

ED 77 408

9 ~~ADG~~
~~HA~~
LW

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director March 13, 1971

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

SUBJECT: Refugee Affairs Monthly Report - February 1971

General

Briefings on the refugee program were prepared for Mr. Robert Johnson, EA/TECH, AID/W on February 1, 1971 and for Mr. R. Samuel Dillon Jr., Congressional Liaison Officer, AID/W during his visit to Laos February 24/26, 1971.

On February 23, 1971, H. E. Ban Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, accompanied by the AD/RA, conducted a helicopter trip on the Vientiane Plain for the British Ambassadors to Laos, Cambodia and South Viet Nam. The party visited refugee relocation villages in the upper region of the Vientiane Plain and overflew several others. The Nam Ngum Dam was also visited. The trip was very successful despite inclement weather.

[

A two man team from the International Red Cross organization, accompanied by Ministry of Social Welfare and other Lao Government officials made an inspection of refugee villages in the Ban Xon (LS 272) Area. The IRC officials apparently were very impressed by the medical program, education facilities and general condition of the refugee villagers. The purpose of the trip was to disprove Communist propaganda to the effect that refugees were being held in concentration camps and were being subjected to general mistreatment and torture.

On February 8, 1971 a contract for the purchase of swine from the Vientiane Swine Producers Association was signed by the Association and USAID/Laos. The purpose of the contract is to acquire 1,000 pigs for the Xiang Khouang refugee villagers who lost their livestock when they were forced to flee their homes because of enemy action during the past year. To date 25 boars and 55 bred gilts have been delivered to Ban Xon and distributed to refugee villages in the area.

Work was begun on the Fiscal Year 72-74 Programs during the month but progress on this important task has been slow due to preparation of briefings, many long interviews and meetings with journalists and reporting on refugee movements.

With regard to refugee movements the relative calm reported for the month of January, was shattered following the capture of Muong Soule (LS 108) by the enemy on February 3, 1971 and as the result of the fall of Muong Phalane in Savannakhet Province.

In the Xieng Khouang Area an exodus began from the sector generally northwest of the Plain of Jars and north of Route 7 west towards Route 13 and heading towards Xieng Ngeun. This sector fell to the enemy, partly from attacks and partly by default since refugees fled their homes through fear of the enemy and lack of strong leadership. An estimated 8,000 Mec and Lao Theung are involved in this immigration. Another 2,000 people from the neutralist area west and southwest of Muong Soule began to move south towards Vang Vieng. Another 30 to 40,000 people are moving south and southeast from the Sam Thong-Long Chheng sector. In all an estimated 50 to 50,000 people are on the move in the Xieng Khouang Area as of the end of February because of heavy enemy pressure and acquisition of territory. Accurate reporting on these mass movements is very difficult because people are on the trails, are taking cover in the forest areas and are frequently out of contact with their leaders. Many of these displaced people are already on rolls and have been receiving full support. Some are indigenous villagers who have joined the mass movement to escape the North Vietnamese Army.

In the Luang Prabang Area 1,107 refugees moved from their villages between Pak Souang and Pak Ou south along the Mekong River towards Luang Prabang. The majority of these people were already receiving rice support.

Enemy attacks along Route 9 and on Muong Phalane resulted in the movement of 2,243 people to the vicinity of Dung Hene. During mid-February Ban Houei Mun in the southwestern sector of Savannakhet Province was captured by the enemy and 265 people moved to the Lahanam area.

In Military Region IV 350 people filtered out from the Saravane area to Pakse during the month. In Sthandone Province (Khong Island) 85 new refugees were added to the rolls.

In Vientiane Province a small but steady influx of refugees from Military Region II and Muong Kassy to the Vientiane Plain occurred. A temporary camp was established four kilometers north of Phone Hong for the estimated 510 people from Muong Kassy until they decide to return to their homes or to relocate on the Vientiane Plain.

The recent Refugee Status Report for February 1971 is attached.

Total Refugees Receiving Food Support	253,175
Total Refugees Receiving Rehabilitation Support	45,474
Total Refugees in Designated Relocation Project Areas	36,496

II Reliance Relocation

Airgram TOAID-A 84 was submitted on February 17, 1971 as a concise status report on twelve months of activity and effort devoted to the relocation of 27,000 refugees on the Vientiane Plain.

Land Classification of the Ministry of Social Welfare land reserves is now almost complete. The Ministry is taking action to acquire an additional reserve area (Number 8) approximately 6,000 hectares. This area is located east of Ban Keun on both sides of Route 15 and will include a relocation area for the Miao people who are obliged to leave Phou Khao Kwa. Another area of land north of Ban Tha Deua and Thanteng is being considered as a Ministry land reserve for any additional refugees arriving in the Vientiane Plain for relocation.

Work on the Dong Kalume Plain Development Project (Area No. 5) is making satisfactory progress. This project consists of three major drains with flood gates to prevent Mekong River water from backing into the natural drainage areas and 18 kilometers of access roads and road dikes to provide flood protection and surface communication for 380 refugee families and 810 indigenous villager families.

Other activities on the Vientiane Plain such as the road/dike between Ban Tha Ngone and Ban Na Khoun Noi, plowing of paddy areas, clearing for permanent village sites and road construction progressed satisfactorily during the month. The HEAID Public Works Division completed the road from Phone Sai to Thum Loua in February and moved to road projects in the Mak Heo and Thia Triang Areas.

Mr. Hugh Brady, Chief of Relocation Branch, accompanied Mr. Manh Traymany, Director General of Resettlement for Ministry of Social Welfare on a field trip to the Seno Project in Savannakhet and the Houei Nam Plak Project, Pakse. While in Savannakhet the party conducted discussions regarding the procedures to be followed for the Ministry of Social Welfare buffalo loan program on the Seno Project. During the meeting Mr. Manh briefed the Provincial officials on the plan of the Ministry to provide loan funds for the acquisition of buffalo

by the refugees and to limit the responsibilities of the Provincial Committee. The Provincial Committee will be furnished with a copy of the final plan which was prepared and which incorporates some of the recommendations presented in the meeting.

In Pakse the policy outlined in House Nam Phak Project and field level discussions with various refugee groups. A number of meetings were also held between Messrs. Manh and Pheng of the Ministry and Messrs. Nelson and Brady of USAID. These meetings were useful in clarifying the layout and organization of Village Number 100 and the role of the Provincial Committee in Project Planning. Mr. Manh was highly pleased with progress noted at Sene and House Nam Phak.

III. Food for Peace Program

Please refer to the report of Mr. Roger B. Sprawls, Food for Peace Officer.

The Office of Refugee Affairs is awaiting the final negotiations for a contract with a local firm for the processing of noodles utilizing the large stock of wheat flour on hand. The high protein noodles will be an important source of food for the refugees and will substitute up to one fourth of the current rice ration. It is imperative that noodle manufacture begin immediately.

The USAID Agriculture Division and the RLG Agriculture Service have positioned teams of RLG Home Economics workers on the Vientiane Plain to instruct refugee women in the preparation of PL-480 food using simple recipes and methods.

IV. Logistics and Supplies

Food and other commodities were moved by surface transportation to the following locations/

<u>Location</u>	<u>Rice (MT)</u>	<u>Other Commodities (MT)</u>
LS 272	170.0	104.3
Sayaboury	75.0	7.3
Paksane	83.4	11.7
Vientiane	450.4	29.5
ATOC (for drops, rice, salt, canned meat)	1,800.0	

<u>Location</u>	<u>Rice (MT)</u>	<u>Other Commodities (MT)</u>
Pakse		0.2
Savannakhet	45.0	2.5
Ban Houei Sai		0.6
Luang Prabang	520.0	10.6

Air and surface deliveries were made from:

<u>Ban Houei Sai</u>		
Air dropped	Rice	102.5 MT
Air dropped	Salt	7.4 "
Air landed	Rice	242.0 "
Air landed	Salt	12.4 "
Air landed	Protein	20.5 "
Surface (Boat & Truck)	Rice	60.0 "
		<hr/>
		<u>546.6 MT</u>

<u>Vientiane</u>		
Air dropped	Rice	1,418.7 MT
Air dropped	Protein & Rice	193.0 "
Air landed	Rice	131.5 "
Air landed	Protein	43.0 "
Air landed	Salt	2.0 "
		<hr/>
Total		<u><u>2,730.4 MT</u></u>

Attachments:

1. Report by Food for Peace Officer for February 1971
2. Monthly Recap of Refugee Status Report for February 1971

DIST:
 ORA
 C&R(3)

ORA:JW/mac/0200070

REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT
STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1971

	Rice Receiving Rice During January	Refs Receiving Rice During February	Total Mean Change	Ethnic Percent	** Refs Receiving Relief Assistance From 15th	Remarks
H.S.	16,329	16,231	+ 2	Lt 40; Lu 30; Gooy 10; E-Kaw 20		2 B.H.S. refs due to eligibility review. Overall refugee movements negligible during February.
P.	17,322	18,929	+ 1,107	Lt-33; Lao 2; Meo 22; Lu-20		1107 refs from 12 villages in Nam Suang area (TH-1716) in various villages north of Pakoung (TH-1210) along the Mekong.
BY	5,521	5,521		Meo 32; Pha 37; Lu 20; Other 11		
Rim PDJ	22,875	24,802	+1,927			The dry season offensive caused large scale dis- placement of people in areas north of RLG Route 7 and Long Cheng vicinity; estimated at some 40,000 refugees. Most were previously receiving support. More accurate figures on the actual numbers of new refugees will be determined as the situation stabilizes.
Rim PDJ	9,950	8,673	-1,277	Meo 70; Lt 30		
Central 272	102,928	124,731	+21,803			
MAKHEK	62	65	+ 3	Lao		3 refugees from Malaisa to Thakhek City. 2415 refugees from Muong Phalane (WD 5945) and Ban Houei Mun (LS-8867) to Savannakhet area.
VRT	2,931	5,346	+2,415	Lao 75; Phutha 15; Lt 10		
PAKSE	6,204	6,554	+ 350	Lao 29; Souei-37; Lt 17; Ta-Oy 22; Other 5		350 refs from Saravone Province to Pakse. 85 refs from B. Veurekham (WA-7854) to Klong Island.
Shandons	779	864	+ 85			
TE Plain	26,192	27,048	+ 856	Lao		856 refs from Xieng Khouang area to Vte Plain 353 refs total to Pakse: 163 from M. Huang (UF- 6373); 128 M. Bo refs return to rice support, 41 refs from LS-20A & 11 refs due to recount. 1052 refs from Xieng Det area to Vang Vieng & Muong Kassy areas.
Ksane	9,610	9,963	+ 353	Lao 80; Lt-15; Meo 5		
Vieng Kuang Kassy	3,399	4,451	+1,052	Lao 85; Meo 8; Lt 6; Yao 1		
TOTALS	224,502	253,178	+28,676			

Sep. 69 208,515
Jan. 70 178,335
Oct. 70 275,994 (High for CY 70)
Feb. 71 224,502