

To: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA Date: January 11, 1971

From: ^{PLS} Roger G. Sprowls, Food for Peace Officer, CRA

Subject: December Monthly Report

I General

During this reporting period 958 metric tons (MT) of wheat flour and 589 MT of cornmeal were received at Bangkok port. With the arrival of these major food items 30% of the total tonnage provided by Transfer Authorization (TA) 0606 has arrived at Bangkok. Based upon information in shipping documents and communications from AID/W we can expect an additional 800 MT of flour to arrive in January or early February. AID/Washington has been advised to withhold further flour shipments until called for by ORA/FFP. This was done to prevent an over stock of wheat flour and to provide the opportunity for noodle production to catch up with flour stocks on hand or enroute. Pending the expansion of the noodle making capability and determination of actual rates of flour use, additional flour shipments will be scheduled for arrival during the final quarter of this fiscal year.

II Fumigation of PL 480 wheat flour

Palletizing and stacking of approximately 150 MT of flour was begun December 28 and completed December 30. Fumigant was introduced December 31 and ricks were opened for inspection January 2, 1971. A full report will be made of this activity in the next monthly report.

III Noodle Fabrication

Progress continues towards attaining a substantial capacity for producing dry noodles from PL 480 flour and WSB. The local contractor with whom ORA/FFP and the RLG Ministry of Social Welfare has been working has completed a four room noodle drying facility. He is obtaining additional noodle machines which will permit a daily capacity of 5 MT. When adequate program funding is obtained it will be possible to proceed with negotiations to increase production to 10-15 MT of dry noodles per day.

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During this reporting period a limited quantity (14 MT) of noodles was produced for testing. It was not possible to produce a large quantity of noodles containing WSB due to technical difficulties but several hundred kilos were made and distributed by Catholic Relief Services to Vientiane area institutions for testing. The response in all cases was that the noodles were a highly acceptable food item.

Given the impracticality of using large quantities of bread for refugee feeding and the problems of control during processing, it has been decided not to encourage bread production. The existing Ministry of Social Welfare/Catholic Relief Services bread program will likely continue in some form, however, no additional contracted bread baking programs sponsored by Ministry of Social Welfare and ORA are contemplated at this time.

IV. PL 480 Feed Grains for Livestock Feeding Projects

AID/Washington has issued the following FY 1972 guideline: "The USAID's and Posts are requested to advise those government offices . . . that proposals for new or increased (livestock feeding) programs not be developed or submitted for consideration at this time." This policy is the result of a feed grain shortage in the United States brought about by last season's corn blight, and to certain recently adopted budgetary stringencies. This means that plans for PL 480 feed grain support to refugee livestock feeding projects must be delayed until further notice.

cc: ORA
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