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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr Aubrey Elliott,
Social Welfare Adviser

DATE: December 4, 1962

FROM : Arthur W. Bechtel,
RD Adviser, Savannakhet

REF. : 46 - 62

SUBJECT: Correction of memorandum No 41-62, dated
November 29, 1962.

A second check was made with the Chao Khoueng's office concerning the refugee situation in Savannakhet Province and it is now claimed that the list furnished you in memorandum 41 - 62, dated November 29, 1962 is not the Amount of refugees now on hand but the total for the year, as marked at the heading. This report had been submitted to Prevoyance Sociale but it meant year's totals and not the current amounts. These are now claimed to be :

FROM TCHEPONE :

58 families of 227 persons - men 106, - women 51 - boys 34 - girls 36.

FROM MUONG PHINE :

31 families of 153 persons - men 67 - women 34 - boys 31 - girls 21.

The grand total is 380 persons.

While no refugee center as such exists in Savannakhet, an army building at Dongsamdouane has been made available for some. The rest are distributed among relatives or friends for shelter but still need the usual items as rice, clothing, blankets, etc. Blanket needs could be estimated at double the amount of persons.

It is regretted that two sources of information in the same office gave two sets of figures. This set comes from the person directly responsible for the refugee problem and should be correct, the other was furnished by a Rural Affairs employee from the refugee file.

REFUGEES OF SAVANNAKHET - YEAR 1961-1962

MUONG KHANTHABOULI

- Man.....	167
- Boys.....	33
- Women.....	105
- Girls.....	37
Sub Total:	<u>342</u>

MUONG SONG KHONE

- Man.....	14
- Boys.....	8
- Women.....	7
- Girls.....	5
Sub Total:	<u>34</u>

MUONG PHONG

- Man.....	70
- Boys.....	25
- Women.....	39
- Girls.....	10
Sub Total:	<u>144</u>

MUONG PHALANE

- Man.....	79
- Boys.....	28
- Women.....	53
- Girls.....	23
Sub Total:	<u>183</u>

MUONG SAPHANTHONG

- Man.....	22
- Boys.....	6
- Women.....	19
- Girls.....	7
Sub Total:	<u>54</u>

MUONG CHAMPHONE

- Men.....	9
- Boys.....	5
- Women.....	7
- Girls.....	3
Sub Total:	<u>24</u>

MUONG TCHEPONE

- Men.....	156
- Boys.....	89
- Women.....	61
- Girls.....	50
Sub Total:	<u>356</u>

MUONG PHINE

- Men.....	133
- Boys.....	46
- Women.....	43
- Girls.....	41
Sub Total:	<u>243</u>

GRAND TOTAL:..... 1,380

RECAPITULATION

1.380.....People

298.....Families

434.....Men

349.....Women

319.....Boys

278.....Girls.

Blankets needed: 900 sheets

ORA:ps:6-9-71

SAVANNAKHET

FY - 1959 - 1960 -

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS

MUONG CHAMPHONE (6 Schools)

<u>BAN</u>	<u>TASSENG</u>
- Ban Kadane	Kengkok
- Ban Phaleng	Kengkok
- Ban Kengkok Dong	Kengkok
- Ban Tanekone	Taleo
- Ban Taleo Ngai	Taleo
- Ban Kengpoun	SakunTay

MUONG PHINE (1 School)

- Ban Nathong	Nathong
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MUONG TCHEPONE (1 School)

- Ban Samoi	Samoi
-------------	-------

MUONG KHANTHABOULI (6 Schools)

- Ban Sildhay	Sildhay
- 6me Quartier	Savannakhet
- Ban Soknai	Ban Sok
- Ban NaSeng	Savannakhet
- Ban Paksebangfai	Tasseng Pakse
- Ban Phone Ngam	Phone Ngam

MUONG SONGKHONE (2 Schools)

- Ban Songkhone	Songkhone
- Ban Bung Sang	Bung Sang

MUONG DONGHENE (5 Schools)

- Ban BungThale	Tasseng Bung Thale
- Ban KengPham	Nasay
- Ban Nongdeun	Nongdeun
- Ban Nasai	Nasai
- Koud Hinh	Koud Hinh

SAVANNAKHET

FY - 1960 - 1961 -

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS

MUONG KHANTHABOULI

BAN

- Ban Natay
- Ban Dang
- Ban Phakpheua
- Ban Bungse
- Ban Xaisoung

TASSENG

- Phansombong
- Sikhay
- Nhangkham
- Sikhay
- Xaisoung

MUONG CHAMPHONE

- Ban Nakhou
- Ban Laonath
- Xiengsoum

- Kengkok
- Laonath
- Xieng Soum

MUONG SONGKHONE

- Ban Tanol
- Houahad
- Nathapatxoum

- Sanhok
- Kengdol
- Sabouxay

MUONG FONG

- Tanway Nam
- Lanthouay

- Kathong
- Tanway

MUONG TCHEPONE

- Thase

- Manchi

MUONG PHINE

- Katch
- Khamse-y

- Nahang
- Muong Phine

MUONG DONGHONG (Atsaphanthong)

- Ban Hinh Sio
- Ban Nakhone
- Ban Xouang
- Ban Nalay

- Hinh Sio
- Ban Vieng
- Ban Xouang
- Keng Chip

SAVANNAKHET

FY - 1960 - 1961 -

CONSTRUCTION OF MARKETS

MUONG DONGKHONE

BAN

- Lahanam

TASSAKI

Lahanam

MUONG TCHEPONE

- Tchepone

Tchepone

MUONG PHINE

- Muong Phine

Muong Phine

MUONG DONGHENE (Atsaphanthong)

- Donghene

Donghene

- Phalane

Donghene

Atsaphanthong Co

SAVANNAKHET

FY - 1961 - 1962 -

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS

MUONG CHAMPHONE (15 Schools)

<u>BAN</u>	<u>TASSENG</u>
- Ban Lao Sourya	Laosourya
- Ban Kalang	Taleo
- Ban Nasenak	Souriya
- Ban Thouat Tay	Sakdun Tay
- Ban DukThong	DukThong
- Ban Bung Tha Loung	Nong Nha Ma
- Ban Kout Done Neua	Nong Nha Ma
- Ban Dong My	Phondock
- Ban Taleo Nhay	Taleo Nhay
- NakaThang	Taleo Nhay
- Ban Kho	Khamphao
- Ban Kang	Sikhay
- Ban Nongbaolao	Nongbaolao
- Done Kheng	Houeisay
- Nong Hay	Laosouriya

MUONG KHANTHAKOULI (1 School ; Technical school)

- Savannakhet	Savannakhet
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MUONG FONG (2 Schools)

- Ban DongbounNeua	Nong Phan
- Ban Kabao	Vang Soung

MUONG DONGHENE (Atsaphanthon) (1 School)

- Ban Donghene Neua	Donghene
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MUONG SONGKHONE (1 School)

- Ban Songkhone	Songkhone
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SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE SUMMARY

Rural Self Help Projects

TYPE OF PROJECT	1959 - 1960	1960 - 61	1961 - 62	TOTAL
Schools : - Construction	27	20	19	66
- Reparation	15	-	3	18
Markets : - Const.	-	5	-	5
Walls : - Const.	6	12	19	37
- Rep.	3	-	-	3
Bridges : - Const.	-	6	-	6
Infirmaries &) - Const.	3	7	-	10
Dispensaries)				
Nurse Quarter : Const.	3	7	-	10
Trails : Const.	11	-	-	11
: Rep.	6	-	-	6
Community Center : Const.	-	2	2	4
Pagoda : - Const.	1	-	-	1
- Rep.	2	-	-	2
Bonze quarter	1	-	-	1
Fence for Pagoda : Const.	6	-	-	6
Rep.	1	-	-	1
Teacher Quarter : Const.	-	-	1	1
Technical School : Const.	-	-	1	1

26 March 1967:

At 0200 hours on 25 March one battalion of enemy attacked two companies of BV 37 at WD-355622. BV-37 position was overrun with loss of 11 KIA, 7 wounded and 23 missing. Action lasted for about two hours, at which time enemy withdrew, enemy losses unknown.

At approximately 0230 hours approx. one company of enemy surrounded Phakhangna where one company of BV-37 is located. They entered the village and attacked the FAR position. During the attack three FAR were wounded and claim two enemy killed and three wounded.

The enemy who entered the village shot through the floor of the building housing IVS worker fled Chaydleur and his assistant, killing both.

BV-37 patrols followed the enemy force departing the area and reported one enemy battalion at Ban Lot (WD-330685) and one enemy battalion at Ban Song Hong (WD-370725).

ORA:ps:7-8-71

Savannakhet 908

REFUGEE FROM PHALANE

Month of December 1967

<u>IN</u>	<u>RICE</u>		<u>BULGUR</u>		<u>MIXED</u>			
SVKT	.640	+	0.160	=	0.800	-	215 Fam.	729 Adults 680 Children
DONGHENE	.960	+	0.240	=	1.200)		
"	.240	+	0.060	=	0.300)	200 Fam.	321 Adults 279 Children
	1.840		460		21300			

730
680
1410
1050
960
2010

NOTE : Refugees in Savannakhet received rice from other sources, such as Chinese, Vietnamese Associations, French Assn., etc...

From the French Society: January 11, 1968

Blankets	60 each
Glutinous rice	400 kg
Dry hot peppers	15 kg
Salt	72 kg
fish sause	60 btls

January 16, 1968

Glutinous rice	600 kgs
milk	100 cans
dry hot pepper	25 kg
fish sauce	125 btls
salt	50 kgs

149 families, 749 persons

REPORT AND PROPOSAL OF CHAOMUONG CHAMPONE, SUBMITTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIS PARTY TO THE KHET PHATTANAKANE OF KENG KOK FROM 12/11 TO 12/12/67.

Muong Champone is one of the towns in Khoueng Savannakhet. It is situated toward the southeast of and at a distance of 54 km from the city of Savannakhet. Its area is , and its total number of population is 38,558, which is composed of three tribes, namely- Lao, Phou Thai and Lao Theung. Of these three tribes, the Lao is superior in number. Muong Champone consists of 12 tassengs and 101 villages. Early in February 1964, five tassengs with 22 villages and with a number of population of 13,000 were selected out as khet phattanakane area. In 1967, the Khet Phattanakane area has extended and covered the entire territory under the jurisdiction of Muong Champone.

Education: It is considered that the education in Muong Champone area is at a moderate level because there are no schools in certain villages. Altogether, there are four groups-scolaires, five demi-groupes-scolaires, 26 elementary schools and 12 Rural Education Centers (Centre Rural de l'Education Communautaire = CREC schools). For elementary schools, there are 64 permanently assigned schoolmasters and 10 schoolmistresses, totalling 94 persons. For CREC schools, there are 21 schoolmasters and one schoolmistress, totalling 22 persons. There are 3,099 boy students and 1,290 girl students, totalling 4,389 students. Eight school buildings were built under the assistance of USAID during the period from 1964 to 1966. Of these, six were made of concrete blocks and located one at Keng Kok, one at Khao Khat, one at Ban Bak Yai, one at Ban Phay and two at Ban Sithong, totalling 16 classrooms; two were made of timber and located one at Ban Khamnoi, with two classrooms, and one at Ban Keng Kok, with three classrooms. Aside from this, three artesian wells and 22 ordinary wells have been dug within the Muong Champone area under the assistance of the population, USAID, IVS and the government officials.

Industry: There are two categories of industrial factories in the Muong Champone area. The first category consists of one sawmill located at Ban km 35 on the Keng Kok bifurcation road. It belongs to the military. It can produce several cubic meters of sawed timber a day, but right now it has stopped the operation. The second category is the rice mill. There are in the Muong Champone area 55 rice mills; of these, some are of 9 HP and some of 16 HP. The other small industry is pottery works where jars and pots are made. The pottery factories are found at the area of Tasseng Buk Thong, Tasseng Taleo, Tasseng Xieng Xoum and Tasseng Keng Kok. The work at these factories has stopped because it is now rice cultivating season and farmers everywhere are busy with the work of threshing.

Trade: In the Muong Champone area, there are about 50 families of Lao traders and about 20 families of Chinese traders-- no Vietnamese or Indian. Most of the commodities put up for sale are imported goods and taken from Savannakhet and Pakse. Others are locally handcrafted items, such as dammared bamboo buckets, woven bamboo baskets, bamboo baskets, earthen steamers, rice-steaming baskets, pots, bamboo containers for steamed glutinous rice, etc. From early in August 1966 to the end of December 1967, a total number of 2,950 domestic animals (Buffalo, cows and pigs) from the Muong Champone area have been taken for sale in Khoueng Savannakhet and other Khouengs.

Communication: The means of communication within the Muong Champone area, such as from village to village, from town to town and from town to khoueng, mostly are buses or private cars. Ox carts and horses are used when the roads are not motorable in the rainy season. Since it has become a Khet Phattanakane area, an accumulated length of 45 km long of all weather roads has been constructed. The other incompletd roads are, though with difficulty, quite trafficable. We have several other road construction projects, such as the road from Keng Kok to Lahanam and the road from Lam Chanh to Taleo, but we are still lacking construction equipment.

Health: The health and sanitation facilities here in the Muong Champone area are not adequate. There are only two state dispensaries, one at Keng Kok and another at Ban Sakuen Neua. A dispensary at Houei Sai was completed in 1962. Later, USAID equipped it with medics and medicaments. Another one is the OB hospital, with its central office located at Keng Kok. This OB hospital has three branches: one at Ban Bak, one at Ban Sithong and another at Ban Nateuy. All in all, there are seven dispensaries in the Muong Champone area. Apart from this, we have several midwives stationed at various villages: one at Bang Keng Ko, one at Ban Taleo, one at Ban Lao Nade and another at Ban Dong Mone. A dispensary was built by the villagers at Ban Lam Chanh and completed in 1965, but no medic has yet been assigned to run it.

Animal Husbandry: In the Muong Champone area, the breeding of cattle, such as buffalo and oxen, is not carried out on a large scale. They are bred only to be used as draft animals. They are sold only when the price is good and when there are too many of them under their owner's care. The pigs are bred regularly by every family. The breeding of pigs is encouraged by the government. USAID has provided 19 white-colored pigs for villagers.

Good results will not be reached because the weather here is not suitable to their physical disposition. According to observation, if pig breeding is to be encouraged, it is deemed more advisable to have brown-colored pigs for breeding because the pigs of this breed can endure the climatic condition of Laos. Apart from this, 800 ducks of improved breed have been sent to the Khet Phattanakane of Keng Kok and they have been distributed to villagers of this area. The produce obtained from these ducks is fair enough because the villagers can keep the duck eggs for hatching for further breeding as well as for sale at the market. In this matter the veterinary agents have made a followup of the breeding activities and given advice and instruction on the breeding methods as well as help in treating sick ducks. Chickens bred here are of local breed and can also be brought for sale at the Savannakhet market.

Agriculture: Usually rice farming in the Muong Champone area can be done regularly every year, but rice farming here relies only on rain water. In other words, rice farming here depends on luck alone. Take for example the rice fields in the river side periodically flooded area (depressed area) where there are floods and rice plants are destroyed after the heavy rains, if heavy rains there are. Aside from this, villagers also grow annual plants in their plantations, where corn, chili, cucumber, watermelon, etc., are grown. Moreover, they start in October to grow other annual plants along the river banks such as tobacco, Man Dang (a kind of yam), Man Phas (a kind of yam), corn, watermelon, onion, garlic, greens and lettuce and others regularly.

Since 1964, the first year of the establishment of this Khet Phattanakane area, the Agriculture Service started giving advice and selling rice seeds on an annual reimbursement basis. Aside from this, vegetable seed, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers were also distributed. In 1965, Thao Kong (a villager of Ban Lao Nade) was able to bring his watermelons to Keng Kok and Savannakhet for sale, and from this he collected an income of 500,000 kip. Other villagers of Ban Lao Nade also collected a smaller income from their produce.

In 1965, the Agriculture Service established a rice planting demonstration farm at Keng Kok with Thao Liang's cooperation. In 1966, another similar farm was established at Ban Na Kou, Tasseng Keng Kok, with the rice field owners' cooperation.

In the dry season of 1966, the villagers at Keng Kok and Ban Dong Nong Khoun carried out a second rice planting at the Bak dam where 2,440 kgs of paddy were harvested. The second place was located over the Souei dam and carried out by villagers of Ban Nong Mouang and those

from the area of Tasseng Bueg Thong. Here the yield was 18,720 kg (per _____). From these two places, it was proved that the rice seed of the Taiwan varieties gave better yield than the local varieties because the latter gave smaller ears. Considering the result obtained from these two second rice planting activities, it can be noted that people of this area can get an increase of rice from this source. In the future, it is hoped that the second cropping of rice will be improved by taking the result thus obtained as a basis. The city authority would like the higher authority to have these two dams improved and better maintained (so that they will be more durable. Besides, the USAID officials had made an investigation of these dams, but no maintenance and improvement have been made to them yet), especially the Bak dam should be improved and maintained for it is feared that some day it may collapse.

In 1967, the Agriculture Service distributed an additional amount of rice seed to villagers with a view of expanding the rice planting program, as shown in the attached list, while insecticides and fertilizers were sold at any amounts as might be required by the buyers at the price fixed by the Agriculture Service. The information on the yield obtained cannot be known yet because the farmers are busy with the work of threshing. The villagers in the area of Tasseng Keng Kok, Tasseng Bueg Thong and Tasseng Sakuen Nena are at present making preparation for the second rice cropping, and it is expected that it will be carried out on a larger scale.

Summary: We can assuredly say that the situation in the Muong Champone area is normal. The condition of insecurity has ended. The Lao Government and USAID personnel working together on development program can have access to any place in this area, especially in dry season. In rainy season, the streams, canals and marshy lands are filled with water, especially on the eastern and southern parts of the Muong Champone area.

During the rainy season, communication can be made to villages situated along the Se river banks. The all-season communication from Keng Kok to other villages can be made only toward the west, the southwest and the northwest, because the road development project has been carried out on those directions.

PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION

Public Works:

Construction of roads already projected such as: the Lam Chanh-Taleo road. Nothing has been done on this yet.

Construction of the Keng Kok-Lahanam road. This road has already been projected, but nothing has been done as yet.

Economy:

It is requested that:

Encouragement be made to cultivation, because villagers are paying much interest in this matter. The government authorities concerned should lay down plans in this matter for villagers to further them.

Certain industries be encouraged. In the Muong Champone area, there are several mines: Hin Keo (glass stone or quartz), Hin Long (a kind of mineral - at Ban Nam Thouam hillock), marble (at Ban Kalang hillock). These mines have been investigated by the Japanese experts and the Lao Government Officials on several occasions. But no action for exploration has been taken yet.

In the field of animal husbandry, encouragement should be given to pig breeding to promote the sale of pigs in other areas.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT *JB*

TO : Mr. E. G. Rueff, RD

DATE: January 5, 1968

FROM : S. J. Stone, AC/Svkt *SJ Stone*

SUBJECT: Distribution to Refugees

The following distribution has been made, to date, to 215 refugee families, consisting of 729 adults and 680 children, from the Muong Phalane area:

Blankets	215	Mosquito nets	215
Burlap sacks	191	Men's shirts	92
Boy's clothing	206	Skirts	252
Women's blouses	80	Girl's blouses	141
Spoons	418	Cooking pots	212
Sauce pans	32	Steamer pots	149
Canned beef	163	plates	32
Bowls	227	Candles	52
Soap, cases	4	Underwear	65

In addition 12 bags of mixed rice (10 milled rice & 2 bulgar) was given to the Kheung Office. Eight of these have been distributed. Fifteen bags were delivered to Dong Hene for distribution there and in Chellamong and for replentishment of FAR stocks used prior to arrival of welfare rice.

The Chao Kheung asked that 20 bags be sent to Ban Kalang but we have been temperizing because of vehicle shertage and our own investigation of the situation in that village south of Phalane. Huxtable's report sent to the Director (classified) this date, informs that all rice stores were removed from that area by the PL forces.

MAR 25 1968

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT *JS*

TO : Mr. E.G. Ruoff, C/RR, RDD

DATE: March 20, 1968

FROM : Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet *SJ Stone*

SUBJECT: Issue of Rice Seed.

In view of recent actions by Pathet Laos, refugee families which were going to settle in Dong Lao Luang, Muong Phalane, have decided to relocate elsewhere. Thirteen of these families, originally coming from Muong Phine, are now resettling at Dong Kham Louang, Muong Khanthabouly, and they have requested, through the Administrative Delegate of Tchepone, 600 kgs paddy seed for this seasons rice production.

According to the best information available to me, they have just about finished clearing the land, and are impatiently waiting the promise of seeds. Can we help them through your office or will it be necessary to try ADO for this support?

1 Encl. : List of families

cc : Agr/Svkt

TO: Albert E. Farwell, Acting Director

November 8, 1968

FROM: Sanford J. Stone, AC/SVKG

SUBJEC: Monthly Report October 1968 (Exerpts)

III Although FAR holds allof the former Dong Hene cluster area and has positions in. The east of Muongs Souriyakham and champone, we have been restricted from working on projects in the Phakhanha and Muong Phalane areas, as well as many locations in eastern Souriyakham and Champone. Sahanam cluster personnel have also been restrictwd from working in villages east of Ban Song Khone. In Khammouane Province, ambushes on RLG 13, between, Nam Tone and the Nam Cadinh river, have forced a Ban on american travel in that area; however, it has had little effect on regional progress because personnel shortages prevent heavy input there.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Mann

Apr 9, 1969

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report March 1969 (Exerpts)

Continued enemy action north of PhaKagna east of Phalane and in Wapikham-thong province is producing a small but steady flow of refugees to Savannakhet city.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

FILE

~~1st~~
~~2nd~~

Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

April 28, 1969

Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet

Pathet Lao Visit to Ban Thuad (WD2824)

The following information was furnished by USAID Lao employees, who were working in Ban Thuad assisting the villagers in constructing a 3 classroom school building :

At approximately 1530 hours, April 25, 1969, approximately 200 Pathet Lao entered Ban Thuad. The soldiers, protecting the work crew, engaged the PL for about 5 minutes and then finally retreated, ~~one~~ of them badly wounded. In the meantime, three USAID employees escaped but three were restrained from leaving the village by PL forces.

The Pathet Lao commander, Major Kay, who allegedly comes from Ban Lambong (WD2524) asked the villagers if the Americans or FAR soldiers were making them work. Villagers responded that they had asked for assistance and the trucks, personnel and samill were in the village to help them construct a school. The commander stated that he approved of such assistance and would not interfere as long as there were no Americans or soldiers helping.

USAID commodities and equipment were not destroyed or taken by the Pathet Lao as a result of the above and the supplemented requests from the head Monk and villagers not to damage the school construction effort.

The Pathet Lao collected a total of 2,400 kg of milled rice from the following villages : Ban Thuad Tay, Ban Thuad Neua, Ban Lam Then, Ban Nong Kaloke Tay, Ban Nong Kaloke Neua and Ban Phakha. All of the rice was to have been shipped to Ban Kek Muong and Na Hai Dieo approximately 1 1/2 kilometers from Ban Thuad.

The troops appeared rather ragged and some indicated that they were extremely short of rice. It was noted that they pulled a 25mm antiaircraft weapon along with them but did not use it to fire at attacking aircraft on Saturday, April 26th. They were well disciplined and did not bother any of the villagers or their properties with the exception of removing things of value from the houses which were left deserted. Their explanation for this was that those villagers who ran from the PL must be considered as their enemies.

On Saturday when the T-28s came to bomb, most of the PL, now totalling approximately 300, came into the village and sat under the houses ;

.../...

apparently aware that they were safe at that location.

At approximately 1600 hours, April 26th, the Pathet Lao started to withdraw from Ban Thuad and were completely gone by 2000 hours. Villagers state that they recognised for of the PL as coming from Ban Laikatha.

Apparently none of the USAID employees involved are greatly concerned over this incident. The carpenter and one sawmill attendant remained in Ban Thuad, while the others came to Savannakhet on April 27th to report. All are returning to the project site this date.

Attached with original only is a copy of the propaganda leaflet distributed to villagers while they were being given during an oral propaganda session.

1 Encl : a/s

cc : ARMA
ARMA/3vkt
RDD ✓

TO: Wm. Lovan, COP/IVS

Apr 29, 1969

FROM: Jerry Nell, IVS/Kengkok

SUBJECT: Monthly Report Apr 1969 (Exerpts)

Due to secutity it is almost impossible to work in the Keng Kok area.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Stone

FROM: Alfred H. Brailsford, CDAA/Seno

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Aug 1969 (Exerpts)

PL. activities have not interfered with program in progress. However, approximately 20 PL. entered Ban Laophay, Ban Kachou and attempted to destroy a bridge on Rte. 13 in Ban Na Deng. One RLG soldier was killed and three were wounded. The bridge was only slightly damaged and traffic continued to flow. RLG officials in Muong Saraphoum are becoming afraid to sleep in their homes at night. The Chao Muong Has moved his family to Savannakhet.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Mann

Sept 8, 1969

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Aug 1969 (Exeippts)

III Military and security developments.

A. The military operation in the Ban Tang Vai (WD-7014) area is continuing for a much longer period than anticipated. It was apparent from the start of this operation that the PL were controlling large pieces of territory with small holding forces and RLG forces reached their objective, the Tang Vai airstrip, with only little resistance encountered. Once the airstrip was repaired and in operation, RLG forces started to clear a larger area when the Chao Khoueng of Savannakhet, general Bounpone, CG, MR III, and this AC visited Tang Vai on August 22, the RLG flag was flying over 12 villages in the area, USAID is assisting this operation with limited commodity input from refugee relief, supplies and the impression I received from my visit was that these villagers were exceptionally happy to be back under RLG control for the first time in approximately 5 years. The longevity of this RLG victory is based on too many unknowns; eg., PL desire to retake this territory and defend it, FAR desire to make inputs to resist PL recapture, etc. However, even a temporary ~~victory~~ victory should smell sweet when considering the territorial losses in other parts of Laos.

B. It is this AC's opinion ~~that~~ that the security situation in Muong Saraphoum during August was overexaggerated. FAR was making a sweep in the area in an attempt to track a small band of PL that had fired 2 rocket shells at an SGU camp and damaged a small bridge on RLG 13, south of Ban Nadeng. As a result, FAR closed RLG 13 between Seno and the Sebang Fai river, with the exception of the alleged entry of some PL into Ban Nadeng to ask where the IV Ser lived, no villages west of RLG 13 in Muong Saraphoum reported any PL movement.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Phillip Gullion, Chief RR/RDD

DATE: September 19, 1969

FROM : Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet

JLW

PJB

HWB

SUBJECT: Refugee Situation.

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As of 1400 hours, 18 September 1969, a total of 2226 refugees from the Muong Phine area, were officially registered in the temporary relocation camp, located at Seno. This total represents 573 families. It is estimated that approximately 150 other refugees have found their way into Savannakhet City and are currently living with relatives.

With the arrival of the first group of refugees, immediate steps were taken by the RLG to assign personnel to the camp site in order to elevate the sense of urgency and importance attached to this refugee movement. Mr. Brailsford, CDAA Seno, was assigned as USAID Liaison to the RLG committee, and he is being given supply assistance by Mr. Dong, my TCN assistant.

In facing the problems of the up-rooted families and developing a short term program to restore hopes and develop confidence in RLG, the following activities were accomplished :

1. Refugees were provided temporary shelter within the former French military compound.
2. A seven (7) day ration of rice was issued to each family.
3. Clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, buckets, plates, bowls, spoons and candles were provided to each family.
4. One well was drilled and is completed with exception of apron and a second one is now being drilled. These two wells will provide sufficient fresh water for the refugees.
5. RLG medics were located at the site to provide necessary immunizations and other health care. Messrs Dugan and Monni, USAID PHD, visited the site to determine medical requirements, brought medical supplies, and arranged for shipment of added medicines.
6. The Lao Information Service passed out literature to the refugees and provided a Mohlam team for entertainment and a certain amount of propaganda.
7. Fire wood is being provided by saw mill owners.
8. Prominent citizens and business men contributed food items.

Looks Good!
fw

X Return File RR

9. A total of 28 buildings are available for occupancy but only 25 are now being used.

10. TP provided empty drums for water storage and also hauled water to the site until the first well was completed.

11. Colonel Noupket, Savannakhet Sub Division Commander, Jack Huxtable and I surveyed the recommended relocation sites on RIG 13 south of Seno. The Chao Khoueng is in agreement with utilizing this area for the refugees.

Activities now being accomplished include :

1. Digging of latrines within the temporary location.
2. Providing a bathing area near each pump.
3. Numbering buildings to show number of families occupying each building.
4. Installation of electric lights in each area.

On Monday, September 22nd, Messrs Brady, Mah Tramany and Osborn, will come to Savannakhet regarding the relocation of these refugees. It is hoped that before they leave, sufficient commitments will have been made so that we can start having individual families clear the landsites for their new homes. If this is done it may be possible to incorporate an DMD chain saw training program with the clearing of the land. The training program is due to start on October 1st. It is also my intent, depending upon resources available, to convince Colonel Noupket to utilize his sawmill at KM 35, to cut lumber for the house frame and floorboards from the felled trees.

As of this date, approximately 150 refugees are gathered at Muong Phine awaiting transport from the area. This has raised minor problems with the Chao Khoueng, concerning utilization of Air America choppers for this purpose, but we are continuing our stand that the RLAF can take care of transporting this small amount of refugees.

cc : Mr. Mann, Director
AD/FO
CDAA/Seno

DRAFT

TO : Charles A. Mann
THRU : John W. MacQueen
FROM : John A. Huxtable
SUBJECT : Muong Phine Refugees

SOC
6-2
area

~~RR~~
Savannakhet

The following comments were prepared after two days of participation in conversations, interviews and relief activities with the newly arrived Muong Phine refugees as well as the villagers, Civil and Military officials in Muong Phalane.

SUMMARY

1. Sept. 15, 1969 2200 refugees have arrived in Muong Phalane from villages within a 12 Km. radius of Muong Phine.
2. It is likely that this number could double or triple if the area around Tchepone is secured for any length of time. Villagers were optimistic about this possibility but confused as to reasons why the PL had left so many areas.
3. Most of the people were able to bring a few important household items with them such as blankets, clothing and cooking utensils. Many, if not the majority of them appear to be better off as far as their personal possessions are concerned than other refugee groups. Women are wearing

Lao skirts, men and children have clothing made from other than Chinese cloth, and radios and other household articles purchased in RLG Savannakhet Province are not uncommon.

4. Immediate relief consisting of rice, temporary housing, typhus, and cholera inoculations as well as smaller household items has been effectively carried out in both M. Phalane and Seno. The provincial, military and social welfare people have responded by providing personnel and vehicles.

5. Resettlement in an area 10 kilometers south of Seno on Rt 13 has been considered. Col. Noupheut, the local Military Commander, a strong leader in the entire Seno-Kengkok region has committed himself to give direction and support for the project. Khoueng officials are not so inclined to work effectively with the Military.

THE EVACUATION

The villagers were grouped in units of 30 each by SGU Team Soldiers before they were airlifted in-to Muong Phalane. Chao Muong Boua Keo who has been on the ground in Muong Phine during the entire operation supervised the registration and screening of villagers. One group, consisting of 20 village officials was sent directly to SVKT for questioning and close observation. The rest of the 2200 people came directly to Muong Phalane and were housed in the three school buildings as well

as the market. The 48 Km Trip from Muong Phine, a 20 minute chopper ride, requires 2 days of walking along Rt 9 and has been chanced by only 5 people according to Phalane villagers. Many refugees indicate that they were unsure of their chances for escape had they made the trip on foot but that they were prepared to take the risk during the present lull period of PL activity had the airlift not been organized.

Two major bridges are out between M. Phalane and M. Phine. Both rivers can be forded during the dry season. The Phalane bridge was damaged in 1968 but has been cobbled together and will support an empty M 211. The road from Dong Hene to Phalane (40 Km) is heavily rutted and in poor condition. M 211 trucks make the trip from SVKT in 5 hours.

In response to the question; Did all of the members from one village come as a unit? Most people said that they had agreed upon this only after they were sure that the Team soldiers would be able to provide transportation and that generally, the entire village came. They were naturally hesitant about talking about people who had chosen not to come or those who had left previously with the PL. but a quick check of the registrar shows that 70% are women and children and that several family units have been taxed for the military.

Most of the refugees were brought out by the Air Force on 9/11 with two teams of 3 helicopters working for approximately 5 hours. The assistance

given by local police and military personnel as well as the coordination of the flights and immediate relief was impressive. Choppers landed to receive the refugees simultaneously in three different pick up zones at Muong Phine. At each pickup point the military had already screened approximately 35 people and their belongings so that loading required at most 8-10 minutes. Again in Phalane the choppers landed together on the school grounds discharging their human cargo with care and efficiency.

Rice and relief supplies arrived from Savannakhet on the same day. One RLG Social Welfare representative with two assistants has been in M. Phalane during the entire operation. Two medics, one RLG and one USAID have given each of the refugees immunization shots and certificates.

Most of the villagers are fat and healthy. A few have scabies dysentary, and malaria. All were enthused with the attention and injections they received by the two young medics. Floor space in the three schools buildings and in the market is still not sufficient for the entire group. Many are sleeping on the ground.

The Se Sam Soi river at Phalane is fresh and clean. One older refugee man remarked to his friends, after he had come up from his bath "It's just like being born again to be here."

VILLAGE LIFE

The 2200 villagers are from an area within a radius of about 10 Kms of

the old village of Muong Phine. They are from 13 different villages that have the following names;

- 1 Ban Mai
- 2 Ban Na Phaw
- 3 Ban Na Pho
- 4 Ban Muong Phine
- 5 Ban Dong Bang
- 6 Ban Nachan
- 7 Ban Laha
- 8 Ban Sa Khoung
- 9 Ban Thalang
- 10q Ban Ke Hout
- 11 Ban Na Ka Han
- 12q Ban Thoun
- 13 Ban Dong Sa Khuang

Approximately 75% of the refugees are ethnic Lao of the Phu Thai group with a slightly different sounding but mutually understandable language (Pai Sai becomes Pai Pi leur). The remaining 25% representing Lao Theung or Kha groups are generally poorer, tend to be less healthy and take a back seat with respect to RLG interest when compared with the ethnic Lao groups. Segregation among these two groups was evident soon after they landed in Phalane as all of the Lao Theung refugees placed themselves apart from the

others in the school building near the river.

Commerce and communication between PL controlled Muong Phine and RLG Savannakhet is not as restricted as RLG officials had imagined. Selected villagers were allowed to go to Savannakhet or Phalane from Muong Phine to make purchases of salt, cloth and other household items. One monk when interviewed added, "PL soldiers are anxious to get things from SVKT and they encouraged trusted villagers to make the dangerous trip." From the number of SVKT purchased items in possession by the refugees one can guess that the "dangerous trip" was made quite often.

The original village of Muong Phine which appears on French Indochina maps even before Phalane no longer exists. The layout of villages conforms to the contours of bamboo lined streams and large trees that offer protection from planes. Plowing rice paddys at night and constant attention to evasive measures from jets have been the key to survival in this area during the last nine years. The Forest is poka dotted with expended parachutes from flare drops and as one descends on the Muong Phine area by helicopter it is next to impossible to note anyvillage houses. Aluminum canisters from the flares have been used extensively to make imaginative utensils ranging from pots and spoons to suitcases that rival Samsonite.

This year's rice crop in the Muong Phine Area has been planted and looks good. The local Military commander has proposed that the road be graded

at the beginning of the dry season and that the villagers be given the opportunity to return to harvest their crop. If security is maintained along route 9 this may be feasible but would require a close look at the transportation costs involved as compared with our supplying the same amount of rice that they would be able to harvest.

The village boasts two State stores; one is a Muong shop in Ban Na Chann and the other is for the Khoueng located in the forest. Bargaining is impossible with set prices on the scanty available merchandise. Some of the prices in Muong Phine are

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Rubber tire sandals | 100 Kip |
| 2. Chinese tea pot | 500 Kip |
| 3. Haircut | 10 Kip |

The shops have set hours for business.

MONEY

It is forbidden to have RLG money. Items sold to the PL include; pigs, chickens, fruits, sugar cane. Salt is often traded by the PL to the villagers for animals. Villagers suppose that the newly printed bank notes are made in Hanoi. Savings by villagers can be deposited in a "Peoples Bank" and will draw interest at about 1%.

RELIGION

Several monks were asked to compare religious life with what they had

experienced before the PL came to Muong Phine. The overwhelming reaction is that "The PL do not respect religion". "They force us to attend govt. meetings and include affairs of State in our curriculum". They noted that the PL referred to religion as the "way of making the land provide us with enough rice to eat."

Bouns were greatly restricted. The PL decided when and where they would be held and then recorded everything that was consumed, all money earned as well as time spent in their preparation. Offerings to the wat were discouraged as were all other ways to make merit. Monks were not allowed to receive food from the villagers, yet, were forced to contribute labor in the fields.

One of the most difficult aspects of religious life under the PL is the constant "critic" that is underway in the wat concerning traditional customs of the Lao society. Expensive funerals, weddings and drinking Lao Lao are discouraged.

EDUCATION

There is no doubt that considerable emphasis is placed on education even at the lowest level. I was unable to find any PL textbooks in Phalane, but villagers explained that they were plentiful in Muong Phine. Village school teachers are not paid but are given a chance to move up the ranks and go away to study at Teacher Training centers. Several young men (Age 15-17) in the group explained that they were forced to learn an American phrases and

slogans. During our conversations they were extremely interested that I was speaking Lao and was about their same size. They told me that a Soviet man had visited Muong Phine about a year ago and that he was a "giant".

GOVERNMENT

The Pho Ban represents the lowest echelon in the PL government. He usually has two or three assistants and is responsible for approximately 50-70 people. Pho Bans, and Tassengs are elected by the people and approved by the PL. The Chao Muong is called upon to settle differences when they exist. Villagers who break the law may be tried by a peoples court and sent away to study. I did not have time to pursue the judicial system.

Other aspects of life in Muong Phine touched upon in our limited conversations included public Health and the Vietnamese presence. Medicine was apparently very scarce and medics were always with the military units instead of in the villages. They recalled the numerous amputations that they had seen and claimed that amputees were cared for by the government in a special camp in the forest. Villagers were not allowed to visit these or military camps even though they had carried military equipment nearby.

Vietnamese advisors had been present in varying numbers and at various levels of the government during the 9 years. None of the villagers I talked with claimed to speak Vietnamese but several said that they could understand a little.

Limited time and the relatively small number of people who appeared to be politically aware enough for worthwhile interviews prevented our gaining any further information in Muong Phalane. I hope to be able to talk with the group of village leaders who were brought out first to Savannakhet.

Oct. 01, 1969

TO : Mr. Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet

FROM : Van B.S. Henderson, Area Agr. Advisor, Savannakhet

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, Sept. 1 - 30, 1969

I. PROBLEMS AND/OR POTENTIAL PROBLEMSACTION TAKEN

1. Additional personnel are needed to assist in following-up existing agriculture programs and to help execute planned programs in Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces.

Action is being taken by AC and the Agr Div to obtain additional FSL positions for the Savannakhet Region.

The problems and potential problems are very evident. A continued lack of personnel could jeopardize the successful implementation and completion of agriculture programs in both provinces.

II. STATUS OF ONGOING AND/OR DELAYED SCHEDULED ACTIVITIESADO:

1. The pump that is to be removed from Sikhay is still at the site ... it will be removed as soon as the roads are dry enough to dispatch a truck into the area.
2. Visits were made to Ban Thasano by members of ADO/BP, RLK Agriculture, USAID/Agriculture Staff/Savannakhet and the CDAA/Seno to discuss the formation of a Water User's Association. The visits were made at the request of the farmers ... however, there were not enough farmers interested in a pump project to justify a large pump.

CROPS AND SOILS:

1. No major problems exist with the SSS, fertilizer, or variety trial sites ... the problems of insects are solved with timely sprayings. The SSS sites are visited 1-2 times per week.
2. The early maturing varieties in the variety trials were harvested.

EXTENSION AND HOME ECONOMICS:

1. Two additional Farmer Leaders' Classes will be conducted this month ... the classes were rescheduled (approved by the Acting Chief of Crops Improvement and Production) in Kengkok (Savannakhet Province).
2. Two (2) Village Home Economic Training Programs were rescheduled in Savannakhet because of a Home Economic Agents' Training Course that will be held in Vientiane.
3. One Home Economic Village Training Program was started in Thakhek.

IRRIGATION:

See Irrigation Report for Central Southern Region.

III. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADO: Savannakhet:

1. A total of 1,591 bags of fertilizer was sold this month (1,571 bags credit ... 20 bags cash).
2. The following quantities of rice was sent to Vientiane:
 - Paddy - 13,553 kgs
 - Milled - 192,000 kgs
3. A total of 21 tons of consumption rice was loaned to the farmers in Phoumachedy ... the recipients were the victims of the drought that occurred in that area.

Khammouane:

1. A total of 226 bags of fertilizer was sold this month ... 58 kgs of insecticide.
2. Crops and Soils transferred 2,258 kgs of rice to ADO from the 1968/69 dry season two-hectare site.
3. Two new pumps were received to replace the used units installed at Hat Xieng Dy during 1968/69 dry season.

Note: For full report, see ADO/BP reports from Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces.

EXTENSION AND HOME ECONOMICS:

1. Thirteen (13) field tours were conducted to rice demonstrations in Savannakhet Province ... 390 farmers attended. Five (5) similar tours were conducted in Khammouane Province ... 150 farmers attended.

2. Two (2) Farmer Leaders' Training Courses have been conducted in both Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces (a total of four courses ... 20 persons per course). The courses were conducted at the following places: Savannakhet, Lahanam, Thakhek, and Nongbok.
3. Thirty (30) farmers were brought from Ban Thapho (Savannakhet) to visit the Lahanam pump sites and to talk to the members of the pump groups (after the initial visit made to their village by the RIG Agriculture, ADO, and USAID/Agriculture Team to discuss the formation of a Water Users' Association). After their visit to Lahanam 24 farmers decided to join the Association.
4. RIG Agriculture Extension Thakhek in conjunction with ADO/BP Thakhek conducted a method demonstration on the application and use of the newly stocked motorized sprayer ... 40 persons attended the demonstration (held in Ban Nong Boua).
5. One-day training sessions on how to use and maintain hand sprayers were conducted in Ban Phong (Zone Nakheua-Khammouane Province) for 53 farmers from three villages in the area ... and in Ban Song Muong Tay (Zone Nongbong) for 23 farmers representing five (5) villages in the area.

IRRIGATION:

1. Three (3) areas were visited this month for the purpose of discussing pump proposal (including right-of-way) and forming a Farmers' Water Users' Association. The villages that were visited were: Ban Thakane, Lahanam #2 (for extension), and Ban Thapho. Farmers at Lahanam #2 and Ban Thapho have accepted the plan and ADO/BP Savannakhet will get the contracts signed soon.
2. Irrigation Engineers are conducting training programs in parts of the refugees resettlement site in Seno (Savannakhet Province).

A preliminary feasibility study has been made for five (5) proposed dam sites intended for storing water for human consumption and livestock. Approximately 2,800 persons could benefit from the construction of the dams.

IV. INFORMATION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS

A. Meetings/Conferences have been held in Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces with the Provincial Agriculture Chiefs, Chiefs of Extension and Crops and Soils, also IVS/Agriculturists and ADO Representatives. Some of the major subjects discussed or planned were:

Savannakhet and Thakhek:

- a. School Garden Program (seed distribution, assistance to be given by RLQ/Agriculture, etc.)
- b. Agriculture Fair.
- c. Tour to Thailand (Experiment stations and commercial vegetables and fruits producers).
- d. Farmer Leaders Training Courses.
- e. Budget for FY-70.
- f. Tours to rice trials (incl. SSS type) and demonstrations.
- g. Small paddy tractor demonstration.

V. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SECURITY MATTERS AFFECTING THE PROGRAM

N o n e

VI. MISUSE OR DIVERSION OF PROJECT COMMODITY

N o n e

VII. PROJECT COMMODITY EXCESS OR RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

N o n e

VIII. TECHNICAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Number of days</u>
- Administration	Frank Rhinhart	1
- Irrigation	O.K. Brown	2

IX. ESTIMATE NUMBER OF DAYS DURING REPORTING PERIOD WHICH THE AGRICULTURE ADVISOR DEVOTED TO

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of days</u>
A. Administration and Planning	3
B. Agriculture Development Organization	2
C. Crops and Soils	3
D. Extension and Home Economics	15
E. Irrigation	3

X. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND/OR EXECUTED DURING THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Estimate Number of days</u>
A. Administration and Planning	2
B. Agriculture Development Organization	2
C. <u>Crops and Soils</u>	
- Assist harvesting trials	1
- Assist harvesting seed production fields	1
D. <u>Extension</u>	
- Assist farmer leaders training in Kengkok	7
- Assist farmers tours to rice production demonstrations and to small tractor operation demonstration.	5
E. Irrigation	3

AGR:VBSHenderson:Dvh
Oct. 01, 1969

October 2, 1969

T O : Mr. Sanford J. Stone, AC/Svkt
FROM : Mr. Richard N. Constantino, CEA/South
SUBJECT : MONTHLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 1969

PROBLEMS

The generator and electric pump are still causing problems at the ENI. The CEA requested the assistance of seven mechanics to install the generator but it was found that the instruction manual was not available and wiring had been connected incorrectly. It is hoped that the generator will work when the booklet arrives. The electric pump will be installed immediately by drilled well crew FWD/Savannakhet when it arrives.

This problem was solved in early October. *M*

Mr. Seng, EDU Assistant, reports that various items urgently needed in Savannakhet for the ENI and the PSIs are not arriving. They are obviously being held in the ATOG warehouse since some items have come after three months delay. Four boxes of teaching aids were lost in March and have never been recovered. Other items are presumed lost since they have not been received after a four month delay.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS AND STATUS

The PSI/Svkt is still concerned about land for schools in downtown Savannakhet. He has not met with any success so is presently concentrating on land in the suburbs. The PSI, CDAA and CEA visited a plot of land given by the military in Nong Mek (kilometer 2) on the road to Kengkok. The land is excellent for a school and on high ground with no danger of flooding. The construction of a school on this site will be included with the other urban schools in Savannakhet.

An AP will be submitted by RDD/Svkt on four urban schools in Savannakhet City. These Groupe Scolaires are Phonesavanh, Rattanarangsy, Chomkeo, and Nong Mek which will be constructed as concrete block schools in FY70. The CDAA has agreed to construct these schools under RDD.

A meeting was held with the PSI, CDAA and CEA to discuss FY70 schools. A total of 61 classrooms will be submitted in an AP by RDD/Savannakhet.

A visit was made by the CEA to Seno to determine number of teachers and children who are refugee there. Two qualified teachers have already reported to the PSI requesting teaching

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assignments. There are also seven more CNEC teachers who came from Mouang Phine and who would like to be assigned as teachers. A report on an interview with two teachers will be submitted to EDU/Vientiane. When the refugees are settled, schools will be built and teachers will be cleared for teaching by the MoE.

The PSI/Kengkok and the Chao Muong have not reached a decision as to whether the college of Kengkok or the Groupe Scolaire should be constructed first. The present status is to construct the college and begin with the Groupe Scolaire in June 1970. A meeting was held with the Chao Muong of Muong Phong, PSI, Chao Muong of Muong Champhone, Tasseng of Kengkok, CEA and CDAA to discuss USAID contribution and villagers responsibilities for building the school. It was agreed that ten classrooms would be constructed on a self-help basis and a future meeting with the PSI and Chao Muongs, Tassengs and Naibans would determine how the money would be raised for construction of the Groupe Scolaire.

A meeting was held with Mr. Chessin, CDAA/Thakhek to discuss the renovations for the PSI Office. The CDAA stated that RDD could not write the AP for this work so it is recommended that EDU/Svkt write the project under urban construction. The survey was completed by Mr. Jett, PWD/Svkt and the AP is ready for submission to EDU/Vientiane.

The AP for construction of a six room replacement at the Thakhek Groupe Scolaire will be submitted by RDD. It will be a cement block school and the construction site will be next to the new Groupe Scolaire built under force account.

The proposed self-help schools for Khammouane province will be submitted by RDD since the PSI has approved the AP showing rural and refugee schools.

The CEA and Assistant have been unable to visit Nong Bok due to difficulties in pre-arranging transportation.

All elementary schools opened on September 1st. No problems were encountered except that sufficient teachers were not available and the PSIs had to hire more CNEC teachers this year. The PSIs will submit their first statistical report later this month.

All PSIs will bring in their vehicles for inspection at the USAID Motor Pool to determine spare parts needed. The MoE will supply all parts needed.

It was learned from EDU/Vientiane that the PSI Conference will be held in Thakhek. The PSI has already set up the field trips and he and the CEA have made preparations for housing,

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scheduling, etc. The Conference will probably be held during the month of January.

All GDAA's in the South have been given copies of the Plan of construction of toilets for rural schools. These toilets will be included in the AP's for Groupe Scolaires and construction will be on self-help bases.

Dr. Collins was unable to come to Savannakhet this month to discuss the possibility of a comprehensive high school. The AC has already surveyed the property which is close to the city and which can be made available. Dr. Collins will visit Savannakhet on October 9th.

The Director of the ENI is ready for the opening of the school year. School supplies have not arrived and he requested assistance in getting the supplies as quickly as possible. The IVS teacher of English, Mr. T. Hunter Wilson has reported for his teaching assignment and all Lao teachers have reported to the Director.

Two generator operators from the ENI returned one week early from their training program in Vientiane. They did not receive the practical training since the Director requested their return to Savannakhet. Mr. Somsith, Teaching Aids Teacher, also returned from his ten day training course in Vientiane.

The Director of the Technical School Savannakhet requested a teacher of English for the Commercial Section of the Technical School last year and reiterated his need for the teacher since English is a required subject for this section. Also a meeting was held with the Director to discuss the Auto Repair Shop Activity Plan. He requested assistance with this project and has already accumulated sand and gravel for the construction. Also machines and equipment have arrived from French Aid and spare parts from USAID.

cc: Mr. Norman W. Green, CEA/National
Mr. Dan Cox, Teacher Training Advisor

October 6, 1969

TO : Mr. Sanford J. Stone, AG/Savannakhet
FROM : Mr. Alfred H. Brailsford, CDAA/Seno *AKB*
SUBJECT: Monthly Report - September 1969.

I. PROBLEMS -

A. How best to improve lines of communication to remote villages? Once villagers have cut or cleared routes to their village, it then becomes necessary for RIG or USAID support to improve these routes. Many routes can be made into all weather routes with some heavy equipment and culvert support. At the same time, we would increase the economic development of the village.

AG is attempting to solve this problem as indicated in covering report.

The Agriculture advisor and Well Drilling advisor have requested that I push road improvement in order for ADO to form pump cooperatives and to accommodate well drilling rig, where there is a requirement.

Perhaps, a bulldozer, grader, dump truck and a front end loader would be programmed for this area.

B. How best to improve the protein available for the diet of the villagers? Here again, a bulldozer could be used to assist villager in digging ponds to stock fingerlings as well as to build small dams to provide water for the growing of vegetables.

There has been no thorough study of this problem, by area, as of this time, and it is possible other solutions will be found.

II. GENERAL -

During the past month we have experienced favorable progress in areas of community development concentration; coupled with the fact that a great deal of attention was given to the population movement to refugee camp located in Seno. A short-term program was initiated, with increasing emphasis being placed on long-term rehabilitation and resettlement of the refugees. Total number of refugees now in camp 2,733; total number of refugees arrived from Muong Phine 3,120.

III. ACCOMPLISHMENT, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS -

Dong Hene Cluster

1. One classroom school located at Ban Pa Lay, Dong Hene Cluster was completed on 25 September 1969. This was a Civic Action project supported

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Dong Hene Cluster (continued)

by USAID with SRDP Funds.

2. AP #34/0062-1-0026, a four-classroom school located at Ban Phakchanhia, approximately 15% completed, work continues.

3. Draft APs prepared and submitted to AC/Svkt for construction of the following schools :

- a. Ban Na Phek - 3 classrooms (Demi-Groupe Scolaire).
- b. Ban Dong Khouang - Pong Dong - 3 classrooms (Groupe Scolaire).
- c. Ban Na - 3 classrooms (Groupe Scolaire).
- d. Ban Nong Say - 1 classroom (New School).
- e. Ban Na Laydong - 1 classroom (Replace Wat).

4. Draft AP for dispensary at Muong Phalane, no change from previous month.

Savannakhet Non-Cluster

Muong Khanthabouly

1. SRDP - SVKT 69-09, one classroom school at Ban Nachalit, 100% completed, including student's tables and chairs.

2. AP # 33/9062-1-9212, one classroom school at Ban Ton Pheung and Ban Long are approximately 90% completed.

3. AP # 31/9062-1-9217, Three-classrooms school at Ban Nong Kom approximately 65% completed, work continues.

4. AP #36/0062-1-0022, Ban That Inghang and Ban Phone Sim school construction not yet underway.

5. AP #28/0062-1-0039, Ban Mo Muong, school improvement 100% completed.

6. AP # 28 Ban Paksebangfai, construction must wait for dry season. Construction at Ban Houei continues and project is estimated at 30% complete.

7. The following drilled wells were completed :

- Seno (Refugee Camp) 2 wells
- Seno Wat (VD-0043) Charge 36,000K.
- Ban Houei Phaknam (VD-0941) No charge.

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8. On 3 September, the Agr., ADO, CDAA and RIG officials, visited Ban That Sano, to confer with villagers concerning an irrigation project for growing dry season rice.

Muong Saraphoun

1. AP # 32/9062-1-9211, Ban Saysoung-Beung Se (VD-8887), three classroom school construction complete with the exception of concrete flooring. As soon as sand and gravel can be collected from the Sebangfai river, the concrete flooring will be completed.

2. AP # 30/9062-1-9190, construction of four classroom schools in Muong Saraphoun not underway. When sawmill become available for lumber production, construction will commence.

3. AP # 26/9167, Same as above.

4. Draft AP submitted for construction of the Na Deang market remain in OP. We were informed that AP approval should come next week.

5. CDAA will meet with the Chao Muong, Nai Bans and Tassengs on 6 Oct. 69, to discuss and formulate plans in order to present a proposal for future community development.

6. On 6 Sept. 69, the Deputy Chao Khoueng, Chief CRA and Chief of Lao Information Service attended a ceremony at Ban Nao Neua to honor the Student Association for the Demi-groupe scolaire.

IV. SECURITY -

It was reported that PL entered Ban Coc, at (VD-9635) during the first week of Sept. and that three (3) PLs entered Ban Xong (VD-9337) and Ban Nakoy (VD-9731) on 9 September 1969.

V. COMMENTS -

The CDAA, Education Advisor and PSI/Svkt discussed the school program for 1969-70.

Villagers of Ban Tha Pho have agreed to form a water users association.

cc : RDD

TO: Stone

Oct, 6, 1969

FROM: Alfred H. Brailsford, CDAA/Seno

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Sept 1969 (Exerpts)

It was reported that PL entered Ban Loc (VD-9635) during the first week of Sept. and that 3 PL entered B n Xong (VD-9337) and Ban Nakoy (VD-9731) on 9 Sept 1969.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

October 11, 1969

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director, USAID
FROM : Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet Region
SUBJECT: Monthly Activity Report, September 1969.

I. PROBLEMS

A. Reference is made to my Monthly Activity Report, August 1969, in which the personnel problems, created by the removal of IVSers from field locations, were discussed and recommendations were submitted for possible solution. During the month, this AC discussed this problem with various personnel at Headquarters USAID and received information, substantially to the effect that nothing would be done until the Director decided how to handle the overall IVS program placement problem. This AC could not understand how such a decision would affect our program activities as long as IVS maintains the position that it does not want its personnel working in the countryside. As a result, the RDD and Agriculture Divisions were asked to take steps toward obtaining additional FSL positions for this Region so that we may recruit personnel to assist in program activities at key locations within the Region.

At the time the request was made we were not aware of David Wiger's intention to leave Thakhek (see CDAA/Thakhek report attached). Neither Mr. Van Henderson nor I can blame Mr. Wiger for making such a decision because there is not a full time job for such an ambitious person within the confines of Thakhek. We also agree, however, and for almost the same preceding reason, that the departure would not be as serious a problem in the overall Mission program as depicted in the report. The Agricultural program in Khammouane is clearly documented as is its support and Mr. Van Henderson can arrange schedules to keep it running and will ask no more of Mr. Chessin than to arrange, as required, for some-one to carry messages to the Provincial Agricultural Chief, and on occasion, perhaps take some emergency action. Of course, without Agriculture personnel located in the field, we are already demanding too much of Mr. Van Henderson, and if Mr. Wiger decides to leave, this office will take steps necessary to acquire either an American contract or an FSL position for Thakhek.

B. Reference is made to both Mr. Brailsford's and Mr. Chessin's reports regarding requirements for heavy equipment. The need for this type of equipment at the Regional level has been emphasized many times during the past 3 years, however, utilization planned was considered low priority at the national level. Community Development personnel have been asked to study projects for which heavy equipment will be needed and to submit activity plans for commitment of PWD machinery or necessary funding to support TP equipment that may remain idle as a result of the cutback in construction funds in the national budget. The progress has been slow due to the lack of CDAA personnel (now solved), inability to get into various areas

..//...

during the rainy season by road and the lack of engineering advice at this level.

In the Nong Bok area, where much emphasis has been made on village and inter-village road development, experience has shown that the villagers are unable to do an adequate job without the assistance of heavy equipment and dump trucks. Here again, the CDAA has been developing plans to assist these projects through FAR Engineer Civic Action.

C. A continuing problem for this AC is the interpretation placed on USAID restrictions of road travel by Americans. Such interpretations have resulted in a slowdown in American visitation to certain program or potential program sites and has created an additional problem of providing aircraft for visits deemed necessary. Specifically involved during the past few months are the Sebangfai River Bridge construction project, road travel in Khammouane as far as Nam Thone, and again, in Khammouane, road travel from Thakhek to Nong Bok. In each of these areas, it is this AC's opinion that such travel can be undertaken with minimum and often no risk to the traveler.

According to incidents, affecting security of roads, visits to Nong Bok are the only questionable road travel in the three areas, mentioned above. However, the Chao Muong Sebangfai, travels this road at least three times per week and it is known that USAID vehicles continue to traverse this stretch without positive interference by the Pathet Lao. The few incidents experienced by USAID personnel have resulted in brief delays and both personnel and vehicles have been permitted to proceed without harm or damage.

Because of unavailability of a helicopter for daily use by the Savannakhet Region and because of the constant need for visits by American Community Development Advisors and Technicians to areas, similar to those mentioned above, it is believed necessary to re-state road travel policy at the Vientiane level. This statement could be worded in such a way to preclude responsible USAID personnel from taking courses of action that eliminates road travel just to be on the safe side and should permit flexibility in taking minimum risks based on current intelligence information and actual degree of enemy harassment of traffic in a given area.

II. PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS AND STATUS -

A. During the month Messrs Robert Wulff and Jerry Nell were added to the Community Development staff of the Region. Their availability to handle program planning, and project implementation and supervision in the Kengkok and Lahanam areas will permit greater attention to be paid to the overall program activities and operations within the Region.

../...

B. The return of Mr. Jack Morgan, Irrigation Engineer, from home leave in early October is being anticipated and he will be asked to make a thorough investigation of the projects, both ongoing and proposed by Mr. Chessin, in the Nong Bok area. Heavy equipment, requested by the CDAA/Thakhek, will be held in abeyance until such investigations have been completed.

C. During September, operations by Government forces in the Muong Phine (XD1029) area resulted in the movement of more than 3,000 refugees to Seno. The refugees are being housed in building within the FAR installation and at the month's end they were being made as comfortable as possible and being supported, within the limits of the refugee relief program, by a combined committee of Khoueng officials, military personnel, and USAID community development personnel.

As soon as it was determined that most of these refugees did not want to return to their old homesteads, relocation sites were sought and a definite area was established in a 60 square kilometer area, south of Seno along RIG 13. Mr. Manh Tramany, Director of Resettlement, RIG, Mr. Hugh Brady, RR & R, USAID, and Mr. Miles Osborn, Advisor to the Ministry of Social Welfare of resettlement activities, visited Savannakhet for a three day period to determine relocations requirements. They obtained sufficient data to assure the validity of such a requirement and also solicited and received approval of the Chao Khoueng and the Provincial Council for utilizing the recommended area for this project, so that a draft activity plan could be prepared.

Because there are no RR & R personnel located at this Regional Headquarters, Mr. Al Brailsford, CDAA/Seno, his Field Assistants, and the Senior Field Assistant to the AC, have been utilized in the USAID support given to the refugees and the committee.

D. As indicated in Mr. Sebastian's CEA/South report, he has been working closely with CDAA's in the school construction planning for this area, specifically those in Savannakhet City. Although the CDAA/Svkt and I agree that more Groupe Scolaires are needed within the city, we lack authority to make the final decisions in these matters and what the CEA probably means, in his report, is that the CDAA has agreed to write APs for these projects. Further, although 61 classrooms may be on the PSI/Svkt planning table, this number was not considered in FY 70 USAID planning and some classrooms may have to be carried over to FY 71.

E. Although we agree with the CEA/South that toilets should be included in rural school projects, we also know that planning for water seal toilets is foolish if there is no immediate available water supply. Therefore additional commodity expenditures for such structures will be thoroughly scrutinized before approval at the Regional level. If toilets are considered to be such a necessity, perhaps we should be more logical in our approach and start building the old fashioned "two seater" that can be moved around when relocation becomes necessary.

..../...

F. During the month of September, we received excellent support from RDD in eliminating the problem of lengthy processing of activity plans. We sincerely hope that new procedures established will negate recurrence of such problems.

G. See attached reports for other achievements and project status.

III. MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS -

A. As stated in paragraph IIC, government troops conducted an operation, during the month, which resulted in the taking of Muong Phine. The slight resistance encountered altered the original time table for this maneuver and instead of withdrawing from that area as previously planned, troops pushed on east of Muong Phine. At the close of the month, although optimism has been somewhat reduced, this area is still in government hands.

B. The only other incident, worthy of mentioning in the Savannakhet Region, was a brief skirmish between FAR and PL forces in the Nong Bok area. In this incident a FAR patrol surprised a PL unit on the move and though a fire fight followed, there apparently were no casualties to either side. Evaluation of the enemy intent in this incident varies widely from a planned attack on Nong Bok Village to a rice collection foray. Inasmuch as past experience shows incidents in which the PL entered parts of Nong Bok Village, for various purposes, without firing a shot or attempting to destroy either village or USAID property, this AC is inclined to agree with the rice collection mission.

IV. VISITORS AND USAID Technician Assistance -

A. Mr. Stewart, Chief BPR, accompanied Mr. Saykham, Director of Roads and Bridges, RIG, to Savannakhet to determine the status of the Sebangfai River Bridge construction. Mr. Lincoln and other BPR technicians continued to make their TDY visits to check on road and bridge construction and the status of equipment maintenance and repair.

B. Mr. Earl Young, PWD Well Drilling Advisor, continued to provide coverage of the Savannakhet effort and assisted greatly in the emergency completion of two wells at the temporary refugee location in Seno.

C. Messrs Dugan, Monnie, Wills and Naris, of PHD, made intermittent visits to the Region to assist in the Public Health program. They were also instrumental in setting up and supplying an inoculation and medical care program for the Muong Phine refugees.

D. Mr. Jack Huxtable, Chief of the Community Development Branch, RDD, spent three days in Savannakhet giving invaluable assistance in handling the flow of refugees from Muong Phine and organizing required support.

E. On September 14th, Mr. Stearns, DCM, accompanied by Mr. Mann and Mr. MacQueen visited Savannakhet and obtained first hand information and observation of the refugee sites and situation.

..../..

F. On September 19th, Messrs Blumgart, Cookson, Beckerich, accompanied by Mr. Tony Hartman, visited Savannakhet to evaluate a previous report submitted on development of a vehicle ferry service between Mukdaharn, Thailand, and Savannakhet and the requirements for harbor facilities in Savannakhet. It is hoped that they were sincerely impressed with such needs because we sincerely believe that the recommended input will be a great boon in the development of the economy in this area.

G. On September 23 and 24, Messrs John MacQueen and Bob Anderson visited both Savannakhet and Khammouane Provinces to review the community development effort and requirements in personnel and commodities.

V. OTHER -

A. Mr. Terry Collin, RR Operations Officer, departed post on September 7th to return to the United States.

B. Mr. Robert Wulff, arrived at Savannakhet, to assume duties as the CDAA/Lahenam.

C. Mr. Larry Nell was signed to a 6 month contract and became the CDAA/Kengkok.

5 Enclosures

AGR/Adv Report
CEA Report
CDAA/Seno Report
CDAA/Thakhek Report
Nong Bok Report

TO: Mann

Oct 11, 1969

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Montly Report Sept 1969 (Exerpts)

During Sept operation by government forces in the Muong Phine (MD-1029) area resulted in the movement of more than 3000 refugees to Seno, the refugees are being housed in building within the FAR installation and at the month's end they were being made as comfaortable as possible and being supported by a combined committee of Khoueng officials, military personnel and USAID community development personnel.

As soon as it was determined that ~~most~~ of these refugees did not want to return to their old homesteads, relocation sites were sought and a definite area was established in a 60 Km square area, ~~south of~~ south of Seno along RLG 13, Mr. Manh Traimany, Director of MSW resettlement, Mr. Hugh Brady, RR&R/RDD, and Mr. Milies O Sborn, advisor to the Ministry of SW. visited Savannakhet for a 3 days period to determine relocation requirements. They obtained sufficient data to assure the validity of such a requirement and also solicited and received approval of the Chao Khoueng and the Provincial council for utilizing the recommended area for this project, so that an activity plan could be prepared.

III Military and Security Developments:

A. Government troops conductwd on operation during the month which resulted in the taking of Muong Phine. The slight resistance encountered altered the original timetable for this maneuver and instead of withdrawing from that area as previously planned, troops pushed on east of Muong Phine. At the close of the month, although aptimisin has been somewhat reduced, this area is still in government hanhs.

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ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Stone

FROM: Nell

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Oct 1969 (Exerpts)

Security has caused a problem in the area, all work east of the Se Champhone river has stopped. This was caused by the collapse of Bung Xang. However, no real effort was being made across the river at this time.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Stone

Nov. 5, 1969

FROM: Robert Wulff, CDAA/Lahanam

SUBJECT: Monthly Report Oct. 1969 (Exerpts)

On Oct 28 a mixed group of PL and NVA troops was reported moving in on Songkhon village located about 6 Km. SE of Lahanam. The enemy plan was reported to be a two pronged attack with 200 enemy hitting Songkhon and another ~~g~~/ 200 moving in on Lahanam.

Late afternoon of the 28th found the PL units on the edge of Songkhon and T-28 airstrikes were called in. After the airstrikes the enemy pulled back to positions several kilometers distant and continued their rice collecting mission.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Mann

Nov 14, 1969

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report Oct 1969 (Exerpts)

III MILITARY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. Enemy pressure in the Ban Tang Vai (WD-7013) area caused withdrawal of FAR from that region in mid-October and Ban Bung Xang (WD-4012) was overrun by PL/NVA forces near the end of the month.

B. The USAID staff in Lahanam was withdrawn to Ban Paksong as a result of reported PL movement toward Ban Songkhone and Lahanam, an airstrike on the outskirts of Songkhone on 28 October apparently discouraged further progress by the PL and at the end of the month they were reported to be engaged in rice collection activities in villages east of Songkhone.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Stone

Dec 1, 1969

FROM: Nell

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - November 1969 (Exerpts)

C. Refugees:

The enemy action along with friendly action has been responsible for the burning of two villages. Ban Taleo (WD-2715) and Ban Nakathang (WD-2717) are now almost tatally destroyed. We have registered 120 families from Ban Taleo and 80 families from Nakathang. Along with these villages we have people from Bung Xang who moved out last month and settled in Taleo.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Stone

Dec. 2, 1969

FROM: Brailsford

SUBJECT: Monthly Report Nov. 1969 (Exerpts)

Dong Hene Cluster:

During the week of 2-8 November it was reports that the PL. entered Ban Na Phek, Ban Dong Khouang, Ban Malaidong and Ban Mong Say daily. USAID school projects are on going in each of these villages.

Muang Saraphoum:

It has been reported that one company of PL are now in Ban Na Mouang (VD-9678) and Ban Kachou (VD-9679).

On 23 November the PL ambushed and killed two chinese merchants on Rte. 13 they have also conducted meetings in Ban Nao Tay (VD-8777), Ban Nao Neua (VD-8875) and Ban Dong Phou (VD-8879).

ORA:ps:7-20-71

FILE:
SAVANNAKHET

US.AID MISSION TO LAOS

PUBLIC HEALTH

SAVANNAKHET

AREA

1. Refugees were in Ban Houei-Sai Dispensary . They were come from the following villages after the enemies were coming in their villages . (about 60 families - 300 people).

1. Ban Talao Noi
2. Ban Netai
3. Ban Phone Kho WD 2712
4. Ban Tane Kone WD 3114
5. Ban Dong Katap
6. Ban Bane Dong WD 2712
7. Ban Hong Khong WD 2711

2. Refugee in Ban Mang Khay WD 2101 , Tasseng Labakhok, Muang Sangkhae . About 30 families - 150 people. These refugees come from :

1. Ban Hengkho
2. Ban Bane Dong

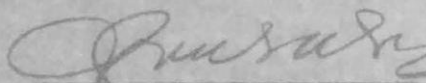
3. Refugee in Ban Pakseong Lahanan were coming from Ban Hong Boen . About 7 families - 35 people .

Notes: -Refugee in Houei-Sai is reported by Medic Khannavanh in charge Ban Houei-Sai Dispensary on December 3, 1969 .

-Refugee in Ban Mang Khay is reported by Medic Boumlan VANTHE in charge Ban Nakala Dispensary on December 2, 1969 .

Savannakhet , December 3 , 1969

Medic Supervisor Savannakhet

 Dec. 3, 69

Mr. VORASARN,

TO: Mann

Dec 9, 1969

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report November 1969 (Exerpts)

As can be evidenced by attached monthly reports from CDAAAs, security problems have brought community development work in the countryside to a virtual standstill. Enemy activity, both military and rice collection, throughout the province, has made it necessary to use extreme caution when travelling the major roads and therefore we have had to abandon support for some projects even though they are in areas free of PL activity, extreme pressure, both military and propaganda wise, in the Kengkok area has eliminated any work possibilities on projects in Nuong Phong and Sourihakham and in Muong Champhone east of Kengkok, in the Seno area, movement of PL across RIG 13 in the vicinity of the Seno refugee relocation site, and some mortaring near the Seno camp, has caused the withdrawal of the survey crew and the well drilling rig. In Muong Saraphoum, reports of PL build-up ~~at~~ east of RIG 13 and some small unit clashes west of the route, have caused us to restrict USAID traffic north of Seno. In other Muongs, villagers are showing concern over what they think is a deteriorating security situation and have little enthusiasm for planning or working on self-help projects. However, as will be noted in attached reports, there was still some progress made on USAID supported projects in each of the above mentioned areas.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

List of Muong, municipality. cheek point. Taseng, Ban,
population in Savannakhet province controlled by government 1970

check point	Taseng	Ban	Laos	Trangers.
<u>No: municipality.</u>				
1/. municipality	5	18	24.904	5.824
2/. M.Khanthaboury 2	7	61	24.530	old cheek point at Xebangfai Houa Hat.
3/. M.Saraphoum	7	48	17.615	
4/. M.Outhoumphone 1	8	66	23.107	1659 old cheek point at Ban na
5/. M.Saphangthong	7	40	12.007	37
6/. M.PhaLane	7	63	12.055	
7/. M.AtsaPhone 1	7	79	19.802	14 Bans 1543 persons were under controlle by P.L since 1968
8/. M.Phoummachedy	6	40	14.022	
9/. M.Sepone 4	2		827	P.L controlled since 1961 in present time just only refugees.
10/. M.Phine 1			2.849	
11/. M. Champhone	12	101	40.938	65
12/. M.Suriyakham	6	45	13.693	old cheek-point at Ban Lao.
13/. M.Phong 1	8	92	18.501	Cheek-point LamThouay
14/. M.SongKhone 2	16	129	37.987	Cheek-point Kengta Ngane old one Thapat Sum.
15/. M.PhouVieng	5	45	7.649	old cheek-point Houai Munh.
12	102	827	2270.486	7.592
		Total.....278.078 persons.		

TO: Stone

1470
Jan 5, 1969

FROM: Nell

SUBJECT: Monthly Report Dec 1969 (Exerpts)

Military, the FAR and FAN units have succeeded in pushing through to Muong Phong. They are still engaged in a clearing action in the jungle areas northeast of Kengkok.

Refugees in the Kengkok area are slowly going back to their villages as security improves.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Mann

1970
Jan 12, 1969

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: MONTHLY Report - Dec 1969 (Exerpts)

More than 100 refugees families are still living in the Lahanam area. They have been well received by villagers. However, most of these families fled the combat area with little or no possessions and USAID assistance in rice and commodities was rendered through the Chao Muong, Songkhone, it is apparent from talks with these refugees and their leaders that they do not intend to return to their villages during this ~~dry~~ dry season because they are afraid of becoming involved in FAR PL. conflict.

As reported by Gerry Nell, refugees in the Kengkok area slowly returning to their villages in an attempt to salvage what they can. Three villages are almost completely destroyed and the Chao Muong, with representatives from the National assembly, is working on a program of assistance to be requested from the Ministry of Social Welfare and USAID. It is gratifying that rice crops were not lost and that most of the farmers have been able to harvest the rice and transport it to Kengkok.

FAR and SGV have managed to take back most of the locations that had been lost to the PL. this includes Bung Xang and Tang Vai. The threat from enemy forces still exists in the Phakhanga, Dong Hene, Mung Phalane and the Seno area where mortar harassment of the FAR camp occurred twice during the month.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Mann

Aug 10, 1970

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - July 1970 (Exerpts)

The security situation in this region continues to be excellent.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

Refugees Report who came into SVKT Province
During August - 1970.

		Number of Refugees Arrived						Number of Refugees Returned													
Present Location: Old Location		Old Ref. since: 1-31 - 7-70		New Ref during: Aug. 1970		Total		Old Ref. since: 1-31 - 7-70		New Ref during: Aug. 1970		Total		No. of Present: Refugees		Ref. can receive rice		Ref. can't receive rice			
		No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.	No. F.	No. P.		
Savannakhet	: Sepone	353	1342	-	-	353	1342	56	178	56	178	297	1164	-	-	297	1164	-	-		
"	: K. Xiengkhouang	15	63	-	-	15	63	2	15	2	15	13	48	-	-	13	48	-	-		
"	: K. Khammouane	617	2883	-	-	617	2883	270	2258	270	2258	347	625	-	-	347	625	-	-		
"	: Saraphoume	4	25	-	2	4	25	-	-	-	-	4	25	-	-	4	25	-	-		
"	: Artsaphone	255	1155	-	-	255	1155	84	371	84	371	171	784	-	-	171	784	-	-		
"	: Phong	10	65	-	-	10	65	-	-	-	-	10	65	-	-	10	65	-	-		
"	: K. Borikhan	4	9	-	-	4	9	-	-	-	-	4	9	-	-	4	9	-	-		
"	: K. Vientiane	391	1798	-	-	391	1798	364	1627	364	1627	27	171	-	-	27	171	-	-		
"	: Palan	1009	4864	-	-	1009	4864	424	2105	424	2105	585	2759	-	-	585	2759	-	-		
"	: Phin	137	575	-	-	137	575	-	-	-	-	137	575	-	-	137	575	-	-		
"	: Phou Vieng	16	81	-	-	16	81	-	-	-	-	16	81	-	-	16	81	-	-		
"	: Song Khone	135	752	-	-	135	752	81	380	81	380	54	372	-	-	54	372	-	-		
"	: K. Saravanh	16	100	8	49	24	149	8	47	8	47	16	102	-	-	16	102	-	-		
"	: K. Vapikhamthong	11	51	1	10	12	61	-	-	-	-	12	61	-	-	12	61	-	-		
"	: K. Sedon	-	-	2	11	2	11	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-	2	11	-	-		
: Total:		2973	13763	11	70	2984	13833	1289	6981	1289	6981	1695	6852	-	-	1695	6852	-	-		
Sepone	: Sepone	120	480	-	-	120	480	-	-	-	-	120	480	-	-	120	480	-	-		
"	: South Vietnam	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-		
: Total:		121	482	-	-	121	482	-	-	-	-	121	482	-	-	121	482	-	-		
Palan	: Sepone	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	3	-	-		
"	: Phong	1	4	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	1	4	-	-		
"	: Palan	295	1634	-	-	295	1634	59	250	59	250	236	1384	-	-	236	1384	-	-		
"	: Phin	68	209	-	-	68	209	-	-	-	-	68	209	-	-	68	209	-	-		
: Total:		365	1850	-	-	365	1850	59	250	59	250	306	1600	-	-	306	1600	-	-		
Outhomphone	: Outhomphone	45	117	-	-	45	117	-	-	-	-	45	117	-	-	45	117	-	-		
"	: Artsaphone	78	328	-	-	78	328	50	210	50	210	28	118	-	-	28	118	-	-		
"	: Palan	3	17	-	-	3	17	-	-	-	-	3	17	-	-	3	17	-	-		
"	: Phin	886	3078	-	-	886	3078	-	-	-	-	886	3078	495	2547	391	531	-	-		
"	: Sepone	21	89	-	-	21	89	-	-	-	-	21	89	20	81	1	8	-	-		
: Total:		1033	3629	-	-	1033	3629	50	210	50	210	983	3419	515	2628	468	791	-	-		
Saraphoum	: K. Khammouane	26	134	-	-	26	134	-	-	-	-	26	134	-	-	26	134	-	-		
"	: Outhomphone	3	12	-	-	3	12	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	3	12	-	-		
: Total		29	146	-	-	29	146	-	-	-	-	29	146	-	-	29	146	-	-		

-(2)-

Saphangthong	: Artsaphone	: 3	: 25	: -	: -	: 3	: 25	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 3	: 25	: -	: -	: 3	: 25
	: Total:	: 3	: 25	: -	: -	: 3	: 25	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 3	: 25	: -	: -	: 3	: 25
Phommachedy	: Phong	: 151	: 1228	: -	: -	: 151	: 1228	: 146	: 1162	: 146	: 1162	: 5	: 66	: -	: -	: 5	: 66
	: Total	: 151	: 1228	: -	: -	: 151	: 1228	: 146	: 1162	: 146	: 1162	: 5	: 66	: -	: -	: 5	: 66
Phong	: Phong	: 811	: 4896	: -	: -	: 811	: 4896	: 389	: 2244	: 389	: 2244	: 422	: 2652	: -	: -	: 422	: 2652
"	: Phin	: 8	: 45	: -	: -	: 8	: 45	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 8	: 45	: -	: -	: 8	: 45
"	: Total:	: 819	: 4941	: -	: -	: 819	: 4941	: 389	: 2244	: 389	: 2244	: 430	: 2697	: -	: -	: 430	: 2697
Champhone	: Phong	: 12	: 77	: -	: -	: 12	: 77	: 0	: -	: -	: -	: 12	: 77	: -	: -	: 12	: 77
"	: Champhone	: 399	: 2535	: -	: -	: 399	: 2535	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 399	: 2535	: -	: -	: 399	: 2535
"	: Phalan	: 101	: 383	: -	: -	: 101	: 383	: 59	: 171	: 59	: 171	: 42	: 212	: -	: -	: 42	: 212
"	: Phin	: 4	: 17	: -	: -	: 4	: 17	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 4	: 17	: -	: -	: 4	: 17
	: Total:	: 516	: 3012	: -	: -	: 516	: 3012	: 59	: 171	: 59	: 171	: 457	: 2841	: -	: -	: 457	: 2841
Suriyakham	: Phong	: 1	: 9	: -	: -	: 1	: 9	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 1	: 9	: -	: -	: 1	: 9
"	: Suriyakham	: 74	: 170	: -	: -	: 74	: 170	: 68	: 125	: 68	: 125	: 6	: 45	: -	: -	: 6	: 45
	: Total:	: 75	: 179	: -	: -	: 75	: 179	: 68	: 125	: 68	: 125	: 7	: 54	: -	: -	: 7	: 54
Songkhone	: Phong	: 49	: 310	: -	: -	: 49	: 310	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 49	: 310	: -	: -	: 49	: 310
"	: Phou Vieng	: 122	: 562	: -	: -	: 122	: 562	: 38	: 160	: 38	: 160	: 84	: 402	: -	: -	: 84	: 402
"	: Song Khone	: 3	: 16	: -	: -	: 3	: 16	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 3	: 16	: -	: -	: 3	: 16
"	: Champhone	: 36	: 215	: -	: -	: 36	: 215	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 36	: 215	: -	: -	: 36	: 215
	: Total:	: 210	: 1103	: -	: -	: 210	: 1103	: 38	: 160	: 38	: 160	: 172	: 943	: -	: -	: 172	: 943
Artsaphone	: Phin	: 1	: 1	: -	: -	: 1	: 1	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 1	: 1	: -	: -	: 1	: 1
	: Total:	: 1	: 1	: -	: -	: 1	: 1	: -	: -	: -	: -	: 1	: 1	: -	: -	: 1	: 1
: GRAND TOTAL:		: 6296	: 30359	: 11	: 70	: 6307	: 30429	: 2098	: 11303	: 2098	: 11303	: 4209	: 19126	: 151	: 2628	: 3694	: 16498

SAVANNAKHET, SEPT 2, 1970

Chief of S.W.

Somsalao SANUVONG

TO: Mann

Sept 10, 1970

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Aug 1970 (Exerpts)

There has been little change in the security situation within this region, with the only real fighting taking place in eastern Savannakhet province along Rte 23.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

TO: Mann

Oct 6, 1970

FROM: Stone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Sept 1970 (Exerpts)

The general picture throughout RIG controlled areas in MR III has been extremely quiet. Combat casualties arriving at Kengkok and Savannakeht, / indicates that there is still plenty of interdiction activity taking place on / Route 23.

ORA:ps:7-2-0-71

TO: Stone

Dec 9, ~~1969~~ 1970

FROM: Bounleng & Somphong, CD/Kengkok

SUBJECT: Monthly Report Nov 1970 (Exerpts)

Security has remained fairly good this month only minor sighting in the area of Pakdong camp (ND-3035). The FAR company in Kengkok is very active but slowed down by the lack of weapons.

ORA:ps:7-20-71

RECOUNT INCIDENT OF THE PAST (SEPHONE)

I. Sepone is a very beautiful in former days.

There is a king (Sompheu) established this place. On the mountain that view was very nice, there is a Queen (Soumangala) take interest that country.

II. In Sepone area had much land looked very nice

there are everything plentiful as heavenly kingdom, who went to this place would like to lived here there is Nam Se river passed looked that was very nice.

III. Right now, had the enemy came to killed

villagers in this country all the time,

The villagers must to leaved from this place

to another province, one day Sepone will to

glorious; I think I'll be back to this country.

I am decided to leaved because it have the

enemy came to annoy. Then I'll be back to

built my country Sepone again.

FIN.

*Popular Lao Song
Spring 1971*

ຊຽງຂວາງ ແຄມງາມ

ຊຽງຂວາງ ດິນແດນ	ວິມານ
ໜ້າວກາຍສະຫງ່າ	ໜ້າວສິ້ນສະເຫຼ່ອນ
ພູຈິງເປັນວົງແສງເດືອນ (ຊ້າ)	ເນກນ້ອຍ
ລອຍເລືອນບານ	ເນື້ອຄົນຈັນເພັງ
ໝູ່ນາງນາກນ້ອຍ	ວາຣີລອຍກາງນາທີ
ເປັນລາສີສວຍເດັ່ນ	ນ້ຳງົວໃຫລລິນບໍ່ເວັ້ນ (ຊ້າ)
ບານຄຳແລເຫັນ	ສາວເນື້ອເປັນສອຍລອງລອຍ
ໂອ....ຊຽງຂວາງນີ້ເລີຍ	ກ່ອນນີ້ບໍ່ເລີຍ
ເຫັນເຈົ້າງາມ	ຫຍາດຍອຍ
ດຽວນີ້ ຫັນະຊາດ	ຈອມດຽ
ເຈົ້າຄຳນັ້ງຄອຍ	ພູຈອມຄອຍງາມຕາ
ໃຫ້ທຶນນຶງຂວັນ	ຊຽງຂວາງ
ສາຍລົມໃຫລລວງ	ອາຍສຸດຫວງເນື້ອຝັນ
ພູພຽງເປັນລອຍ	ກາຣັກ
ໃຫ້ອາຍສຸກສິນ	ກັບຄວາມງາມ ຊຽງຂວາງ

20 Soviet

1971

F. Benson
12 Mar 71

13 Enemy action since 1 February resulted
in 2535 new refugees from vicinity
of ~~Dong~~ Muong Phalane, Dong Hene and
Houei Meun.

On night of 15/16 May Dong Hene
was overrun. Since that time there
has been intensive enemy patrolling
and small unit clashes along a line
roughly north and south just east of
Seno and Kengpote.

4 Mar. Sporadic fighting and enemy military
manoeuvring in Savannakhet, Muong
Phalane area has caused some remote
villages to displace. In many cases
people have returned to their villages.

2 Mar. Enemy occupation continues in Muong
Phalane area with chances of 2,145
refugees returning still uncertain.
Enemy harassment in Houei Meun area
has displaced 270 people to Sahnam area.

7 Mar. - HN Phat attacked

(2)

25 Feb

Attacks on My Phalane Since Dec 29th
have not ceased. In foreseeable future
2,600 people from this area will remain
at Dong Hene

02-034

TG-1494
100

02-0185

TG-1069
100

Enemy attacks on Feb 23 in the
Huei Mun area (WC-8869) is
expected to displace population in
the area.

13 March Refugees from Chelamony and
Dong Hene moving westward in response
to PL/NVA military action in
their area

**Social Welfare
Savannakhet**

**Summary list of refugees from Muong Phalan area,
now living in the Refugee Reception Center in Seno**

Places of Origin.		:No. of F & P.:	: Sexes :				: REMARKS
Ban	Tasseng		Men	Boys	Women	Girls	
Phalan Tai	Phalan Tai	35/208	45	55	65	43	Survey made on Saturday of May 15 to Tuesday 18 1971.
Namamignai	"	45/276	67	56	89	64	
Namaminoi	"	20/124	31	33	35	25	
Kalonghoua	"	6/39	6	12	8	13	
Ban Song	"	20/102	24	17	41	20	
Ban Preu	"	25/144	28	41	38	37	
6 (Villages)		151/893	201	214	276	202	
Kong Tchip	Kong Tchip	47/242	69	47	71	55	"
Teum	"	56/302	67	87	74	74	"
Nalal	"	1/5	-	2	3	-	"
3 (Villages)		104/549	136	136	148	129	
Nakangse	Bungthale	3/21	2	6	7	6	"
Bung Soual	"	10/55	14	7	17	17	"
Bungthale	"	88/555	170	113	172	100	"
3(Villages)		101/631	186	126	196	123	
Nake	Nathone	48/226	54	4	83	42	"
Som Ou	"	63/336	74	89	88	85	"
Ban Phon	"	27/128	34	26	41	27	"
Nasakhou	"	8/63	20	16	17	10	"
Nasok	"	15/84	23	20	31	10	"
Nathone	"	9/52	11	10	20	11	"
Phonsavang	"	5/30	8	6	14	2	"
Vangbouanha	"	41/197	64	32	62	39	"
8 (Villages)		216/1116	288	246	356	226	
Phosay	Phalankang	56/272	59	67	96	50	"
Lampol	"	56/323	103	68	91	61	"
Phon Tane	"	11/54	15	7	18	14	"
Nap Hokang	"	20/131	36	17	51	27	"
Phalankang	"	13/70	17	13	26	14	"
Phalanneua	"	35/190	43	40	70	37	"
6 (Villages)		191/1040	273	212	352	203	

RECAPITULATION

	: No. of F & P: Men : Boys : Women : Girls:					
1. Tas. Phalan Tai: 6 Vill.	151/893	201	214	276	206	
2. Tas. Keong Tchip: 3 Vill.	104/549	136	136	148	129	
3. Tas. Bungthale: 3 Vill.	101/631	186	126	196	123	
4. Tas. Nathone: 8 Vill.	216/1116	288	246	356	226	
5. Tas. Phalankang: 6 Vill.	191/1040	273	212	352	203	
TOTAL: 5 Tas. 26 Villages	763/4229	1084	934	1328	883	

Savannakhet, May 19, 1971.

Signed & Sealed: Sommalao Sanouvang,
Chief of Provincial Social Welfare.

TO: Mr. Robert Wulff, Chief CDB/Savannakhet

June 1, 1971

FROM: Sanford J. Stone, AC/Savannakhet

SUBJECT: Refugee Relief and Social Welfare Activities

Attached for your information and possible use are statistics concerning the population in villages, from which current refugees have come. It is presumed that this information will prove of value should rice support be necessary after the refugees have returned to their native villages.

1 Encl : a/s

cc: ORA

ORA:ps:6-10-71

POPULATION OF MUONG SAPHANGTHONG
for May 1970

<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Ban</u>	<u>No. of People</u>	<u>Refugees.</u>
Dong Hene	Dong Hene Neua	567	
	Dong Hene Tay	514	
	Dong Kilo	260	
	Phang Ho	524	
	Na Nam Thieng	249	
	Nong Paksong	177	
	Dong Palay	174	
	<u>Kham Teuy</u>	<u>72</u>	
TOTAL:	8 villages	1,537	
Chelamong	Chelamong Tay	669	
	Chalamong Neua	467	
	Phonsavang	102	
	Nanokkhian	403	
	<u>Phonbok</u>	<u>462</u>	
TOTAL:	5 villages	1,103	
Pong Dong	Pong Dong	385	
	Dong Khouang	413	
	Pong Na	224	
	Na Hi	124	
	<u>Non Vai</u>	<u>67</u>	
TOTAL:	5 villages	1,213	
Dong Kum	Dong Kum	554	
	Na Song	297	
	Nalak	260	
	Non Hang	348	
	Nalaykhok	336	
	<u>Nalaydong</u>	<u>568</u>	
TOTAL:	6 villages	2,363	
Na Phek	Na Phek Tay	433	
	Na Phek Neua	437	
	Nakhima	101	
	<u>Na Euang</u>	<u>172</u>	
TOTAL:	4 villages	1,143	
Nachane	Nachane Tay	513	
	Nachane Neua	546	
	Na Sene Keo	207	
	Dong Mark Ko	141	
	<u>Non Hine He</u>	<u>105</u>	
TOTAL:	5 villages	1,512	
Na Koy	Nakoykhok	192	
	Nakoyhouei	180	
	Phon Ngoi	250	
	Koktanekao	132	
	Nong Say	282	
	<u>Dong Mark Yang</u>	<u>100</u>	
TOTAL:	6 villages	1,136	

(Total: 7 Tassengs -
39 villages and
12,007 Persons).

POPULATION OF MUONG PHALAN
for June 1970

<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Ban</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>No. of Refugees</u>
Phalan-Tay	Phalan-Tay	239	251	208
	Namacmignay	114	160	276
	Namacminoi	68	63	124
	Kalongkhous	172	212	39
	Ban Song	65	91	102
	Ban Preu	68	63	144
	TOTAL: 6 Villages	726	840	893
Keng Tchip	Keng Tchip	106	113	242
	Teum Gray&Noi	235	207	302
	Nalai	176	215	5
	TOTAL: 3 Villages	517	535	549
Bung Thale	Nakangse	87	122	21
	Bung Souai	59	88	55
	Bung Thale	282	279	555
	TOTAL: 3 Villages	428	489	631
Nathone	Nake	117	122	226
	Sop Ou	139	106	336
	Ban Phon	106	138	128
	Nasakhou	83	86	63
	Nasok	59	65	84
	Nathone	79	98	52
	Phonsavang	88	84	30
	Vang Deuan Ha	88	112	197
	TOTAL: 8 Villages	759	811	1,116
Phalan-Kang	Phosay	141	139	272
	Lampoi	179	138	323
	Phon Tane	41	50	54
	Nampho-Kang	77	93	131
	Phalan Kang	122	147	70
	Phalan Neua	78	104	190
	TOTAL: 6 Villages	638	671	1,040

ORA:ps:6-10-71

The Fall of Phalane and Dong Hene - 1971
(Interview Dates: August 16, 17, 18, 1971)

THE INTERVIEWS: This report is based on three and a half days of interviews with persons directly involved in the events surrounding the 1971 fall of Muong Phalane and Ban Dong Hene to elements of NVA battalion 141 and -- later -- battalion 128. Respondents included the Chao Muongs Phalane and Dong Hene, plus other RLG officials of lesser rank in Social Welfare, the Police, and FAR, but consisted mainly of villagers and village-level officials living in these areas. Dates and intervals of time are sometimes approximate due to the villagers' imprecise recollection of events six months past. The interviews were not exhaustive. Reports of refugees now living in Kengkok who are said to have been badly abused by the NVA and PL still remain to be investigated.

Accurate accounts of the fighting in and capture of the two towns were nearly impossible to obtain because they were deserted several days in advance of their fall. For example, the Chao Muong Phalane was said by his clerk, Nai Bounthong, to have left Phalane on January 20, five days in advance of the attack. (In spite of this the Chao Muong later provided an apparently accurate account of the battle.)

BACKGROUND: Dry season hostilities are an annual occurrence for Dong Hene and Phalane and the people discuss it in the same manner they would use for other forces of nature, such as floods. "It was never as bad as this before. This year is the worst we have ever seen." For the villages around the two towns, previous years' consequences have amounted to little more than loss of some livestock and rice due to expropriation by the NVA or PL. Villagers had dug shelters as long ago as 1960-61.

This year the NVA/PL came in far greater numbers, fought with new weapons, stayed longer, and showed noticeable inattention to the negative propaganda their behavior generated.

In contrasting 1971 with previous years, Bua Keo, Chao Muong Phalane since 1968, said: "The last time Phalane fell was December 25-26, 1967,

but the PL came every year in the dry season and there was always some fighting. They never showed themselves before attacking. All we would ever find were tracks sometimes ... and then some villagers would disappear and we would know they were getting ready to attack the next night. They would catch any villagers who happened to see them so they wouldn't report it -- and then let them go later. The PL would usually start their attack about 11:00 P.M. up to 1:00 A.M. and always break off about sunrise when it began to get light. In the fighting they would use AK-47s, carbines, and B-40s -- just small arms. "

"This year they came in greater numbers. No one had ever seen anything like it. For about 10 days before the fighting started villagers all around Phalane town told us of seeing patrols of them -- 3 to 6 persons -- walking through the forest or along the outskirts of their village. They didn't care who saw them or what they did about it. They behaved like they owned the land there. The attack started at about 1:00 A.M. on Phalane Town and at 7:00 in the morning they also attacked the FAR outpost on the road to Ban Khong Khoua (southwest of town). Fighting continued until about 11:00 in the morning. They used many, many 122 mm. rockets and mortars. These weapons had never been used before, and in previous years we never had much property damage. The townspeople would leave before the attack and then wait a few days, come back and continue as before. This year they shot up or completely destroyed just about every building in Phalane, and more people were killed than ever before. "

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:

1. January 26, 1971 - First attack on Phalane; majority of the area population leaves.
2. May 1-4, 1971 - Second attack on Phalane; remainder of population leaves; NVA/PL immediately continue westward toward Savannakhet.
3. May 16-17, 1971 - Dong Hene attacked and falls at noon, second day. Dong Hene and surrounding area is occupied until late May - early June.

GEOGRAPHY: Dong Hene and Phalane are situated on a major east-west highway, RN-9, built by the French. Driving eastward from Savannakhet one first reaches the old French military complex and airfield at Seno, 35 km away; 35 km further is Dong Hene (WD-3146); 35 km further still is Phalane (WD-6142), then in 70 km more, Muong Phine (XD-0928); and in

35 more kilometers, the object of the ARVN's operation Laem Song 719, Tchepone (or Sepone) at XD-2847.

THE EVACUATION OF THE MUONG PHALANE AREA - VILLAGER ACCOUNTS:

1. Ban Phalane Kang (WD-6142) (Respondent: Naiban Phalane Kang, Nai Pong, since 1970): "From the time of the attack on the FAR command post southeast of town we stayed in our shelters in the village for two days. At about 6:00 A. M. on the third day we left our homes together with the Ban Phalane Neua people and walked to Ban Preu (WD-6244 -- Lao Teung name). We stayed here for about 2 hours and then moved on to Ban Nathone (WD-5749), arriving about 3:00 P. M. The same day we continued to Ban Nong Machok (WD-5260) where we spent the night. The next day we went by way of Ban Na Lai (WD-3852) to Dong Hene where we stayed for one and a half months -- until the attack on Phon Bok (WD-3943) -- and then moved by bus to Seno. After waiting there for one month and 3 days we were resettled at That Inghang."
2. Ban Phalane Tai (WD-6142) (Respondent: Nai Yang, assistant to Naiban's clerk): "The NVA attacked a small FAR outpost 1/2 km south of town about midnight and we hid in our shelters. We have had these shelters for many years -- since around 1960. We left our village about sunrise and walked along RN-9 to Ban Phon Bok -- there were over 70 families in our group -- and most of us stayed there for about 20 days. Then Phon Bok was attacked and we fled to Dong Hene. The town was completely deserted except for some soldiers. We got on busses and went to Seno for 200 kip per person (the regular fare). Some families did not stop in Phon Bok, but went to Seno, Savannakhet and Kengkok directly." [In his February 1971 monthly report, Mr. Robert Wulff, USAID/Svkt, reported a total of 495 families, 2,243 persons from the Phalane area taking refuge in and around Ban Phon Bok before it was attacked at the end of February.]
3. Ban Vang Duan Ha (WD-5748) (Respondent: Naiban Vang Duan Ha from 1941-1970, Xieng Lin): "I cannot recall when the Vietnamese attacked our area but it was sometime after the rice harvest. On the second or third day of fighting we saw the Phalane people (Ban Phalane Neua, Kang and Tai) coming through our village (Vang Duan Ha is several kilometers northwest of Phalane) and we left with them that afternoon. The same morning a force of 20 North Vietnamese and 2 PL had come into the village and told us that each household should pound 5 meun (60 kg.) of rice and keep it for their soldiers."

4. Ban Phon Tan (WD-6341 - immediately southeast of Phalane) (Respondent: Nai Bout, Naiban Phon Tan from 1969 to present): "There were about 24 families in our village. On the second or third day of fighting in Phalane we left our village and went to Ban Kalong (WD-5640). In attacks of previous years we had usually stayed here or at Ban Bung (WD-6137), but we found the Ban Kalong people were leaving too. We went with them to Phon Bok and stayed there for 15-16 days before we were attacked and came to Seno. "

5. Ban Pho Sai (WD-6342 - about 1-1/2 - 2 kilometers east of Phalane Town on the edge of RN-9) (Respondent: Nai Di, clerk of the Naiban Pho Sai from 1933 to 1964): "We had 44 families in Ban Pho Sai. Before the first attack on Phalane (Jan. 26) we saw the Vietnamese coming so we left our village immediately -- as we had done in previous years and went to Ban Kengchip (WD-6346). We stayed here for 19 days before we returned to our village. When some of us would run out of rice we sent our girls to get more from the village. They made the trip instead of men because no one would bother them or force them to do portage for the soldiers. When we returned to Pho Sai our village was untouched and undamaged -- although some livestock was missing.

We continued to live in Pho Sai as before, until the second attack came (May 1-4). We left our homes for the second time on the fourth day of fighting, in the morning, and took the trail through Ban Preu (WD-6244) to Keng Chip as before. When we reached this village it was already deserted, so we knew it was time to leave too. There were also families from Ban Phon Tan and Ban Lam Poi (WD-6344), so it was a very long line of people. We first went directly westward to Ban Sop Cu (WD-6146) where we ran into a large number of Vietnamese soldiers who turned us back. We told them we wanted to get away from the fighting because we were afraid of being killed but they said we couldn't go west. They told us to go back to our villages but we said we were afraid to so they told us to go farther north. We started walking and reached Ban Nathone by day's end. The following day we went through Ban Nong Machok to Ban Nathone (WD-4463) and the following day reached Ban Na Koutcham where we rested for 3-4 days -- then we reached Dong Hene and boarded busses to Seno after staying one night at Ban Dongkum (WD-3554)".

Following the second attack on Phalane, the NVA continued moving westward toward Dong Hene which was attacked May 1-4. Like the Phalane area villagers, those around Dong Hene specifically cited the heavy rocket and mortar barrages employed by the NVA. They had never before witnessed such wholesale and calculated destruction.

THE FALL OF DONG HENE: Nai Waen, the Chao Muong Dong Hene since 1969, said after the NVA took Phalane for the second time they continued immediately toward Dong Hene, 35 kilometers away, "stopping only long enough to bury their dead and treat the wounded." At 2:00 A.M. on May 17, 1971, they attacked Dong Hene with AK-47 and B-40, soon escalating to a withering bombardment of 122 mm. rockets and mortars. (Some villagers also claimed to have seen large, carriage-mounted guns pulled by trucks.) The attack was concentrated mainly on the FAR camp on the western edge of town, but included all parts of Dong Hene to a greater or lesser extent. All public structures and many private homes -- particularly in the central section of town -- were damaged or destroyed. Accurate accounts of the exact cause of the damage is impossible to obtain because as Kham Fong, assistant to the commander of the M. P. s said: "No one knows for sure because we were not here. And during the attack everything was happening at once." There are no bomb craters inside the town, only the small, shallow depressions a rocket makes on impact. One person who observed the fighting said he had never experienced as heavy and prolonged rocket and mortar barrage as that directed at Dong Hene. Most of the damage was, however, said to be caused after Dong Hene had fallen (about 12:00 noon, May 17). "They (the NVA) were good arsonists -- they walked through the main section of town setting houses on fire. They would set one house going and watch how it was spreading and then go to another house. The wind was blowing from the east so the houses along the river near the border were never touched. The wind carried the fire westward across town. It didn't burn out for several days." One explanation offered for this action was that the NVA had not expected to take the town so quickly and consequently the troops who entered the town and subsequently burned parts of it were relatively low echelon advance elements with inexperienced leaders who allowed them to go out of control. In any case, the town was by no means entirely destroyed. Structures around the wat on the north edge of town and to the east near the river were almost completely undamaged. The municipal market escaped with only a few holes in its roof. Although some looting was reported (see below) several stores were left open and untouched.

VILLAGER ACCOUNTS OF THE FALL OF DONG HENE:

1. Ban Dong Khouang (WD-3344): The villagers said that when Ban Chelamong (WD-3643 - about 3 km away to the southeast) was attacked about 7:00 A.M. (see account below) they sent all the women and children to Ban Phong Na and Ban Phong Dong (WD-3343). The men stayed in the

village to protect their houses. They saw many NVA soldiers going back and forth through their village. These troops left them alone except to purchase livestock. They bought only pigs, dogs and chickens -- only taking cattle or water buffalo maimed or killed in the fighting. They first tried to pay in PL kip, but when the villagers refused, they purchased with RLG kip. In the beginning of the attack prices were quite good -- comparable to the going market in Dong Hene. Pigs were going for K 2,500 - 6,000 depending on size, and dogs at K 50. Later, prices were reported to have dropped to K 700-800 for a pig and K 100 for chickens. After about 3 days the villagers told their women and children to come back and they resumed a more or less normal existence.

2. Ban Chelamong (WD-3643) (Respondent: Nai Yang, 39 years, who has "served in the FAR for 18 years."): "At 2:00 in the afternoon on May 7, the NVA arrested me and my 3 sons when we were out tending our chickens in a field southeast of my village. They tied us up with the parachute cord from aerial flares and took us with them to a camp in the forest further to the east near the abandoned village of Ban Hang (WD-4342). Then we were taken to Ban Na Nanok Kien where we spent the night. I saw no other prisoners. At 7:00 the following morning, May 8, I was taken with a large number of Vietnamese soldiers when they entered my village. The FAR had been using our school in Ban Chelamong for a command post. They had retreated in the direction of Dong Hene an hour earlier, about 6:00 A.M. Most of the NVA continued on through our village, caught up with the FAR and engaged them. This is probably the fighting which the Dong Khouang families said they heard. The NVA who stayed in our village collected all the villagers and locked us in the school. In all I think there were about 800 NVA. After about one hour they changed their mind and let us out and told us to dig more shelters. But many people were scared and took the opportunity to run away. I stayed to protect my house. The NVA would go into houses which were deserted and take all the water out of the water jars, then kick them over and break them. They tore up clothing and bedding with their bayonets and took anything they wanted to out of the houses. Also they took untended livestock. They did not burn houses though, and if someone stayed in them they left them alone. We had a USAID deep well in our village which they broke after 2 days. Two battalions were trying to use it. We had taken the USAID emblem off long before because we were afraid of what the PL would do if they saw it. Before this most of us in Chelamong did not have shelters because we had rarely needed them."

"Most of the NVA left our village and moved on to Dong Hene after two days. After that we only saw supply troops going toward Dong Hene with more rockets and coming back with bodies. Casualties were particularly heavy on the 13th and 14th because of air strikes. That day the porters carried back pieces in sacks at each end of a pole over their shoulders."

"At 10:00 A.M. on May 17, I saw a great cloud of smoke rising from the direction of Dong Hene. The noise was deafening - bombs, rockets, mortars, automatic weapons and grenades all going off at once."

"The NVA had two amphibious scouts with gun turrets and two 4-wheeled trucks which pulled howitzers. I saw them push them in at night with their engines off. They were smeared with mud and had branches tied on top. The trucks and howitzers pulled out a week later when it started raining hard. They got stuck in the mud for almost a day at Nanok Kien (WD-4342). This same village was also a launching site for 122 mm. rockets into Dong Hene -- about 8 kilometers away. A battery of howitzers was probably set up outside Ban Phon Bok, because villagers from there said they retrieved about 190 brass shell casings. The NVA had tried to hide them by dropping them into ponds and streams before they left. The villagers brought them in to a Chinese merchant in Dong Hene. Later he bought them for scrap at K 400 each. (The same merchant also did a brisk business in scrap aluminum from 122 mm. rocket casing fragments.) He sold them to the disabled war veterans' association."

"By May 30th most of the Vietnamese had left the area. I saw them going through our village around 4:00 P. M. carrying 82 mm. mortars with them. Everyone had returned to their homes by about June 11, but there were still 5-6 NVA staying in our village as a rear guard. Some of the houses had been shot up a little but most of the losses were in our livestock. "

"When they were retreating through our area the NVA discarded 3-4 cases of medicine they had taken from the RLC dispensary in Dong Hene. We saw many of the soldiers with cartons of Lao cigarettes stuffed into their packs, and later we came upon a clearing where they had opened up cans of beer and shrimp paste (kapi) and fixed a meal from things they took from the stores in town. "



FACTS

REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN LAOS
SAVANNAKHET
USAID Mission to Laos

PHOTOGRAPHS

Savannakhet Province extends 124 mi east from the Mekong River to the Annamite Mountains that mark the border with Vietnam, and 81 mi south from the Se Bang Fai to the Se Bang Hieng, two tributaries of the Mekong River. Encompassed within this area are approximately 235,000 acres of the more productive agriculture land in Laos.

The war has changed Savannakhet less than the other provinces of Laos. About 164,000 acres of land remain in cultivation and livestock production exceeds that of any other province. Route 13, the major highway of Laos which runs north and south through the province, is open to traffic. At present, Savannakhet is one of the few provinces where integration of refugees into the economy of Laos is possible.

At the end of August 1972, there were 15,351 refugees in Savannakhet Province. Of this number, over half live in villages on land reserved by the Royal Lao Government for the permanent resettlement of refugees: 2,912 at Seno, 22 mi east of the city of Savannakhet, and 5,947 at Tha Sano on the Mekong River, 9 mi north of the city of Savannakhet. Of the remaining number, 3,634 are at the Ban That Refugee Reception Center, 2,122 are temporarily located in villages near the district center Kengkok, and 736 are housed in the barracks of Kengkok Military Camp.

Unlike the northern provinces of Laos where refugees have been on the move for over a decade, Savannakhet Province had little experience with refugee movements until late 1969. In the battle for Muong Phine on Route 9 at its junction with the Ho Chi Minh Trail, 2,931 people were evacuated before the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao regained control of the area. These first refugees in Savannakhet Province were brought to Seno Military Camp, a for-

Each family in Seno is given five acres of land to farm. In 1972, a total of 620 acres of land have been planted in rice. PL-480 foods supplement the diet of rice for the 520 families there.



mer French base of operations during the French-Indochinese war. The relocation area, 3 mi from the camp, takes its name from Seno-an acronym for Sud-Est-Nord-Oest. The camp and the relocation site are reached over a narrow asphalt road built by the French over 30 years ago.

The Seno Refugee Relocation Center covers an area of 14,820 acres. Five hundred twenty five families or 2,912 people live in eight villages with an average of 70 families to a village. Each family has a house, a garden plot, and five acres of farmland. Of this farmland, approximately 620 acres are now planted in rice. The people have two permanent elementary schools, water for all purposes, and medical facilities. Of the two categories of Full Support and Partial Support that USAID has established to designate the degree of assistance that refugee groups require, the people of Seno now fall into the second category. Present USAID assistance consists of the provision of 3 kg of PL-480 foods per person per month.

Resettlement costs at Seno fall into two categories of dollar expenditures and local currency expenditures. Dollar expenditures total \$186,921 which cover the cost of heavy equipment used in clearing land, constructing roads, and drilling wells and the purchase of commodities not locally available. Local currency expenditures total Kip 73,790,000 or \$ 307,458 which cover personnel costs and the purchase of local commodities. These funds have been used

To clear 667 acres of land;

To drill 18 wells;

To construct 3 dams for reservoirs;

To provide materials for the construction of 539 houses, 14 classrooms, 2 dispensaries, and four Buddhist temples.

To build 16 mi of streets for eight villages.

With the fall of Muong Pha Lane on Route 9 in June 1971 and in the continued fighting for Dong Hene, refugee movements in Savannakhet Province increased. By the end of the year, over 5,000 people had moved into the environs of the city of Savannakhet. With the fall of Dong Hene in February 1972, their number had increased to over 12,000. In the interim, the Royal Lao Government reserved an area of 31 sq mi on the Mekong River between Ban Tha Sano and Ban Houa Xang for the resettlement of the refugees from Muong Pha Lane.

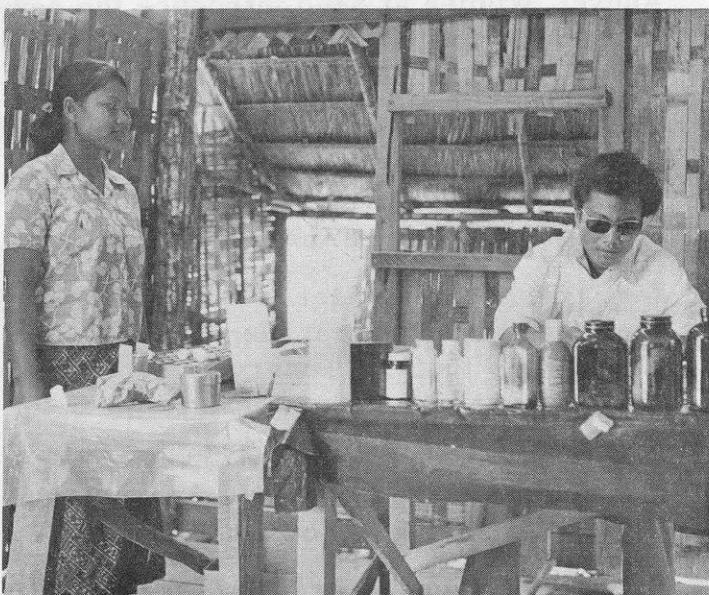


Lumber for school construction at Tha Sano is cut on a USAID-provided sawmill. BELOW: As land is cleared for sites, refugees gather felled trees to make charcoal to earn extra income.





Tha Sano: Distributing PL-480 food;
(below) one of the three dispensaries.



At present, 999 families live in the 16 villages that make up Tha Sano. The villages are built along a new 14 mi all-weather road which extends through the area. Within the villages, 12 mi of the village streets have been completed of the 24 mi which are planned. As at Seno, each family has a house, a garden plot and 5 acres of farmland. Each village has two drilled wells with four more located near the sites of 24 permanent classrooms under construction. The children of Tha Sano now attend school in 16 temporary classrooms which the refugees have built with bamboo and thatch. Three dispensaries are staffed by Ministry of Health medics and supplied with medicines by USAID.

During the eight months since resettlement of Tha Sano began, USAID dollar expenditures have totalled \$109,470 which cover the cost of equipment used in road construction and well drilling and the purchase of commodities not locally available. Local currency expenditures total Kip 17,119,662 or \$28,297 which cover personnel costs and the purchase of local commodities.

Of the 15,351 refugees in Savannakhet Province, 12,439 fall into the USAID category of Full Support. The people who are in temporary relocation at the Ban That Refugee Reception Center depend entirely on USAID assistance for food. At Tha Sano, the refugees have cleared enough land to plant 66 MT of rice seed; however, the 1972 harvest will not be sufficient to meet all food requirements. The table shows USAID expenditures for the commodities used in relief operations from July 1, 1971 through June 30, 1972, the period of accelerated refugee movement in Savannakhet Province.

COMMODITIES FOR REFUGEE RELIEF

FY 1972

SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE

\$ Thousand

Rice	137.2 ^{a/}
PL-480 foods ^{b/}	11.5
Medical supplies	14.4
Other ^{c/}	23.6
Total	\$ 186.7

a/ Includes transportation costs.

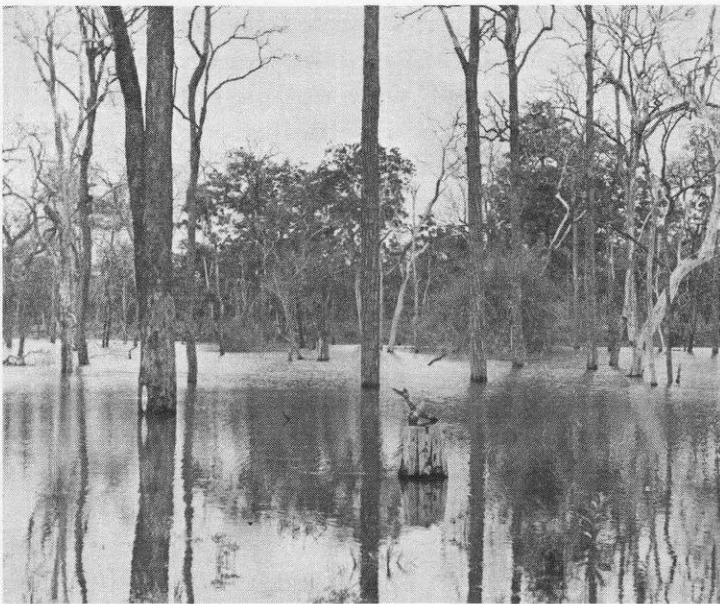
b/ Bulgur wheat, WSB, CSM, vegetable oil, noodles.

c/ Household utensils, tools, sleeping mats, mosquito nets.



Above: Women at Seno introduce the newest member of the family to noodles made with PL-480 ingredients.

Upper left: The Asian Christian Services has established a center at Seno to teach refugee girls weaving skills as a source of earning additional income.



Left: To provide water for vegetable gardens and livestock at Seno, dams were constructed to form reservoirs and these "lakes" have now been stocked with fish.

Lower left: A "Water Man" at Ban That Refugee Reception Center transports water from a spring to houses in the Center.

Below: Refugees weave large mats which they sell for side walls of houses being constructed. [September 1972]

