

TO: Mr. J. L. Williamson, Acting AD/RA DATE: December 7, 1970

FROM: Roger G. ^{Stowls} Stowls, Food for Peace Officer, ORA

SUBJECT: November Monthly Report

I. PL 480 Title II Commodity Movement

During the reporting period partial shipments of the first and second orders of corn soya milk (CSM), wheat soya blend (WSB), vegetable oil and bulgur have reached Vientiane. The two major items of Transfer Authorization (TA) 06-06 (Refugee Feeding) wheat flour and cornmeal are scheduled to arrive at the port of Bangkok during December. In kilos we have thus far received 121,036 of CSM, 77,769 of WSB, 283,894 of Vegetable oil and 95,637 of Bulgur. With the recent acquisition of the 555 warehouse at Km-14 our immediate storage problem was solved.

Office of Refugee Affairs, Food for Peace (ORA/FPP) in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare is in process of determining the desirability of increasing the delivery period of some food items. This would be especially true of the 4,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat flour scheduled for FY 71 delivery. The time required to establish a noodle processing operation and to process the flour into noodles may be greater than the shelf life of the flour even under most favorable storage conditions. Stepped up bread production would not appreciably alter the situation.

II. PL 480 Title II Sales or Exchanges

There has been some concern over the disclosure that the Title II refugee program does not contain a provision for sale or exchange, including payment in kind, of any PL 480 commodity. Shortly after my arrival at post a message was sent to AID/W requesting clarification and authorization to use PL 480 wheat flour as payment in kind for fabrication of flour into noodles. AID/W replied by citing the applicable M.O.'s that preclude this type of exchange.

III. Noodle Production

During this reporting period temporary funding in a limited amount has been obtained which will permit some exploratory processing of flour, WSB and CSM into noodles and bread. Some action will be required to establish a source of funds which will permit the large scale production of noodles. We estimate that production must reach a minimum of 10 tons of dry noodles per day.

Preliminary tests adding WSB to the basic noodle mix has encouraged us to believe that this added source of protein can be introduced into the refugee diet in the form of dried noodles. Various quantities of WSB ranging from zero to 50% have been added to all purpose flour. These noodles have been tested on a limited scale and indications are that the 20 to 30 percent WSB noodle mix is quite acceptable. Noodles with WSB concentrations above 30 percent tend to become sticky when cooked and are noticeably less palatable than the lower level WSB noodles. During the next reporting period substantial quantities of WSB noodles will be produced and distributed to refugees to obtain a more accurate idea of the feasibility of WSB as an additive to flour noodles.

IV. PL 480 Title II Livestock Project

AID/W has responded to the original PROP submitted in September and has neither accepted nor rejected the proposal. They have requested additional information which is being supplied in a message being drafted jointly by AGR/ORR

V. Refugee Clothing Project

Action has been taken to reestablish clothing manufacture using PL 480 cloth in Ban Houei Sai and to establish a new program with the Southern Weavers Association in Pakse. We expect that these two programs will provide clothing to meet the requirements of their respective areas and that a larger project in Vientiane will supply the refugee clothing needs for all other areas.

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