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## MR 5 refugee interviews – Vientiane (Luang Prabang). 1971

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1971

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TO: Fritz Benson

July 6, 1971

FROM: Khamsouane CHANSISOURATH

SUBJECT: Ban Pong Hay Refugees at Ban Kham Xang Report.

Ethnic Group: Lao.

Originally these refugees moved from Ban Pong Hay Tasseng Dao Heung, Muong Hien, Khoueng Luang Prabang. Before at their own village there were 57/350 persons, all of them had moved down but they are not settle in the same place, they moved down only 30/208 persons.

Reason for Moving: Since 1960 up to 1967 these people didn't have any problem about the PL at all, because this area occupy by battalion # 24 of General Vang Pao soldiers all the time. In the month Jan. and Feb. 1968 during these two months, there were the PL with NVA about 5 to 6 persons passed this area, but they didn't stay in the village for a long time they only come to requested rice and hens some time they take dogs from the people in this village, the people said they didn't see the PL come in this village not always sometime 2 weeks they come only once time, for take their food for a few hours and then they went away. In the month March 10, 1968 the people in this village knew the PL soldiers come to fight with our soldier at Ban Na Khang because from this village to Ban Pong Hay only 20 kilometers, the people Ban Pong Hay had afraid the PL soldiers come to fight with RLG soldier in this area, so the villagers could be decided moved from their owl village in the month March 14, 1968. Then they arrived at Sanh Pakha and their stayed there 13 days, then moved to Phou Khoun 3 days during the way, there were the PL soldiers about 3 persons come to shoot to these villagers, at that time had villagers died 3 persons, then they moved from Phou Khoun to Phou Thock, and their stayed that place 3 days, left # Phou Thock to Muong You 5 days, moved from Muong You to Muong Soui and lived here 3 days and their moved to Xiang Dat 10 days afterthat, they moved to Ban Xone # 272 and they had settled down at Ban Xone area about 1 year and 10 months.

Reason for these people moved from Ban Xon 272 to Kham Xang. On dated 6 to 7 March 1971 there were PL/NVA soldiers come to fight with our soldier at the Ban Xone Airport, the people had afraid, so they decided moved from Ban Xone #272 arrived at Ban Kham Xang March 15, 1971.

Education at their old village: In Ban Pong Hay there is one #/ school primary all of the children aged 7-15 years old could attend school. This school was built by RLG since the year 1962 when this area were controlled by our RLG.

Health: At their old village hadn't dispensary at all, if there were the people in this village sick they must to get medicine at Muong Hien, because that place there is one dispensary from Ban Pong Hay to Muong Hien 6 kilometers.

Old Life at their Own Village: All of them had done Na and Hay to sustain their families and making garden to plant, banana, sugar-cane, some kinds of vegetables, and the opium, they raised animals livestock, buffaloes, ox, hens and poultries, horses. These refugees said living at their old village was more convenience than in their new village.

New Life at their New Village: All of them doing Hay and a little bit of garden plant some kinds of vegetables, their children went to school at Ban Kham Xang.

Present Problems: Everything is OK. but at the present they would like to ask the help of government about the milled rice for their families. These refugees said when they arrived there more two months they didn't receive rice yet, because some family they hadn't rice for eating at all.

The Biography of Tasseng: His name Mr. Boun Ma he is 57 years old Tasseng of Ban Pong Hay, on the year of 1950 he got married with Nang Chanh they got a children 2 persons, they had elected to be Nai Ban when he was 18 years old. After that they had had elected Mr. Boun Ma to be Tasseng to supervision in these villages since June 19, 1968, upto now his education he know a little.

ORA:KHAMSOUANE CHANSISOURATH:ps:7-6-71

TO: Fritz Benson

September 20, 1971

FROM: Her Manh

SUBJECT: Ban Nam Long #313. Report

Ethnic Group: Mao

Mr. Sai Su as Tasseng Houei Tong, Muong Heing Province Luang Prabang. During 1950 they had been in Ban Houei Tong TH-8750, Tasseng Ban Se, Muong Pak Seng, Province Luang Prabang. They were 30208 people the communist came and lived with them in 1962- until 1965 the communist propagated that "Don't believe the government we would help you and chase the American away, then we would improve your country, we would sent your children to study in Ha Noi, to be teacher, driver, engineer etc...? So they believed that what the communist said would be truth. then the communist appointed a man and a woman to be the village chief. The man was Mr. Sai Su who is talking about his story on here, and the woman was his sister in law" both of them were the village chief. The man had only right to control all men and the woman had only right to control all the women. The communist came to visit them 2 or 3 times per month. Every time when the communist came to visit them, the communist ordered them to let the daughters nor the young laddies no children or only one child to go outside the house and made a fire place out side, then the communist danced with those laddies around the fire place. The communist drafted their animals as: dogs, pigs, cows, buffalo, chickens etc.... they communist said "these animals, we will sent to help soldiers" the communist propagated that "If any one wants his son to be came the dignitary, let him go with them and would lead him to Ha Noi to study". there were 6 boys went with the communist for 10 days, then retreated. The communist questioned those boys many times that "Did your parents really let you or you are willing to go"? They answered we are not willing and our parents are not willing either so that the communist let them to go back home.

The communist controlled the villagers to go to Muong Loy (the territory of Vietnam North) to carry salt. Each person carried 6 1/2 Kg of ~~1/2~~ salt. During the ~~1/2~~ trip they walked for 10 days. When they got home the communist shared them, each person per 1 kg. of salt, and the left for the communist. So they bored the communist, they went to Houei Tong Kho #184, and they composed for 100 ADC soldiers, then they went back to Ban Houei Tong. The communist learned that they revolted, the communist came to chase them. They battled the communist at 5:00 in the morning until 2:00 in the afternoon.

There were 2 soldiers were killed, they left to Phu Saly TH-9363 they had been in Phu Saly for one month they went to chase the PL in Ban Houei Tong TH-8750, and had been there until 1970. In 1969 the PL chased them at 3:00 in the afternoon. They battled the PL for 2 hours then the PL were retreated, there was a ADC soldiers was killed. After that for 2 months, it was in Feb 1970, the PL chased them again at about 2:00 in the evening. They battled the PL for 3 days, then the

PL. were retreated. After 10 days there were about 2000 PL. chased them at 12:00 in the afternoon. They were only 3 companies ADC soldiers to battle the PL they battled the PL from 2:00 in the evening until 1:00 in the afternoon. There was a soldier was killed and other one was hurt. They left to Phu Louei UH-1242, to San Pakkha UH-0709. They were only the soldiers and the village chief as Nai Ban and Tasseng were escaped to San Pakkha. The villagers were left in Ban Houei Tong TH-8750 they were only 150 people were escaped during the trip from Houei Tong to San Pakkha, they walked for 10 days they stayed in San Pakkha for only one night, they left to Phay Cum they had been in the for 20 days, then were pick-up to Long Tieng they had been in Long Tieng for a week, they left to Nam Long #313 they had been in Nam Long for 10 days, they left to Vieng Keo LS-272 to lived with Chao Muong Heing they had been in Vieng Keo for a week they left to Ban Nam Tao #161 because in Vieng Keo were so many sickness and the weather was very hot. They had been in Ban Nam Tao for 8 months there were 9 people died by sickness then Gn. Vang Pao ordered them to go out to Nam Long. They moved to Nam Long on April 1971. They made a little rice fields but the plants were died up they arrived Ban Nam Long they were supported blankets, sleeping mats, mosquitonets, buckest cooking pots, steamer pots and frying pan, rice salt and canned meat. They are all healthy they expect to stay there.

ORA:ps:20-9-71