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## MR 5 refugee interviews – Borikhane. 1970/1971

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1970/1971

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TO: Fritz Benson

15/6/70

FROM: Hatsady DOUANGVIXAY

SUBJECT: Administrative Structure and Population Figures for  
Borikhane Province

We stayed at Paksane almost 4 days altogether, so on the 3rd of these 4 days, I'd gone to CHAO Khoueng's office. I asked his assistant there he told me to look at the black board, in this one I had seen like this.

CHAO KHOUENG

1 - Muong Paksane: 7 Tassengs. 52 Villages. 15,268 Persons.

2 - Muong Phonesun: 5 Tassengs. 27 Villages. 7,563 Persons.

3 - Muong Borikhane: 7 Tassengs. 52 Villages. 6,500 Persons.

4 - Muong Pakchao: 4 Tassengs. 33 Villages. 5,949 Persons.

1 Dan: Sobvieng in this Dan there are 2 Tassengs 6 Villages and the Population is 3,573 Persons. The whole Area of this province is 6,200 (Km<sup>2</sup>) so there are 4 Towns 25 Tassengs 1 Dan 184 Villages and the population is 36,650 persons .

The majority of this people is doing farming , gardening ,planting and selling oods and ends. To people, almost of them are Buddhists. But there are also Christians and protestants. This people are rather shameful when you first see them but when you get closed to them they won't be shameful at all. They usualy have the gifts of the gifts to you all the times. They are very friendly people and kind and gentle too!

Hatsady DOUANGVIXAY

Hatsady DOUANGVIXAY

TO: FRITZ BENSON

5 June 1970

FROM: Hatsady Douangvixay

SUBJECT: Refugees Report( Borikhane )

In the same day when we returned back from Houai Siad we continued to take a trip to Muong Cao .When we arrived to the destination we said some greeting words to those people . I asked them so many questions about their living daily lives. They said that they were from PHoulom Tasseng PHoulom , Muong Borikhane , Khoueng Borikhane . They were from seven villages altogether like : Ban PHoulomnoi Ban Phoulomghai Ban Pakane Ban songnan Ban Kohai ,Ban houaphou and Ban Nahong .there are 138 families and 898 persons all together Not verylong after they arrived to Muong Cao 22families who have relatives in Longcheng , they transfered to live with them.

In case of the enemies tyrannized them ,by catching them to be soldiers , and molested the women . So they didn't like the attitude of these Pathetlao so they made their decisions to move away from them , to our Lao government side. Now Phoulom is ruled by the enemies . Because of 72 people died and 30more still get sick so they made up their decisions to return back to Muong gnama and left the children and the wives at Muong gnam . the 72 strong men will surely be good soldiers to fight and get back the Tasseng Phoulom ; if they could win the enemies they will return back to their own place all together . AFTER 72 families had gone to Muong gnam , there are 17-18 families living with Tasseng .

In my opinion these people doesn't like to live in Muong Cao anymore that's why they gathered the strong men to be soldiers to fight the enemies so that they can live in their own village . Not only one of me who thinks like this ,but also Muong Cao Tasseng. Because I asked him about these people . I think it's also good if they behave like this.

Hatsady Douangvixay

TO: Jack Williamson

Mar 22, 1971

FROM: Thone VONNIVONG (Paksane)

SUBJECT: Refugees Report at Houay Nam Ngiap (UF-4655), Muong Paksane, Khoueng Borikhane.

Ethnic Group: Lao.

Originally they moved from Ban Bo (UF-4775) Tasseng Na Hane, Muong Borikhane, Khoueng Borikhane. At their old village there were 36 families and 225 persons they moved out only 25 families and 133 persons, they moved out in the month of 26 February 1971. They moved out in the night time by boat to Ban Mak Yom and stayed one night. They moved to Ban Nam Pou stayed here one night again, they moved to Houa Keng and stayed here one day again. They moved to Muong Kao, on the month of 29 February 1971.

Reason for moving: They don't like to live with PL and there was bombing destroyed house in the villagers, but none of the villagers were killed, the PL took rice there had no assassination in this area, the villagers in this village have to give rice every day to the PL too. They also recruited soldiers, with the fear of bombing and the hate of PL the villagers decided to move out.

Life in their old village Ban Bo: These refugees had never been with the PL before, but there was same PL in this wood around this village. They (PL) sometime come in this village and recruited rice, food and salt from the villagers, and a month before they moved out, the assistance of Nai Ban named Nai Xieng were arrested by PL and they took him to the bank Nam Xao river and killed him there without the reason. Every time they came in this village they always tell the villagers not to tell anything about them to our RIG army, if the villagers do, that men would be killed if they know about later. The PL also told these villagers not to help anything our RIG soldiers, in this village most of the villager's livelihood are growing the rice on their farm and there had rice 300 or 400 Kaboung in the year. They grow too the vegetable along the bank of the Nam Han river, and they raised cattle. They like to go hunting and fishing, in their original village there was a school there wasn't hospital. If some one ill they go to hospital in Muong Borikhane. No market in that area, there was only a small shop they used our RIG money.

Life at their new village: When they lived at their new village there were helping from RIG had as follow: Rice 15 Kilo per month, blanket, mosquito-net, command, bowl, plates spoons wast basin, rice steam, soup pot, machete, and axe in the month of 2/3/71. There has a school in this area, there has a hospital in Muong Kao, there hasn't market, there had a market in Muong Paksane these refugees go to sell vegetables in Muong Pake and they like to go fishing in Nam Xan.

The biography: His name is Thao Sy, he's 25 years old, he's buddhism, and he became a monk at the age of 20 up to 23, he was the RIG soldier in 1968 up to 1970. And now he become an assistant of Samiane Nai Ban. He read and write Lao.

ORA:Thone VONNIVONG:ps-3-22-71

TO: Fritz Benson

July 22, 1971

FROM: Khamsouane CHANSISOURATH (Paksane)

SUBJECT: Refugees in The Tasseng Muong, Mouane area, Muong Pak Chao, Khoueng Borikhane,

There were the following villages they arrived at Ban Nam Ngiep on Dec 16, 1970.

Tasseng Muong Mouane	39/229
Ban Sob Tho	32/200
Ban Khone Tao	32/192
Ban Ngiou	23/122
Ban Phone Thong	19/130
Ban Sob Vieng	21/134
Ban Phou Home	11/76
Ban Vang Khong	9/61
Ban Done	28/234
Ban Pha Ngea	15/107.

Reason for Leaving: Even since 1955 to 1969 the villagers in this area they had didn't any problem about the PL soldiers at all, because this area occupy by our soldier battalion #51 of commandant Kham Phet all the time, but in the month Jan 1969 there were battalion of PL soldiers came to fought with our soldier out from this area, then this area could be under control by PL untill the month Nov. 1970. Afterward in the month Dec. 12, 1970, there were our battalion #51 went to fight with the PL soldier out from this area, so the villagers in the Tasseng Muong Mouane area do not like to stay with PL again, then they decided moved from their own villages arrived at Ban Hinh Lath and they stayed here 2 days and had the PL plane came drop bombing to these villagers again, then they transfered to Ban Sob Thao 1 day. And there were RLG plane came to pick them up from Sob Tho arrived Paksane in the month Jan 20, 1971.

Life under the PL: The people in this area reported that the villages under Tasseng Muong Mouane could be occupy by PL ~~soldier/soldier~~ soldiers from 1969 to 1970, in the during 1 year when they first came they made propagand the said that do not afraid of us, in the first ~~three~~ three months they did not take rice or another thing from the villagers in this area, after 3 months ago they began took rice pigs, hens, for their food the informant reported the PL soldier not came to take the rice and food from the people not alwys, one month they will to get once time, after they already got every thing enough then they went into the forest, they have never stay in this village for a long time the informant reported that the PL soldiers did not established organize or association in the Tasseng Muong Mouane area yet because the PL do not believe the villagers in this area yet.

Old life at their own village: Before when they were at their old village these people use to do Na and Hay making the garden planting sugar can, banana , cotton, they raised animals livestock, poultries chicken, pigs, dog, ox, for sustain their families, they believe in spirit mother and spirit father theysaid living at their own village was more convenience than in new village.

New life at their new village: All of them doing Hay and a little bit of garden planting some kinds of vegetabe and raised animal, livestock chickens pet and pigs. for sustain their families. They children went to school at Ban Siat.

The biography of Asst. Tasseng: His name Mr. Sim he is 39 years old in the year 1955 he got married with Nang Toi they got a children 7 persons, afterward they had elected Mr. Sim to be Asst. Tasseng in the year 1963 until now, Mr. Sim he was once a monk at Wat M. Mouane about 3 years, his education he know a little.

ORA:ps:7-22-71

TO: Fritz Benson

August 5, 1971

FROM: Lyteng

SUBJECT: Tasseng Phou Lom Refugees Groups Report.

This group has come from Ban Phou Lom, Borikane. It's Tasseng is Mr. Xay Blong Vang, he has nine Nai Bans with 840 people. At present the Tasseng is at Muong Car with 20 families, there are 60 families are at Paksane airport and 14 families at Nong Deng.

For the last 34 yers, this group had been living around Phou Lom. This years, they have moved to many places as Phou Lom, ~~XXXXXX~~ Pakma, Muong Mai and then Muong Car. They had to get out of Phou Lom because of the military action but the last moves were caused of the illiness. S nce they have left their old villge, they had lost 78 adults and children, and only one in action. Because of this heavy lost in illiness, this group wants to return to their old villages, they do not plan to build suitable houses and farm, they will go back whenever the RLG forces can control Phou Lom again. They also said that the soil for crops growing is poor. Another thing the weather is hot and this causes illiness for them, the question "how can they help themselves? the Tasseng said" we can not do anything. Our daily wark is to look after our sick child and the dead bodies around a our villages" although, the support from RLG and USAID is allright. "We get enough good food and a little bit of every thing but now we are so poor and we can not even afford clothing a ourselves, especially for women, the Tasseng said.

As I saw their present situation I would say that it is terrible, especially those who were at Paksane airport and Muong Car. The serious problem of this group was the illiness. Almost every child has been sick and there wrer many about to die.

ORA:ps:8-5-71