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MR 1 refugee interviews – Sayaboury (Houa Khong). 1971

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TO: Fritz Benson

August 3, 1971

FROM: Hatsady DOUANGVIXAY (BHS)

SUBJECT: Ban Nam Chan Refugees at Ban Srimuong Ngam Report.

Ethnic Group: Yao.

Originally this refugees moved from Ban Nam Chan T. Luang Khorn, M. Luong Nam Tha K. Hua Khong, (Ban Nam Chan is 4 houses walk up from M. Luang Namtha.)

At their own village there were 30 families with approximately 165 persons. All of them had moved down but they are not living together. They scattered to live with their relatives in many places around NHS.

Reasons for Moving: After Luong Nam-tha was lost to PL in 1962, this people were under the control of PL not very long about 1 month, they recruited Lantene people about 1000 to join in their army. These new recruits people made disturbing to the villagers by recruiting the rice and the consumption from the villagers. First they made the propaganda to persuade the villagers to join the army like them. In their propaganda they criticized very much the Lao government and United States government there were 2 times that they made big propaganda and then the 3rd time they began to establish the association. (For the association please see in my other report on Tasseng Luang Khorn Refugees.) For the public work; As I explained them many things ~~about~~ about the Lao government with the co-operation of the United States. They helped villagers to build the Nation by constructing the schools and dispensaries. They reported that in PL side they did not build anything at all. Not even that they still moved the old school that the RIG made to set up in the forest; because if they would teach in the village they were afraid of the bombing of the aeroplane. They proceeded to report that PL used them to go to Lam Liang evern at night time. This was the most difficult thing that they hated. They continued to report that when returning from Lam Liang they had to go to report to the head of PL (in the village that the trip was safe and sound. They told me that the PL presented at their village consisted of viet-nameese Lao Laotheung and Lanteune.

According to this reason the villagers were very tired of their reaction so they made their decision to escape from PL at night time on the month of July 1963.

Old Life at their Own Village: The majority of people had done upland-rice a few of them worked on paddy field and also all of them planted the opium and sold opium and opium. They had 1 elementary school upto P III. with 4 teachers. The way of their living was very convenient.

New Life at their New Village: When they became refugees all of them do Hay (upland rice) some of them sell opium and opium. They are now (as my eyes see) self-sufficient.

Present Problem: No big problem at all except the way of earning money.

Informant: Mr. Fukuang a 40 years old Nai Ban of Ban Nam Chang. When he's a boy he receive no education at all. He's un litterane. He once used to be village soldier about 4 years. When under the PL he was almost slected to be Neo Neoban but he idid not accept.

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