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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To: Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director DATE: February 12, 1971  
From: Tom W. MacQueen, AD/RA *[Signature]*  
Subject: Refugee Affairs Monthly Report January 1971

General

The highlight of the month was the successful visit of the Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma to refugee villages on the Vientiane Plain on January 22, 1971. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the American Ambassador, Mr. G. McMurry Godley; Mr. Charles A. Mann, USAID Director; The Secretary of State for Social Welfare and Labor; The Minister of Justice and in Charge of Plans; The Secretary of State for Finance; The Secretary of State for Public Health, the Governor of Vientiane Province; the Commander of Military Region V; a host of other Lao officials; the USAID Area Coordinator and the Assistant Director for Refugee Affairs. Four helicopters (2 from the Royal Lao Air Force and 2 USAID charter) were employed to transport the Prime Minister and party. Stops were made at five refugee centers; the Prime Minister complimented the people on their endeavor and progress during the past year; continued assistance by the Royal Lao Government (RLG) was promised the refugees in their efforts to become a viable segment of the economy. Eleven other sites were observed during an overflight enroute to the villages selected for landings. The RLG officials had an opportunity to observe at first hand the Vientiane Plain relocation program. The success of the full day trip was due especially to the excellent planning done by the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Governor of Vientiane Province, the Area Coordinator and the Air Support Branch.

The acquisition of good quality upland rice seed for refugees has been a perennial problem. Continuous crop failures result in refugees having to receive costly food support. It is the opinion of the Office of Refugee Affairs that one of the principal reasons for upland rice crop failures each year is due to non-viable seed. Office of Refugee Affairs (ORA) requires the assistance of the USAID Agriculture Division and the Royal Lao Government Agriculture Service for seed selection, germination tests, basic research and possible multiplication of improved types of upland rice seed. ORA is in contact with the Agriculture Division concerning the problem.

In terms of refugee movements January was a relatively good month. There were 1,265 new refugees reported, activity was centered mainly exclusively in the areas of Pakse and Bortakane. In Ban Huel Sai area and in Sayaboury Province, 2,730 refugees became self-sufficient. On the other hand, 6,185 refugees who were self-sufficient for a period of one to three months in the Loung Prabang, Vang Vieng and Muong Kassy areas required food support once more having consumed the rice harvested from their meager 1970 crop.

In the Bortakane area the enemy abducted 22 families in Ban Nahan (UF-4773). This group of people made up the entire population of that village. This enemy action marked the movement of 125 people from nearby Muong Bo (UF-6653). The capture of Muong Paalane in Savannakhet Province at the end of January led to the reported movement of 1,200 villagers to the vicinity of Dong Hene.

The recap Refugee Status Report for January 1971 is attached. The total number of refugees who have received food support is now 282,851. Of this number 224,368 are still receiving full subsistence support whereas 58,492 have become self-sufficient for rice but continue to require other assistance.

|   |         |                            |
|---|---------|----------------------------|
| Total Refugees:                                       | 252,851 |                            |
| Total New Refugees:                                   | 1,265   |                            |
|   |         | <u>Percentage of Total</u> |
| Total Refugees Receiving Food Support                 | 224,368 | 79.2                       |
| Total Refugees Receiving Rehabilitation Support       | 58,492  | 20.8                       |
| Total Refugees in Designated Relocation Project Areas | 42,698  | 15.7                       |

## II. Refugee Relocation

The Activity Plan for the training, maintenance and parking facility to support the Ministry of Social Welfare tractors and other equipment has been approved. The site agreed upon for the facility is on Ministry land at Ban Amone. The USAID Public Works Division is mobilizing materials and construction is expected to begin during February 1971.

Vientiane Province: 7.2 of January 31, 1971 land classification work has been completed on the following areas:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Nong Sai, Area No. 7                                   | 1,400 hectares |
| Phou Sai, Area No. 4                                   | 2,500 "        |
| Dong Kham, Area No. 5                                  | 8,800 "        |
| Dong Kham Development Area                             | 2,000 "        |
| Tha Ngone, Area No. 3                                  | 5,700 "        |
| Yeun Khan  | 2,900 "        |
| Phantabou (an area proposed for<br>refugee relocation) | 3,957 "        |

The reserve areas remaining to be classified are:

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Na Thon, Area No. 6, approximately | 8,000 hectares |
| San Thon, Area No. 2 "             | 8,500 "        |
| Ray Duan, Area No. 1 "             | 2,000 "        |

It is anticipated that work will begin on the areas remaining to be classified during mid February and should be completed around April 1, 1971.

Work in the Tha Ngone Reserve (Area No. 3) is progressing satisfactorily. The road project from Tha Ngone to Na Khoun Noi on Route 12 is on schedule. Your Ministry of Social Welfare workers are working in the area and an ORA survey crew recently transferred from the Seno Project has been assigned to task of laying out village sites and surveying farm plots.

Clearing work has begun for the second permanent village site in Area No. 7. The first permanent village site was dedicated by the Chao (King) of Vientiane Province.

In Area No. 4 (Phou Sai) the new road being constructed from Phou Sai to Thoun Loux by USAID Public Works Division is nearing completion. Villagers are beginning to clear permanent village sites in this area.

In Area No. 5 (Dong Kham), an ORA survey crew has laid out three permanent village sites and completed the survey for a feeder road at Houei Mak Hieo two kilometers in length from RN 2.

Paksane: Land classification was completed on two proposed relocation areas during the month as follows:

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Muong Ma | 5,192 hectares |
| Pak Chau | 2,460 "        |

The problem of adequate and suitable land for relocation of refugees has not been resolved to date. Approximately 2,500 refugees are planning to relocate at least temporarily in the vicinity of Biung Cai but they are apprehensive regarding the security of this area. These people are from the Ban Donn (LS-38) area.

Savannakhet - Sene Project: Activity Plans for sawmill operation, construction of six classrooms, the construction of two dispensaries for cottage industry and for land clearing have been approved. One HD-16 tractor dozer was transferred from Vientiane to begin land clearing. Two farm tractors of the Ministry of Social Welfare were transferred to begin land preparation on the project. All planned water storage dams are reported to be complete and the farm land survey has been completed. Details are being worked out for a buffalo loan program for the Sene refugee families.

Pakse - Houei Nam Phak Project: The problem of tires and spare parts for the Colombo Plan farm tractor assigned to the project was resolved by the transfer of a new Ministry of Social Welfare farm tractor from Vientiane to Houei Nam Phak. The Colombo Plan tractor will be returned to Vientiane for necessary repairs.

Work has begun on Village No. 2 site however land clearing has been seriously delayed because of the breakdown of one of the HD-16 tractor dozers during January.

### III. Personnel

All performance evaluation reports for ORA personnel were completed and submitted on schedule.

Mr. Jerome C. Cross arrived at post on January 8, 1971 and was assigned to Ban Houei Sai as Refugee Operations Officer to replace Mr. Ernest C. Kuhn. Mr. Kuhn was named Area Coordinator for Ban Houei Sai areas effective February 1, 1971.

Mr. Thomas L. Daranyi arrived in Vientiane on January 26, 1971 and was assigned to the Xieng Khouang area on February 1, 1971 as a Refugee Operations Officer.

### IV. Food for Peace Program

Please refer to the report of Mr. Roger G. Sprawie, Food for Peace Officer.

A cable (date 01/15/67) was received from AID/Washington which indicates hope for obtaining approval for the use of PL 480 feed grains for a livestock feeding program in refugee villages. Work has begun on drawing up a PROOP for this important project.

Office of Refugee Affairs (ORA) is deeply concerned over insufficient utilization of PL 480 commodities by refugee families. Meetings were held with USAID Agriculture Division and the RLAF Agriculture Extension Service to discuss ways and means for the deployment of RLAF Extension Home Demonstration Agents in the refugee villages to instruct the villagers in the preparation of simple PL 480 food recipes.

#### V. Logistics and Supplies

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

| <u>Location</u>  | <u>Rice (Metric Tons)</u> | <u>Other Commodities (Metric Tons)</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| LS-278           | 205.2                     | 190.1 M T                              |
| Sayaboury        | 96.0                      |  |
| Paksane          | 50.0                      | 58.4 "                                 |
| Vientiane        | 449.0                     | 3.0 "                                  |
| ATOG (dor-drops) | 1,741.5                   |  |
| Pakee            |                           | 1.0 "                                  |
| Savannakhet      | 43.0                      |  |
| Thakhek          |                           | 11.6 "                                 |
| Ban Houei Sa     |                           | 10.6 "                                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <u>2,586.7</u>            | <u>270.9 M T</u>                       |

Air and surface deliveries were made from:

| <u>Ban Houei Sa</u> |           |                  |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Air (dropped)       | Rice      | 79.5 M T         |
| Air landed          | Rice      | 230.9 "          |
| Truck               | Rice      | 74.7 "           |
| River               | Rice      | 36.1 "           |
| Air and Surface     | Salt      | 8.0 "            |
| Air and Surface     | Protein   | 13.7 "           |
| Air and Surface     | Salad Oil | 3 "              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        |           | <u>395.2 M T</u> |



RECAPITULATION  
REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT  
STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY, 1971

| MR I              | Rice Receiving<br>Rice Previous<br>Month | Rice Receiving<br>Rice Current<br>Month | Total<br>Mean<br>Change | Ethnic<br>Percent                           | ** Ref Receiving<br>Re/Hab Assistance<br>From Oct 15th | REMARKS  |
|-------------------|--|---|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| B. H. S.          | 18,229                                   | 16,229                                  | -2,000                  | Lt-40; Lu-30; Gooley-10<br>E-Kaw-20         | 10,323   | 2,367 BHS Refs became self-sufficient; 127 new Refs at Pak Tha and Ban Dene. Balance mean change due to eligibility review.            |
| L. P.             | 21,373                                   | 17,822                                  | -4,551                  | Lt-33; Lao 25; Lu-22<br>Meo 22              | 3,181  | 2,786 L. P. Refs require additional support. Overall decrease due to eligibility review.   |
| SYBY              | 5,518                                    | 5,521                                   | + 3                     | Meo 32; Phai-37<br>Lu-10; Other-9           | 1,321  | 363 SYBY Refs became self-sufficient. Balance mean change due to eligibility review.   |
| <b>MR II</b>      |  |   |                         |   |  |  |
| N Rim PDJ         | 22,875                                   | 22,875                                  | -                       |   | 1,997  | No significant changes in Region II.   |
| SE Rim PDJ        | 9,950                                    | 9,950                                   | -                       | Meo 70; Lt-30                               | 4,211  |  |
| Central 272       | 102,928                                  | 102,928                                 | -                       |   | 26,272   |  |
| <b>MR III</b>     |  |   |                         |   |  |  |
| THAKHEK           | 50                                       | 62                                      | + 12                    | Lao   | 2,519  | 12 new refugees in Thakhek from Kham Keut area.  |
| *SVKT             | 2,931                                    | 2,931                                   | -                       | Lao-75; Phu Thaf-15<br>Lt-10                | -  |  |
| <b>MR IV</b>      |  |   |                         |   |  |  |
| *PAKSE            | 5,813                                    | 6,204                                   | + 391                   | Souei 27; Ta-Oy-22<br>Lao-29; Lt-17; Misc-9 | 7,566  | 391 refugees from Saraane Province to Pakse.   |
| Sithandone        | 621                                      | 779                                     | + 158                   |   | -  | 158 refugees to Khong Island.  |
| <b>MR V</b>       |  |   |                         |   |  |  |
| VTT Plain         | 26,192                                   | 26,192                                  | -                       | Lao   |  | 577 Refs from Ban Done (LS-28) area to Paksane.  |
| Paksane           | 9,033                                    | 9,610                                   | + 577                   | Lao-80; Lt-15<br>Meo 5                      |  | 129 M. Bo (UF 4776) villagers enroute to Paksane.  |
| Vang Vieng        |  |   |                         | Lao-85; Meo-8                               |  | 3,399 V. V. and M. Kassy refs require additional food support.   |
| Muong Kassy       |  | 3,399                                   | +3,399                  | Lt-6; Yao-1                                 | 802  |  |
| TOTALS            | 225,513                                  | 224,502                                 | -1,011                  |   | 58,192   | *Relocation Project Areas<br>** These refugees are no longer receiving rice, however, they are receiving other rehabilitation support. |
| Total Sep. '69    | 208,515                                  | High CY 1969                            |                         |   |  |  |
| Total Jan 1, '70  | 178,335                                  |   |                         |   |  |  |
| Total Oct 15, '70 | 275,994                                  | High CY 1970                            |                         |   |  |  |
| Total Jan 1, '71  | 225,513                                  |   |                         |   |  |  |