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Refugee affairs. 1961

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1961

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Telegram to Dept. Dec. 2, 1961

This reply assumes coalition government by January 1, 1962; effective ceasefire: All areas of country accessible: No reprisals against political or ethnic minorities and channels of trade open in 90 days after coalition government. USOM support to be terminated Dec. 1, 1962.

1. USOM assisting RLG social welfare in support 51,000 refugees and destitute now. Estimated 180,000 refugees and destitute (in NORTH 140,000, south 40,000) will require aid after settlement. On basis of known refugees and destitute plus estimates of USOM field agents, [REDACTED], Missionaries recently in PL territory and RLG provincial officials. Emphasize full assistance not required all people. Following figures based activity this magnitude not current USOM operations. Minimum support, i.e., mainly rice and salt, also assumed for most. (All dollars and kip figures in thousands).

6. To date USOM has limited experience resettlement Laos. Expect most refugees return original villages. However, undetermined amount resettlement necessary and desirable. Resettlement demobilized military probably not necessary. USOM will support rehabilitation destroyed or damaged villages to which refugees return. Anticipate this effort will lead to expanded self-help activities during ~~FY 62~~ FY 63,