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HUNTER
LARRY

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To: Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director Date: January 15, 1971

From: John W. MacQueen, AD/RA *J. W. MacQueen*

Subject: Refugee Affairs Monthly Report - December 1970

I GENERAL

As security remains stable throughout the country, emergency refugee operations have been minimal. This afforded an opportunity to concentrate on relocation activities to a greater degree. Schools in refugee areas have been opened and are being operated by the RLG. As USAID/Education notes, the P. S. I's have in general done an excellent job of getting schools organized. Shortages of school supplies continue to occur but the problem is not serious. Apparently the general lack of school books and supplies for the general populace tends to reduce proportionately the supply in refugee villages.

Public Health's general evaluation of health in refugee areas remained good, with no serious outbreaks of disease. Public Health Division also noted that one site, LS-281 was having a higher than usual sick call. This was checked out and proved to result from overcrowding and limited water supply. People are now being dispersed from this site.

Public Health Division's environmental sanitation teams are on deck and are beginning their ground work in designated relocation sites.

Problems concerning refugee assistance in the Vang Vieng/Muong Kassy area still exist because no Ministry of Social Welfare representative has been assigned to date (see our October 1970 report). The Office of Refugee Affairs has pointed up the problems with the Ministry several times during recent months but unfortunately a qualified officer has not been selected. Hopefully there will be an assignment effected during January 1971.

The number of new refugees given emergency assistance during the month of December 1970 was 2,203 mainly as the result of movements in Paksane and Pakse areas. During the same period 10,845 people became self-sufficient, at least temporarily, following their rice harvest, while 2,786 people were returned to food support roles. The latter group had depleted their meager stocks of rice from the current harvest.

The recap for December 1970 is attached. The total number of refugees who have received food support during 1970 is now 284,777. Of this number 225,513 are still receiving full subsistence support while 58,861 have become self-sufficient for rice but continue to receive other assistance.

Total Refugees: 284,771

		<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Total Refugees Receiving Food Support -	225,513	79
Total Refugees Receiving Rehabilitation support	58,861	21
Total Refugees in Relocation Project Areas	42,503	15

II REFUGEE RELOCATION

On December 11th Mr. Keo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, called a meeting of the RLG officials concerned with relocation plans for refugees. The main subject of the meeting was a discussion of the Prime Minister's instructions to all RLG Ministries to proceed with the settlement of refugees on land as quickly as possible. This directive has speeded up RLG's approval of reserve areas, and helped to expedite relocation operations in general.

Vientiane Plain: With the completion of the land classification at Veun Kham, all of the designated relocation areas in the South Nam Ngum region have been completed. Mr. Stanley E. Snyder, the Soils Specialist will now go to the Paksane area in Borikhane Province to classify designated refugee relocation areas. Upon completion of the work at Paksane, Mr. Snyder will begin land classification at Ban Hat Deua, (Reserve Area 1) in the North Nam Ngum area.

In general, progress of permanent village relocation sites on the Vientiane Plain is proceeding satisfactorily. One new village site near Nong Sa (Area 7) was cleared with the French-donated equipment. The site was surveyed, home plots and streets laid out with Travaux Publics providing a Grader to complete the village streets. A formal ceremony was held to award the home plots to the refugees. The Chao Khoueng of Vientiane and the Director General of Social Welfare awarded the home lots and cut the ribbon dedicating the new village.

Activity Plans have been approved and construction underway on two roads and flood control projects which will provide access to permanent village sites and perform important flood control functions allowing the utilization of several hundred hectares of level clear land for rice paddy that formally was unusable because of flooding. These areas are:

Road from Ban Phone Sai to Ban Thoun Loua. Four new permanent refugee villages will be located along the road.

The road from Tha Ngon to Na Khoun Noi will provide direct access to seven new permanent village sites and provide flood control to put over 900 hectares of good rice paddy land into production.

A Meadows Sawmill has been set up at Ban Phone Sai and is sawing timber salvaged from the right of way clearing for use in various construction projects in the area and to provide some lumber to assist refugees in building permanent housing. It would be desirable if another sawmill was available near the Nong Sa area to provide similar assistance to refugees constructing permanent housing.

Four small pump irrigation projects are being established for dry season vegetable production using 4" Japanese diesel pumps that the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare obtained from ADO. These projects are:

Nam Pot	3.5 hectares
Veun Khene	3.0 "
Ban Thin	6.0 "
Vieng Khom	6.5 "

A TCN engineer from USAID/Irrigation Section is supervising the installation of the pumps.

Pakse - Houei Nam Phak : A new PMIS Activity Plan was submitted for approval. This Activity Plan covers housing for village site #2 and land clearing. Dry season vegetable gardens in village #1 have shown a good degree of success.

Savannakhet - Seno: All of the construction under the original Activity Plan and Amendment No. 1 has been completed with exception of the two dispensaries. New PMIS Activity Plans have been submitted and are being processed to cover sawmill operation, the construction of six additional classrooms (making a total of 10) and the dispensaries.

The cadastral survey of farm lots is almost complete and the Chao Khoueng made an initial distribution of farm lots to villagers. A program of buffalo loans to villagers will begin as soon as the Ministry of Social Welfare works out the administrative details. Director Mann approved Mission support of the buffalo loan project in a meeting with the Ministry of Social Welfare on December 11, 1970.

Other Donors: An Activity Plan was approved for construction of a parking area and training center for the French-donated equipment and operators on Ministry of Social Welfare land at Ban Amone. Construction will begin in January 1971.

III. FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM

Please refer to report by Mr. Roger G. Sprows, Food for Peace Officer.

PL 480 commodities continued to arrive in the port of Bangkok. Transportation of newly arrived commodities to Vientiane will be effected in January 1971. The fumigation of approximately 150 tons of wheat flour during the last days of December was very successful. We now feel certain that all commodities can be safely fumigated as required in the future. It is hoped that production of noodles on a contract basis can begin by the end of January 1971. The inability to develop a livestock feed program for refugees because of the feed grain shortage in the U.S. is a disappointment. Locally produced grains and possible purchases in Thailand must be considered as soon as possible in order that the approved livestock program in Xieng Khouang area can succeed.

IV. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLIES

Food and other commodities were moved to the following locations:

LS-272	712.2 Metric Tons
Luang Prabang	549.7 "
Sayaboury	96.0 "
Paksane	103.2 "
Vientiane Area	231.6 "
ATOG	1,993.9 "
Pakse	4.4 "
	<u>3,691.0</u>

Note: The above tonnage was moved by surface transportation.

Air and surface deliveries were made from:

Ban Houei Sai

Rice	Air-dropped	88.1 Metric Tons
Rice	Air-landed	210.6 "
Rice	Truck	35.5 "
Rice	River	24.8 "
Salt	Air & Surface	8.1 "
Protein	" "	11.4 "
		<u>378.5 Metric Tons</u>

Vientiane

Rice	Air-dropped	1,367.4 Metric Tons
Protein & Rice	Air-dropped	376.6 "
Rice	Air-landed	309.1 "
Protein	Air-landed	14.2 "
Salt	Air-landed	8.2 "
		<u>2,075.5 Metric Tons</u>

All December quotas for air-dropped were completed.

Attachments:

1. Report by Food for Peace Officer for December, 1970
2. Monthly Recap of Refugee Status Report for December, 1970

cc: ORA (3)
C&R-3

ORA:JWMacQueen:bms:l-15-71



RECAPITULATION
REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT
STATUS REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1970

MR I	Refs Receiving Rice Previous Month	Refs Receiving Rice Current Month	Total Mean Change	Ethnic Percent	**Receiving Re/Hab Assistance From Oct. 15th	REMARKS
B.H.S.	8,081	18,229	+ 148	Lt 40; Lu 30; Gooye-10 E-Kaw-20	7,956	148 new Refs in Houa Khong Province
L.P.	18,587	21,373	+2,786	Lt 33; Lao 25; Lu 22 Meo 22	3,181	2,786 Luang Prabang Refs who were self sufficient between Oct and Dec require additional food support. 958 Syby refs self sufficient.
SYBY	6,476	5,518	- 958	Meo 32; Pha 37; Lu 10 Other 9	958	
MR II						
N. Rim PDJ	22,833	22,875	+ 42		1,997	New Refs from Ban Ban area. No new Refs created following the loss of M. Mo (LS 46) on December 15th.
SS Rim PDJ	9,950	9,950	-	Meo 70; Lt 30	4,211	
Central 272	102,928	102,928	-		26,272	
MR III						
Thakhek	36	50	+ 14	Lao	2,519	New Refs in Thakhek from Kham Keut area
*SVKT	2,931	2,931	-	Lao 75; Phu Tha 15 Lt 10		
MR IV						
*Paksane	8,986	5,813	-3,173	Souei 27; Ta Cy 22; Lao 29; Lt 17; M.s. 9	7,566	1,219 new Refs in MR IV from Saravane Province. 5,686 Paksane refugees became self-sufficient.
Sithandone	642	621	- 21			
MR V						
*Vte Plain	25,943	26,192	+ 249	Lao	-	New Refs on Vte Plain from V. V. and M. Cha (LS-113).
Paksane	8,502	9,033	+ 531	Lao-80; Lt-15 Meo-5	-	New Refs in Paksane from Ban Done (LS-28) area. Vang Vieng-M. Kassy refs. self-sufficient.
Vang Vieng						
Muong Kassy	4,201	-	-4,201		4,201	
TOTALS:	230,096	225,513	-4,583		58,861	*Relocation Project Areas
Total Sept '69	208,515	High CY 1969				** These refugees are no longer receiving rice; however, they are receiving other rehabilitation support.
Total Jan. 1, '70	178,335					
Total Oct 15, '70	275,994	High CY 1970				
Total Jan. 1, '71	225,513					