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## Refugee affairs. 1966

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Zigler

March 7, 1966

TO : Mr. J. A. Mendenhall, Director  
FROM : H. E. Thomas, ADRD  
SUBJECT: Monthly RDD Report for February, 1966

I. General:

This past month we were delighted to have Dwane Hammer and John Doolittle returning to post.

Two, from our vantage point, very successful meetings were held with the National Services Committee. This Committee is composed of the Chiefs of National Services; representatives of the United Nations; other countries with assistance programs in Laos; and the USAID. The first meeting achieved unanimous approval of and assured support for the Expanded Wapi Program; the second aired a long series of misunderstandings, misconceptions and general gripes; but concluded on a very positive concensus with respect to a training program.

An informative, lengthy meeting was held with General Soukhan, Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs and general guidelines for program development were established.

A meeting with the Ministry of Education explored ways of resolving two disruptive problems: per diem for Fundamental Educators working in co-operative projects, and means of providing roofing for school repair and completion for "bootleg requests", (requests which have been presented through other than the usual Education channels). In essence, these issues were postponed.

Reports indicate new CDA staff making highly satisfactory adjustments.

II. Forward Area Operations:

Kieng Lon: This program is moving forward at an accelerated pace and it appears that the construction program for this valley will be completed by the end of the present dry season. At present there are 34 wells in various stages of completion; a dispensary completed; a cement dam nearing completion and a groupe scolaire being started. The Kieng Lon team are also undertaking a subsidiary program in Hong Sa on a visiting basis. Material for a gabion dam has been moved in and work will commence around March 20.

Muong Kassy: The primary effort here is the construction of a Market Place now underway with all materials trucked in from Vang Vieng at a cost of 15,000 Kip per ton paid to a local merchant with a 6 x 6 Dodge truck. This is a saving of \$300 a ton compared to a chopper lift. Arrangements have been made for a program in Muong Met supervised on a visiting basis by the Muong Kassy Team. The material for a dispensary has been moved to Vang Vieng for airlift to Muong Met and a 20,000 Kip house for the Forward Area Team is now being constructed there. The villagers have made an excellent caribou strip on their own to replace the old helicopter strip.

Muong Soui: The refugee resettlement and assistance program is continuing with a levee en masse of effort growing out of increased military operations in that area. At times the single FA Team member has been working under combat conditions. A program for four wells has been started.

Dong Hene: The Forward Area Team in Dong Hene has been put under the control of the CDA established there preliminary to the establishment of a cluster program. Activities have been restricted temporarily to villages closer in to Dong Hene due to a flurry of PL/VM activity in outer areas.

Saravane: The Ban Houei Mun Team is still temporarily situated in Saravane and, as at Dong Hene, they have been put under the control of the new CDA there. They are under his direction in carrying out starter rural development programs in the Saravane area, some of them further to the Wapi program.

### III. Refugee Relief:

1. Rice Contract - During the month the remaining rice under Contract 66-011 was delivered to Air America for the airlift operations. The new contract 66-029 went into effect on Feb. 20 when the first delivery was made. The new contract calls for 5468 M/T of rice to be delivered over an estimated three month period. The contract calls for a delivery of 2747 M/T of glutinous rice and 2721 M/T of white rice.

2. Refugee Rice/Wheat Quota Revision - The February quota required a total air drop of 1242 M/T and an air landed quota of 195 M/T. The total quota was 1437 M/T. This is an overall reduction of forty tons from the month of January. This slight increase over the quota was due primarily to the number of refugees that arrived during the month in the Luang Prabang region.

3. Luang Prabang Refugees - The Luang Prabang refugees continued to increase and have now reached approximately 15,000 in number. Additional assistance was sent to these refugees during the month, and beginning the last day of February a 105 ton airlift of rice was begun to provide for the feeding of refugees. Additional investigation will be made to determine whether a number of these refugees are to be included in the 1966 resettlement program.

4. Muong Hiem/Nha Khang Refugees - Due to the intensity of military operations in the Nha Khang/Muong Hiem region of Xieng Khouang Province an as yet undetermined number of refugees are being supported by rice air drops and relief supply support. Approximately 2000 refugees have been airlifted from combat zones into safe havens and some 5000 others are presently walking over mountain trails to safe havens. Most of these are from the Nha Khang region. In addition approximately 1000 refugees from the Muong Hiem Neutralist area have been airlifted out of the combat zone and into Muong Souei and Vang Vieng.

IV. Resettlement:

1. Resettlement Site Survey - Survey work on the proposed resettlement sites in the Provinces of Khammouane and Sayaboury is continuing. To date no contract employees are being used, only RLG ministry personnel. Preliminary survey work in Khammouane has been completed and it is expected that land documents will be presented to settlers sometime during the month of March.

V. Social Welfare (RLG):

1. Warehouse Activities - A training program for Ministry of Social Welfare employees working in the That Khao warehouse was completed by a joint team from OSM and this division. The program taught the trainees the new record keeping system that went into operation during the month of February for ordering and issuing refugee relief commodities.

2. Personnel Requirements/Ministry of Social Welfare - During the month a review of the field personnel requirements for the Ministry of Social Welfare was undertaken. As a result of this review it was decided that two additional field assistants would be assigned to Khammouane Province to assist in the resettlement program there. In addition a position was established in Ban Houei Sai for refugee relief assistant for the Chao Khouang there.

VI. Food for Peace:

1. Discussions with Catholic Relief Services - During the month continuous discussions were held with CRS on the following subjects:

A. Airgram to AID/W concerning the wish of the Mission to Participate in a Food Supplement Program - CRS has expressed the view that it is interested in participating in the Ceplapro food supplement program, both for institutions and hospitals.

B. Proposal to Use 100 tons of Powdered Milk presently available in Vientiane for a Milk Feeding Program - A proposal to use the above milk at approximately 50 selected sites was made.



C. Bread Contract - A new bread contract was completed to make bread in Vientiane using PL480 flour. This contract calls for the baking of approximately one ton of bread per day, and will be for distribution to hospitals, schools and charitable organizations both in Vientiane and the field.

2. Substitution Program - As stated in Paragraph I-2 a total of 131 M/T of PL480 commodities was delivered by airlift during the month of February. This constituted approximately 9% of the total foodstuffs delivered by air during that period.

3. World Food for Peace - On February 15 an airgram was sent to AID/W stating that 62 M/T of flour, 2 M/T of vegetable oil and 3 M/T of powdered milk was transferred from the World Food Program to the Catholic Relief Services. These commodities are presently being employed in the CRS program and the refugee relief airlift.

#### VII. Administration:

1. Personnel Operations Officers - During the month of February Mr. Joe Bussewitz was placed on a personal services contract as a replacement for Mr. Ernest Kuhn. His duty station is Sam Thong. Mr. Kuhn is expected to depart Sam Thong during the month of March. Replacements for Mr. Don Sjoström (Sam Thong), Mr. Mike Murphy (Pakse), and Mr. Ron Rickenbach (Thakhek), all of whom are expected to terminate their contracts in March, have not been located. Unless replacements are located for these three operations officers the programs will be adversely affected beginning about the middle of March. No direct hire employees are available.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
February, 1966

In conference with the Prefect and the Primary School Inspector, it was determined that a sanitary program for the schools is an urgent requirement. This is being pursued on a self-help basis.

The Prefect feels that the statistical information he has regarding the population of Vientiane City, as provided primarily by district leaders, is incorrect and unreliable. He has sought our assistance in obtaining correct information. We are exploring the possibilities of a community survey and are giving consideration to the training of 50 secondary students to do the job.

The Prefect recognizes the need and is planning to provide training for the district and sub-district leaders; the program to be initiated as early as possible.

Mr. Keo, of RD, recruited approximately 400 students from the local colleges to assist in the clean-up drive held on February 27th, involving 700 people, of which 15 were USAID employees.

The Prefect was stimulated to use his office to:

- a. Initiate and follow through with arrangements for borrowing tools from CRA.
- b. Arrange transportation for the students from and back to the colleges.
- c. Arrange for the publicity (radio, newspaper release and posters).
- d. Select work-sites and work-group leaders.
- e. Arrange for trash truck pick up.

Completion Data

KHET PHATANAKHANE PROGRAM  
 Period ending, February 28, 1966

AGRICULTURE:

Irrigation Dams in process	-	9
Irrigation Dams completed	-	12
Rice Improvements Program	-	7
Vegetable Production & Seed Distribution Program	-	8
Fishpond projects & operational (stocked originally with 10,000 Tilapia)	-	6
Livestock Development Program (Ducks) 2,524 ducks distributed	-	7
Livestock Development Program (Swine) 112 pigs distributed	-	7
Crop Rotation Program	-	8
Multipurpose building & Training Center completed	-	4
Home Economics Program	-	6
Hydraulic Water Rams	-	2
Water Storage Tower	-	1
Windmills completed	-	6
Waterwheels	-	1
Water Supply in process	-	1

EDUCATION:

Cluster with Military Social Service Program	-	6
Operational schools	-	180
Schools constructed	-	50
Schools repaired	-	37
Schools under construction and/or repairs	-	39
School garden program	-	10
Cluster with Literacy Classes going on	-	4

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Cluster with Health & Sanitation Program	-	3
Dispensaries operational	-	33
Dispensaries built	-	14
Dispensaries repaired	-	19
Total number of patients treated to date	-	174,500+
Total number of Medics on duty	-	52
Waterseal toilets built	-	879
Dug Wells constructed	-	39
Drilled Wells built	-	56
Markets built	-	3
Markets under construction	-	2
Dug Wells in process	-	16

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Station	-	2
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COMMUNICATIONS:

Roads constructed in kilometers	-	241.2
Airstrip completed	-	3
Bridges built	-	13
Number of students trained in English class (Vang Vieng)	-	200
Number of new students undergoing training in English class	-	80
Participants in training courses (FY'66, to (Hanoig))	-	1,143

FORWARD AREA TEAMS

Completion Data as of February 28, 1966

AGRICULTURE:

Total number of families who have participated in the Vegetable Program during last cold season	-	4,500
Irrigation Dams completed (1 Earth Dam at Muong Souie)	-	1
Irrigation Dams in process	-	4
Spring Fountain completed (Moung Kassey)	-	1
Warehouse completed (Moung Souie)	-	1

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Dispensaries completed (Xieng Lom, completed, Jan. 31, 1966)	-	1
Dispensaries purchased & repaired (Moung Kassey)	-	1
Dispensaries under construction (Dong Hene, Moung Phalane, Phakhanha, Moung Met & Saravane)	-	5
Markets under construction (Moung Kassey)	-	1
Crematories built (Moung Kassey)	-	1
Dug Wells built	-	14
Dug Wells under construction	-	24

EDUCATION:

Groupe Scolaires completed (Moung Kassey)	-	1
Groupe Scolaires under construction	-	2
Elementary schools built	-	1
Schools repaired	-	6
Civic Action Social Service training participants	-	34
Schools under construction or repairs	-	5



TO: Joseph A. Mendenhall, Director

October 13, 1966

FROM: HE. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for September, 1966 (Exerpts)

General Refugee Situation: In the northern part of Laos, in general, the refugee situation remained quiet. However, in the Pakse area in the south more than 2,000 refugees have moved into the Udom Souk area following military operations north and east of Pakse. In addition, some 500 new refugees from the Trail region have recently arrived in Thakhek. They are expected to be relocated along Highway 13. In the northwest, near Ban Houei Sai, refugee movements are increasing from the Nam Tha region. It is expected that more than 2,000 refugees will result from these movements. During January and February shipments of relief commodities were made to Sam Thong, Savannakhet, and Pakse.

ORA:ps:5-12-71

TO: Joseph A. Mendenhall, Director

January 13, 1967

FROM: H.E. Thomas, ADRD

SUBJECT: RDD Monthly Report for December, 1966

General Refugee Situation: Again as last month the general refugee situation throughout Laos remained quiet. Some movements caused by RIG Military activities took place in northern Sam Neua. Approximately 2,000 refugees were involved. The general quiet is expected to end with increased refugee activities in January due to military operations. During the month major shipments of relief commodities were made to Sam Thong, Luang Prabang, Ban Houei Sai and Pakse. These shipments are hopefully for the quarter January March, 1967.

ORA:ps:5-12-71