



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Refugee affairs. 1968

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1968

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/5YKWHIG5BUG4H9B>

This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

TO: Joseph A Mendenhall, Director

February 14, 1968

FROM: Howard E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for January 1968 (Exerpts)

Refugee Relief:

Refugee Movements: About 1,700 refugees from the Muong Sing area in Houa Khong were moved south and relocated at three sites in government-held territory, while about 2,200 arrived in the Sam Thong/Sam Neua area from points further east. Both groups were given relief commodities and foodstuffs. In the south, about 700 refugees.

(including dependents of the military) from the Lao Ngam area in Saravane headed for Sedone province as a result of military action at Lao Ngam. Food assistance was provided.

Resettlement: Almost 1,900 refugees, mainly Meo, were removed in November (by aircraft, truck and barge) from their relocation site at Thong Tu to the resettlement area on the Nam Toui River south of Muong Phieng in Sayaboury province. Rice is being provided to them until they have their first rice harvest.

Clearing and surveying of three permanent resettlement sites in Khammouane province began in November/December, and families in four temporary sites began the trek to the permanent facilities. Roofing shingles for their new housing were distributed (all of the 860 families covered by the Khammouane resettlement program will have received shingles by the end of this dry season); vegetable seeds were given out; and fruit tree seedlings will be distributed when all refugees are permanently resettled. Progress on the planned refugee resettlement village near Muong Phalane (Savannakhet) was stopped by the PL action on 25 December.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

TO: Joseph A. Mendenhall, Director

February 21, 1968

FROM: E.G. Ruoff, Chief, RD/RR

SUBJECT: Refugee Relief & Resettlement Branch Monthly Report for Jan, 1968. (Exerpts)

The following significant actions took place during the month of January in the Refugee Relief and Resettlement Program.

General Refugee Situation: Refugee movements throughout Laos took place primarily in four regions during the month of January. These were:

- a. Luang Prabang Region: Approximately 300 refugees previously located in Nam Bac are now in Luang Prabang city. These previously located ~~at Nam Bac~~ near Luang Prabang. Some 1,200 refugees previously located at Nam Bac are unaccounted for since the fall of that location to enemy military action. In addition, other ~~of that location to enemy military action~~ refugee sites in the region containing more than 5,000 persons have fallen due to enemy action and the refugees are presently unaccounted for. Many of these refugees were expected to become self-sufficient by the rice harvest of 1968; however, unless they are able to return to their locations such self-sufficiency appears unlikely.
- b. Ban Houei Sai Region: A movement of approximately 4,000 refugees from the Nam Tha area took place during January. These refugees are presently located at Ban Dane, Ban Nam Thouei, and Ban Phou Kha near Ban Houei Sai. They have received some commodity assistance but no foodstuff assistance from USAID sources. Other sources of assistance have been the International Red Cross Committee and the RLG.
- c. Xieng Khouang/Sam Neua Region: Due to heavy military activity in northern Xieng Khouang and Sam Neua Provinces a number of refugee sites have been lost. These sites, including Muong H₂em (site 48-A), contained more than 5,000 refugees. However, at the present, the exact number of refugees who have returned to government control is not known. It is expected that during the month of February more than one-half of the refugees who were dispersed by military activity will return to their original or other site.
- d. Pakse Region: A total of 1,200 new refugees were given assistance in the Pakse region during January. They were primarily the result of military actions and required relief commodities and foodstuff assistance. In addition, assistance was given to approximately 1,000 persons fleeing areas in Saravane and Attapeu that were not termed refugees in that their residences were overrun but they evacuated in advance of military action. Foodstuff assistance was provided the above 1,000 individuals.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

TO: Joseph, A. Mendenhall, Director

March 18, 1968

FROM: Howard E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for February 1968 (Exerpts)

Refugee Relief and Resettlement:

The following significant actions took place during the month of February in the Refugee Relief and Resettlement Program.

General Refugee Situation: Refugee movements throughout Laos took place primarily in seven regions during the month of February. These were:

Ban Houei Sai Region: A movement of approximately 1,800 refugees from the Muong Sai area took place during the month. These refugees are presently located to the north of Ban Houei Sai and have received food and commodities from the Refugee Relief Program at Ban Houei Sai. It is planned that the refugees will continue in the direction of Ban Houei Sai and be relocated near the Mekong.

Luang Prabang Region: With one or two exceptions, all of the forward refugee sites have been lost due to enemy military action against friendly positions. Those refugees that had been located at such sites have scattered and as of the end of February their exact whereabouts was not known. Working with the Lao authorities, the Refugee Relief Program is attempting to locate these people and return them to secure areas. This activity has resulted in a reduction in the use of large aircraft north of Luang Prabang for rice drops and the need to undertake rice drops from small aircraft, primarily porters.

Sayaboury: Approximately 100 refugees from the Luang Prabang region were moved to the Nam Tan dam site south of Muong Phiang cluster as the first ~~exam~~ element of a refugee resettlement program. An Activity Plan is to be drafted for these and other future refugees resettled in the Nam Tan area.

Approximately 230 refugees arrived at Hong Sa from Ban Pa Bong. These Meo refugees left their homes as a result of enemy action and Refugee Relief commodities and rice were distributed to them. It is expected that it will be necessary to support them until their rice harvest in approximately six months.

Xieng Khouang/Sam Neua: Heavy military pressure continues primarily in the Sam Neua area and the area to the west of Tha Tom (see paragraph(e) for Borikhane). Between 5 - and 10,000 refugees are presently located in the site 215 (Houei Hin Sa) area and are expected to walk to new sites depending upon the continuation of the military situation there. Approximately 1,200 people are now located at site 50 (Phou Cum) who fled from the Muong Hiem valley following enemy capture of that location.

Borikhane: Approximately 900 refugees fled to the Muong Cao region from Tha Tom and Muong Ngan. These refugees are presently being provided commodities and foodstuff support from Paksane. This movement was a result of enemy military action and the fall of Tha Tom and Muong Ngan to the enemy.

Pakse Region: Approximately 1,000 refugees fled into Attoupeu as a result of enemy action and were provided food assistance during the month. In addition, some 1,000 refugees were provided assistance in Pakse as a result of enemy action in the Lao Ngam/Tha Theng region. Additional assistance was provided to temporarily dislocated people in Pakse numbering some 1,500. These were largely families of government employees dislocated as a result of enemy military action against Saravene and Attoupeu.

Thakhek: As a result of partial self-sufficiency in the Thakhek region, approximately 1,100 refugees located primarily in resettlement sites will be returned to a partial feeding program during the month of March. These refugees were eliminated from the foodstuff program in the month of October knowing that they had not grown sufficient rice to be self-sufficient throughout the entire year. Their rice has proven to be sufficient approximately for a period of five months and they are now being returned to a partial program.

ORA:ps:5-13-71

TO: Joseph A. Mendenhall, Director

March 18, 1968

FROM: Howard E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for ^{JANUARY} February 1968 (Exerpts)

REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT:

Refugee Movements:

As might be expected, refugee movements increased during January as a result of intensified enemy action. About 300 from Nam Bac are now in Luang Prabang city; and about 1,200 previously located in and around Nam Bac are unaccounted for since the fall of that valley. Further west, in Houa Khong province, an estimated 4,000 refugees fled from the Nam Tha district to Ban Dane, Nam Thouei and Ban Phou Kha near Ban Houei Sai, where they have received some commodity help from USAID, and other assistance from the RIG and the International Red Cross Committee.

A number of refugee sites (harboring an estimated 5,000 refugees) in northern Xieng Khouang and in Houa Phan provinces were lost during January because of heavy military action.

More than a thousand (1,200, to be exact) new refugees in the Pakse region were given relief commodities and foodstuffs during January, while foodstuffs were distributed to about 1,000 persons who were evacuated from Saravane and Attapeu provinces in advance of military action.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

March 28, 1968

The recent movement of refugees from Sam Neua Province to Sam Thong was executed under the most hazardous and trying circumstances of any which we have witnessed in the past five years. Over eight thousand of these poor terrified people who had lost their homeland to the North Vietnamese Communists and who were fleeing for their lives were extricated from the grasp of the enemy. These people were picked up and moved to safety from areas surrounded by the enemy and at times from areas actually under enemy fire. The success of the operation was due to the coordinated effort of local Lao leaders and Americans who work in various aspects of the Northern Regions Program. This effort was characterized by a devotion to humanity in distress and actual heroism in some instances to a degree which we have ~~dx~~ seldom seen demonstrated in the past. We are pleased to suggest to you the following people and groups of people who in our opinion are worthy of commendation for their effort in this instance.

1. Mr. Ernest C. Kuhn, OOA Refugee Relief USAID - For Sam Neua Province
Ernie has worked with the Sam Neua people since his assignment to Sam Thong and developed a love and affection for them which was clearly demonstrated during the above movement. He had overall supervision of the operation in the Sam Neua area and risked his life on several occasions to insure that as many people escaped as possible. He was air evacuated from Site 111 while it was under heavy enemy attack. His friend and co-worker Captain Gia Tou was killed by enemy ~~fire~~ fire while he and Ernie were searching for ~~ex~~ refugees in a helicopter.
2. Dr. Frank Becker, Dental Consultant - USAID PHD
Frank stayed with Ernie in Sam Neua and with the refugee group throughout the operation and in addition to coordinating medical care for the refugee group performed innumerable tasks to insure success of the operation.
3. Edwin T. McKeithen, III - OOA Refugee Relief USAID
Win has spent about 24 hours a day assisting in Sam Neua and supervising the logistic support from Sam Thong. His remarkable ability to communicate in Lao, Meo and Lao Tueng is invaluable.
4. Paul White, IVs Education
Paul voluntarily assisted in the operation and refused to leave his post at Sam Thong. He handled the bulk of the radio communication both day and night and did an excellent job of moving the refugees from Mounng Soui to Sam Thong. He obtained cooperation from the Neutralists at Muong Soui that many of us have been unable to obtain in the past.

5. **Blaine W. Jensen, OOA Refugee Relief USAID**
Blaine was called from Houei Sai to assist in the movement. His experience, skill and overall capability was invaluable in the ~~experience~~ Sam Neua and Moung Heim Areas. He has again demonstrated that he is one of the outstanding young men in the mission in field operations.
6. **Anne C. Bradley, Secretary USAID**
Anne has worked continuously from before dawn until late at night to insure communication to facilitate support from Vientiane and Sam Thong. In a trying and harassing situation she has not lost her equanimity or good humor and her efforts made a major contribution to the success of the operation.
7. **Patricia McCreedy, M. D., PHD**
Pat has done her usual top-notch job of coordinating the medical support for the operation and assisting in coordination of the many other aspects of support, both in Vientiane and upcountry.
8. **Edgar M. Buell, A/C Xieng Khouang**
All things taken into consideration, Pop's know-how and leadership and his ability to develop these qualities in both the locals and Americans makes such an operation as this possible. His devotion to and love of the Lao people is the spark that sets the fire. This is particularly true in respect to the following group of local leaders who have worked in the most dangerous circumstances day and night without rest. This is a unique group who have risen above ethnic and tribal considerations and think of Laos and all its peoples as one country and their country.

Pop has spent about 12 hours a day working in Sam Neua and supervising the logistic support from Sam Thong. His remarkable ability in communication to Sam Neua and Sam Thong is invaluable.

4. **Ed White, IV's Liaison**

Ed White voluntarily assisted in the operation and refused to leave his post in Sam Thong. He handled the bulk of the radio communications both day and night and did an excellent job of moving the refugees from Moung Heim to Sam Thong. He obtained supplies from the Neutralists at Moung Heim that many of us have been unable to obtain in the past.

KUAN

CLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

OFFICE MEMORANDUM • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : All AC's and Operations Officers Date: June 25, 1968
THRU : Dr. H. E. Thomas, ADRD
FROM : Hugh W. Brady, A/Chief, RD/RR
SUBJECT : French Rice
REF : Memo from J. A. Mendenhall, dated May 8, 1968,
re Private French Aid to Lao Refugees

Since the issue of the referenced memorandum of Director Mendenhall there have been several significant developments and decisions regarding the distribution of the Private French Aid rice and its impact on the USAID ongoing programs.

The following is a summary of the current agreement between USAID and the Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) and should serve as guidelines for assistance and cooperation in the support of refugees which French Aid rice provides at the provincial level.

After the initial distribution of the French rice by the MSW and the French Committee this office provided the MSW a list of monthly tonnage requirements for support of refugees based on our experience factors. These figures were accepted by RLG/SW and this office received assurance that the tonnage in the various sites would be met.

These requirements are:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Xieng Khouang | 272 MT/month (40 kilo) |
| Pakse, Saravane, Attapeu | 60 MT/month (100 kilo) |
| Luang Prabang | 60-65 MT/month (100 kilo) |
| Ban Houei Sai | 150 MT/month (100 kilo) |
| Sayaboury | 30 MT/month (100 kilo) |
| Thakhek | 22 MT/month (100 kilo) |
| Paksane | 5 MT/month (100 kilo) |
| Vientiane | <u>10 MT/month</u> (100 kilo) |
| | 600 MT/month |

These figures are, of course, subject to change depending on flow of refugees.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

-2-

The Director, in a letter to Mr. Keo Viphakone, Secretary of State for Social Welfare, dated June 7, 1968, agreed to provide air transportation of the French refugee rice under the following circumstances:

1. That RLG effect delivery by surface transportation (barge and truck) wherever it is possible.
2. That the French-financed rice requiring air delivery be turned over to USAID for air delivery at those points where USAID-financed rice is made available for air delivery; i. e., Wattay Airport and the Ban Houei Sai air strip.
3. That U. S. Government receive appropriate publicity in the local Lao press for air delivery of the French rice.
4. In a subsequent decision, it was agreed that USAID would absorb the cost of triple-sacking the French rice. Rice to be air dropped in the Xieng Khouang (approximately 275 MT per month) and Ban Houei Sai areas will be turned over to USAID at the bagging warehouse in Vientiane and at the USAID warehouse in Ban Houei Sai.

Because of RLG transportation difficulties and other problems relating to purchasing rice in the Ban Houei Sai area, it was further agreed between RLG/MSW and USAID that USAID, by amending its rice contract in that area, would undertake to provide the total rice requirement, including 150 MT monthly for refugees. In return, MSW will turn over 150 MT monthly of French rice in the Vientiane area.

In a reevaluation of its position regarding distribution of French rice as was outlined in the referenced memo, Mr. Keo Viphakone has written a letter to all Chao Khouengs instructing them to seek assistance and cooperation of USAID in warehousing and distributing the rice (copy attached). Further, MSW is sending field representatives to Ban Houei Sai and Sayaboury for an indefinite period to assist in the rice distribution.

With regard to USAID relationship with the distribution of French aid rice, all Operations Officers and USAID personnel concerned are instructed to cooperate fully and assist in any way possible the local RLG officials in getting the rice to the refugees.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

-3-

Keep this office fully informed regarding the distribution and problem areas encountered. Problems or differences of opinion that cannot be resolved at the provincial level should be referred to this office.

I anticipate a tour of all areas shortly after 4 July with the Director General of Social Welfare to observe the operation of the distribution and, if necessary, resolve on the spot any unforeseen difficulties.

RD/RR:HWBrady:cl:6/25/68

Clearance: OD/AEFarwell (in draft)
OPE/GAZimmerly (in draft)
OSM/AOMathisen (in draft)

DISTR. AMB/DCM, ARMA, POL (Mr. Shackley), OPE, CON, AD/M,
PHD, ASB, AGR, RO, AMI, OSM, RD/RR, C&R-3

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Vientiane - June 18, 1968

FROM : The Secretary of State for Social Welfare
TO : The Governors of All Provinces of the Kingdom
SUBJECT : Rice Received under French Aid

I would like to inform all the Chao Khouengs that:

- Beginning from July 1 through December 31, the Government will supply the French aid rice to the refugees and on the other hand, the rice received from USAID for refugees will be suspended but USAID will supply it to the troops of all corps as has been carried on in the past without break.

- The allotment of rice to the provinces will be in accordance with the attached list.

- If there is an increase of refugees, the increase should be reported to this Ministry and if the allotment of rice does not meet the requirements, the Government will find rice from some other sources and to ship it to the area.

- The distribution of rice is the responsibility of the Provincial Committee, with the participation of USAID. The previous procedure should be followed. The ration is also the same.

- This distribution of rice should be carried out on a monthly basis.

- The rice left over from previous distribution should be well stored in the existing provincial warehouse, if such is not available, then use the USAID warehouse. Agreement has already been reached with USAID on this matter.

- The shipment of rice from the Khoueng's office to the refugee's village can either be shipped by regular road or river means of transportation. If air transportation is required, please contact USAID office in the area, or the F.A.R. For the use of air transportation, the RLG has made an arrangement with USAID as indicated in the attached letter.

- For the monthly distribution of milk and rice, the Khoueng's office should keep the department informed through monthly report.

- If there is any doubt or problem pertaining to the French aid, please feel free to inquire with the Ministry.

PHANGA RATTANAVICHITH

(signed) KEO VIPHAKONE

TO: Albert A. Farwell, Acting Director

June 1968

FROM: Howard E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for June 1968 (Exerpts)

REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT:

General Refugee Situation: The refugee situation throughout the country remained relatively stabilized during the month. The only significant movement occurred in Borikhane Province where approximately 400 Meo, mostly ~~XXXXXX~~ women and children, moved into Muong Cao near Paksane from LS#212 (Phu Moun) UF-4590. These families remained a few days and were airlifted to the Sam Thong area to join other Meo groups. In the Luang Prabang area approximately 2,000 refugees, most of whom were scattered during the Nam Bac action several months ago, are turning up in sites that are under Government control. Rice quotas for these areas have been adjusted to ~~XXX~~ reflect the arrival of these refugees.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

TO: A.E. Farwell, A/Director

August 13, 1968

FROM: HE.E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for July 1968 (Exerpts)

General Refugee Situation: No significant refugee movements were reported during the month. The main concern of the staff was the shift-over to French-donated rice.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

REFUGEES MOVEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 1968

SAM NEUA/XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE: (Exerpts)

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------|
| From - 220 Area | to 50A | 280 |
| From - 81 Area | to 202 | 56 |
| From - Sam Neua | to 215 | 900 |
| From - 243 Area | to 20A | 246 (mil Dep) |
| From - 212 Area | to 223 | 223 25 25 |
| ? | to 233 | 338 |
| From LS-2 | to 229 | 147 Meo |
| From Ls-2 | to 207 | <u>1200 Lt.</u> |
| | Sub Total: | 3,192 |

LUANG PRABANG:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| From Area | to TH-1941 | 340 |
| From Area | to RC-0627 | 150 |
| From Area | to TH-0669 | 540 (unconfirmed) |
| From Bancoc Pals Du | to LP. 10 Km. North | 373 |
| | to TG-1696 | 210 (unconfirmed) |
| North of Hong Sa | | 300 (unconfirmed) |
| Sothh of Xieng Ngun | | <u>100 (unconfirmed)</u> |
| | | 1150 (Unconfirmed) |
| | | 863 confirmed |
| | <u>GRAND TOTAL:</u> | <u>5,205 People</u> |

ORA:ps:5-26-71

TO: A.E. Farwell, A/Director

October 17, 1968

FROM: H.E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for September 1968 ¶ (Exerpts)

General Refugee Situation: Refugee movements during the reporting period have been heavy in the LS-215 area. Approximately 2,500 new refugees coming from the norht Sam Neua area have received rice and social welfare itmes. Until the situation clarifies additional rice will be needed ror these people. In addition to the above, another 1,500 people came in to more secure areas, but this figure will probably disappear when these people return to their native villages.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

Kuhn

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
CLASSIFIED

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

October 21, 1968

TO : All Field Personnel, Refugee Relief and Resettlement
Branch, USAID

FROM : Phillip Gullion *Ph...* Chief RR and R Branch

SUBJECT : Leadership

As you recall from the very stimulating and useful conversation the other evening, we are very concerned about future developments which could result in RLG elections. You were asked at that time to present a listing of capable and popular leaders in your area who have demonstrated their ability to work well with the people. In addition to the popular leaders you may list those persons whose conduct undermines the RLG popularity.

The attached questionnaire has been prepared to help in the preparation of the list. While we are looking for specific information, we do not expect a long and detailed curriculum vitae. Your list should be returned to me by November 6/15

Attachment

RD/RR&R:PGullion:ei

cc: Mr. Farwell
Dr. Thomas
POL Embassy -2
DCM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LOCAL LEADERS

I. Please list the men who in your opinion could successfully work with and influence the people in your area. In a paragraph note the characteristics which cause you to hold that opinion. In so doing you may want to take note of:

1. Ethnic or tribal background
2. Family position, i.e. a) From clan or tribal leadership family, b) From village leadership family, or c) From middle level family.
3. Ties to traditional leadership elements: a) Family, b) Marriage, c) Personal friendship.
4. Education: a) Literate, b) Lycee, c) Foreign education or training.
5. Experience: a) RIG, b) FAR, c) Irregulars, d) Viet Minh/Pathet Lao returnee, etc.
6. Current position.
7. Conditions and degree of contact with the potential voter, e.g. as a medic, in daily contact; or as a battalion commander, tasseng, naiban, etc.
8. What organizational support could he develop from his family, village, military unit, or tribe in an election.

II. Please list those men in your area who could contact and favorably influence people in what are now Pathet Lao/North Vietnamese controlled areas. Provide a paragraph on each following the format of Section I.

III. Please list the men in your area who should not in any case be relied upon by the RIG or us. Those in leadership positions who are: a) blatantly incompetent, b) cruel, c) dishonest within the local cultural meaning of the term, d) P.L. sympathizers.

This list should include only those flagrant cases which can be documented. Please provide a brief resumé of each case listed.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CLASSIFIED

TO: Mr. A. E. Farwell, A/Director

December 10, 1968

FROM: H. E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for November, 1968 (Exerpts)

Refugee Movements; Ban Hoesi Sai reported no significant movements. Luang Prabang area continues to be very fluid, approximately 1800 refugees assembled in the general area of TH-07b1, after a hostile attack on Nov. 30 most of these people scattered. Reports continue to come in but to locate them for air relief is difficult.

In the Xieng Khouang-Sam Neua area, east of LS-192, refugee harassment abated and the people who fled began to filter back to the village. East of Route 4 enemy pressure continued and forced several hundred refugees to the LS-2 area and adjacent area of Route 4.

ORA:ps:8-5-71

TO: James B. Chandler, A/Director

January 14, 1969

FROM: H.E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for December, 1968 (Exerpts)

Summary Refugee Situation:

Sam Neua Area: Presently a very fast moving situation. Monthly report, dated December 24 (Classified) by Operations Officer Ernest Kuhn, is an excellent summary of December situation. Of interest, was the quantities of captured enemy "refugee supplies" which showed the apparent interest of the opposition in meeting or in some cases bettering the USG/RLG effort. The problem of large refugee movement if situation continues to deteriorate, is illustrated in classified situation report, "Situation North of PDV".

Xieng Khouang Province: Opposition pressure continues on both sides of Route 4, to the west toward LS 192 and LS 204 and to the east towards LS 2 and LS 40. The security problem at LS 126 has yet to improve. Operations Officer Paul White's report of December 16 (classified) gives ~~summary of situation~~ summary of situation. A report is expected in shortly bringing us up-to date on situation in the above areas as well as the area of LS 6 and LS 50A which has had security problems as of January 1.

Luang Prabang/Sayaboury: Major decisions were made by USAID to increase support in critical areas, in the hope of preventing mass exodus of people from presesured areas. More accurate reports requested from responsible local leaders by Operations Officer Flipse permitted a clearer picture of the situation upon which to base decisions.

The return of Macalan Thompson on contract helped alleviate momentarily the everpressing personnel situation.

Military Region I Area: Ban Houei Sai remains relatively quiet with no major refugee movement noted. Lack of water at the Ban Dan refugee area created a situation where refugees were being ~~ax~~ forced to move to areas close to potable water, but lacking any potential for agriculture/food self-sufficiency. Attempting to solve this problem will be IVSer Frank Manning and with a self-help portable drilling rig designed by Herrison and the Public Works Shop.

South Laos: Pakse: The attack on the Tha Theng and general panic presented us with approximately 1500 refugees in Pakse. Continued help is being extended to the beleaguered towns of Saravane and Attopeu.

Savannakh et: No major refugee moves reported."

Thakhek: Some problems may be developing norht of Nam Thone with the FAR request to move out unreliable people from that area.

In general in the south, the problem remains that the lack of experienced operations officerwho can make rapid and accurate assessments of the situation and keep this office informed in a timely manner still hinders this office in any refugee situation in the south.

Vientiane: Field inspection of reported refugees by Administrative Assistant Williamson, accompanied by Mr. Myles Osborne, Colombo Plan Refugee Advisor and RLG Ministry of Social Welfare officials indicated ~~that~~ that the majority if not all of the 2000 people from behind the Nam Ngum damsite were able to evacuate all their household effects, animals, rice and perhaps even housing material as the security problems shifted to the better. Since there seemed to be no urgent need, USAID, with SW/RLG concurrence, are not providing any assistance other than loaning rice sacks to expedite the removal of the rice from area in question. It has been generally decided to "wait-and-see" what develops next.

ORA:ps:5-12-71