making it difficult to move supplies from Vientiane to Luang Prabang. With the recent rise of the water level in the Mekong River, it is also feasible to move supplies via that route. During April, a total of 586 metric tons were moved to Luang Prabang of which 533.5 metric tons consisted of rice. This was sufficient for current needs, however, in order to avoid a crisis, shipments during May will be accelerated so as to provide a reserve stock.

During April, 2 boars and 149 bred gilts were provided Ban Xon (LS-272) refugees.

II. REFUGEE RELOCATION

Progress continues on the Vientiane Plain relocation program. Land classification of the original seven refugee reserve areas is complete as follows:

Area #3 - Tha	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Hectares</u>
Area #3 - Tha Ngon	5,700	2,300 Usable for cultivation
Area #4 - Phone Sa	2,400	1,900 Usable for cultivation
Area #5 - Dong Kalume	10,804	8,200 Usable for cultivation
Area #7 - Nong Sa	2,300	1,400 Usable for cultivation
Area #2 - Ban Keun	8,500	3,990 Usable for cultivation
Area #6 - Na Tham	8,000	400 Classification not complete
Area #1 - Hat Deus	8,000	4,243 Usable for cultivation
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Total:	45,704	22,433 Usable for cultivation

In addition to the original seven reserve areas, the following new areas have been surveyed and classified on the Vientiane Plain. These areas are proposed for refugee resettlement but not yet allocated by RLG Cabinet approval.

Veng Kham Agricultural Reserve	2,990 ha.
Thong Mang Resettlement Area	10,168 ha.
Pantaboun Area	<u>1,100 ha.</u>
Total:	14,258 ha.

Besides the Vientiane Plain, four areas near Faksane in Borikhan Province have been classified for refugee resettlement. These areas are:

Ban Hong Sing Area	3,600 ha.
Muong Gao	7,600 ha.
Muong Mai and Pak Chao	5,650 ha.
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Total:	16,850 ha.

The major effort of this dry season relocation program on the Vientiane Plain has been mainly concentrated on the Tha Ngon (Area 3), Phone Sai (Area 4), Dong Kalume (Area 5), Nong Sa (Area 7) reserves, with some work also being carried out in the other reserve areas. In each of these areas new access roads and village sites were planned with the objective of establishing approximately 35 new and separate permanent villages from the larger of the present 26 villages on the Vientiane Plain.

Status of each area:

Tha Ngon (Area 3) -- The 10.2 km. road dike between Ban Tha Ngon and Ban Na Khoume Noi is complete. Agriculture/Irrigation has started work on the flap gates which will prevent flooding from the Nam Ngum River through four culverts on the road. This will be completed at least one month prior to the beginning of the rainy season. A total of eight (8) new villages will be established on or near this new road. Two survey teams have completed survey work on laying out four of these villages and two short access roads. Eight (8) MSW farm tractors and two (2) MSW Fiat bulldozers are working in the reserve area clearing village sites and plowing farm land. Movement to new village sites begins 1 May from Ban Y Lai to Veun Kham.

Phone Sai (Area #4) -- The 7 km. road from Phone Sai to Ban Thoun Loua has been completed. The three planned village sites have been surveyed and have lots laid out.

Permanent houses are being constructed at Phone Sai #1 and villagers are clearing land at Phone Sai and Thoun Loua. Two MSW tractors are working in the area, plowing and hauling building materials. A sawmill is cutting lumber for refugee projects and construction of a 4 classroom permanent school at Ban Phao is progressing very well.

Nong Sa (Area #7) -- The site for village #1 in the Nong Sa reserve was cleared by an MSW bulldozer and the construction of the village is nearing completion. The 5 km. access road to village sites 2, 3 and 4 has been completed. One Social Welfare Fiat bulldozer and one farm tractor are working in the area assisting in establishing permanent homes and farm lots. Four farm tractors are plowing rice land.

Dong Kalume Plain Development (Area #5) -- Two short access road-dikes have been completed near Ban Mak Hieo. The Mak Hieo and Mak Nao refugees have begun moving into four permanent village sites in this area. A survey crew is laying out the villages and a PWD bulldozer will assist the refugees to clear their lots. The new road to Ban Done from Thin Thieng has been completed and is being extended on to the Ban Done refugee village area. A two thousand meter section of road-dike is under construction and will be completed before the rainy season. It will connect the existing TP built road and the new Ban Done Road. The three flood gate structures are about 60% complete.

Hat Deua (Area #1) -- Three new permanent village sites have been surveyed and staked out and have been cleared by an MSW bulldozer and permanent housing is under construction.

One 12 room permanent school is under construction at Nam Pot and one 6 room school is under construction at Hat Deua. Completion is estimated in September 1971. One pump irrigation project for vegetables has been constructed and is in operation at Nam Pot III.

Ban Keun Reserve (Area #2) -- Construction has begun on a road from Km. 59 on Route 13 North to Ban Na Pho (4 km.) and from Ban Na Pho to the Nam Ngum (8 km.).

Ban Thin (Outside reserve area #2) -- One 6 room permanent school is under construction. Completion estimated September 1971.

The MSW bulldozer has cleared 50 hectares of paddy land. Two MSW farm tractors are preparing the land for the coming rice crop. One pump is being used for 4 hectares of vegetable gardens.

Seno Project -- The first group of buffalo loans for the Seno project was made on the 25th of April during a visit of Ambassador Godley. A group of 10 loans was completed at that time with the price of the buffaloes ranging from 26,000 kip to 35,000 kip. Additional loans will continue to be negotiated.

It was planned to clear 1/2 hectare per family of paddy land prior to the beginning of the wet season. To date only approximately 40 hectares of land has been cleared out of a total of 260 hectares programmed. This delay is due mainly to the fact that only one HD-16 bulldozer has been available for work and it has been down for several

periods awaiting repair parts. Two MSW tractors are on site plowing paddy fields for refugees as the land is cleared.

Houei Nam Phak Project -- Repairs are complete on all damaged buildings in Ban Phao Sampan (village #1) with the exception of the cooperative store which will have to be completely rebuilt when cement blocks become available. Land distribution to all families in village #1 is complete, however, land clearing is only 80% complete and has been temporarily suspended pending a replacement for the bulldozers damaged in the 7 March attack.

The Meadows Sawmill has been moved back to Km. 25 to continue work on lumber for village #2. Eighty families have been selected so far for the settlement and 16 houses have been built on the site.

Luang Prabang -- A new relocation village, Ban Houei Phay, is under construction to accommodate 300 refugee families who were displaced during the recent enemy offensive near Luang Prabang. The new village is located only a short distance from Luang Prabang. Activity Plans for a permanent type dispensary and school have been submitted for the village. Travaux Publics has been requested to provide equipment for the construction of an access road in the village street. The MSW has dispatched a technician from the staff of the Director of Resettlement to assist in the surveying and laying out of the village site and to advise the refugees on the construction of their houses.

III. PERSONNEL

Mr. Daniel V. BROWN arrived at post on 11 April. Mr. Ruffino will replace Mr. [redacted] as **Refugee Operations Officer** when the latter departs to [redacted] for IDI training.

IV. FOOD FOR PEACE (PL 480)

Please refer to the report of Mr. Roger Spruwis, Food for Peace Officer, copy attached.

During April a total of 530 metric tons of PL 480 commodities were issued from Vientiane stocks. This compares favorably with 373 tons issued during the previous month.

On April 28, USAID signed a contract with the Km. 4 Noodle Factory on the basis of a letter from the Ministry of Social Welfare affirming their approval and willingness to assist the producer to acquire the necessary operating licenses.

Noodle production rose to 85 metric tons as production problems were overcome. With the acquisition of additional machinery and the near completion of four new drying rooms, production of fortified noodles could well rise to 200 metric tons in May.

Stocks of most PL 480 commodities remain satisfactory based on anticipated requirements.

Operation Brotherhood is initiating a pilot school lunch project of four months duration at Ban Y Lai. As planned, the entire school population will receive one glass of milk daily. In addition, thirty to forty malnourished children will be chosen for a weight and height survey. This group will receive a daily meal consisting of PL 480 and other foods.

ORA/Pakse has submitted a draft proposal to commence a pilot refugee school lunch project.

V. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLIES

Food and other commodities were moved by surface transportation to the following locations from Vientiane.

	<u>Salt</u>	<u>Rice</u>	<u>Canned Meat</u>	<u>Commodities</u>	
Thakhek				13.0	M. T.
L. P.	16.0	533.5	35.0	1.5	"
Syby	-	94.0	-	5.0	"
V. V.	-	53.0	-	6.5	"
LS-272	24.0	39.5	56.0	45.4	"
Vte	14.3	328.6	-	-	"
Paksane	-	117.0	5.0	-	"
Svkt.	-	-	-	0.5	"
Pakse	-	-	-	3.0	"
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Total	54.3	1,165.6	95.0	74.9	MT

Air and surface deliveries were made from:

Ban Houei Sai

Air Dropped	Rice	62.3 M. T.
Air Landed	Rice	241.3 "
Truck	Rice	36.1 "
River	Rice	1.5 "
Air & Surface	Salt	14.4 "
Air Landed	Rice Seed	37.4 "
Air Dropped	Bulgur Wheat	64.9 "
Air Dropped	Cornmeal	7.2 "
Air & Surface	Protein	19.3 "
Air & Surface	Salad Oil	.8 "

Total: 478.9 M. T.

Vientiane

Air Dropped	Rice	1,517.7 M. T.
Air Dropped	Protein & Rice	652.3 "
Air Landed	Rice	201.9 "
Air Landed	Protein	90.4 "
Air Dropped & Landed	Salt	52.8 "
Air Dropped	Cornmeal	251.1 "
Air Dropped	Noodles (CSM)	19.2 "

Total: 2,785.4 M. T.

The KM-4 bagging warehouse delivered 2,473.4 metric tons of 40 kg rice, mixed rice-beef and cornmeal to ATOG.

During April the following PL 480 commodities were issued from Vientiane. It is anticipated that issues during May could rise to 800 metric tons.

Flour	120 M. T.
Cornmeal	280 "
CSM	28 "
WSB	35 "
Bulgur	40 "
NFDM	34 "
Vegetable Oil	63 "

Total: 580 M. T.

Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

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Refugees on the Vientiane Plain were provided 95.8 tons of noodles processed from PL 480 commodities.

AD/RA:JWMacQueen:viv

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

RECAPITULATION
REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT STATUS REPORT FOR APRIL 1971

REGION I	Ref. Food Recipients During Mar.	Ref. Food Recipients During Apr.	Total Mean Change	Ethnic Percent	**Ref. Re/Hab Recipients Fm. Oct. '70	Remarks
Ban Houei Sai	16,253	16,312	+ 59	Lt-40;Lu-30;Goocy-10 E-Kaw-20	10,548	Ban Houei Sai: Increase; 59 refs. by eligibility review. Luang Prabang: Add 246 refs. fm. Na Tan (TH-1506), 100 Meo fm. Long Lup (TG-1794) & 248 refs. fm. Na Lung Valley to L. P. area. Minus; 200 L. T. return LS-170 & 5,046 refs. by eligibility review.
Luang Prabang	31,760	27,108	-4,652	Lt-33;Lao-25; Meo-22;Lu-20	1,756	Sayaboury: 780 refs. fm. Phou Dam area (L. P.) to Nam Pouie (QA-6594) & 55 persons by recount.
Sayaboury	5,671	6,506	+ 835	Meo-32;Phai-37;Lu-20 Other-11	1,321	
REGION II						
N. Rim PDJ	16,320	16,320	-		-	Xiang Khouang: No major changes in refugee population reported during month. Continued stabilization of refugee situation marked by small shifts of refugee groups within safe-haven sectors of Central 272.
LS-25 Area	8,259	8,259	-		-	
SE Rim PDJ	8,361	8,361	-	Meo-70;Lt-30	3,184	
Central 272	120,216	120,216	-		12,104	
REGION III						
Thakhek	72	353	281	Lao	-	Thakhek: 281 refs. fm. SE Borikhane Province at Ban Pak Ca Dinh (VF-0023).
*Savannakhet	6,094	4,797	-1,297	Lao-75;Phouthai-15; Lt-10	-	Savannakhet: 280 refs. by recount at Seno site. Minus 1,540 persons enroute to M. Phalane area & 37 persons return to Ban Houei Mun.
REGION IV						
*Pakse	7,081	5,921	-1,160	Lao-29;Souei-27;TaOy-22;Lt-17;Other-5	12,945	Pakse: Arrivals at Pakse; 28 refs. fm. Attopeu, 106 refs. fm. Saravane & 29 refs. fm. Wapikhamtong Province. Minus 750 refs. leave Houei Nam Phak Proj. & 573 persons dropped from support by eligibility review.
Sithandone	1,143	1,143	-			Sithandone: No change reported.
REGION V						
*Vte. Plain	27,344	27,344	-	Lao	-	Vte. Plain: No change reported.
*Paksane	10,297	7,810	-2,487	Lao-80; Lt-15; Meo-5	-	Paksane: 38 refs. fm. Ban Done & 43 refs. fm. M. Mouane to Paksane. Minus 2,568 people due to eligibility review.
Vang Vieng				Lao-85;Meo-8;		Vang Vieng: 301 refs. fm. Xiang Det area to Hin Tid II, 20 refs. fm. M. Phoune & 24 refs. fm. Ban Xon at V. V.
Moung Kassy	6,665	7,010	+ 345	Lt-6;Yao-1	150	
Totals	265,536	257,460	-8,076		42,008	
Total Jan. 1970	178,335					*Relocation Project Areas.
Total Oct. 1970	275,994	(High for CY-70)				**These refugees are no longer receiving rice, however, they are receiving other rehabilitation support.
Total Jan. 1971	225,513					