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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Howard E. Thomas, Chief, RDD

DATE: October 19, 1962

FROM : J.W. Macquisen, RDD, Pakse

SUBJECT: Location of Self-Help Projects, Your memo October 9, 1962

In accordance with your memorandum of October 9, 1962 we are submitting a list of completed Rural Self-Help Sub-Projects as requested by USIS for the That Lusag Festival.

It is not possible to guarantee 100 percent accuracy regarding the names of villages and their location because village sometimes have more than one name and spelling. We do not have a map indicating the new muongs therefore we have listed the names of the muongs as indicated on the sub-project agreements.

The requested information is as follows:

Sedone Province.

<u>Ban</u>	<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Muong</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
He	Pakse	Pakse	School
Thahine	"	"	"
Phabat	"	"	"
Donekho	Saphay	"	"
Nakhouang	Pakse	"	"
Houeichiang	"	"	Sala
Vat Tham	"	"	"
Paksong	Paksong	Paksong	School
Houei Peune	Pakse	Pakse	Bridge
Saphay	Saphay	"	Sala
Phonesihay	Pakse	Pakse	School
Nakhouang	Saphay	"	"
Naxone-Noy	"	"	"
Saphay	"	"	"
Thaloung Phabat	Pakse	"	"
Saphay	Saphay	"	Market
Houei Mesang	Pathoumphone	Pathoumphone	School
Yong	Yong	Pakse	"
Houei Lao	"	"	"
Pathoumphone	"	Pathoumphone	Market
Nakeo	Ban Yong	Pakse	School
Paksone	Pakse	"	"
Naphou	Ban Moung	"	"
Pathoumphone	"	Pathoumphone	"
Mak Euk	Pakse	Pakse	"

Champassak Province.

<u>Ban</u>	<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Muong</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
Done Nhang	Nonghaikok	Phonethong	School
Bok	Nonghaikok	Phonethong	"
May	"	"	"
Mo	"	"	"
Bone Khoune	"	"	"
Moung Cao	"	"	"
Dou	"	"	"
Nonghaikok	"	"	"
Phonethong	Phonethong	"	"
Nong Viene	Nong Viene	Champassak	"
Nong Mak-keo	Donetalat	"	"
Sang Deua	"	"	"
Nong Som-Mo	"	"	"
Houei-Sahoua	Nong Viene	"	"
Thateng	Nong Pham	"	"
Photak	Nong Viene	"	"
Nong Moung	" "	"	"
Phone Sao E.	" "	"	"

Sithandone Province.

<u>Ban</u>	<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Moung</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
Hatsaikoun	Khong	Khong	School
Moung Sene	Moung Sene	"	"
Done Thane	Done Thane	"	"
Houei	Ban Houei	"	"
Done Det	Bankhone	"	"
Hine Siou	Ban Houei	"	"
Khinak	Khinak	"	"
Khone	Khone	"	"
Houakhong-pha-Nhay	Khong	"	"

Attoupeu Province

<u>Ban</u>	<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Muong</u>	<u>Type of project</u>
Se Nhay	Sekong	Sekong	School
Vat Kang	Sekomane	Sekong	"
Vat That	Cao	Cao	"
Houei Khong	Houeikhong	Senamnoi	Dispensary

Saravane Province

<u>Ban</u>	<u>Tasseng</u>	<u>Muong</u>	<u>Type of Project</u>
Toumlane	Toumlane	Saravane	School
Thateng	Thateng	Thateng	"
Taopoun	Saravane	Saravane	"
Nong Say	Bungtham	Saravane	Dispensary
Bung Sai	Bungkham	Saravane	School
Thateng	Thateng	Thateng	Dispensary

Wapikhamthong Province

Ban

Tasseng

Muong

Type of Project

Wapi

Wapi

Khongsedone

School

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Howard E. Thomas, Chief, RDD

DATE: October 31, 1962

FROM : J. W. MacQueen, RDD, Pakse

SUBJECT: USAID Accomplishments - Southern Area

References : Administrator Hamilton's Letter, Oct. 10, 1962
Director's Memo, October 25, 1962
Memo from J.H. Berryhill thru Dr. H.E. Thomas, Oct. 26, 1962

We are enclosing our report on accomplishments in the Southern Area per order of above references.

Lack of time and communication with the provinces did not permit the preparation of a more comprehensive report.

There is also enclosed a report on the Regional Teacher Training Center, Pakse, prepared by Mr. Oliver St. Pee, IVS/Pakse and reports from the Chaokhoueng of Sithandone, Champassak and Sedone Provinces. The Chaokhoueng of Sedone Province has not had the time to prepare a narrative report on the program due to the many bouas that have been occurring of late. He expects to submit a narration during the next few days and we will send it to you by the first available aircraft.

Lack of time again does not permit this office to translate and summarize the narrative reports from the Chaokhouengs, therefore, we submit them in the original. Kindly return to this office the narrative report from Sithandone Province.

October 31, 1962

REPORT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Pakse region of USAID/Laos is responsible for six provinces, namely, Wapikhamthong, Sedone, Champassak, Sithandone, Attepeu and Saravane. As of August 15, 1962 the number of Self-Help Projects approved and funded are as follows -

Schools -	165	Bridges (Concrete Culvert)	- 45
Markets -	6	Bridges (wood)	- 42
Dispensaries	10	Salle de malades	- 1
Sala	12	Water Reservoir	- 1
Radeaux	7	Wells	- 25

The number of Self-Help Projects that have been completed to date are as follows -

Schools	55
Markets	2
Dispensaries	3
Sala	3
Radeaux	2
Bridges	1

Approximately 25 percent of the remaining projects have not been started but work will begin as soon as the current rice harvest is completed. A large percentage of the approved Self-Help Projects are 25 to 75 percent complete, most of this category of projects should be completed during the current dry season.

Schools - Self Help

The Self-Help school buildings which have been completed provide classrooms for approximately 4500 students in grades 1 through 4. In villages where self-help schools have been constructed no previous class-room facilities existed. There prevails such an intense interest in schools and elementary education on the part of the villagers that many of the partially completed buildings are being used. In many villages classes begin as soon as the framework and roof has been completed. Work continues on completing these schools on weekends or whenever there is a school vacation. The students very often assist their parents in the building construction. These village schools could not have become a reality without outside assistance through making available roofing, cement, hardware, etc. Student population of the partially completed facilities is not included in the above estimate.

Dispensaries - Self Help

Villagers classify dispensaries as being next in importance after schools in the self-help program designed to improve their existence. The sole reason why more dispensary projects have not been approved and constructed is the lack of trained medics, infirmiers and sanitarians to staff them. According to information

received a village dispensary in this region treats an average of at least 50 patients per day. When a villager cuts his foot, leg or otherwise suffers an injury while clearing jungle, harvesting rice, constructing a building, etc., he has no alternative in the absence of a dispensary than to treat a wound with native herbs, weeds or other material or, as in most cases, let the wound remain untreated. The infection rate is always high, up to 90 percent for wounds and injuries. This incapacitates the injured often times for several weeks. When a villager is incapacitated he is unable to prepare land or tend his rice crop which in turn affects the daily existence of his entire family. Where dispensaries are in operation villagers think nothing of walking two days in order to obtain medicines for common ailments and to have wounds and injuries treated.

Market - Self Help

Only two village self-help markets have been completed, the other approved market projects are in various stages of development, -lumber is being cut and prepared, rock, gravel and sand is being collected and for some projects the villagers are awaiting roofing and cement. A village market means more to a villager than just an outlet for the sale and exchange of goods and produce, it is also an important community center for meetings, festivals and other functions which are essential to village life and existence. Since the desire for schools is foremost in the minds of the villagers market projects for the time being are of lower priority.

Provincial Development Projects

The Provincial Development Projects approved for this region are as follows -

Regional Teacher Training School	- Pakse
Market	- Pakse
Market	- Champassak (Bassac)
Group Scolaire School	- Paksong
Market Repair and Renovation	- Paksong
11 Bridges	- Kheng Island

Of the above projects the following have been completed and are in use by the communities in which they are located.

Regional Teacher Training School	- Pakse
Market	- Champassak (Bassac)
Group Scolaire	- Paksong

The Champassak Market provides a central point for the exchange of produce and wares in a community of approximately 3000 people. No market existed in the community until this structure was completed, the inhabitants sold their produce along the main street which was always muddy or dusty, depending upon the season, and in view of the fact that no central outlet existed farmers and merchants had no incentive to bring their produce and wares into the town for sale or exchange.

Group Scolaire in Paksong provides classroom space for six classes totaling approximately 300 students. This new, two story, wooden structure replaces two small, inadequate, dark and dilapidated school buildings which could not properly house one half of

the student body. The new building has provided facilities for teaching twice as many students from Paksong and surrounding villages. The area has approximately 4000 inhabitants.

Thahine is a rapidly growing village across the Sedone River from Pakse (North). The building has been completed and will be used as seen as the entrance and parking area has been improved. This structure will serve as a market center for approximately 4000 inhabitants of Thahine, must use the Pakse market which requires travelling on foot, by bicycle and samler over a narrow and traffic congested road and then over a one lane bridge to the center of Pakse. The market will influence the further expansion and development of Thahine.

The Paksong market repair and renovation is 60 percent completed. The original building was on the verge of collapsing and was a hazard to anyone desiring to sell his produce in the building. Paksong is the leading vegetable producing and livestock area of the region. The renovated building will permit Paksong to become an important outlet and center for produce from that area and most of the renown Bolovens Plateau.

Refugee Resettlement - Self Help

In addition to Rural Self-Help and Provincial Development projects this office has during the past year planned and completed a refugee resettlement project in cooperation with the RIG Social Welfare Service. A group of 14 refugee families were given government land at Km. 15 on the Pakse-Paksong road. The group under the direction of the Pheban (village Chief) cleared the jungle, cut and prepared posts and framing, prepared bambee for weaving wall panels and constructed their homes. USAID and the Social Welfare representative laid out the village and prepared a typical plan for the houses. USAID provided, through the Social Welfare agency, tin roofing, sawn lumber, nails, hardware and tools. Supervision was given to the project by USAID and the RIG agency. Seed rice was provided to the group for their first crop as was vegetable seed. USAID with the assistance of IVS/Pakse is rendering technical assistance for the construction of a small dam to eliminate a source of malaria and to provide water for gardens, livestock and domestic use.

This is a summary of the Pheban's story. - Pheban Meen is 67 years old, he and his villagers are Kha of the Kha Ta Oie tribe. They originally lived in the village of Ban Yang Keh Tane Lico which is approximately 2 full days walk north of Saravane. This was the home of Pheban Meen and his ancestors for generations. He reports that the land is rich in timber, bambee, wild game and produces good rice.

About five years ago the Pathet Lao began to infiltrate and harass the inhabitants of this remote area. Villagers were forced to hide their rice in the jungle in order to subsist. The Pathet Lao took Pheban Meen and the young villagers several times to a central point where they were forced to attend propaganda and indoctrination meetings along with inhabitants of other villages of the region. These meetings were very often conducted for 5 to 10 days and anyone unwilling to attend was forced to do so at gun-point.

In addition to having their crops stolen from them the villagers lived in a state of continual fear.

After one year of harassment some of the villages, that of Pheban Moon included, decided to move to the Lao Ngam area, located on the northern slope of the Bolovens Plateau and about a six day walk in distance, in order to escape harassment and begin a new life. The refugees settled in a village named Ban Tone Deng Bang. After about three years in this village the Pathet Lao began to harass the villagers in the same manner as when they were living in their ancestral region. Those who refused to attend indoctrination meetings or to cooperate in other ways were forced to become pack coolies for transporting supplies and ammunition for the Pathet Lao. This forced labor would last from 10 to 30 days before the villagers could return to their homes and work their fields.

When a FAR battalion commander asked Pheban Moon if he would like to move his villagers to a secure area he agreed and it was decided that the village would move from Lao Ngam to Pakse by way of Saravane. An escort of 88 FAR troops was formed and after a three day walk, during which they were attacked by the Pathet Lao, the villagers arrived in Saravane. One village chief remained in the Saravane area but Pheban Moon decided to move to Pakse area. Eight families made the trip from Saravane to Pakse by truck while 6 other families walked because they had no funds for truck hire. The 14 families chose Km 15 and constructed temporary homes. Four months later the RLG Social Welfare Service and USAID began the project to resettle the villagers of Pheban Moon at Km 15. Rice, salt, milk, medicines, soap, mosquito nets, blankets and clothing were provided the villagers through the Social Welfare Service and USAID refugee relief program. There are 73 inhabitants in the village where they are now conducting a normal life free of Pathet Lao harassment.

About five months ago another refugee group of 14 families from the same tribe (Kha Ta Oie) from the Saravane area arrived at Km. 15 where they have constructed temporary shelter. This group experienced the same type of harassment and abuse from the Pathet Lao and were forced to flee from their original home area. They have cleared off the jungle and plan to construct a permanent village adjoining that of Pheban Moon, hoping to receive assistance from USAID and the RLG Social Welfare Service and begin a new life in peace.

TO: Dr. H. E. Thomas, Chief, RDD

December 14, 1962

FROM: J. W. MacQueen, Field Representative, Pakse

SUBJECT: Field Activity Report - Week of December 2 through 8, 1962

Population of Saravane Province is 150,000 of which 2,300 inhabit Saravane town. There are 10-12 minority groups.

Attoupeu is calm at present but travel by road is restricted to not more than 20 Km. in any direction due to PL strength around the town. See memo of 4 December regarding demobilization.

The population of Attoupeu is 87,460 of which 58,000 are tribes people, consisting of 9 Kha tribes. There are 32 Kha and 8 Lao Tassengs or 40 in all. There are 3 Moungs and 334 villages.

ORA:5-11-71:ps.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. H. E. Thomas, Chief, RDD

DATE: Dec. 14, 1962

FROM : J. W. MacQueen, Field Representative, Paksé

SUBJECT: Field Activity Report - Week of December 2 through 8, 1962

1. Points visited -

Leper Colony, Km. 30 Saigon Road, - Sunday 2 Dec.

Saravane - Friday 7 Dec.

Attoueu - Saturday 8 Dec.

Houei Khong - Saturday 8 Dec.

2. Visited Leper Colony with Dr. H. E. Thomas, Chief RDD. Composed of 2 villages, one assisted by the Mission Evangelique and the other by a Catholic missionary, due to lack of time the latter was not visited. A clear stream separates the two villages. The village visited is comprised of 60 families totalling 212 population. Inhabitants are Lao & tribes people, from all over southern region. Very limited medical care is administered by a Swiss nurse because medical supplies are in very short supply.

Vegetable seed beds have been prepared, seed given to the villagers by this office has germinated well.

Made aerial reconnaissance of Paksong - Thateng Road Sunday afternoon.

Arranged for military escort for Clement Smith (EPR) for his inspection of Paksong - Thateng Road by jeep 7 December. This to be a work project for demobilized troops.

Went to Saravane 7 December with D. Buschman to investigate possibility of drilling wells for the hospital and Groupe Scolaire. Measured existing dug wells in Saravane. All dug wells are shallow measuring 10-12 meters deep, most wells are dry midway through the winter and inhabitants have to carry water from Sedone River. Population of Saravane Province is 150,000 of which 2,300 inhabit Saravane town. There are 10-12 minority groups. Transportation of goods Paksé - Saravane has doubled from 1 Kip to 2 kip per kilo.

Visited Attoueu 8 Dec. with Dr. H. E. Thomas, Wm. Thomas USAID/Lags

Visited Attapeu 8 Dec. with Dr. H. E. Thomas, Wm. Thomas USAID/Laos and Thomas Niblock AED/W. Conferred with Deputy Chaokhoueng, Col. Khong Vong Narath, in charge of province. The Chaokhoueng has been absent in Vientiane since early November. Col. Khong gave a briefing of military situation. Attapeu is calm at present but travel by road is restricted to not more than 20 Km. in any direction due to PL strength around the town. See memo of 4 December regarding demobilization.

The population of Attapeu is 87,460 of which 58,000 are tribes people, consisting of 9 Kha tribes. There are 32 Kha and 8 Lao Tassengs or 40 in all. There are 3 mounqs and 334 villages. Current market prices in Attapeu are as follows:-

Rice (very lowest grade)	12 Kip per kilo
Eggs	5 " each
Buffalo	5,000 " each
Chickens	70 " "
Ducks	25 - 150 " "
1 1 small bottle soy sauce	85 " " (40 kip-Paksé)

Everything except food items must be flown in from Pakse because there is no passable road. The old road passes through Ban Phone a PL stronghold. 38 schools are closed due to PL activity, 19 are still open and functioning.

The visit to Attapeu was followed by an inspection of the Civic Action project at Houei Khong. The flight was made in a Dornier, the airstrip is more than adequate for this aircraft with a full load.

3. The leper Colony requires any assistance available from any and all agencies. Little or no support is received from the RLG. Much can be done towards improving housing, school & dispensary facilities through Self-Help projects with USAID and RLG commission of Rural Affairs cooperating. The villagers are able to participate in construction projects.

Prospects for potable water in Saravane are dim without deep well drilling equipment. In spite of this we will send our small equipment to explore the possibility of drilling shallow wells.

Much work will have to be done to reactivate the Rural Development program in Attapeu especially since the Chaokhoueng prefers to remain in Vientiane. The Deputy Chaokhoueng is an intelligent and active individual but unfortunately is occupied with his duties as military commander of the district. USAID has

initiated a program to assist demobilized tribe people who have again become refugees. A work program for demobilized troops in Attoupeu is also in the planning stage.

The Civic Action program inherited from MAAG is still beset with many problems. This program was developed unilaterally by MAAG without the knowledge of the RLG civil government and little or no coordination with FAR according to advices given to this office by Chaokhouengs and the commander of this region. Much hard work is still required to make anything out of this scheme.

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"What it was Like Before; The First Year in Kong Se Nam Noi"

by

Edwin T. McKeithen III

The following paper, which was first written for a course in anthropology, was done after the author had been away from Kong Se Nam Noi for a year and a half. He was a member of the I.V.S. team mentioned in the report and is now on direct hire with AID/Laos. It is written in the third person in an attempt to provide a more objective viewpoint of the failures and successes for which he was in part responsible. It is by no means a complete account of what happened but is an attempt to describe the most significant aspects of his experience during that year.

One day a villager asked the Americans for plywood seeds. He knew the kind of wood which the drums of helicopter fuel were tied to when they came down on parachutes, and he had seen that this was unusually strong wood. He said that he would like to grow the trees from which this wood came and had therefore come to see if the visitors could get him the right kind of seeds. The villager did not understand the nature of plywood, nor did he understand why the Americans laughed when they heard his request. When they had explained what plywood was and why they too would like to have seeds for growing it he laughed along with them. After several beers and more discussion of the plywood situation everyone came away knowing each other and each other's world a little bit better.

The villager's visit formed a small part of the experience of several Americans who worked on the Bolovens Plateau in southern Laos during the year September 1963 through September 1964. They and the tribespeople they worked with built bridges, installed culverts, built dispensaries, trained medics, cut roads, and experimented with new methods of agriculture. The Americans came to feel that they knew a lot about the region and its people and the tribespeople seemed to show that they came to know something about the foreigners. Yet it is certain that neither group ever clearly understood the other, and more specifically, it is certain that the Americans never fully understood the effects or "impact" that their activities had on the villagers.

This is then a reflection on what the outsiders learned and what they did; more important, however, it is an examination of the questions that were never answered and of those which were never asked. It will begin with a brief account of what they found out and what they did, will then discuss some of the unanswered questions and the unfilled gaps in their activities, and will close by presenting several ideas on what should be done in the future. It is intended to be a very practical discussion that might enable Americans who are now on the Bolovens as well as those who might go there in the future to better understand their role and to better prepare themselves to perform effectively.

Kong Se Nam Noi, or the "district of the Little Se (River)," covers the eastern half of the Bolovens Plateau. Its 3400 people belong to two tribes,

the Ncru' and the Hzinyl', or as the Lao call them, the Laven and the Nyaheun. About eight hundred Ncru' live in eight villages and about twenty six hundred Hzinyl' live in thirty six villages. Although the two tribes are physically, culturally and linguistically similar, the first thing that one notices is that the construction of their villages differs markedly according to tribe. Ncru' villages are cleaner and are located closer to each other than Hzinyl' villages; Ncru' houses are usually built of wood, are higher off the ground, and are more substantial buildings than Hzinyl' houses. The Ncru' organize themselves into cooperative work groups - normally the entire village - to put up a house, whereas the Hzinyl' consider housebuilding to be less of a communal responsibility. The Ncru' move their villages much less frequently than the Hzinyl', the most recent move having taken place in 1949 when three villages (Nong Mek Kang, Nong Kin Nyai, and Nam Liang) created unusually large settlements by moving in with three others (Nam Tang, Nong Ioi, and Nong Pamuan); the latter villages had been in their present locations for about a hundred years. The Hzinyl', on the other hand, tend to shift location much more frequently. While the Hzinyl' might be expected to move more often because of the poorer soil found in their area, it is noteworthy that no fewer than twelve villages changed locations between 1953 and 1955. Even though this was a period of abnormal instability as a result of maximum Viet Minh pressure, the tendency of individual Hzinyl' villages to fragment themselves into several different locations illustrates the Hzinyl' tendency to de-emphasize village consolidation and permanence.

This fragmented approach of the Hzinyl' to communal living runs parallel to other characteristics that tend to separate these and related highland tribes into highly ethnocentric groups. Both the Ncru' and the Hzinyl' are physically related to the various types of Austronesian peoples who form the "Kha (slave) tribes of Laos and the "Moi" (savage) tribes of South Viet-Nam. Their approaches to agriculture, religion, dress and social organization are remarkably similar, they tend to live at the same altitudes and tend to view their lowland neighbors with the same distrust, but among themselves they seem to cultivate linguistic distinctions in an almost conscious effort to emphasize their differences. They all speak languages of the southeastern Mon-Khmer group* and further divide them into countless dialects which are sometimes confined to small villages. The languages are all polysyllabic and non-tonal, and are characterized by unusually large numbers of consonant and vowel phonemes; (an incomplete study of Ncru' came up with 96 consonant and 36 vowel phonemes). The Americans found that tribesmen rarely talked about their own language in isolation but usually made a point of comparing it to the other tribe's tongue.

The Ncru' feel that they are culturally and economically superior to the Hzinyl' in much the same way that the valley Lao and Vietnamese feel that they are superior to the hill tribes. The feelings are not strictly mutual, however, in that there seems to be a definite pecking order that extends downward from the Lao through the Ncru' to the Hzinyl'. Practically all historical contacts that the disorganized hill peoples have had with the valley groups have been in the nature of subservience or outright slavery. Relationships between the hill tribes have

* Pronounced Həñ

* The only exception to this pattern is found among the Rhade and Jarai hill tribes of South Viet-Nam, who speak languages of the Malayo-Polynesian group.

not been as severely strained as they have been with the valley peoples; nevertheless the Ncru' tell a story which illustrates the nature of their feelings toward the Hziny'.

During a battle between the two tribes about a hundred years ago, the Ncru' discovered that the iron crossbows they were using lost their spring after each shot and therefore offered to exchange weapons with the Hziny'. The Hziny' agreed to the transfer, believing that their wooden crossbows were less powerful than those of the Ncru'. As the Ncru' tell it, the Hziny' foolishly exchanged weapons and lost the battle.

Both groups practice swidden, or slash-and-burn agriculture, both plant nearly the same varieties of rice and vegetables and both raise the same kinds of livestock. But the Ncru' are quick to point out that they use hoes to plant their seeds whereas the Hziny' use digging sticks. The Hziny', on the other hand, are much better animal husbandrymen. They raise about five times as many pigs per capita as the Ncru' and they make a practice of feeding them paddy (unmilled rice) several times a day, rather than follow the Ncru' practice of letting them forage on their own. The Hziny' also own many more water buffalo than the Ncru' and seem to attach a much greater value to buffalo as prestige possessions.

These differences in the care of livestock are in part dependent on different approaches to religion, which differ more in the degree of participation than in the nature of the religion itself. Neither group has incorporated Buddhist traits into its belief system and both continue to organize their lives around essentially animistic beliefs, although both have been exposed to Christianity. The sacrifice of animals, primarily chickens, pigs and water buffalo, constitute the major tribute paid to the spirits. Ancestral and rice spirits claim the major share of sacrifices, while river, trail, forest, fire and other lesser spirits hold positions of secondary importance. Ancestral spirits continue to demand attention for several years after the bearer's death, while rice and field spirits are worshipped as a matter of course no matter what other spirits are immediately concerned.

The Hziny' participate much more intensively and frequently than the Ncru' in religious ceremonies and are thus forced to maintain more abundant stocks of animals to meet their religious requirements. They tend to close off their villages to outsiders for much longer periods of time in the case of death or other disasters; they seem more willing to follow the advice of shamen in slaughtering several pigs or buffalo to satisfy the spirits, and they maintain much larger collections of the rice wine urns which play an indispensable part in religious ceremonies. A well-to-do Hziny' household will have several walls lined with urns which are both larger and more ornately decorated than those found in Ncru' houses.

According to accounts from both tribes, there recently seems to have occurred rather considerable relaxation in the observance of traditional religious rites and practices. This might well be attributed to a slightly lower incidence of disease as a result of the spread of medical services in recent years. It is more probable, however, that these changes have coincided with more fundamental

alterations that have taken place in the lives of the villagers. The establishment of Laos as a country, the intervention of the Viet-Minh, the organization of most of the able bodied men into local militia groups and the arrival of Catholic and Protestant missionaries as well as American technical assistance personnel have undoubtedly been significant factors in the changes which have taken place.

The most important question, however, is the extent to which the two tribes have been moving away from each other in terms of cultural orientation or have been following a similar path of cultural change. The Ncru' stress over and over again the fact that their religious practices of many years ago were similar to the Hzin'y' practices of the present. Whereas they used to isolate an entire village during sacrificial ceremonies, as the Hzin'y' continue to do, they now merely close off segments of a village or even an individual household. They appear more willing to consult village medics during the early stages of disease, whereas the Hzin'y' will usually wait until all efforts to appease the spirits have failed. The Hzin'y', however, give similar signs of wanting to reduce their participation in religious activities. Americans who were present during Hzin'y' ceremonies often received complaints that the spirits were a nuisance and that they were being given less deference than they formerly enjoyed. The Americans occasionally felt that faith in the spirits was being partially transferred to them; while some of this feeling was undoubtedly derived from an overly optimistic appraisal of their effectiveness, it should have also been interpreted as a sign of increased dependence in lieu of self-reliance on the part of the tribesmen. On one occasion an American suggested to a Hzin'y' leader that he round up all the troublesome spirits and send them out on a caribou scheduled to deliver road-building equipment. The American forgot about his conversation, but as the plane took off several weeks later, his Hzin'y' friend wishfully remarked "There go all the spirits."

However inconclusive the data it nevertheless appears that the two tribes are undergoing the process of cultural change at unequal paces. The matter of village consolidation and housebuilding is a case in point. Whereas the Ncru' have come to build almost all their new houses of wood and to settle in well established locations, the Hzin'y' persist in using bamboo construction and tend to move as frequently as they always have. The Ncru' have also become much more "Laotianized," in the sense that a greater number are fluent in Lao and have more frequent contact with the Lao. Several of the Ncru' have become traders and others have become skilled carpenters along patterns of specialization that are rarely found outside Lao villages. Ncru' agriculture is also much more diversified in that vegetable gardens separate from the swidden are fairly common, and coffee, pineapples, kapok and other crops are raised.

The Ncru' have also taken pains to disassociate themselves from the Hzin'y' in enterprises in which both groups would have clearly benefited from working together. In 1962 a group of thirty Hzin'y' began work on a wet rice project under the urging and support of an American military advisor. The experiment was enough of a success by 1964 that several of the participants had abandoned their swidden to grow padi rice exclusively. The Ncru' had by this time become quite interested in the project and in mid-1964 a group of fourteen men asked the Americans to assist them in the same way that the military adviser

had helped the Hzin'y' set up their project. Since only a small portion of the valley at Thong Houng had been put under cultivation by the Hzin'y' the Americans urged that the Ncru' join the first group in order to take advantage of their experience and the economies of scale that would result from the concentration of buffalo and farming implements. No amount of prodding, however, could convince the Ncru' to join the Hzin'y'. They set up their padis at Thong Vai, a new and less readily accessible area and began the difficult task of learning padi cultivation on their own. The feeling that Thong Vai was more properly Ncru' (it had once been farmed by the Ncru' leader Komandam) and that the Hzin'y' had laid claim to Thong Houng might have accounted for Ncru' reluctance to join the first group; but it is more probable that the central role of farming in the culture and the desire of the Ncru' to emphasize their cultural uniqueness accounted for their desire to work independently of the Hzin'y'.

While the two tribes keep to their own ways in more sensitive areas of culture - intermarriage, for example, is almost unheard of - they get along relatively well in the local political and military organizations. The commander of the local home guard forces is a Hzin'y' who is respected and obeyed by soldiers of both tribes. Companies, however, are organized along tribal lines - four Hzin'y' and one Ncru' - and they take responsibility for the security of rather distinct areas and seldom go out on mixed patrols. The district chief, or Naikong is also Hzin'y' while his assistant is Ncru'. The Naikong, however, is quite elderly and is kept from retiring only by pressure from his deputy and the Hzin'y' village chiefs. Almost all his responsibilities are carried out by the deputy, or Little Naikong, while the Big Naikong remains in office as more of a venerated leader than as an active administrator. The Little Naikong is an industrious and able leader who both respects and is respected by the members of both tribes. It should be noted that the Ncru' villages comprising Tasseng Houei Kong joined the political unit of Kong Se Nam Noi only in 1951, and it is probably that the Little Naikong, who was then the Tasseng chief, was instrumental in effecting the administrative consolidation of the two tribes.

The Ncru' and Hzin'y', in keeping with their other cultural differences, exhibit considerably different personality types. The Ncru' are more assertive, competitive, confident and extroverted than the Hzin'y', while the latter people exhibit a personality type that may be described as more reserved, submissive, self-effacing and introverted. The leadership of the Hzin'y', however, tends more toward the personality type of the Ncru'. The Americans working on the Bolovens Plateau found it much easier to obtain opinions and advice from the Ncru' than from the Hzin'y' but they also found the information obtained from the Hzin'y' to be generally more reliable. Similarly, those members of both groups who were the most willing to volunteer information, especially at an early date, tended to tell the Americans what they (the informants) thought they wanted to hear rather than what they knew to be more accurate.

At this point it would be appropriate to begin a discussion of the experiences of the Americans - International Voluntary Services and A.I.D. personnel - who worked in Kong Se Nam Noi during the period Sept. 1963 through Sept. 1964. No attempt will be made to give a complete description of their activities, as none has been made to present a complete picture of the Ncru' and Hzin'y' cultures. The emphasis will be on the most notable projects they engaged in, their successes and failures, their knowledge and ignorance about

local conditions, their understanding of their own role as agents of change, and the degree to which they accomplished their objectives.

Two I.V.S. men who had spent about a year in Laos were assigned to Kong Se Nam Noi to find out as much as they could about the area and to recommend the sort of activities that should be undertaken. They held frequent talks with the tribespeople and their leaders and traveled to as many different villages as they could. They also gained the assistance of the five Tasseng chiefs in filling out rather extensive questionnaires; the Tassengs, in effect, were responsible for gathering almost all the statistical information which went into the 12,000 word survey. The performance of the Tassengs in providing the information requested of them gave preliminary indications of their attitudes toward the American presence and their interest in participating in community development activities. The survey, in short, was as important as an exercise in itself as was the information which it disclosed.

The first "mistake" that the IVS personnel made was in placing too much reliance on a particularly outgoing leader in the village (Nong Ioi) where they rented temporary quarters. Nim', an officer in the local militia and a powerful figure in the village, was the first person to actively cultivate their friendship and the first to offer his services in assisting them in whatever they did. He chose the two boys whom they hired to cook rice and wash clothes and he made a point of asking that they bring any problems they might have to him. Nim' was not the village chief, but the IVS men took him to be the "hidden leader" who is often found outside the formal political structure of Lao villages.

Following up his offer, the IVS personnel asked for his assistance in improving a jeep trail to several of the villages south of Nong Ioi. He promptly provided about fifteen men and valuable explosives for leveling steep river banks at fording places. Within two days the group had cleared eight kilometers of trail. The work was undertaken as more of a military operation than as a community development activity and was of clearly greater benefit to the Americans than to the villagers, who had no difficulty in travelling on foot or bicycle along the unimproved trails. More importantly, however, the project gave Nim' an opportunity to assert his authority and to gain prestige for himself because of the respect paid him by IVS. Nim' continued to exhibit this tendency to compulsively seek deference, authority and prestige in a way which established him as a fringe member of the society, and it is certain that had the Americans continued to follow his advice as closely as they had in the beginning they would have encountered far greater difficulties in gaining acceptance and in accomplishing their long range objectives in Kong Se Nam Noi.

The first "successful project" of any importance was the installation of a culvert on the road to Paksong. As the most important commercial link with the rest of Laos, the 32 kilometer road was passable throughout the dry season and most of the rainy season except for a washout several hundred yards from the village of Houei Kong. The only vehicles which had no difficulty in getting through the washout were bicycles, which meant that the Chinese merchant's truck and jeep were prevented from making regular runs from Paksong and were thus unable to bring in merchandise on as regular a basis as they did during the dry season. The nuisance and embarrassment that the fifty-foot mudhole caused were

probably the most important factors, however, in prodding the villagers to repair it. American encouragement to improve the road played on local embarrassment about its condition and proved to be the catalyst needed to realize a latent desire to fill in the washout. About fifty men from the five Ncru' villages closest to the road worked on it for three days, preparing the approaches and laying the culvert pipe; the Americans, the Little Naikong, and the local Protestant missionary all worked along with them, while the Chinese merchant hauled rock fill to the site in his truck. The IVS personnel had wanted to use locally available gasoline drums for the culvert pipe, but AID decided to use corrugated steel sections imported from the U.S. Work was halted for eight days to wait for the culvert material, but aside from this delay the project emerged as a successful community effort. It showed that the villagers, at least the Ncru', were concerned about community problems outside their immediate interests and were willing to work together to solve them.

The first major project that was undertaken was directed toward improving the medical facilities of Kong Se Nam Noi. It was felt that initial activities should be designed to produce maximum benefit to the tribesmen with minimum strain on their part in order to cultivate trust in American intentions and to thus lay the groundwork for future projects. The dispensary at Houei Kong, which had been organized by an American Special Forces team in 1962, was accessible to the Ncru' villages in the immediate vicinity, but most of Kong Se Nam Noi had been left untouched by medical services. Discussions with the Naikongs, the dispensary personnel and the local military leaders indicated that the establishment of branch dispensaries in each of the four other Tassengs - all Hziiny' - would be a popular and worthwhile program. The project agreement, which was reached at the top levels of local government before it was presented to the Tasseng chiefs, provided that the villagers should construct the buildings, feed the medics and transport the medicines from the airstrip at Houei Kong to the branch dispensaries. AID, on the other hand, would provide the medicines, train the medics and pay them a nominal salary. The medics were to be chosen locally by the Tasseng chiefs and the militia officers for a six-month training program at the O.B. hospital in Paksong. In the meanwhile, the dispensaries were to be staffed with personnel drawn from the Houei Kong clinic. It was decided to omit the Hziiny' Tasseng nearest to Houei Kong at the beginning of the program because of the relatively easy access which it had to the existing facility.

This was undoubtedly a mistake, in that the criterion of immediate need was placed above that of willingness to participate in the project. In general, the IVS group tended to place too little emphasis on local initiative and group decision making; the Tassengs were consulted on separate trips by Americans to their home villages and little effort was made to determine the real nature of their attitudes toward the project. Similarly, the ways in which the dispensaries were actually built, i.e., which leaders within each Tasseng took the initiative, how many men from which villages participated in the project, etc., remained much of a mystery. The Americans did find out that the villages near the site at Ban Nam Ngo provided various kinds of building materials - one village the posts, another the siding, another the shingles, etc. - but the manner in which the villagers organized themselves was never clarified. It was also noted that the militia captain and the soldiers at Latsasin did most of the work on the building, while individual villagers were responsible for specific quotas of

roofing shingles; almost nothing was learned about the dispensary at Houei Soi, the first to be completed. Little attempt was made to ascertain either the ways in which community projects were organized or the attitudes of the tribesmen toward the collective approach to solving common problems. Thus although the services of the dispensaries were well received and the morale among the medics remained high, many of the lessons that the project had to offer were lost by default. It should be emphasized, however, that most of the Americans' shortcomings in this regard were due to the pressure they were under to achieve "results" in many different fields of activity. (Similar pressure caused AID, against IVS advice, to provide galvanized roofing material to the dispensary at Nong Mek, thus giving preferential treatment to one of the Tassengs.)

The Ncru' padi project at Thong Vai mentioned earlier came closest to fulfilling the model of an "ideal" community development effort. The demonstration effect of the Hziiny' project apparently prodded the fourteen Ncru' villagers into organizing themselves and coming up with a definite plan of action prior to approaching the Americans for assistance. By the time they came to ask for outside cooperation they had reached agreement on their objectives, their strategies, their resources and their needs;* they were thus able to show greater confidence and protect their own values more effectively than if the IVS team had been engaged in planning at an earlier stage. It is in fact probable that early insistence that the Ncru' join the project at Thong Houng as a condition of assistance might have discouraged the project from being undertaken at all. The point is not, of course, that outside advice is detrimental, but that technical assistance workers must try to fully understand all the reasons behind individual and group behavior before they pass judgement on policies or programs which significantly affect local conditions.

The least successful project begun during the year was aimed at improving the roads and bridges in the western section of the Kōng. As in the case of the jeep trail south of Nong Ioi, the benefit to the villagers was far removed from presently felt needs, while the goal of easier travel to a greater number of villages was given excessive priority by the Americans. This was a "self-help" project, in which local labor was to combine with externally provided technicians and equipment in improving transportation facilities.

Even though the Tassengs and village chiefs participated frequently in planning sessions, the greatest amount of advice and encouragement came from the top leadership. The Little Naikong, who was more farsighted than the bulk of the villagers in realizing the ultimate value of the roads and more aware of the unpredictable nature of American assistance, supported the project to the extent that he gave a false picture of the villager's willingness to contribute labor. The IVS group, on the other hand, felt that a program of such high American priority but low native priority would fail as a self-help activity, and that the laborers should be paid if it were undertaken at all. AID maintained its policy of trying to implement a non-essential self-help project - a contradiction in terms.

* Buffalo, tools and Lao instructors - the same assistance that had been given to the Hziiny' project by the U.S. military adviser.

When the specified quota of villagers failed to show up for work, particularly those from the areas farthest from the road, the project became an AID "training program," in which funds to make up for lost time in the fields were paid out to the "trainees." Thai and American technicians, a pile-driver, bulldozer and related equipment were brought in, the bridges were built and the roads cut, but the values of self-reliance and local innovation were all but forgotten in the rush to get the job done. It is difficult to say how much pride the inhabitants of Kong Se Nam Noi have in the physical results of their work; the real test will come when the bridges begin to need repair and the problem of upkeep demands a local solution.

Another approach to technical change was taken in the establishment of an agricultural demonstration area. Supervised by a full-time IVS agriculturist, the two-acre plot featured field corn for fodder, soybeans, mungbeans, and various other kinds of vegetables. A fish pond and a model pig sty to serve as distribution centers to interested villagers were nearing completion by the end of 1964. In addition, a water wheel was built to demonstrate the possibilities of dry season vegetable garden irrigation and the local IVS assistants and soldiers were encouraged to try out new seeds and techniques in their own gardens on the plot. To the extent that the demonstration area can become a showplace of valuable techniques, and to the extent that local "extension agents" can be inspired to act as innovators, the project may prove to be one of the most effective long range activities of the American advisors. A notable shortcoming in 1964, however, was the lack of information on local agricultural practices and the broader cultural attitudes associated with swidden techniques - in particular, the cultural implications of the experiments in padi farming.

The areas of American concern which were the most severely neglected, however, were not ones of technical assistance but were rather matters of political and military significance. Largely because of pressures to produce tangible results and to do things which could be reported quantitatively, the more important socio-political and military considerations which underlay the American presence in Kong Se Nam Noi were largely ignored. The only attempt of any significance that was made to extend pro-government influence to areas outside the Kong took the form of a proposal to establish a branch dispensary in one of the villages (Nong Kheuang) under moderate Pathet Lao influence to the Southwest. A vote among the villagers showed that about a third of the population was opposed to the dispensary, primarily because of fear of Pathet Lao reprisals, and the village chief decided to hold off on the project until greater local support could be gathered. Aside from this one step toward the "other side" the energies of the Americans were confined to working in the Kong proper.

The Ncru' population in Kong Se Nam Noi forms but a small part of the Ncru' tribe as a whole. Predominantly Pathet Lao - Viet Minh, the Ncru' have remained under much the same leadership (Komandam, now dead, his son Si Thon and his grandson Sang Kham) that led early uprisings against the French and which now holds an important position in the PL-VM hierarchy in southern Laos. The Ncru' of the Kong are thus separated from the bulk of the tribe but appear to have the potential of acting as the nucleus of a pro-government (or at least anti-PL-VM) rallying point for the Ncru' who become disillusioned with PL-VM rule. The Kong

leadership, however, is more prone to live and let live than to actively seek the allegiance of villagers outside its jurisdiction.

The role that American advice and assistance can play in improving local security, in spreading the benefits of external assistance to fringe areas, and in generally undermining support for the Pathet Lao - Viet Minh, both internally and externally, depends on the extent to which not merely economic or technical but political considerations form a basis for programs and projects. This approach to community development was rarely emphasized, and to illustrate the extent of American ignorance in these matters, the following examples of unanswered questions is presented:

How unified are the Ncru' as a tribe; how close are the contacts between those in the Kong and those outside?

How successful have Komandam and his followers been in exerting authority over the bulk of the Ncru'?

Why are the Ncru' in Kong Se Nam Noi under negligible Komandam influence; to what extent did they formerly follow him, and if there was a split, when did it occur and who was responsible?

What are the weaknesses of Pathet Lao - Viet Minh control over the Ncru' i.e., to what extent do they use terror, conscription, taxation, or other forms of control which can be exploited in undermining their influence? To what extent have PL-VM efforts to gain control in Ncru' villages alienated the traditional leadership by usurping their power?

How and why did Tasseng Houei Kong join Kong Se Nam Noi; what were the roles of the Naikong, the Little Naikong, Prince Boun Oum, and the local military leaders in bringing about this consolidation?

How was the new Tasseng of Upassa chosen; what authority and responsibility do Tassengs have?

Why did the Ncru' village of Nong Nyao join the Hziy' Tasseng of Nong Mek; why was the chief shot and what part did this play in the village's move to Tasseng Nong Mek?

Why did the Ncru' village consolidation of 1949 take place? The widespread Hziy' moves of 1953-55?

How will a successor to the Little Naikong be chosen, and who are the most probable candidates?

Why did the Fifth Company (armed and trained by U.S. Special Forces in 1962) defect to the Pathet Lao; why did some of the men from this unit later defect to the Royal Lao Army at Faksong?

It is known that a number of local men defected to the Viet Minh - six

from Nong Panuan in 1949, 1950 and 1959, four men from Tasseng Din Deng in 1950, 1959 and 1961, and two men from Houei Soi in 1950. What were their reasons for leaving?

Similarly, Fong and Sek from Ban Nam Tang, Dek from Nong Panuan, and Kham Chan from Houei Kong returned home in 1957 after seven, three, and eight years respectively with the Viet Minh. Why did they come back?

The Hziy' militia officers are known to distrust the Ncru' because of their tribal connections with villages friendly to the PL-VM. During the Viet Minh occupation of Feb. 3 to Aug. 10, 1954, to what extent did the Hziy' put up stiffer resistance to the invaders and to what extent did Ncru' villages, particularly those outside the Kong, receive the Viets openly?

These are only a few of the rather crucial questions that had gone unanswered in 1964, but they do point up the greatest need of the cluster project in Kong Se Nam Noi: knowledge. Not enough was learned about the effects of the various projects on the villagers both in and around the Kong. How do the villagers feel, for example, about the rice mill at Houei Kong; do the co-op members really feel that they own it collectively or do they see it as an externally owned service for which they must pay? The effects which projects have must not be judged in terms of Kong Se Nam Noi alone, but must be seen in the revolutionary context of the Bolovens Plateau as a whole. These activities do not occur in a vacuum, but take part in a competition with the Pathet Lao - Viet Minh for the allegiance of the tribespeople. At the same time, however, the political commitments that are sought must not be gained at the expense of the increased self-reliance that community development programs must foster. There is no necessary connection between external assistance and external dependence, but a conscious effort must always be made to see that such dependence is not encouraged. The dispensary program, for example, presents many difficulties in this regard, but it is correctly felt that the values of the medicines in achieving both political and humanitarian goals override the short-run considerations of external dependence. Nevertheless, every attempt should be made to insure that payment of one sort or another, i.e., room and board for the medics, is made in exchange for medical services.

Reports on political and military development must be made along with project or activity reports; to assume that such considerations are not within the proper sphere of AID-IVS responsibilities is to assume an automatic connection between beneficial economic change and favorable political development, e.g., between the number of vegetable gardens and attitudes toward the Pathet Lao.

The mimeographed newspaper (in Lao) which was begun in late 1964 should be continued and its circulation expanded to the fringe areas, and the study of Ncru' language, which was begun slightly earlier, should be continued. A unique opportunity to gain the support of uncommitted Ncru' villagers is presented by the chance to develop a written language and to establish Kong Se Nam Noi as the center from which Ncru' literacy as well as formal Lao education would spread. The written language which the Lao enjoy has often been viewed with envy by the

Ncru' and the brief work that was done with an Ncru' alphabet received support and interest from both the informants and the Ncru' leadership. Furthermore, it is a well known linguistic principle that non-literate peoples are able to learn a second language (Lao) better if they have learned their native tongue in written form first.

The most important considerations, however, are political, as demonstrated by the political successes which the Viet Minh had in developing writing systems for several of the hill tribes in South Viet-Nam. By attracting adolescents from the fringe areas to study at Houei Kong, or preferably, by training them to teach in their own villages (which presently have no schools) the influence which the Ncru' in Kong Se Nam Noi exert on the Ncru' as a whole could be increased considerably and the support which the Pathet Lao enjoy, mainly through coercion, could probably be dampened in the short run and considerably reduced in the long run. The Pathet Lao stress opposition to the Lao Government, but they would be hard pressed to oppose the strictly tribal advancement which Ncru' literacy and Lao education programs taught by Ncru' would imply.

Similarly, it would seem advisable to investigate the possibility of establishing a branch dispensary at Meun Hua Meung; the Hziny' in this area are presently without any medical service to speak of and it is possible that uncommitted tribesmen from this region could be brought into greater contact with the Kong. Proposals of this nature, however, should be carefully discussed with local political and military leaders at all levels before a decision is taken.

By and large, the programs that were undertaken in Kong Se Nam Noi during the first year of concentrated AID-IVS activity were impressive by both American and local standards. The road and bridge projects, for example, were probably of considerable importance to the villagers in terms of the status derived from the development of internal transportation, in spite of the negative aspects associated with the unilateral nature of the program. The real impact of these and other projects, however, was never clarified in terms of the way the villagers viewed them. Thus the greatest need, as previously outlined, is for greater understanding of the influence that community development projects have on cultural and political values and the extent to which they are consistent with the objectives of the American effort.

Ruoff
Refugee Relief

Mr. Joseph A. Mendenhall, Director
Thru : Dr. Howard E. Thomas, AD/RD

March 17, 1966

E. G. Ruoff, Chief, Refugee Relief & Resettlement Branch, RD

Attoupeu Refugees in Pakse

On March 14 and 15 Mr. Phillip Gullion of this office accompanied the Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Houmpheng Prathoumvan, to Pakse for a review of the Attoupeu refugee situation there. They found ~~that~~ some 480 families containing 2715 individuals located in Pakse. Of these 480 families there are 87 dependents of functionaires, 23 of police, 232 of FAR and 138 from villages of the Muong Cao area. The FAR families and police families have been cared for by their respective organizations in Pakse. The families of the functionaires and villagers are being looked after by the Chao Khoueng of Pakse and the regional Ministry of Social Welfare representative. A number of houses have been rented and relief supplies for approximately 500 families have been sent to Pakse.

It now appears that the ^{perceptious} flight of many of these families from the Attoupeu region was accomplished with very little or no advance planning. As a result many families have found that they left Attoupeu when it was not necessary. Therefore many are now anxious to return to Attoupeu. We have agreed with the Office of the Area Coordinator that, if security permits, these families should be returned to Attoupeu City. Only the 138 village families from Muong Cao are not expected to return to their original homes. However space for their temporary location is available in Attoupeu Town at a former refugee site. We expect that the villagers will have to have assistance for sometime to come due to the fact that they departed their homes with very few possessions and their crops have most probably been seized.

RD:EGRuoff:mem:3-17-66

cc

AC/Pakse

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : E. G. Ruoff, RDD

DATE: August 8, 1966

THRU: Bruce Bailey, AAG/Pakse *BB*FROM : Mike Murphy, Ops/Pakse *mm*

SUBJECT: Your August 5 Radio Message on Possible Refugee Increase

We have always found it difficult to make any meaningful projections of refugee movements in the Pakse region. However, there are a number of signs that indicate that there will be an increase in the number of refugees coming into Sedone Province, particularly from the Lao Ngam district which is almost midway on a straight line between Pakse and Saravane. We feel here that up to a thousand families will be moving out of that area within the next 18-24 months and will require resettlement. This would probably raise our commodity requirements by 30% in the Pakse region over the coming year and would be within the estimates provided for the FY67 CAP. We anticipate increased refugee movements during these next few months before harvest when the pressure for rice is most severe.

As the perimeter lines around the Wapi Project come more and more under government control, the PL have been forced into the Lao Ngam area and have come to rely more heavily on the people for support. The flow of PL defectors from the area has been constant and they indicate that PL levies for rice, labor, and new recruitment have increased. Groups of refugees coming out of the area also complain bitterly of the hardships. As they are resettled there is some communication with their old areas in Lao Ngam that encourages other refugee groups to come out.

The refugees coming out of the area were relatively prosperous before the PL took control and unlike most of the Mon-Khmer (Kha) refugees we deal with in eastern Saravane and Attopeu Provinces, they have old established cultivated areas and close ties with the land and the people which make them more reluctant to move, sometimes to the point of suffering almost intolerable conditions.

This year USAID Public Works has been building an all-weather road in the general direction of Lao Ngam from Km. 21 on the Pakse-Paksong Road. This road skirts the edge of the Bolovens Plateau and is opening up large areas of excellent soil ideal for resettlement projects. We have been resettling the Lao Ngam refugees along this road (Ban Oudomsouk, Ban Vane Keune) because it is within walking distance from the old villages and has similar soil and terrain. With the new road and access to public services the area has a good potential for development. The Chao Muong, Captain Khamkha, also is an asset to resettlement projects. Last week USIS interviewed some of these refugees for Voice of America. They spoke highly of the care and assistance the government has given them. These factors will undoubtedly encourage potential refugees.

In the past 12 months we have received and resettled approximately 1,700 people or 350 families from the Lao Ngam area. These groups of refugees have received varying amounts of assistance, ranging from transportation and a one-shot distribution to inclusion in resettlement projects with 100% rice ration provided.

Our policy has been to set up a system to smoothly handle the movement, reception and resettlement of these people but to stop short of making a direct offer or inducement to potential refugees. Along these lines a refugee reception center has been set up at Khongsedone and others are planned at Saravane and on the new road towards Lao Ngam. These centers will receive and process record data, make medical checks, issue identification, provide temporary housing and basic supplies and expedite whatever decision the resettlement committee and the refugees come to as to resettlement. Often in the past small groups of refugee families did not receive proper attention for lack of proper processing and follow-up organization. These people have often become a continuing relief problem to Social Welfare or have returned to their old areas because they were not properly resettled at the start.

We are now trying to work up a detailed long-range resettlement plan for Sedone and particularly the areas opened up by the new road so that adequate land and facilities will be available immediately for new groups of refugees so that they will spend a minimum time on emergency relief. Mr. MacQueen, who is out of the country at the moment, will have more information on the Lao Ngam area. We will keep you informed of our ideas in this area.

/ejs

minutes
note

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : E. G. Ruoff, Chief, Refugee Relief/Resettlement DATE: October 1, 1966
THRU: John W. MacQueen, AC Pakse
FROM : Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer, Pakse
SUBJECT: Monthly Report, September

General

During September 172 refugees came out of PL areas and were resettled at sites approved by Social Welfare. These refugees came in 27 separate movements or at an average of 6 per day. Since January 1,580 refugees have come into Sedone Province in groups less than 10 persons. We are making every effort to set up machinery to receive, process and resettle these small groups so they get as fair a deal as the large groups of 100-500 people and can become self-sufficient in the minimum time.

Flood Relief

Flood waters displaced enough people that some temporary housing and relief was provided by Social Welfare. Rice became scarce on the market when it appeared we might have severe flooding - prices rose somewhat but receded with the waters. Emergency quarters were provided for about 200 people at the two major wats. Bulgar wheat, corn meal, and other commodities were distributed to 1,300 people, mainly day laborers and vegetable growers hard hit by the flood. Canned goods and fish provided by the Mekong Commission were distributed to 250 families. Flood relief work somewhat disrupted field distributions and travel.

Administrative

Due to rising prices and the possibility that relief rice might be sold after distribution, we are now premixing 15-30% bulgar wheat into all rice before distribution. Premixing spreads out our insufficient rice supply and, of course, is more nutritious than rice. There has been some resistance to premixing from local officials, but the refugees have not found a particular hardship. A map of tasseng boundaries is being prepared for the six southern provinces. This map will be useful in quickly identifying refugee groups and reaching agreement with local officials as to which areas are legitimate refugee areas. Along these lines, two groups of refugees were officially reported this month who after investigation were found to be local residents.

Resettlement

Miss Linda Driskill and two Ag. Extension Agents conducted some excellent demonstrations on the use of PL 480 commodities in four refugee villages during the month. Their use of utensils and recipes with which the refugees were familiar made the demonstrations very worthwhile.

We are now finding ourselves in the embarrassing position that some of our candidates for resettlement have become self-sufficient while waiting for approval of an activity plan to resettle them.

/ejs

Good!

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: E. G. Ruoff, Chief, Refugee Relief & Resettlement DATE: October 26, 1966

THRU: J. W. MacGueen, AC Pakse

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer *mm*

SUBJ: Monthly Report, October

Refugee movements were relatively quiet during October due to the start of the harvest season. A total of 136 refugees were processed in 10 movements in Saravane, Attapeu and Sedone Provinces. Sixty refugees from the Lao Ngam area were resettled along the Pakse-Paksong Road, sixty-two others are at temporary sites and will probably be resettled next month. For the first time in several months, small groups of refugees began coming out of hard-core PL areas in eastern Saravane which may indicate larger movements for the coming dry season.

Refugee rice harvests will enable us to cut the amount of rice distributed from November to February. Due to increased rice needs in other parts of the country as a result of the flood, the Pakse rice quota has been cut by 46% for the coming quarter. This quota is below minimum requirements and makes no provision for emergency relief victims, always high during these months, and for the resettlement program in Attapeu and Saravane if and when it is approved and initiated. After February with the usual large influx of refugees and when the 1966 refugees exhaust their small first year harvest, rice needs will be up to or beyond the previous level of 35 tons a month.

A small tool production program by resettled refugees was started in October for the manufacture of 300 knives, axes and hoes per month. The possibility of refugee production of other relief commodities such as cloth and sleeping mats is being studied. Refugees who arrived too late to plant a crop this year and now have time on their hands until the next planting season will be encouraged to partially pay for their rice ration with bamboo boards and building timbers which will be stockpiled at the resettlement centers for use by refugees arriving next spring too late to collect house building materials and also clear land for planting.

An intensive vegetable raising program has been started with particular emphasis on Nong Boua, Saravane, where floods destroyed much of this year's rice crop and at Kong My, Attapeu, a rice land deficient area where the 718 refugees have already cleared a ten acre island for vegetable cultivation and constructed a small irrigation canal.

*O fr. above
monthly report*

The Chao Khoueng of Attapeu and a number of provincial officials visited Kong My to open the new self-help school. It was the first visit of any Lao official to this remote area and was greatly appreciated by the refugees. Efforts are now being made to permanently staff and support the new dispensary at Kong My.

A large photo mosaic of the new KM 21 road area in Sedone was prepared and is being used to locate suitable resettlement areas for anticipated tribal refugee groups. All rice distributed during October was premixed with 15-20% bulgar wheat without too many protestations or difficulties. Premixing and use of a new cross-index record system has improved control over in use of relief commodities.

/ejs

TO: E.G. Ruoff, Chief Refugee Relief & Resettlement, RDD

Dec 1, 1966

THRU: John W. MacQueen, AC/Pakse

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, November 1966

General:

Most refugee areas reported fairly good harvests this year. The paddy self-help project for Lao-Theung refugees at Attopeu had a good harvest but is still hampered by lack of manpower and buffalo. The refugees at Nong Boua. Saravane, lost much of their rice during a flood earlier this year; they are now concentrating on a dry season vegetable program.

A total of 234 refugees in 12 movements were received and processed in 4 provinces during November. Refugee movements are usually slow during November because of rice harvesting.

Attopeu:

Three groups totaling 44 Alak and Lave refugees reported to military units in remote areas of Attopeu Province during the month. As these areas are completely inaccessible to marketing areas, some clothing, soap, and other essential items provided through the VDAL Coop were sold to the villagers when distribution of relief commodities were made to the refugees. The villagers greatly appreciated the opportunity to purchase these essentials and the sale had a tendency to blunt some of the often heard criticisms made by villagers, who have been consistently loyal to the government and received nothing, when they see refugees who until recently were helping the enemy, receive free goods from the government. The profits from the sale in each case were given back to the villages as community use items such as pressure lamps and carpenter tools.

Saravane: About 200 Ta-Oy refugees are at a temporary location in northern Saravan. Attempts are being made in cooperation with the Chao Khoueng to find a suitable resettlement site for this group. With approval and agreement on the resettlement activity plans for Saravane, work should start immediately on land clearing and moving in the sixty families now scattered around the province at temporary locations.

Sedone Valley Program Area:

Refugees coming out of the enemy controlled areas encircling Lao Ngam indicate that the PL are finding it increasingly difficult to operate and find food. Nine groups totaling 188 refugees came from the Lao Ngam area into Souvannakhili, Thateng, Saravane, and Pakse during the month. They all indicated that PL demands for rice, money and men and restrictions on their freedom of movement are making life unbearable in this formerly prosperous area that has long been able to pay PL rice taxes and still have sufficient food for their own needs.

ORA:ps:5-18-71

TO: E.G. Ruoff, Chief, Relief & Resettlement

December 31, 1966

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer, Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, December 1966¹⁹⁶⁶ (Exerpts)

Refugee Movements:

A total of 472 new refugees in 14 separate movements were processed in Saravane Attopeu and Sedone Provinces during December. Military inactivity and political tension before the elections kept refugee movements to a minimum. In previous years there has usually been a military crisis of some sort in Attopeu Province during December when the PL pass through to pick up part of the new rice harvest. Since they did not come this month the area is rife with rumore about an imident attack. The people are very littery and busy digging deeper foxholes for use in January.

New refugee groups from Lao Ngam, Saravane area indicate that the PL may be changing their rice collection technique. Formerly, the PL would ask for donations of rice and food at irrigrular intervals. These donations, while a nuisance, were no great hardship for the villagers. As the PL's movements became more restricted they began making regular collections of increasingly larger quantities of rice and food that alrenated the villagers and geopardized the villagers' standing with the Lao government, FAR troops on accasional sweeps would see that the village rice was obviously going to the enemy which would often result in T-28 strikes in the vicinity of the village aimed at suspected PL concentrations. The air strikes also contributed to the PL's loss of control over the villagers, with diminishing support among the people, the PL evidently decided to produce more of their own food. Recent refugee groups indicate, that year the PL, in effect, kidnapped a number of groups of 75-100 people, kept them under armed guard and used them for forced labor in intensive food production centers. These farming areas are seattered under the forest canopy and not noticeable from the air. Villagers at these "people's refugee villagers" would be given only minimal sustenance, all the refugees coming from these areas have been in rays and extremely poor physical condition.

Resettlement:

In Saravane twelve families have moved into a new site which is part of the National Resettlement Program. An additional 30 families will move into the project in January. There may be some difficulty in finding sufficient building materials in the area. Transportation both of refugee supplies and Social Welfare personnel is a problem in Saravane.

Clearing work has begaun on the sites for the two new resettlement villages near Muong Mai, Attopeu. The settlers will probably begin to conctruct their permanent houses in January. This should be the assist resettlement project in the region as all the settlers are experienced paddy farmers and have sufficient cleared land for their first crop.

An OB physician held an excellent two day clinic for the 900 refugees at Kong My, a remote site near the Cambodian border in Attapeu Province. It is planned to continue this program on a monthly basis. The villagers have requested tin roofing to build a second school as there are now over 100 students. Their now one-half acre fish pond will probably be stocked in January.

No new projects were started at the Oudomsouk resettlement area near Pakse as the Chao Muong and Operations Assistant Vo Viet Phong were undergoing medical treatment. During the next few months when the settlers will not be working in their fields, efforts will be concentrated on resettlement projects, emphasizing a day's food for a day's labor.

Administrative:

During December the RLC Social Welfare Office decided to stop making unilateral distributions of commodities to various indefinite refugee groups in Pakse town. Introduction of new refugee processing procedures and commodity warehousing arrangements to insure strict end-use control of U.S. supplied commodities have been relatively painless.

ORA:ps:5-26-71

In favor - but... 2/16

E. G. Rueff Chief Refugee Branch, RDD

8 January 1967

Thru : H.E. Dieffenderfer AG/ Pakse

Mike Murphy *MM* Operations Officer/ Pakse

Refugee Reception Center for Pakse

In 1967 we processed 312 groups of refugees ranging from 5 to 600 people. It has been my experience that small groups of refugees require almost as much time and logistic support as large groups. We therefore spend a disproportionate amount of time in processing and routine paper work with new arrivals.

While it is fortunate that there is plenty of good land for resettlement in the south, the fact that there are so many small and diverse groups often means that the refugees get started on the wrong foot at the wrong location. This occasionally creates a nuisance relief problem and more often causes unnecessary suffering for the refugees.

It simply takes a few days to gather the stragglers and collect enough information for our counterparts to make a logical long-term relocation decision rather than solve a short term emergency. Since we have no place to care for refugees in Pakse, they are usually moved to relocation sites on the day or night of their arrival without proper screening. Last year there were several unpleasant incidents in the resettlement areas where PL sympathizers and agents among new refugees stirred up trouble. After considerable trouble these elements were isolated but many were able to defect back to PL areas.

These incidents point out a real danger for the resettlement program in 1968. Nearly all of the refugees we are now processing, while not all pro-PL, are almost always 100% anti-RIG. Friendly people have all refuged in previous years, these new refugees are being driven out by T-28 raids or forced evacuations. In the past few months we have also been receiving increasing numbers of questionable people from the infiltration routes area. They arrive in destitute and malnourished condition at the airport with only what they happen to be wearing. We cannot continue to turn these people loose the same day.

RIG officials are beginning to understand that they are dealing with refugees of a different and hostile attitude that will require closer control on movements and activities as well as indoctrination and active cultivation of the less hostile leaders.

As you know, up to now we have relied on a cross-indexing system to monitor the movements and progress of these small groups. I now believe it is necessary to establish a center to process new refugees before moving them into the secure sites. In previous discussions you pointed out the basic argument against a center is

that once the people are in, they often refuse to leave. I think we can overcome this problem in Pakse as new groups will constantly be forcing the older ones out of the facilities. Furthermore the revolving stock of 2500 roofing sheets for temporary shelters is now working well following our hard nose approach on recovering them from the first loan group. A center would also free USAID from dealing with a daily series of emergencies that puts us ~~down~~ too much in view of the new refugees.

I am attaching a brief outline on how such a center might be managed. At the present time I don't think it would be necessary to have a full time employee at the center but a firm agreement would be needed with either the army or police to provide adequate security and control.

The Chao Khouang of Sedone has provided an excellent site at KM 4 south of Pakse. During the recent crisis in Saravane the RIG was able to gather enough wood and tin roofing for the construction of twelve barracks-type buildings. Since that crisis has passed temporarily, they have agreed that the buildings can be used as a refugee reception center. They have requested that USAID provide the nails and hardware for the construction. For a proper center additional input may be required for fencing, cooking and sanitary facilities.

This memo was prepared at the request of AAC/ Adams for background information prior to the AC conference at Savannakhet. I would appreciate your comments on the subject.

Suggested Procedures for Refugee Reception and Control

Reception at Center: Either coming in on their own or by truck or aircraft.

Temporary Food and Shelter: In disinfected buildings with cooking pots, blankets, sleeping mats and lamps on a community use loan basis.

Registration: A full report and background of movement, co-ordinates, numbers of people remaining in village, motivation, complete family listings and commodity requirements.

Medical Check: Evacuate or treat sick. Issue soap, start malnourished groups on Ceprapro high protein diet.

RIG Discussion with Refugees: Future relocation of the group, alternatives available. Pictures or visit by leaders to resettlement areas. Information input with movies, tapes, speeches or handouts.

Police Registration: Temporary number and pass issued. Photo taken for permanent Lao identity card.

Relocation decision and Classification:

1. Project resettlement - supported until first crop with project labor during the slack season.
2. Unassisted resettlement - one shot or 3 months ration with plans for follow up on group after 3 months. Attempt to find off season employment.
3. Military dependents - Degree of support if any needed.
4. Widows, welfare cases - individually decided.

Resettlement Logistics: Movement to resettlement site and assignment of home lot. Initial issue of household good. Agreement on time and amount of monthly distributions. Issue of loan tools for building homes.

Preparation of File Index Cards: Summarizing basic information and crossfiling. Include also notes when to re-survey, estimate self sufficiency, distribute seeds, pick up loan tools arrange USIS movies etc. Man days available for community projects during slack season.

TO: E. G. Ruoff, Refugee & Resettlement, RDD

January 31, 1967

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, January 1967

The most significant event during January was the movement of refugees generated by military operations in Saravane and Attapeu Provinces. A total of 1,147 refugees in 23 separate movements were processed and temporarily resettled during the month. The biggest single movement was the airlift evacuation of 497 women and children from Lao Ngam. The men of these refugee families volunteered to follow the army on the current operation and join up with their families in February. While waiting for the men, the families are being housed at the Circle Lao in downtown Pakse. Civilian and military authorities have done a very impressive job of taking care of the people and providing fresh food and medical care. It is planned to resettle all refugees fleeing the Lao Ngam area at Phataoudom about 25 kilometers east of Pakse. USAID TP and FAR are cooperating in construction of three access roads into the new resettlement sites and the old refugees at Oudomsouk and along the Paksong Road are cutting bamboo and building temporary housing for the newly arrived refugees and for those expected next month.

Following fighting in Attapeu Province two refugee sites were lost and approximately 250 new refugees moved up to three locations on the Plateau behind Houei Kong.

Anticipated Movements:

In February 2,000 additional refugees are expected to leave the Lao Ngam region as the military operation continues through the area. Groups of refugees have already been spotted walking toward Lao Ngam, Paksong, and towards the road south of Tha Theng. There is also the possibility of another big movement from Attapeu town again this year if the situation there deteriorates further.

Movements of groups of 500 and more people are unusual in the south and present problems in providing transportation and temporary shelters as well as coordination of civilian and military thinking. Fortunately enough food and commodities were on hand to handle the influx in January, but quick delivery of emergency supplies may be needed next month. Rice requirements will definitely be higher. Details of requirements will be provided as the situation develops.

Resettlement:

The settlers continue to clear land at the Oudomsouk, Km 34 and Saravane resettlement projects. The well at Oudomsouk was finished during the month. Because of emergency relief work the project at Attopeu was not begun; however, the settlers there already have cleared land for paddy cultivation so a delay will not hurt the program.

The refugee tool production program continued satisfactorily. Production will be stepped up next month to meet the needs of the new groups. Several villages are discussing the possibility of manufacturing sleeping mats for the relief program.

Other: Miss Southorn, Director of Relief, and Mr. Pheng from the Ministry of Social Welfare, surveyed the refugee situation in Pakse and Lao Ngam on January 31. Meetings were held with General Phasouk and USAID officials to develop a program for the new refugees. Mr. Larson and his staff from the Controller's office made an extensive audit of USAID Social Welfare records.

ORA:ps:5-11-71

TO: Peter M. Cody, Chairman, IKPC

March 14, 1967

FROM: Frederick C. Hubig, CDA/Houei Kong

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Houei Kong Cluster (Excerpts)

Houei Kong Cluster was initiated in September 1963 with the arrival of IVS personnel to conduct surveys and establish rapport with the Loven and Nyaheune population. Strategic considerations of the Boloven Plateau area played a large part in the selection of the cluster site. RIG played almost no part in the initial planning, a fact which caused Keo Viphakone to say in 1964 that he would never have anything to do with the Cluster, since he had nothing to do with its selection. He did visit Houei Kong late in 1966, which perhaps illustrates some enlightenment on the part of at least a few RIG officials. RIG has played a minor role in this program. All programs have been USAID initiated, supported, and directed with local assistance.

I.1 Local leadership is personified in two Naikongs, one Nyaheune and one Loven. The former, Nun, is over 70 and has asked several times to be relieved. His logical successor is Lt. Thong, who is considered the real leader of the Nyaheune people. Nun has made this recommendation to the Chao Khoueng who is presently considering the proposal. The CDA feels that this move would be the best possible solution. Thong is nearing 55 and is not quite as active as he was in his younger days. Two local men are being groomed to take his place as military chief. Thong was the Naikong's clerk for 12 years during the late '30's and 40's. Thong has requested retirement from the army. He is the foremost supporter of the cluster program, and while committed to certain traditional practices, such as a lack of decisiveness (in our frame of reference), he has demonstrated a considerable degree of administrative competence and leadership.

The Loven Naikong, Meun, is also competent administratively. He is a "wheeler-dealer" type. While this entrepreneurship is commendable, Meun seems to reap considerable economic benefit by virtue of his position. He is a good organizer and "empire builder". Typically, when jobs or positions become available, he invariably proposes one of his relatives to fill the slot. He has shown considerable energy and initiative in advancing the cluster program. He is a real politician in "our" sense of the term.

I.3 The security situation has had its ups and downs. It can be fairly stated that Houei Kong itself has never been seriously threatened by PL/VM forces in the past three years.

I.4 Population density is rather low. Most of the 44 villages have less than 100 inhabitants. This gives rise to the need for mechanization in order to achieve large-scale agricultural production.

I.6 Frankly, from what this CDA has seen of RIG officialdom and bureaucracy, the RIG has little to offer, even if they were inclined to do so, which doesn't seem to be the case here. As for as the Nyaheune are concerned, they are loyal and will continue to be as long as RIG does not attempt to impose restrictions. Lt. Thong is considered to be a "son" of General Phasouk. Loyalty, therefore, follows the traditional pattern of loyalty to individuals who can protect and assist the group in question.

The loven, on the other hand, are not so simple. Traditionally, they are anti-establishment, having always resisted any attempt to colonialize or subdue them. In recent years this resistance has led the majority of Loven into the PL camp. Sithone Kommandan is one of the leading members of the Communist Central Committee of Indo China. This puts considerable pressure on any Loven to support the PL. In regards to the Houei Kong Loven, who form the ~~easternmost~~ easternmost group of that tribe, the CDA is inclined to believe that they would switch sides in a minute if the political-military situation began to overwhelmingly favor the PL/VM - who wouldn't?

I.7 However, the tide has certainly swung towards the RIG/USA side. The influence of Sithone has diminished in areas that were once considered his stronghold. Loven villages are being resettled into more easily securable locations. Such leaders as Naikong Meun have made numerous trips into these "gray" areas and as the months past, definite progress with these former PL villagers is observed. There is no question but that the success of the cluster program has contributed to this positive turn of events.

ORA;ps:5-14-71

*Return to
ORA*

TO: E.G. Huoff, Chief, F&AR, RDD

DATE: March 28, 1967

THRU: Bruce Bailey, AAC/Pakes

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer *mu*

SUBJ: Monthly Report, March

Refugees

Refugee movements were quieter in March. A total of 452 refugees in 9 separate movements were processed in Saravane, Attapeu, and Sedone Provinces. The largest movement was of 208 Lave refugees into Kong My in southern Attapeu Province. An additional 285 fire victims were also provided assistance in March.

Resettlement

The 2,000 new refugees at Oudoumsouk are still concentrating on clearing rice fields, although a few are beginning to upgrade their temporary shelters. The villagers with the help of the military have constructed a temporary school and dispensary. Both should be in operation by the end of the month. Lao Agriculture extension agents have started an intensive dry season vegetable program for the refugees.

At the end of the month the most serious concern was the possibility of a new outbreak of Cholera in the overcrowded camps. Now that the resettlement project manager has arrived, better organization of the Oudoumsouk area should be possible.

Rice Contracts

The biggest problem during March continued to be getting sufficient rice. Many people went hungry again this month because of delays in amending the rice contract.

In February regular relief programs required 35 tons of rice. New refugees arriving during the month needed an additional 23 tons for a total of 58 tons during February, as only 20 tons were available for distribution, all regular commitments to the resettlement and dependent programs were cancelled and many of the new refugees were given only a partial ration.

Despite numerous requests, in March there was again only 20 tons available for distribution, although the minimum requirements called for 55 tons with an additional 2 tons needed during the month for emergency relief to new arrivals.

In effect, a net savings of 75 tons of rice has been made over a two month period by ignoring the content of our urgent support requests. The people who have gone two months without food cannot last another month. We already are having serious medical problems in several of the camps because of malnutrition and an abrupt change in diet.

The minimum rice requirement for April is 57 tons. At the end of March Vientiane was just beginning negotiations to provide 40 tons. This problem needs immediate attention.

Leprosy Colony

It has been proposed to immediately terminate the partial rice support program to the two leper villages south of Pakse. To do this on such short notice would be unhumanitarian. A good many of the lepers are outcasts from their villages alone with no means of support. While sufficient bulgar and other PL 480 foodstuffs could probably be made available - as a pure diet they are too harsh and alien to digest, particularly for the terminal cases.

Other

Work has begun on local procurement of 25-30 tons of rice seed for the new refugees. It is estimated the seed will cost about one million kip.

A new method of packing emergency commodities in family size kits has been initiated. This method insures fair treatment to all groups, reduces inventory lists by 24 items, discourages pilferage and permits quick response to emergencies.

/ejs

TO : E.G. Knoff Chief R.R. & R.
THRU : Mr. Louis Warhman AC/Pakse
FROM : Mike Murphy Area operations Officer.
SUBJECT : Monthly Report April 1967.

1 May 1967

NEW REFUGEE MOVEMENTS

During April 727 new refugees were processed and relocated in 12 separate movements. Most of the refugees were a direct result of the current military operation in the area. At Kong My in southern Attapeu province, 40 new refugees were processed and 250 more have been spotted moving into the area. A number of village fire victims and PL defectors were also assisted during the month.

RICE

Critical shortages of relief rice remained a problem in April. The average daily ration for the refugees that received assistance fell to 135 grams. Nearly all the dependants went for the third straight month without food. Sufficient rice arrived at the end of the month to meet all May commitments and no further problems are anticipated with rice distributions. The prolonged shortage has had a detrimental effect on the resettlement projects as a number of people have left the projects to look for food. The shortage also pointed out once again the need to maintain an adequate rice reserve to meet emergencies.

LAO NGAM

At month's end surprisingly few refugees had been generated in this area. A plan has been proposed to regroup the civilian population of Mueang Lao Nham into six secure centers. If the program is carried out there will be up to 8,000 people who will not be able to plant a crop this year and would require some food assistance. Perhaps some flood relief bulgar wheat could be diverted to Lao Ngam if the need arises. At the moment a civilian relief committee is being set up in Lao Ngam handle assistance to villagers who have gathered with the troops. It is planned to provide the committee with 5 tons of rice mixed 50% with bulgar for distribution in May.

ATTOPEU

The 51 settler families are busy clearing land for this planting season. If buffalo are available this year through the ADO program, this project should be the most successful in the region. When Chao Manh, Director of Resettlement, visited Attapeu, it was decided to provide roofing sheets to the Attapeu settlers as there were no local roofing materials available.

SARAVANE

Clearing work continues at the Houei Soung resettlement village. Because of the deteriorating security at Benzamans valley, it has been decided to close down the pilot resettlement project there and move the 12 families to Saravane town as soon as possible. 112 new refugees moved into the Houei Sai relocation

center on the bedone-Saravane border. It has been tentatively decided to open a temporary school and dispensary for the 1200 refugees there. 33.6 tons of unmilled rice are being purchased from ADO for use in the refugee program in Saravane province.

RICE SEED PURCHASE

A TOTAL OF 15" TONS OF RICE SEED HAS BEEN PURCHASED TO DATE. IT IS PLANNED to purchase another 30 tons to meet the planting needs of the Pakse and Thakhet refugees. The work of collecting the seed from villages, negotiating a price and transporting it has gone much slower than anticipated since it is impossible to devote full time to the project. The price has also been running about 40 kip a killo instead of the previously estimated 35 kip.

ODOMSOUK

Normal resettlement activities continued with refugees concentrating on upgrading their temporary housing. During the month two temporary schools and dispensaries were built at the new camps. The medical problems reported last month have improved considerably. Mr. Pol Daulo on TDY from Vientiane has completed laying out two 100 lot village sites and will lay out at least two more villages before shifting to the farming area. A preliminary study was made for the installation of a hydraulic ram jet for a village water supply and irrigation system for two of the camps. With a properly designed system, Oudomsouk should be able to supply the Pakse market with a lot of vegetables. The complete system may require up to 600 meters of water pipe.

The two RLG resettlement agents have been doing reasonably good work in organizing the villagers and developing the resettlement program that has been seriously neglected to date. A motor bike is needed so they can supervise the various projects at Oudomsouk.

HOME INDUSTRIES

For several months, refugee blacksmiths have been producing enough handtools to meet the needs of the region. A two month program is now being developed to increase tool production to 1500 monthly. Vientiane approval is also being sought for monthly production of 200,000 shingles, 500 sleepingmats and 100 sets of clothing. Efforts were also made to expand the home industries program at the Laper Colonies.

OTHER

Mr. Boua Nhout, Social Welfare Representative for the southern region since 1961 has been transferred to Thakhek to open 3 regional office as of May 1.

With the opening of the new OSM Warehouse in Pakse, many of the stock control problems has disappeared.

During April the region was visited by Director-General Houmpheng, Director of Resettlement Manh, USAID Resettlement advisor Mr. Dan Lang and Columbo Plan Advisor Mr. Myles Osbourne.

May 31, 1967

TO : Mr. E. G. Ruoff, Chief, Refugee Resettlement Br/Vientiane
THRU : Mr. L. M. Wahrmond, AC/Pakse
FROM : Mr. Lawrence M. Murphy, Area Operations Officer/Pakse
SUBJECT: Monthly Report, May 1967

NEW MOVEMENTS:

Refugee movements continued to be quiet. 824 new refugees were processed and resettled in 14 separate movements during May. Nearly all the refugees were from insecure areas around the perimeter of Moung Lao Ngam.

RESETTLEMENT - SEDONE:

Another two villages were surveyed and marked off during the month. The Chao Khoueng of Sedone participated in a ceremony to distribute home lots to 200 new refugee families at Oudoumsouk. Survey work is now concentrating on a general plan of the farming areas and layout of an 8 kilometer access road into the farming areas west of Oudoumsouk. Other major activities at Oudoumsouk included introduction of a high protein food supplement program to a group of 300 refugees who are suffering from severe malnutrition, completion of a well at Moung Seum village, five village leaders sent to Vientiane for training, survey of land under cultivation and distribution of rice seed, construction of a temporary office for resettlement agents, construction of a temporary shelter for 300 anticipated refugees, and distribution of vegetable seeds and potato cuttings.

Several meetings were held regarding the purchase of buffalo for 22 settler families at the KM 34 Resettlement Project.

SARAVANE:

The Lao Ngam Pacification Program presented the most problems during May. At the moment it is now planned to relocate 10,600 people in 10 population centers. The physical relocation has gone well in seven of the ten areas and while the actual number of people relocated will undoubtedly be less than the present, 10,600 estimate, the attitude of the people is generally positive and pro government. One site to the north of Lao Ngam is hampered by the lack of road communication and two sites to the west along the Wapikhamthong border are forming up very slowly, partly because of the strong PL influence in the area. Detailed survey work was begun to obtain accurate population and ethnic distribution figures.

Approximately 6 tons of commercial rice has been imported into the area and sold, and 4 tons of relief food has been distributed. Transportation of supplies into Lao Ngam is the current major problem.

It is estimated that 70% of the people who will move are now in place at relocation sites. Lao police units have already issued temporary identity cards in several areas and have begun to strictly control population movements in the area.

Because of deteriorating security, the last 50 refugees were moved out of Senamana Valley (XC 4465) north of Saravane and relocated at Houei Soung resettlement village.

Negotiations have begun for the purchase of 20 buffalo for the settlers at Houei Soung. Lao Agriculture Service is providing excellent cooperation on a paddy rice cultivation training program for the Kha refugees there.

The 1200 refugees at Ban Houei Sai (XB 4493) have agreed to build an airstrip near the village to assist in the relocation project. The need for the airstrip was demonstrated during the month when a cholera epidemic broke out in the village and security did not permit land travel to the site. 16 villagers died before O.B./Paksong was able to come to the rescue.

ATTOPEU:

Work at the two resettlement villages is progressing well. Negotiations have begun for the purchase of 51 buffalo for the settler families. Some difficulty is anticipated in finding enough animals.

The worsening situation at Kong My (XB 0505) may make it necessary to evacuate up to 1,000 civilians next month.

Three refugee sites in the area north of Attopeu along the Sekong River are back under government control and a minor assistance program has been resumed.

OTHER:

Preparations for the visit of the Crown Prince held up normal work activities for two weeks during the month.

Rice and commodities stocks are generally adequate.

TO: E.G. Ruoff, Chief, Ref. Rlf. & Resettlement, Vientiane

FROM: Lawrence M. Murphy, Operations Officer Area/Eakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, June 1967

NEW MOVEMENTS:

A total of 413 new refugees were processed during June. Most of the refugees came from areas beyond the security perimeter of the Lao Ngam region and joined groups of old refugees in Sedone Province.

LAO NGAM RELOCATION PROGRAM:

There were no significant developments in the Social Welfare aspects of the program in Lao Ngam. Ten tons of emergency food supplies were released for distribution during the month.

RESETTLEMENTS:

The authorized quotas for purchase of buffalo for the resettlement projects in Saravane, Attopeu and Sedone were not met because of high? of buffalo. It is believed, however, that enough buffalo are available to cultivate the cleared land at the resettlement sites. Distribution of upland and lowland rice seed has been completed at all resettlement sites. Currently there is a severe insect infestation at Oudomsouk and it may be necessary to replant part of the crop.

All surveyors assigned to resettlement projects have returned to Vientiane without completing their assignments. It is hoped that their work will be resumed soon.

OTHER:

The new RLC Social Welfare representative is keeping excellent records ~~which~~ which reduces the workload of USAID personnel. The major disagreement of the month concerned the policy of pre-mixing rice with balgar with distribution. The matter has been forwarded for decision.

ORA: Ps:5-21-71

Pakse

Clusters-villages Gathering Project

Different cluster-villages have been removed and gathered into 7 Tassengs and there are 9 areas as follows:

Area No. 1: Previously called Muong Lao Ngam, now becomes Muong Oudom Sinh.

Previously called Tasseng Lao Ngam now becomes Tasseng Oudom Sinh		
Previously called Ban Lao Ngam now becomes Ban Oudom Sinh	-	has 83 families having 405 persons
Previously called Ban Sangthong Nhay now becomes Ban Kheum Sangthong	-	has 43 families having 248 persons
Previously called Ban Ngiu now becomes Ban Kheum Siboun Heuang	-	has 28 families having 129 persons
Previously called Ban Len now becomes Ban Kheum Vilay Sinh	-	has 35 families having 149 persons

189 families having 931 persons

Area No. 2: Previously called Tasseng Pholeng now becomes Tasseng Mun Houa Muong (Set up at its own request)

Previously called Ban Pholeng now becomes Ban Mun Houa Muong	-	has 55 families of 268 persons
Previously called Ban Dong Bang now becomes Ban Kheum Dong Bang	-	has 27 families of 124 persons
Previously called Ban Na Bone now becomes Ban Kheum Na Bone	-	has 4 families of 17 persons
Previously called Ban Nong Deum now becomes Ban Kheum Nong Deum	-	has 13 families of 61 persons
Previously called Ban Kape now becomes Ban Kheum Kape	-	has 32 families of 137 persons
Previously called Ban Heng Takay now becomes Ban Kheum Nong Takay-	-	has 35 families of 217 persons

166 families of 834 persons

Area No. 3: Previously called Tasseng Ban Theung now becomes Tasseng Sivily

Previously called Ban Bak now becomes Ban Sivily	-	has 37 families of 187 persons
Previously called Ban Vang Peuai now becomes Ban Khoun Vang Peuai	-	has 17 families of 69 persons
Previously called Ban Pho Neouane now becomes Ban Khoun Pho Neouane	-	has 35 families of 135 persons
Previously called Ban Sandong now becomes Ban Khoun Sandong	-	has 27 families of 139 persons
Previously called Ban Nam Thouane now becomes Ban Khoun Thinouane	-	has 13 families of 189 persons
Previously called Ban Samimok now becomes Ban Khoun Sam Saat	-	has 22 families of 105 persons
Previously called Ban Phetok now becomes Ban Khoun At Vilay	-	has 12 families of 100 persons
Previously called Ban Mouane Teub now becomes Ban Khoun Mouane Teub-	-	has 18 families of 88 persons
Previously called Ban Inh Peng now becomes Ban Khoun Inh Peng	-	has 22 families of 83 persons
Previously called Ban I Leung now becomes Ban Khoun I Leung	-	has 18 families of 81 persons
Previously called Ban Te Me Phopoun now becomes Ban Khoun Te Me Phopoun.	-	has 46 families of 206 persons
Previously called Ban Sanin Na now becomes Ban Sanin Na	-	has 17 families of 69 persons

(Ban Sanin Na is a village of leprous, so it is not included in this project, all the leprous will be sent to this village).

288 families of 1,449 persons

Area No. 4: Previously called Tasseng Phouak Nhay now becomes Tasseng Mun Pakdy

Previously called Ban Mun Pakdy now becomes Ban Mun Pakdy	-	has 85 families of 406 persons
Previously called Ban Lau Nong now becomes Ban Khoun Lau Nong	-	has 39 families of 198 persons
Previously called Ban Louang Sena now becomes Ban Khoun Louang Sena-	-	has 25 families of 89 persons
Previously called Ban Mouang Soum I now becomes Ban Khoun Mouang Soum	-	has 22 families of 148 persons
Previously called Ban Thebsombat May now becomes Ban Khoun Theb- sombat May	-	has 37 families of 199 persons

208 families of 1,049 persons

Area No. 5: Previously called Tasseng Meuane The now becomes Tasseng Thi Pha Ned

Previously called Ban Takid Nhay now becomes Ban Thi Pha Ned	-	has 65 families of 509 persons
Previously called Ban Takid Noi now becomes Ban Khoun Soumai	-	has 36 families of 173 persons
Previously called Ban Meuane The now becomes Ban Khoun Meuane The	-	has 62 families of 460 persons
Previously called Ban Da Sia Nhay now becomes Ban Sophaphone	-	has 110 families of 757 persons
Previously called Ban Da Sia Hay now becomes Ban Khoun Dendou	-	has 22 families of 148 persons

295 families of 2,046 persons

Area No. 6: Previously called Tasseng Khi On Nhay now becomes Tasseng Settha, located at Point Phikat XC
205-035

Previously called Ban Khi On Nhay now becomes Ban Settha	-	has 97 families of 457 persons
Previously called Ban Hekong now becomes Ban Khoun Hekong	-	has 87 families of 424 persons
Previously called Ban Phouak Noi now becomes Ban Khoun Phouak Noi	-	has 32 families of 141 persons
Previously called Ban Sisieng May now becomes Ban Khoun Sisieng May	-	has 15 families of 48 persons
Previously called Ban Khi On Noi now becomes Ban Khoun Phon Phakdy-	-	has 27 families of 95 persons
Previously called Ban Touk Louk now becomes Ban Khoun Touk Louk	-	has 39 families of 176 persons
Previously called Ban Phouak Nhay now becomes Ban Khoun Phouak Nhay	-	has 30 families of 185 persons
Previously called Ban Nong Boua Thaxang now becomes Ban Khoun Nong Boua	-	has 49 families of 231 persons
Previously called Ban Phia Lad Kao now becomes Ban Khoun Phia Lad	-	has 33 families of 149 persons
Previously called Ban Ka Pheu now becomes Ban Khoun Ka Pheu	-	has 17 families of 74 persons

426 families of 1,980 persons

Area No. 7: Previously called Tasseng Khanthong Noi now becomes Tasseng Khanthong Noi

Previously called Ban Khanthong Noi now becomes Ban Khanthong Noi -	has 53 families of 306 persons
Previously called Ban Nany now becomes Ban Khoun Nany -	has 12 families of 87 persons
Previously called Ban Keb Phoung now becomes Ban Khoun Keb Phoung -	has 42 families of 262 persons
Previously called Ban Naphang Ram now becomes Ban Khoun Naphang Ram	has 35 families of 180 persons
Previously called Ban Houai Pao now becomes Ban Khoun Houai Pao -	has 28 families of 98 persons
Previously called Ban Santhong now becomes Ban Khoun Santhong -	has 29 families of 188 persons
Previously called Ban Kang now becomes Ban Khoun Ban Kang -	has 41 families of 157 persons

240 families of 1,278 persons

Area No. 8: Which is a special Area under the administration of Tasseng Oudomsinh.

Previously called Ban Patchum now becomes Ban Souksam Ran -	has 20 families of 132 persons
Previously called Ban Phao now becomes Ban Khoun Phao Ngan -	has 33 families of 123 persons
Previously called Ban Tom now becomes Ban Khoun Ban Tom -	has 37 families of 149 persons
Previously called Ban Dong Tong Nhay now becomes Ban Khoun Dong Tong	has 29 families of 241 persons
Previously called Ban Thong Ke now becomes Ban Khoun Thong Ke -	has 48 families of 297 persons
Previously called Ban Phia Lad May now becomes Ban Khoun Sisoum -	has 13 families of 62 persons
Previously called Ban Nong Toua now becomes Ban Khoun Vilaylout -	has 20 families of 80 persons

280 families of 1,084 persons

Area No. 9: Which is a special Area under the administration of Tasseng Oudomsinh

Previously called Ban Hong Kham now becomes Ban Non Savanh	-	has 29 families of 123 persons
Previously called Ban Lavat now becomes Ban Kheum Somsavat	-	has 28 families of 157 persons
Previously called Ban Khanouane now becomes Ban Kheum At Oudom	-	has 25 families of 142 persons

82 families of 322 persons

.....

2,174 families of 10,973 persons

.....

The total number of cluster-villages is 59, having 2,174 families of 10,973 persons. The number of Chinese men taking lao wives at Lao Ngam includes 42 families, Chinese and lao together amount to 2,182 families and there are 11,015 persons.

Lao Ngam, July 7, 1967.

The Chao Muong

(Seal & Signature)

Bounheuang OUANE KASEMSOUK

Mr. Bruce Bailey, Acting AC/Pakse

July 31, 1967

Mike Murphy, AOO/Pakse

Lao Ngam Rice Situation

After visiting all the major areas involved in the Lao Ngam program it appears that the situation and requirements are basically the same as during May when GM 902 proposed relocating the population. Lao Ngam is now able to supply less than 30 percent of its rice needs. While there are no indications of severe malnutrition, the majority of the people are eating a stew made from forest tubers, leaves, insects and occasionally some corn. This diet is inadequate and requires a lot of searching for forest products and time for preparations (the tubers are poisonous and must be soaked and rinsed for four days.)

The estimated 1500 hectares of rice now planted will be harvested in mid-October. The crop looks good and should yield the equivalent of 1200 metric tons of milled rice or about 85% of the rice needs of the area until the 1968 harvest.

The reasons for the unusually severe rice shortage this year are:

1. A very poor upland rice harvest in 1966 due to drought. Areas North and East of Lao Ngam harvested only 20 to 30% of the usual crop.
2. For a variety of reasons the PL increased rice taxes and ordered all rice to be stored outside the village where it was exposed to more water and pest damage and is now inaccessible.
3. Despite contrary claims, the major rice producing and exporting areas of Lao Ngam have not been secured. The Nong Ke area to the West and Khaathongnoi to the North traditionally made up the rice deficit in the coffee and tobacco areas to the south and east.
4. There are now 700 to 1000 camp followers and military families trying to purchase rice on the local economy in Lao Ngam town. This has caused prices to rise as high as 24,000 kip per bag of poor quality rice.

5. Desire of vested interests to restrict flow of inexpensive rice into the area. Continuing pressure by USAID on RIG officials primarily the Assistant Chao Moung, has overcome this problem.

Population for the time being - After carefully reviewing each location with the Chao Moung and military authorities the best estimate of the population now under RIG control is 9,000. Current RIG figures and reports include a number of people in areas still under PL control. There is no indication that the attitude of the people is souring because of government inaction to the food shortage, or the various programs initiated. The 10 tons of VDAL rice sold to date has made the greatest impression on the people. The 15 tons of relief food distributed to date was spread so thin over so many people that it has been little more than a propaganda effort with only token value towards relieving the shortage.

Assistance proposal - In early May a committee appointed by General Phasouk and chaired by the Chao Khouang of Saravane proposed that USAID provide 30 tons of relief food monthly and assist in the monthly importation of 50 to 60 tons of commercial rice for a three month period ending in early August. They emphasized that the commercial rice must be made available first as it would be otherwise impossible to administer a relief program. For well known reasons the flow of commercial rice was extremely slow and only about 25% of the relief food has been sent. After reviewing the situation with local officials it is felt that a major relief effort should be made during August and September regardless of developments in the flow of commercial rice. It is now proposed to distribute a total of 30 tons of rice and 20 tons of bulgar monthly for the next two months. Since everyone ^{assists} ~~assists~~ it is proposed to have 400 men work daily on community projects in exchange for 2 kgs of rice mixed 15% with bulgar wheat for a total of about 25 tons. Three major areas east of Lao Ngam need relief assistance and should receive 20 tons a month. This will be primarily bulgar wheat or rice mixed at a higher percentage. These groups will also be given instructions on the use of bulgar. The remaining 5 tons will be traded with local blacksmiths who will produce 2500 axes and coup-cups for the refugee program. If commodities are available this program could probably be greatly expanded and also include tailors and mat makers, unfortunately there is no suitable wood in the area for shingle production and the rains prevent work on a number of worthwhile projects such as lengthening the runway, cutting new roads and rebuilding a number of fishponds. Details of the relief proposal are attached. Col. Thanh of GM 802 and the Chao Moung are in full accord with the proposal and will not make any other counter proposals to their superiors. It has been discussed with General Phasouk and he has not made any objections to the general program. A satisfactory agreement has been made with regard to transportation of supplies to villages and joint distributions which GM 802 is now doing to the best of their ability. Transportation still remains the major problem. Col. Thanh is confident that he can move the supplies from Saravane to Lao Ngam, however with continuing rains trans-

portation through the Se Set will be extremely difficult. CM 802 has cleared a road to Lat Bok and FAR engineer are preparing to start to clear the remaining heavily wooded 8 kilometers from Xang Mhao to Lat Bok. This will take about two weeks to finish. Food material is being sacked for air-drop so that aircraft can be utilized when available. Maximum pressure by USAID/Pakse will be brought to utilize RIAF aircraft but assignment generally depends on the general staff in Vientiane. Permission is also requested to utilize any contract aircraft in Pakse. By one method or another air-support will be required to move up to 12 tons of refugee relief food a week. Consideration should also be given to moving 15 tons of VIAL rice on the same basis.

Although no one is starving in Lao-Ngan, we feel that we can score a psychological and political victory with the people by coming to their aid at this time.

Murphy:sbe

TO: E.C. Ruoff, Acting ADPD/Vientiane

July 31, 1967

THRU: Bruce Bailey, AAC/Pakse

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - July 1967

NEW MOVEMENTS:

A total of 621 refugees in 43 movements were processed during the month. One Hundred Sixty-Six (166) of the refugees were from Ban Phone on the Sekong River. Nearly all the refugees were resettled in the Pakse area.

LAC NCAM:

A reevaluation of the relief program in Lao Ngam was made during the monthly and it was concluded that the 9,000 people in the 9 relocation centers were able to supply less than 30% of their total food needs. The 3800 people to the east of Lao Ngam are particularly hard hit and in need of relief assistance for 2 months until the October harvest. It was decided to provide 60 tons of rice and 40 tons of bulgar for relief over the next two months. Most of the rice will be used for public works type projects with 400 men receiving 2 kilograms daily for work on various projects proposed by the Chao Muong. Transportation remains the main difficulty and there appears to be no quick solution to the problem.

OTHER:

All assistance to groups of dependents has been stopped. Nearly all remaining refugees in Attapeu Province should be self sufficient by November.

Village layouts were completed for the resettlement centers in Attapeu and KM 15 and KM 34 in Sedone. Home lots will be distributed in August. The project of cutting a 24 kilometer perimeter line around the Oudomsouk project was abandoned until drier ~~weather~~ weather.

Refugee rice crops look good in all areas although there has been some insect problems. It should be possible to declare another 5000 ~~refugee~~ refugees self sufficient following the harvest.

The Lao representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited Pakse for one week and provided some assistance to various new groups in Attapeu and Sedone Province.

ORA:PS;5-18-71

TO: E. G. Ruoff, Acting ADRD, USAID Vientiane, Laos August 31, 1967

FROM: Galen Beery, CDA, Saravane, Laos

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - August, 1967

Refugee Resettlement: Rice for Tha Theng area refugees has not been delivered because of military activity. About 70 persons fled to Saravane after the lose of Ban Phone and are living with relatives. No action by RR yet.

Military Situation: The military situation in the Saravane area, as reported elsewhere, remains fluid. A PL attack on Tha Theng early this month resulted in 16 FAR troops KIA and 41 wounded; a second attack was repulsed with 1 injury. In a heave action of several days, the Ban Phone area was lost to the PL/VC. Unconfirmed reports indicate that one PL group may have moved northwest from Tha Theng to the Saravane-Lao Ngam border region. An old woman spotted refugees traking up from Ban Phone and hysterically reported this as a PL invasion, causing a mild scare. There is no particular worry by officials or people in Saravane. A US helicopter crashed into a cliff near Tha Theng on August 8, killing 2, found after a 3 day search.

ORA:ps:5-11-71

TO: E. G. Ruoff Acting ADRD

August 31, 1967

FROM: Mike Murphy Operations Officer/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - August 1967

NEW MOVEMENTS: A total of 611 new refugees in 27 movements were processed during the moth. 277 refugees came from areas east of Thateng on the Bolovens Plateau. There were some problems in kprviding temporaty housing as all roofing sheets in the reserve for temporary shelters are now being used.

ORA:ps:5-11-71

TO: E. G. Ruoff, Acting ADRD

September 11, 1967

FROM: Mike Murphy, Operations Officer/Pakse

SUBJECT: Drilled Well Program for Lao Ngam

As you know the 9,000 people at Lan Ngam were moved (somewhat against their will) into 9 camps which we are now trying to make into Tasseng population centers. The camps at present are crowded and unhealthy as they are located along two main streams which will become more polluted during the dry season. It is felt that a drilled well program will go far towards making the villages more liveable and convincing the villagers to remain at the sites permanently.

A well program would also have great psychological impact as the people have been subjected to years of intense PL propaganda that promised material goods and farming machinery after their victory and emphasized RLG inability to provide goods and services for the villagers.

ORA:ps:5-11-71

TO: E.G. Ruoff, Acting ADRD

Oct. 2, 1967

FROM: Mike Murphy, Area Operations Officer

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - September 1967

New Movements:

During the month a total of 483 refugees in 23 separate movements were processed in Pakse. Nearly all the refugees came from the insecure area between Keng Nhao and Lao Ngam. Of the 2,100 people estimated in that region in early June, 1,300 have become refugees or have been captured by the military during operations, leaving about 800 people in the area under PL control.

Resettlement:

Rains held back progress on some resettlement projects. Fruit trees were distributed to 143 families at Oudomsouk and Oudounphanh. The families were also given instructions on the planting and care of seedlings.

~~Three~~ Three agriculture/irrigation surveyors continued work on laying out the perimeter of Oudomsouk. A seventh villages site was surveyed at Oudomsouk and the home lots were distributed to refugees who arrived during August.

Refugees who arrived earlier this year are now gathering materials to build their permanent houses.

Lao Ngam:

The ~~major~~ Relief Program was phased out in Lao Ngam at the end of the month. Rice harvests have started in most areas of Lao Ngam and there should be no shortages among the population until next July or August. The 2,000 military dependents will continue to import commercial rice from Pakse for their needs. The Relief Program was conducted surprisingly well and ended with everyone happy despite a number of well known difficulties. Most of the credit for the smooth flow of relief supplies goes to the capable Chao Muong.

Other:

Mr. E.G. Ruoff and Director ~~General~~ General Houmpheng visited the area and reviewed aspects of the Social Welfare Program.

Discussions were held with the missionaries at the leper colonies about increasing food production in the villages. The missionaries made a number of suggestions that will be implemented in October.

ORA:ps:5-13-71

TO: William H. Trayfors, Chief, RD Branch

October 22, 1967

FROM: F. C. Hubing, CDAA/Pakse

SUBJECT: September Monthly Reports from Whalen and Murphy, your
October 14, 67 memo.

Neutralist troops: Were originally sent in for the unspecified duration of an operation to clear and hold the Lao Ngam area. At no time was a withdrawal date indicated. This is the situation as it remains today, however there is a slight possibility that BN 802 will leave the Lao Ngam area for operations in the region. Should this occur, 802 will be replaced by another neutralist group. This is not likely to occur since to all appearances 802 seems to content with their present displacement and have agreed to remain in the area.

ORA:5-11-71

TO: Robert Adams, Acting AC/Pakse

December 28, 1967

FROM: Lawrence M. Murphy, Area Operations Officer

SUBJECT: Khongsedone, Refugees

Yesterday I described a plan the provincial officials of wapikhamthong are implementing to relocate at WC9322 up to 1763 people from 8 villages to the east of Nathandong.

I explained that the decision was made at a provincial meeting on 12 dec. but that no operational plan was made to provide facilities for the people. As of yesterday 330 villagers and had arrived and gave every appearance of being held against their will as they had been forced to leave at night leaving behind all their animals and rice. All of the villagers that have arrived are from area that were considered fairly secure is FAR troops regularly patrolled the area.

I conservatively estimate that the 8 villages have stored the equivalent of 315 to 400 tons of milled rice. No plans have been made to move or destroy this rice. While there are good reasons for moving the people (to populate the natondong area, to clear the old area for large scale bombing) there is no excuse or need to turn over so much rice to the enemy and present USAID with the burden of providing over 30 tons of food monthly for at least a year.

ORA:ps:5-11-71

PAKSE AREA SOCIAL WELFARE OPERATIONS (1967) (Exerpts)

USAID Cooperates with the Ministry of Xocil Welfare and the six provincial governors in administering an emergency relief and resettlement program for refugees fleeing Pathet Lao controlled mountain regions of Attapeu and Saravane provinces which border on South Vietnam and Cambodia. Presently two to three hundred refugees are processed and resettled monthly with occasional larger influe following military operations. USAID also cooperates on social welfare program for the relief of 500 lepers and a monthly average of 200 indigents and disease victims.

Annually these programs involve distribution of 450 metric tons of rice and salt, 350 ton of PL-480 foodstuffs, and clothing, household goods, and tools for a yearly influx of 4,500 new refugees. About 20% of the distributions are made by air-drop or STOL-type aircraft.

The refugee program in the South differs from the North in that there are smaller numbers of refugees from a number of tribal groups in many separate locations, and that all refugees assistance is handled through provincial Lao government offices. The ...is fortunate to have sufficient secure land available for resettlement so that refugees after moving and resettling are generally not disrupted again by military activity. A few groups, however, are in insecure locations and are unable to become completely self-sufficient under the present circumstances.

Over 80% of the refugees in the region are Mon-Khmer tribal people or derogatively called "KHA". In Saravane and Attapeu provinces there are over 40 different tribal group with more or less different languages who are only very loodely aware of a common tribal relationship. Their slash and burn method of agriculture, strong animal religion with its taboos and animal sacrifices and the tribla people's traditional bottom rung on the Laotian social ladder present difficult problems for effective resettlement of refugees in lowland Lao areas. Tribal refugees are faced with an abrupt change in climate, soils and food, the cultural shock of which is frequently compounded by a hostile or exploitive attitude by the people in the surrounding Lao environment. Proper resettlement programs with emphasis on changing these shifting cultivators to permanent cultivators by teaching them yo grow paddy rice have been successful in helping the refugees become self-sufficient and contributors to the economy as rapidly as possible (usually less than one year). Refugees left on their own after being given minor assistance do reach a precariour state of self-sufficiency after some time, but often they become a continuing drain on social welfare resources or return to their communist controlled tribal areas.

In recent years 15,000 refugees have been given varying amounts of assistance, resettled and declared self-sufficient by the Lao government. USAID has assisted in three resettlement projects ~~of~~ for 493 families. Projects are now being implemented for 408 families in three provines. In Saravane 60 tribal families are learning paddy rice cultivation, in Attapeu 48 Lao and tribal families will be planting paddy rice. In Sedone 200 families are planting upland cash crops and 100 families are learning paddy cultivation.

A typical resettlement project would include programs for a regular supply of rice, house building assistance, household goods, tools, farm animals, self-help schools, dispensary, drilled well, vegetable gardens, opportunity to make money forging knives or collecting building supplies and secess to inecpensive goods at a VDAL co-operative store.

(ORA:ps:5-25-71)

To : Mr. E.G. Ruoff Chief RA/AD
Thru : Mr. H.E. Riffenderfer *[Signature]* Pakse
From : Mike Murphy Area Operations Officer *[Signature]*
Subject: Monthly Report, December 1967.

1 January 1968

RD/RK
Received
1/19/68
9A

B

Relief

Military activity created several relief problems disrupting about 6200 refugees during the month. *Rally!?*

1011 Refugees from 9 locations were supplied and resettled at Oudoumsouk. There were no major logistics problems as most of the refugees were able to walk to relocation sites.

A plan to relocate 8 villages at Ban Nathandong to the east of of Khongsedone ended abruptly with a PL attack on the relocation site. The 1743 refugees temporarily housed in the village fled during the attack. They had been issued a week's supply of rice several days before the attack. The 287 permanent villagers at Ban Nathandong came to Khongsedone after the village was destroyed and were issued relief supplies. If the RIG is able to regather the 1743 refugees, support will be requested from USAID.

The attack on Lao Ngam caused some shifting of population, but there has not yet been need to provide relief supplies. 119 refugees walked to Oudoumsouk and another 1200 are seeking shelter in Lao Ngam town. Talks with the Chao Moung and military officers indicate that morale is very low in the villages.

1227 military dependents evacuated from Saravane province were processed and given a two week ration at a temporary camp in Pakse. F.A.R. has now assumed responsibility for these people.

The PL attacked small outpost near Oudoumsouk and carried off 222 refugees in the resettlement program. Another group of 490 refugees were captured by the PL while fleeing their village 21 kilometers east of Lao Ngam.

In January Charles Whalen will begin work as CDA of Oudoumsouk. This is a good time to begin projects as the settlers have just harvested a bumper crop and are now interested in community projects. The settlers who arrived 8-10 months ago have a 30 tons surplus of rice they want to sell to the relief program.

The face of Oudoumsouk changed this month as settlers moved onto their permanent homelots and erected houses. Several model vegetable plots are being established to emphasize the area's potential for the Pakse market. A pilot swine project was started with two villagers. If it is successful, it will be used as a model for the other nine villages. Several refugees experienced in timbering will be working with the Mity M, te sawmill to supply lumber for schools and projects.

Collections have begun on the 1967 ADO buffalo loans. RIG officials have agreed to insist on payment in wood shingles if money or rice is not available. Two surveying crews continued to lay out farming areas for the villages. A photo mosaic was prepared of the resettlement area to assist in land distribution.

B

A useful meeting was held with various officials concerned with the Laper colonies. An agreement was made to reduce USAID's rice contributions by having the Ministry of Health take charge of projects to make the villages more self-sufficient. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Gairian distributed some clothing and toys provided by the American Women's Club to 500 refugees.

Relief assistance was provided following several village fires in Champassac and Sithandone. Another two refugee blacksmiths in Attoueu began producing tools for the relief program. Refugee tailors are now supplying all the men's clothing for the program and are also doing ~~regular~~ contract work for the army.

Four refugees returned from two months training at Ban Acone center. A proposal will be made to train two boys with a Pakse tinsmith so that they can produce water pails and other utensils for the program.

Other

There are several indications that approximately 2000 Loven on the northeastern corner of the plateau may decide to move within the next few months. If this develops a relocation site will be started near Pakseong.

RLO officials are increasingly concerned with the attitude and activities of refugees coming from hard-core areas. The military and provincial officials are building a camp four kilometers outside Pakse to process the refugees before moving into the relocation sites. USAID has been asked to supply bolts and nails for the twelve barracks type buildings.

Warehousing of relief commodities has been a matter of discussion for sometime. The Regional Social Welfare Representative has kindly agreed in principle to allow OSH to manage the Prevoyance Sociale warehouse and train his personnel.

H. E. Diffenderfer AG/Pakse

25 January 1968

Mike Murphy Area Operations Officer

Request for Special Issue of POL to Prevoynance Sociale/ Pakse.

1. On 16 Jan 68 elements of Neutralist GM 804 evacuated the village of Ban Thengsone (WB9983) and forced marched them to Ban Sole Nghai (WB9895). Approximately 150 men women and children were involved in this operation. Some of the men were later permitted to return with a military escort to collect personal belongings and animals.
2. At a meeting on 23 Jan in the office of the Regional Chief of Prevoynance Sociale the question of permanent relocation of this village was discussed. It was agreed by all parties that the people should be resettled near to Ban Khanlai WB 8884 as quickly as possible. By remaining in Ban Sole Nghai, it was highly likely the Pathet Lao would attempt to recapture the refugees as the refugees are suspected of actively assisting the Pathet Lao. Ban Khanlai was the choice for relocation as there are sufficient military personnel to control their activities and there is land available for the refugees to begin clearing immediately for next year's crop.
3. During the discussion on logistics of the move, the Prevoynance Sociale Chief pointed out that his truck would be unable to move the refugees as the truck was in poor mechanical condition, currently had a heavy work load as unmilled instead of milled rice was being distributed this month and that his monthly allotment of POL was nearly depleted. He stated he had no funds for purchase of POL.
4. Major Luckase, Commander of FAR G-5 suggested army trucks could be used to make the move. The FAR transportation section advised it had 6 trucks available for the move but could not provide the gasoline. A joint request by the military and civilian authorities was then made to USAID for a special issue of POL.
5. On 24 Jan in a discussion with you, I was referred to Mr. John Davis to verify that the FAR was unable to provide the gasoline for the move. This morning Mr. Davis confirmed that although FAR now has 49,660 liters of gasoline on hand, the Chief of Staff, Col. Khan felt it was not the responsibility of the military to provide the gasoline.
6. Although this move is the responsibility of Prevoynance Sociale and the reasons for the move are for military security, I suggest that USAID provide three drums of gasoline for six army trucks so that the refugees can be moved today.

CC EG Murphy

E. G. Ruoff, Chief RR/RD

5 February 1968

Thru: H. E. Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse
Mike Murphy, AOO/Pakse

Additional information requested about December movements

Reference: Your Memorandum of 23 January 1968

Here is the additional information you requested about refugee activities reported in my December monthly report.

1. The 6,200 figure is the total of all groups subsequently mentioned in the report. A detailed breakdown of these groups is attached to this memo. Briefly, the groups fell into five categories.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Assisted Refugees	1011
Unassisted Refugees	1100
Captured Refugees	2455
Military Dependents	1227
Disaster Victims	408

Some support will probably be requested for categories two and three within a few months.

2. The 1011 refugees resettled at Oudoumsouk during December are not yet included in a resettlement activity plan. They are part of the total 6200 processed during the month. The original village locations are listed on the attached summary. I have also attached to this memo some notes and recommendations for the resettlement program at Oudoumsouk. You may desire further elaboration on some of the points.
3. The 1743 refugees captured by the PL near ^Matnadong have not been located. I have made an aerial survey of the abandoned villages and likely regroupment locations and did not note any activity. The 287 refugees from the village of Natandong have dispersed around Khong Sedone. Supplies were distributed to about 150 of these people and the Chao Khoueng has enough supplies for the other 137 if support is requested.
4. In Paragraph Four, I originally intended to describe the current situation in the Moun of Lao Ngam and make suggestions for a continuing program based on my experiences with the people and the local officials. It was decided that this should not be included in the report and I prepared a separate memorandum to the Area Coordinator.

The first group mentioned in Paragraph Four referred to 119 refugees from

villages in the Lao Ngam area that moved to Pakse and were relocated at Oudomsouk. They are included in the 1011 refugees of Paragraph 2. The 1100 refugees now in Lao Ngam town are not the residents of Lao Ngam, but refugees from Ban Hoking XC2304 (recently destroyed) and from several Phoux Tai villages to the west of Lao Ngam. These people are suspected of assisting the enemy on the attack at Lao Ngam and are being closely watched by the neutralists. This is a touchy problem and I am trying to avoid getting USAID involved in a civilian-military squabble. I estimate this group will need about 50% ration for four months before the harvest but plan to wait until tempers cool before discussing anything. These people are now being supported by the residents of Lao Ngam town.

5. The 222 refugees captured by the PL had been at Oudomsouk less than two months and were not included in the activity plan or the revised figures recently supplied to your office.

Last year in several of my reports I mentioned that the PL spent so much time requisitioning and searching for food that they had decided to produce their own food using forced labor to cultivate a number of tiny plots under medium forest canopy midway between Lao Ngam and Khong Sedone. Every two weeks a group of 10 to 15 PL would be rotated from combat or heavy duty areas to rest at one of these intensive cultivation centers. There they would guard about 50 captive villagers as they tended the plots. Some of the villagers were able to escape during a PL troop rotation mix-up and report the camps. It may be that the refugees captured last month are being held at similar camps. The refugees captured at Oudomsouk, however, were suspected of being families of PL soldiers and were therefore relocated away from the other refugees. A platoon of neutralists was assigned to control their movements.

6. The RLG social welfare chief is currently drawing up a list of the quantities and locations of surplus refugee rice and seed as well as listing our current rice seed requirements. We will buy from refugees who have enough rice for their own needs and will not pay more than current market or ADO prices. I will advise you when funds are needed.
7. No exchanges for shingles on the buffalo loan program have been made. The refugees are still considering the various possibilities, although it now appears that at least Saravane will be able to pay the required amount of rice and several of the Attoupeu buffalo have been shot by the army. I intend to make every effort to get a reasonable payment on every loan, but we will not be able to complete collections by the 1 February deadline. RLG/AGR, ADO, and social welfare are emphasizing that new loans will be considered on the basis of this year's repayments and that repossession or resale of the buffalo are among the options for non-payment.
8. In the last paragraph of the report I mentioned the possibility of 2000 Loven shifting from the northwest corner of the Plateau. Large refugee movements

usually start with a trickle of refugees who are sent to survey the situation; if everything goes well for the first group, the large movements begin. Last month 7 families from Ban Kang Nbao XB2997 moved to Pakse. They were the first refugees to ever leave that area and the leaders indicated that others may follow. Although I do not expect any major movement until mid-March when the coffee is harvested, I will keep you informed on any developments.

9. I hope this adequately answers all outstanding questions for the month of December.

LNM:eea:2/5/68

ATTACHMENT 1

Present Location

ASSISTED REFUGEES - 1011

119 - XC2610 - Lao Ngam Area - at Oudoumsouk
336 - XC0801 - Moung Khai "
266 - WB9895 - Thong Sone "
45 - XC2897 - Kang Nbao "
68 - XB8028 - Pouey "
70 - WB9390 - Kheng Keun "
147 - WB9591 - Nong Khang "

UNASSISTED REFUGEES - 1100

800 - XC2304 - Hokong (Approximate) at Lao Ngam
160 - XC1907 - Phialat "
140 - XC2102 - Khion "

CAPTURED REFUGEES - 2455

222 - XB0188 - Nong Boua - Unknown
490 - XB0002 - Khoung Sy "
250 - XC1216 - Gnan "
336 - XC1321 - Natabeng "
342 - XC0714 - Uangkhanan "
101 - XC0718 - Daxe "
281 - XC1123 - Katuat "
120 - XC0219 - Nasiet "
123 - XC0623 - Nachan "
120 - SC1026 - Nathoat "
70 - XC0121 - Done Keo "

MILITARY DEPENDENTS - 1227

1000 - XC2610 - Lao Ngam - (Approximate) at Pakse
208 - XC5338 - Saravane "
19 - XB8491 - Done Chanh "

DISASTER VICTIMS

104 - WC8903 - Khanyat - at Souvannakhili
287 - WC9820 - Natandong - at Khong Sedone

ATTACHMENT 2

Notes on Oudoumsouk Resettlement

Whether or not certain refugee groups are included in the Oudoumsouk resettlement program is largely an academic question as long as the responsible civilian and military officials are determined to resettle all new tribal refugees at Oudoumsouk and do not feel bound by numbers included in the activity plan. Considering the actual difference in input between the resettlement and relief programs, perhaps the area should not be covered by an activity plan.

Oudoumsouk is an upland area and does not require buffalo loans for paddy cultivation. Short term cash crops and the regular rice crop enable the refugees to become self-sufficient within twelve months and many groups only require food assistance for three or four months. Since the activity plan written in 1965 was not approved until late 1967, all wells, schools, dispensaries and roads were funded either by RSH or special FAR programs. Now that a CDA has been assigned to the area, additional inputs of this nature (if needed) presumably will be funded through RSH. Therefore the only resettlement inputs that have been made in the area other than those authorized by relief program guidelines have been staking out eight simple grid-iron villages, cutting a line around the area the Chao Khoueng has reserved for refugees and distributing fruit tree seedlings to 200 families.

The roofing, ducks and pigs authorized in unspecified amounts in the activity plan have not yet been provided. I feel that it would be a mistake for USAID to provide funds for roofing materials as the refugees can easily make bamboo shingles and have not shown a real desire to use wooden shingles. Most of the refugees will also prefer to purchase tin roofing after their second harvest. As you know wooden shingle projects bring forth a number of social and political problems and irregularities that are best avoided if possible. I do feel, however, that it would be worthwhile to start a shingle industry for projects other than refugee housing at Oudoumsouk.

We have started a small co-operative pig project at Oudoumsouk and will probably request funds from refugee resettlement to develop this project. No suitable duck or fishponds sites have been found.

I have a number of suggestions which I feel should be considered for the National Resettlement Program. However, taking into account the current resettlement guidelines and the constantly changing situation at Oudoumsouk, I recommend that we follow the procedures listed below for Oudoumsouk, (but not the other four resettlement sites).

1. Continue to stake our simple village plans for new groups, make one distribution of relief supplies and handtools and provide food for twelve months or until the first harvest, whichever is sooner.

2. Do not provide roofing material and let the CDA make arrangements for schools; wells, roads, dispensaries and other community facilities.
3. After the refugees have been on their permanent houselots for one season distribute seedlines, pigs and ducks. These can probably be provided by old refugees as loan repayments.
4. After large blocks of land have been cleared by the refugees, stake out and distribute four hectare farmlots, but do not try to survey and divide uncleared land.

78

A

TO: E. G. Ruboff, Chief RR/RD

5 February 1968

THRU: H. Earl Diffenderfer, AG/Pakse

FROM: Mike Murphy, AOO/Pakse *LM*

SUBJ: Monthly Report - January, 1968

Movements

A total of 1146 new refugees from 28 locations were processed and relocated during the month. They were mostly victims of military actions and presented some medical and shelter problems.

USAID also assisted the RIG in organizing registrations and temporary shelter for about 1,000 civilians fleeing contested areas in Saravane and Attapeu provinces. No commodities were distributed.

370 refugees resettling on the Oudoumsouk road at KM 15 were moved back to the military camp at Housi Champi for security reasons.

While there have been large scale refugee movements in the Pakse region in the last two months, it has been fortunate that most groups will not require long-term assistance. We do not anticipate a rice shortage in February but additional rice will be needed in March. //

Attapeu

Arrangements were made to stockpile extra commodities in Attapeu for possible emergencies. For official families and civilians fleeing Attapeu an unwritten agreement was made to allow them to deposit their surplus rice with the Chao Khoueng and claim an equivalent amount of rice in Pakse. This arrangement, involving less than 5 tons to date, has lessened anxiety in Attapeu and reduced relief problems in Pakse. *Good //*

R34

An activity plan was submitted to rebuild 5 schools northwest of Attapeu. A permanent dispensary was built and opened at the Lave resettlement village at Moung Mai. The villagers will build two additional classrooms in February under small projects funding. Refugees at the two other resettlement villages were provided loan tools to cut planking and other materials for their permanent homes.

Negotiations on the collection of 1967 buffalo loans continued. I estimate about 75% of the loans will be paid, but there are complications as there was a bad harvest and the army has shot several of the buffalo.

There were some minor shifts of population in the Kong My area south of Moung Mai. Dry season vegetables were distributed and the villagers are constructing a second fish pond. A Laot woman has been recruited to teach sewing and cooking skills to the Lave women.

Saravane

Arrangements were made for relocating 302 new refugees now in Saravane town and resettling another 25 at the Housi Soung resettlement village. It was necessary to airlift supplies from Pakse as the road has been closed.

A

ADG refugee buffalo loans in the province will be paid as scheduled. A workable plan was drawn up with provincial officials for the processing or evacuation of a possible large influx of refugees in the city.

Use

For 300 indigents, fire victims and others received supplies at the Provoyance officials office. The two-week ration of rice was extended another 10 days for about half of the neutralist dependents from Lao Ngam who have been unable to re-establish themselves in Pakse. There will be no more rice distributions to this group.

? We bought!

provided over 47 tons of paddy rice which was distributed to eligible refugees in Sedone province. It is planned to purchase 23 tons of upland rice seed in January for distribution to 400 new families at Oudoumsouk.

47 MT
60%

28.20 MT

Equivalent

Charles Whalen assumed responsibility for CD activities at Oudoumsouk and has committed activity plans for wells and schools for both the refugee and non-refugee areas. Irrigation surveyors completed the outside perimeter line of the square kilometer annex to the Oudoumsouk reserve and two villages were staked out with 30 X 20 meter homelots. Provincial officials distributed homelots to families.

250,000 kip

The RIG continued construction of a refugee reception center east of Pakse. The Red Cross has provided funds for roofing material.

/ ?

Leprosy Colony

About 20 leper families moved into the colonies from contested areas in Saravane. They are now receiving the same support as new refugees, but their continued support will be an item for discussion in April. Ministry of Health officers have indicated that they may move up to 300 additional lepers into the colony. These lepers, now under the care of missionaries in Lao Ngam and Thateng, would present a real problem for the already overcrowded village in Sedone.

Protestant missionaries have proposed to build a new village 5 kilometers inside the reserve. 30 families of partially disabled lepers have expressed a desire to plant paddy rice at the new site. A request has been made for USAID to assist by providing a bulldozer for ten days to push a pioneer track to the new site. Further action on the proposal is delayed until responsible RIG officials decide whether the new site will pollute river water used by non-leper villages downstream.

Other

There were no significant developments regarding the refugees captured in December. Several planned distributions in Wapikhamtong were cancelled due to the fluid military and political situation.

E. G. Ruoff, Chief NIPER

28 February 1968

THRU: H. Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse
Mike Murphy, XO/Pakse

FY 1969 Program Review Formats

Attached please find the requested projections for FY 69. The following points should be considered when reviewing the figures.

1. Movements graphed out from 1963 to 1967 show a regular increasing pattern when corrected for the dependent program that is no longer handled by USAID. Projections for FY 67 were accurate to within a few hundred people. However, the refugee situation has now somewhat stabilized as the last sizable friendly groups moved to the government side in 1967.
2. The situation is complicated at the moment and it is difficult to assess the Lao Ngam, Saravane, and Attapeu problems. I feel a reasonable projection would be 1200 families or 6000 people processed and supported for three months, 40% of which would then be included in the resettlement program and receive continued support until the first harvest. The formats have been prepared accordingly.
3. It is, however, very likely that the war will expand and disrupt additional people. The most probable development would be for the enemy to take control of the area between the Sekong River and Route 27 (Paksong-Tchepone) and retake Lao Ngam during the current dry season offensive. This would disrupt another 6000 refugees who, if moved quickly, would be able to plant a crop this year in the Pakse area. Rice requirements for FY 69 would then increase 210 tons for the first quarter and 90 tons the second quarter. Plans are being made to cope with this problem if it arises.
4. The following movements are estimated for FY 69. If the offensive is successful the figures would be doubled in all areas. Most of the people would elect to stay on their land even though under enemy control:

Lao Ngam Area	1500
Thateng-Saravane Area	2500
Area west of Paksong	750
Lao Ngam to Khong Sedone	750
South of the Plateau	500

The above figures are pre-shrunk. A very sound case can be argued for much higher estimates.

Enclosure No. 1

Questionnaire for FY 1969 Resettlement Program Review

After reviewing the points covered in the basic letter, complete the following:

1. How many existing refugee families are in your area which you feel should be permanently resettled?

Neutralists propose to move 160 unreliable families from Lao Ngam to Pakse

2. Where are they located

Leo Ngam town

3. Where are these families from (original origin)? (Province and Village)

Surrounding villages in the area (Lao Ngam)

4. Do you have a site (or sites) temporarily selected that meets at least some of the criteria given earlier? If yes, approximate location of site.

Yes. 6000 hectare site at KM14 on Route 13. Refugees will become employees of the Forestry Department and clear land at 6,000 Kip per hectare and plant teak seedlings on 4000 hectares of forest reserve.

5. Would you recommend these families be resettled in another area (Province) that has better potential sites available?

No.

6. From past experience estimate how many new (not now existing in your area) refugee families will be eligible for resettlement in FY 1969.

500. An area at KM24 (Saigon) is being studied to receive the anticipated 500 families. It appears likely that the entire 2000 hectares can be irrigated for off-season cropping and that there will be no objections from the Forestry or land departments. Investigations will continue on this site.

PROJECTED MOVEMENTS REFUGEE FAMILIES FY 1969

EST. 40% WILL BE RESETTLED

1st Quarter

	<u>July 1968</u>	<u>August 1968</u>	<u>Sept. 1968</u>
Pakse	40 families	60 families	80 families
Attapeu	15 families	10 families	20 families
Saravane	-	5 families	10 families
Other	Carry overs FY 68	Lao Ngam Relief	Lao Ngam Relief Emergency Evac.

2nd Quarter

	<u>Oct. 1968</u>	<u>Nov. 1968</u>	<u>Dec. 1968</u>
Pakse	50 families	40 families	180 families
Attapeu	-	-	40 families
Saravane	-	-	20 families
Other	Lao Ngam Relief		

3rd Quarter

	<u>Jan. 1969</u>	<u>Feb. 1969</u>	<u>Mar. 1969</u>
Pakse	120 families	100 families	80 families
Attapeu	20 families	10 families	-
Saravane	20 families	10 families	-
Other			

4th Quarter

	<u>April 1969</u>	<u>May 1969</u>	<u>June 1969</u>
Pakse	100 families	70 families	60 families
Attapeu	-	20 families	10 families
Saravane	-	10 families	10 families
Other		Emergency	

PROVINCE: PAKSE

1ST QUARTER

Site	Prog. Rice MT	Prog. B MT	Prog. Salt MT	Purchase Rice MT
Pakse	137.	24.	5.	None
Attoupeu	12.	2.	.5	None
Saravane	7.	1.2	.3	None
Lepor	<u>21.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>.7</u>	None
Total	177.	30.2	6.4	

2ND QUARTER

Pakse	131.	23.	5.	None
Attoupeu	14.	2.5	.5	None
Saravane	8.	1.3	.3	None
Lepor	<u>17.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>.7</u>	None
Total	170.	28.8	6.5	

3RD QUARTER

Pakse		30.	4.	107.
Attoupeu		2.5	.5	14.
Saravane		1.3	.4	10.
Lepor		<u>.3</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>10.</u>
Total		24.6	5.6	149.

4TH QUARTER

Pakse	11.	26.	6.	100
Attoupeu	12.	2.	.4	-
Saravane	.	1.4	.4	-
Lepor	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>.8</u>	-
Total	26.	32.9	7.6	100

1ST QUARTER

<u>Area</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
Pakse 1030 families 500 resettled	230	230	230	230	230			500*
Attapeu 145 families 75 resettled	45	45	45	45	45			75*
Saravane 85 families 55 resettled	15	15	15	15	15			55*

2ND QUARTER

Pakse	270	270	270	270	270	720**	500***
Attapeu	40	40	40	40	40	75**	75***
Saravane	20	20	20	20	20	55**	55***

3RD QUARTER

Pakse	300	300	300	300	300		
Attapeu	30	30	30	30	30		
Saravane	30	30	30	30	30		

4TH QUARTER

Pakse	230	230	230	230	230	340****	
Attapeu	30	30	30	30	30	40****	
Saravane	20	20	20	20	20	25****	

* Fruit Seedlings

** Dry Season Vegetables

*** Ducks or Pigs

**** Wet Season Vegetables

TO: Fritz Benson

March 1, 1968

FROM: Mike Murphy, AOC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - February 1968

A total of 972 refugees and 1484 temporarily dislocated people were processed during the month. No logistics problems were encountered as all distributions were made in Pakse. Most of the refugees came from the other areas of Lao Ngam and Tha Teng.

There were no significant accomplishments in areas outside of Pakse due to travel restrictions. Most relief supplies were depleted during the month but a new shipment for 500 families is expected soon. A Program estimate for FY 69 was prepared for a probable 1200 families in of which about 500 are expected to require resettlement. These estimates are tentative pending developments in Saravane and Attopeu. However, the new system of having field personnel prepare detailed estimates should help the country program.

A small attack on the Neutralist outpost at the northern end of Oudomsouk (Houei Champi) dislocated 1500 refugees who are now being housed at Oudomsouk village. There were several refugees casualties and the irrigation survey team suffered some material losses during their quick exit. The team has been resigned to Thakhek until security improves.

There is room for less than 200 additional families at Oudomsouk as that area can only accommodate 1000 families. A search has begun for new irrigatable resettlement areas for FY 69. There are several sites being studied but now of the areas ideal for irrigation are being reforested with teak. The most promising possibility is a 2000 hectares site at Km 24 (Saigon Road) that would provide for 500 families of paddy cultivators. Very preliminary field investigations indicate that the entire area could be irrigated for off-season cropping. The Chao Khoueng and the Forestry Department have given clearance and assistance to continue the investigation. This is a fairly long-range program. It will probably also be necessary to develop another high altitude reservation for refugees from some less-developed tribes.

A committee has been formed to look after the welfare of official and civilian families evacuated from Saravane and Attopeu. A direct grant of 10 tons of rice to the committee reportedly improved the morale of the family heads who have been armed to defend the cities. This assistance arrangement appears to be more satisfactory than the previous method of processing through social welfare channels.

The Chao Muong has made a proposal to relocate outside of Lao Ngam district about 200 families who cannot be trusted. Developments will be reported by memorandum.

It will be necessary to locally purchase about 30 tons of rice for March requirements. When authorization is received, the sale will probably be handled by ADL.

A satisfactory repayment schedule for Buffalo Loans in Attapeu was reached during the month. Sedone loans are the only remaining problem. It has been proposed that the buffalo owners make 4000 pieces of thatch for new refugee housing in lieu of cash or rice payment. Funds will then be transferred from the roofing program.

Normal tool and clothing production programs continued. A plan is being considered to place a number of younger refugee boys with local commercial vegetable gardeners, pig and chicken farms, blacksmiths, tinsmiths and charcoal factories for on-the-job training. Several boys and merchants have expressed enthusiasm for the idea. This informal arrangement may develop into a realistic training program with only refugee program inputs.

It was fortunate to have visits by Mr. Ruoff, Mr. Brady, and RIG Director of Resettlement Manh. Plans were developed for future programs and contingencies.

ORA:ps:5-21-71

TO: Mr. William R. Lorvan, IVS/COP Date: August 03, 1968

FROM: John Murdoch, IVS/Khong Sedone

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for August, 1968 (excerpts)

Refugees

During August there were approximately 400 refugees from Ban Bung Kham and Ban Keng Chalouang (XC-2337) in Saravane Province that came over into Wapikhamthong. Most of them were brought to Khong Sedone.

ORAFCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, AD/RA Date: August 5, 1968

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - July, 1968 (excerpts)

The withdrawal of the RLG forces from the Lao Ngam area into the Oudomsouk area was certainly the most significant change.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, AD/RD Date September 5, 1968

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - August, 1968 (Exerpts)

Refugees

During the month we received more than 400 refugees from the Savavane area, most of whom were forced to leave their homes because of military pressure. Of the 400 or more, about 140 are now located in the refugee reception center in Pakse, and about 240 are located in Khong Sedone. Plans are being made to move most of these people into the Nam Phak refugee resettlement area at Km-25 south of Pakse.

A second groups of refugees who we are planning to resettle are now situated near the town of Khong My in Attapeu Province. This groups of about 400 was force to leave its village near the Cambodian border because of military activities in the area. It has been suggested that this group will be brought into Pakse for a short period of time and then moved to a resettlement area about 12 Km. West of Houei Khong.

A third group, consisting of about 380 villagers, is now living in the town of Attapeu and has been receiving refugee support for almost six months. Because of military security this groups was unable to plant rice this year and thus will not be able to support itself within the preseeable future. In discussions with the Social Welfare director of Pakse and the Chao Khoueng of Attapeu, it was decided that refugee support will be cut off to these villagers unless they agree to move to a more secure are and begin working on a dry season rice crop immediately. Several locations have been suggested. However, nothing can be done until the villagers decide their own fate for themselves.

The last and certainly the smallest group to come in was group from the LaoNgam area. These people have been trickling into the refugee area at Oudomsouk ever since the attacks began last December. Reports from the Chao Muong and other officials indicate that there are still more than three thousand persons inhabiting the area even though it fell under enemy control in the larter part of July.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H. E. Thomas, AD/RA Date October 8, 1968

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - September 1968 (excerpts)

Refugee Relief

People continue to trickle in from areas around Lao Ngam, Attapeu and Saravane with reports that they are unable to harvest a rice crop this year because of security problems. At the same time most of them are hesitant to resettle and begin building homes around Pakse and Oudomsouk because they believe that security will improve enough for them to return within the near future. As the situation now stands, it looks as if we will have to job of supporting a minimum of two thousand persons throughout the next dry season, and if enemy activity increases, this figure could increase.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, AD/RD Date November 6, 1968

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - October 1968 (excerpts)

Refugees

Refugee continued to trickle into the Pakse and Khong Sedone areas at a much lesser rate than during the previous two months. Bung Kham, a village located near Saravane, contributed the greatest number with Attopou accounting for the second largest figure. About all that may be said of the refugee situation is that it is still extremely fluid and unpredictable.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, AD/RD December 3, 1968

FROM: Herbert N. Miller, CDAA/Paksong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - November, 1968

Security in the area is rapidly deteriorating to its normal dry. Season level. On the 28th the villages of Phou Khong Toung (XB-4287) north of Paksong was entered by enemy troops who captured one of the medics and confiscated all of the medical supplies from the dispensary. The other medic was able to escape.

ORA:FEBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H. E. Thomas, AD/RA

Date December 13, 1968

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomascuk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - November 1968

Refugees

Approximately 200 new refugees arrived in Sithandone Province apparently fleeing from Cambodia and the border areas of Laos.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

UNCLASSIFIED
INCOMING
SSB MESSAGE FORM

COPY

1. TO: DIRECTOR	2. FROM: AG/PASSE	3. ORIGINATING OFFICE SYMBOL WHALER/PASSE	7. DATE/TIME GROUP 191755 Dec+68
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4. ACTION OFFICE: BRADY/END	5. INFO:
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6. REFERENCE AND TEXT :

APPROX. 400 NEW REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED IN PASSE FROM THAYENG WITHIN THE
LAST THREE DAYS ALSO, AN UNKNOWN NUMBER HAVE MOVED INTO THE SARAVANE AREA.
SUGGEST YOU SEND 300 REFUGEE KITS ASAP. FORM 180 ALONG WITH DISTRIBUTION
SHEETS FOR LAST 500 KITS WILL BE SENT ON MONDAYS MILK RUN.

ACTION OFFICE NOTIFIED _____

INFO OFFICES NOTIFIED _____

INFO: ROUTINE MESSAGE, NOTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED

S AM 12/23

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UNCLASSIFIED
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Galvan ROD
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1. TO: DIRECTOR	2. FROM: AC PAKSE	3. ORIGINATING OFFICE SYMBOL DIFFENDER NEX	7. DATE/TIME GROUP 241045 DEC. 68
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4. ACTION OFFICE: OB/DD VTE	5. INFO:
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6. REFERENCE AND TEXT:

PRIORITY
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Thating
And Committee to Thating
ROD/STK/AN/PKS
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REF: OUR SSB 231715 DEC. 68.

SUBJECT. THATING

WALLEN
WALLEN REPORT ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ APPROXIMATELY 250 REFUGEES FROM THATING
NOW IN SARAVANE A.
ANTICIPATING TOTAL POSSIBLE 1500 REFUGEES FROM THATING TO ARRIVE IN PAKSE,
SARAVANE AND PAKSONG, RICE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE ADDITIONAL 20 MT PER MONTH.
SUFFICIENT REFUGEE KITS NOW ON ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED
FUTURE NEEDS.

ACTION OFFICE NOTIFIED Phoned to OB/DD HARRY at 1046 hrs for pick up.

INFO OFFICES NOTIFIED _____

INFO: ROUTINE MESSAGE, NOTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Hugh Brady, RDD/RR
 THRU: H. Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse
 FROM : Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

DATE: 28 December 1968

Pakse File
CS

SUBJECT: Thateng Refugees

We have just received a group of almost two thousand refugees from the Thateng area. Most of these people believe that they will not be able to return to their homes for at least another year, and are therefore planning on resettling in the vicinity of Pakse.

To accommodate them, we have selected a site at KM-6 on the eastern end of Pakse, where there is a large tract of land with an irrigation canal to provide water for bathing, cooking, and year-around vegetable farming. The land belongs to the Department of Forestry and Waters, and will be loaned to the farmers with the condition that after the second year of upland rice is harvested, the farmers must plant teakwood trees in the field.

As an aid to the refugees, I would like to request permission to use some funds from the Oudomsouk Activity Plan to purchase supplementary foods such as dried fish, dried meat, and peppers. I plan on providing them with such food for a period of no more than two months, and you may be sure that only those actually engaged in clearing land or building houses will be eligible for such food.

I estimate that it will cost about 150 kip per man per day, and the limit of two months will be set as an absolute limit. Also, if it appears possible to sell the wood for firewood in Pakse, I may be able to cut down both the cost per day as well as the length of time for us to give such support. It appears that we will have approximately eighty families moving into this site within the next two weeks.

CCW:eea-12/28/68

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, AD/RA

Date January 3, 1969

THUR: Mr. H. Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse

FROM: Herbert N. Milles, CDAA/Paksong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - December, 1968 (exerpts)

Security considerations in the Plateau are have seriously slowed down operations in the countryside. Houei Khong personnel were evacuated to Pakse for a period of one day and Paksong personnel, including OB/Paksong, were evacuated for approximately four days, at the present it is not possible to travel outside of Paksong to wither the north, south or east.

The Bailey Bridge at the Houei Machan on the Paksong - Houei Kong Road was blown by the enemy during the first part of December. Damage was severe enough to prevent large vehicular traffic from cursing it. This has presented considerable difficulties in giving commodity support to Houei Kong cluster since military convoys are no longer able to get in.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, ADRD

January 9, 1969

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - December 1968 (Exerpts)

Tha Theng:

The battle at Tha Theng which took place during the early part of this month will long be remembered it for no other reason than that it caused such a complete and total destruction to the town itself. More than two thousand people found their way into the city of Pakse, most of whom managed to save little more than the clothing which they were wearing or money which they had in their pockets. The result is, of course, that we are committed to support these people until they can harvest a rice crop or find some other means of support. The best estimate that I can give is that we will have to increase our rice allotments by at least twenty tons per month to handle this new group.

Khong Sedone Reguess:

After five months of waiting for a pump project, which never materialized the refugees from Beung Kham finally ~~started~~ began leaving Khong Sedone and moving into Pakse. Reports are that more than three hundred people will make the trip during the early part of January. Mr. Phent, my counterpart, and I have already begun making plans for their permanent resettlement outside of Pakse. More on this next month.

Attoupeu:

The town of Attoupeu is completely surrounded by enemy troops, as everyone well knows. As such, the people living within are unable to trade rice or any other commodities with the outside world except when they are provided with ~~air~~ air support. The town itself is said to have a population of almost 6,000 civilians. Basing our figures on a rice consumption rate of 400 grams per person per day, it is easy to see that the town requires about 75 tons of rice per month in order to survive. Negotiations are now underway to decide how the different RIG agencies will divide up the responsibility so that each takes his own share.

ORA:ps:5-13-71

TO: Dr. H.E. Thomas, ADRD

Feb 7, 1969

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomgouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - January 1969

General:

In an effort to help alleviate the rice shortage problem in Attapeu, USAID/RIG refugee relief delivered thirty-five tons of rice to that stricken town. As a result of this move, rice distributions for southern Laos reached a record high. Additional groups from Saravane, Thateng and Cambodia added another eight hundred persons to the rolls bringing the total number of persons receiving support to more than seven thousand.

ORA;ps:5-14-71

TO: Mr. Phillip Gullion, A- AD/RA Date March 1969

THUR: H. Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - February 1969 (excerpts)

Attapeu

The town of Attapeu is still under constant harassment from enemy troops, and consequently almost all development activities have come to a standstill.

CRA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Phillip Gullion, Act, AD/RA Date: April 8, 1969

THRU: H. Earl Diefenderfer, A6/Pakse

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - March 1969 (exerpts)

Refugees

Refugee movements continued to increase during the month of March. In addition to those persons coming into the Pakse area, a large group consisting of persons from more than twenty-five villages began moving their effects from areas east of the Sedone River to more secure areas on the western side. Reports also indicate that at least two thousand persons have fled their homes in the La Khone Pheng (WC-6157) and Ban Taphan (WC-3862) areas to seek safety in nearby Thailand. To handle these and the previously arrived groups it was necessary to increase rice distributions.

Oudomsouk

On March 27, enemy forces attacked and partially destroyed one of the two Bailey Bridges in the Oudomsouk area. Several days later they ambushed an army jeep on the Oudomsouk road two Km, north of the KM-21 intersection. One man died in each of the incidents, and several were injured. Consequently our development activities have been curtailed pending an improvement in security.

Sithandone

This month a group of unknown persons entered the refugee resettlement village at Ban Na Syak and set fire to a few of the houses after telling the inhabitants to remove all their possessions. As a result, the villagers packed up all their belongings and moved to a new location adjacent to the Mekong. This, the only major refugee resettlement village in Sithandone, consists of about thirty-five families.

CRA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

18 April 1969:

In southern Laos enemy skirmishes continue to force people to evacuate their villages and fled toward Pakse, latest number of new refugees exceeds 1,500, the 6,000 civilians surrounded in the areas of Attapeu and Saravane are at present being supported by relief assistance.

ORA:ps:7-8-71

TO: Mr. Phillip Gullion, Acting AD/RA Date: May 8, 1969

THRU: Mr. H. Earl Diffendefe, AC/Pakse

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, CDAA/Oudomsouk

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - April, 1969 (excerpts)

Refugees

Refugee movements decreased sharply during the month of April. Bans Saphat, San and Tabag (Wapi Province) were the largest contribution after enemy forces burned most of the village buildings. Khang My (Attopeu Province) and Satsavane added another 400 persons to the support list.

Resettlement

Approximately 200 families were resettled in areas along the Pakse Pakseong road during the month.

OEA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Phillip W. Gullion Date: June 10, 1969

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, RDD/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - May, 1969 (exerpts)

The influx of refugees into provincial capitals in southern Lao has decreased to a mere trickle. In some places around Wapikhamthong, the refugees returned to their old villages (i.e., Ban Saphat, Lakhone Pheng, etc) set up their houses, and began planting rice. In all, things have quieted down to the most ranquiel state since the middle of August, 1968.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Walt Johnson AC/XK Date: July 1, 1969

FROM: Bill Sage, IVS/Houei Kong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - June 1969 (exerpts)

As of June 24, we are now Muong Sayasila. The Chao Khoueng and General Phasouk arrived here for the installation ceremony of Tong as Chao Muong.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. John MacQueen, AD/RA Date: July 8, 1969

FROM: Charles C. Whalen, RDD/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for June 1969 (exerpts)

Ban Sapha

This month the Chao Khoueng of Wapi the Chief of Social Welfare, Refugee from Pakse, and I, flew to the village of Ban Saphat (XC-0435) for an inspection tour of the damages sustained during the attack last April. More than 40 houses were completely destroyed in the main village along with the USAID school and dispensary. Plans are now being formulated for the reconstruction which is expected to begin after the rice harvest in October.

Refugees

The influx of new refugees has diminished little more than two or three families per week.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Gordon B. Ramsey, Program Officer

September 22, 1969

FROM: Phillip P. Gullion, Chief RR&R Branch, RDD

SUBJECT: Briefing Paper - Pakse Area Refugee Relief & Resettlement (Exerpts)

Current Relief Activities:

Seone Province

	<u>Families</u>	<u>People</u>
a. Houei Nam Phak Resettlement Km 25 South	66	395
b. Oudomsouk Km 21 East	93	460
c. Pak Song Road East	1631	789
d. Saigon Road South	38	244
e. Pakse Area (Temporary)	294	1,820

Attapeu Province:

a. Muong Mai (Unconfirmed)	437	2,342
b. Recent Arrival (Unconfirmed)		
c. Keng M g	28	197

<u>Baravane (Unconfirmed)</u>	190	928
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<u>Sithandone</u>	8	42
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<u>Waphikhamthong</u>	133	680
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<u>Champassak</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
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<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>1,450</u>	<u>8,546</u>
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ORA:pe5-14-71

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA Date: October 6, 1969

FROM: Herbert N. Miller CDAA/Paksong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, September 1969 (exerpts)

Refugees

On the 24 on of September the CDAA went into Attapeu via RLAF helicopter to take a first- hand work at the refugee situation. One USAID/RR Field assistant and one RIG/SW assistant went along and were left in Attapeu for one week to make a complete survey of existing refugees. Upon their return they reports that there were a total of 2616 refugees. After the rice harvest in November the total should be reduced to 1500.

This same survey team will be sent to Saravane to get a complete list of refugees.

In Ban Saphat (Wapikhamthong) a request has come in for continuing support for one more month's distribution for approximately 675 villagers to tide themover until next month's harvest. These people lost a considerable amount of their rice stores and houses during last dry season's fighting.

In addition, there are approximately 175 persons who have recently entered Khong Sedone after having Sojourned with the PL for several months.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA Date: November 1, 1969

FROM: H.N. Miller, CDAA/Paksong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - October 1969 (exerpts)

Refugees

To date 24 tons of the 35 tons promised for Attoueu has been delivered by RLAF C-475. This procedure has proven to be slow in implementation, but controls are easier to maintain.

Seven tons of rice were promised to Saravane for the months of October but to date the RLAF has only sent in four. Distribution is handled by both USAID and the RIG with the Chao Khoueng of Saravane supervising.

The CDAA has been invited by the Chao Khoueng of Saravane to investigate a proposed refugee resettlement site in Saravane.

Observation from the air shows that there is a good rice crop in the Attoueu area. However, colonel Kong indicates that it may prove impossible to bring the rice in. We will have to wait to see if this rice becomes available for consumption and whether there will be a continuing need for rice support in Attoueu.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Phillip P. Gullion, Chief RR ~~NO~~ Date: November 6, 1969

FROM: F. C. Hubig, CDAA/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for October (exerpts)

Several groups of refugees resently have been arriving due to combat action in the Paksong area.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA Date: December 6, 1969

FROM: H.N. Millier, CDAA/Paksong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - November 1969 (exmpts)

Refugees

The rice harvest in Attoupeu seems to be going well despite increased enemy activity. Only these refugees from villages adjacent to Muong Mai itself were able to harvest rice although this group accounts for over half of the refugees.

Increasing numbers of refugees are coming into Saravane from Outhaying villages. The assidant Chao Khoueng has proposed a new relocation Site on the outskirts of Saravane and a visit to the proposed Site was made last week. A small relocation AP will be submitted to Vientiane in the near future.

Three more tons of rice were airlifted into Saravane by RLAF during November completing the seven - ton allotment for October.

39 refugees arrived in Souvannakhili from Seno after three neutralist army trucks were sent up from Souvannakhili to pick them up. The refugees were from Muong Phine and claimed to have spent 3 or 4 days in Seno before being picked up to join relatives in Souvannakhili.

The residents of Ban Saphat are presently ready to start reconstructing their homes which were estroyed during last dry season's fighting.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. Charles A. Mann, OD Date: December 10, 1969

FROM: H. Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - November 1969 (excerpts)

Political

The transfers of four Chao Khouengs have been announced during the month. Three have now been made official. Col. Khong is now the Chao Khoueng of Attapeu, Col. Vang for Saravane, Mr. Khamphoui (formerly at Saravane) has been reassigned to Sithandone, Mr. Kykeo (formerly at Sithandone) will be assigned to Vientiane, Mr. Sithat, currently assigned to Champassak, has indicated that he, too, will be transferred to Vientiane.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

Old Location	No. of Family	No. of Persons	Date Arr.
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TOTAL Refugee moved from Ban Ta Youn Neua, Muong Tha Teng Khoueng Saravane, came into Ban Oudomsouk, on dated June 4, 1969.

Ban Ta Youn Neua	26	130	6/4/69.
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Refugees from Ban Na Khok, Tasseng Na Khok Muong Natane Dong Khoueng Wapikhamthong, came into Ban Oudomphanh KM-34.

Ban Na Khok	18	128	6/4/69.
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These refugees moved from Ban Dong Ko, Tasseng and Muong Soutabaly Khoueng Saravane came into KM-9 Muong Pakse area on dated 24/6/69.

Ban Dong Ko	11	49	6/4/69.
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The villagers moved from Ban Nong Boua, came into Ban Kang, Muong Pakse area.

Ban Nong Boua	19	106	-
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The refugee moved from Muong Tha Teng area arrived to Pakse from December 17-31, 68.

Ban Muong Tha Teng	221	1348	17/31/68.
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Refugees moved from Ban Nong Boua came into KM-4.

Ban Nong Boua	17	89	-
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These refugees moved from Ban Cha Ho.

Ban Cha Ho	29	134	-
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TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, Chief/RDE Date: January 5, 1970

FROM: Herbert Miller, CDAA/Paksong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - December 1969 (exerpts)

Refugees

Thirty - three new refugees arrived in Khong Sedone from Nathandong east of the Sedone River.

Since Col. Vang has assumed the position of Chao Khoueng/Saravane, it has proven easier to get assistance from the RLAF to transport refugee rice into Saravane.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, Chief/RDD Date February 4, 1970

FROM: Herbert Miller AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - January 1970 (exerpts)

Refugees

117 new refugees arrived in Pakse during January

152 families were brought out of the area between Souvannakhili and Oudomsouk. These people were able to bring their rice and belonging with them and so the Social Welfare role was limited to providing them mosquito nets.

Pakse was rocketed on night of 8-9 January.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. Fred Hubig, CDAA/Pakse Date: February 28, 1970

FROM: Khamtanh Mounivong.

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - February 1970 (exerpts)

New Refugees

During the month 4/31 new refugees came from Bungxay to Km 4 (Binsadeth). The total number of refugees supported this month is 1,933.

Fire Victims

On 16 February 10 houses were burned following a P.L. mortar attack in Pakse (B. Phone Ngam). On 17 February the MSW distributed rice and refugee kits to the victims.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Charles A. Mann, Director Date March 9, 1970

FROM: H. Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - February, 1970 (exerpts)

Rocket attack on Pakse during night of 15-16 February.

The enemy blew the bridge between Paksong and Houei Kong.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Fred Hubig, AC/Pakse Date: April 1, 1970

FROM: Khamtanh Moumvong

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - March 1970 (exerpts)

III. Refugees

1. Old Refugees - 103/1,483
2. New Refugees - 6/ 30
3. Special Refugees - 49/ 278 people from Ban Thong Thing moved from their village to new land at KM-9.
4. Other areas: 50/ 286
 - A. Sarvane 58/286
 - B. Khong Sedone 9/52

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. Charles A. Mamm, Director Date: April 7, 1970

FROM: Earl Diffenderfer, AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - March, 1970 (exerpts)

Security

This has been one of the most quiet months during May 27 month tour, Enemy activity has been negligible. A wondering group of propagandizing P.L. started some of the Houei Khong area residents. However, all is quiet again. Route 13 south is again open to normal traffice. No rocket attacks during.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA Date: April 7, 1970

FROM: Millers, AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - March, 1970 (excerpts)

Refugees

3,600 Kg. of rice were airlifted into Saravane along with 50 bags of cornmeal to feed a total of 58 families comprising 286 people. Of these, 29/130 are at the new relocation settlement at Ban Kengkhatiam (XC-5433); 8/49 are newly arrived in Saravane city from Ban Lavang. 21/107 are victims of an air strike on their village of Ban Chakang (XC-2738) which completely destroyed the village. They have temporarily resettled in Ban Xapone (XC-2740).

A meeting was held with Mr. Pheng, RIG/MSW, and the combined Khoueng Council of Attopeu to discuss the continuing problem of the 1,000 refugees in Muong May who do not have sufficient food. There has not been a rice drop into Attopeu since last November.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO:* Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director Date: May 13, 1970

FROM: Diffenderfer, Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - April, 1970

Security

As the month drew to a close., the previously prevailing calm if not shattered - was certainly disturbed. Attopeu - long in a precarious position - was lost to the enemy, Increased enemy movement were reported on the Plateau. A rocket attack on Pakse, in the early morning hours of 1 May helped to start the month off with a bang.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

TO:* Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA Date: June 1, 1970

FROM: Miller AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - May, 1970

REFUGEES

Thus far, of the 3,303 refugees newly arrived from Saravane, RLG/SW has had to provide shelter for 711 persons at the refugee reception center at Km 4. 247 people are being housed at Km 6; 74 people from Nong Boua are with relatives at KM 15 (Paksong Rd.) and the remainder of 2,019 people are with relatives or friends in Pakse.

A one - time distribution was made to the male functionaires and police arriving from Attoupeu and then dropped from the rolls. Of the remaining refugees from Attoupeu, there are 61/200 still receiving support.

Seven new families of 47 people arrived in Khinak from Cabodia giving a grand total of 44/235 currently receiving support.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-10-71

1. Present location of refugee group (insofar as possible this survey is by village group). Village group name and/or other designation used Km-4 (Dinsdeth) and Km-6 Map coordinates of village site (WB-8971)&(WB-9171) Tasseng Pakse Muong Pakse Khoueng Sedone.

2. Original location of this refugee group. Village name, and/or other designation Ban Bungkham Map coordinates (XC-2237) Tasseng Bungkham Muong Southabali Khoueng Saravane.

3. Village or group leaders of importance, their titles, present whereabouts and other info. of interest concerning them: Mr. Tassang of the Tasseng Bungkham who is presently living at Km-4 (Dinsdeth) and had arrived in Pakse with the other refugees from various villages of the Tasseng Bungkham, such as those on the list, that attaches, since 1968 up until now.

4. Population. Total families at present location: 16 families Individuals 120 people. Prior to migration what was the total families at original location? 90 families Individual 900 people. If the present population is more or less than the original population, give a brief explanation. The number of the resent population is less than the original location because all the rest that are remaining in the original location now did not want to leave their farm lands and houses. And partly because they thought that the condition was not too terrible for them. Therefore, Mr. Nai Ban of Ban Bungkham did not escape.

5. What is the ethnic composition of this refugee group? They are Sour, Lao and Katang. Give reasons expressed by village leaders why the original location and interest locations prior to the present one were abandoned. It was their first movement in their life, and the reason for the flight is that all over the area of the Tasseng Bungkham was bloody attacked by the PL & NVN on March of 1968 as their first attack in Saravane province, therefore these people had escaped to Saravane as the PL & NVN took over the whole area of the Tasseng Bungkham. With away, some of them came along on foot to Saravane then to Khongsedone and then to Pakse either by Taxi or by trucks provided by the Chao Khoueng of Saravane. Unfortunately, those who escaped to Saravane and stayed there did not last any longer. By the month of March 8th 1970, they had to make another trip and flight to Khong Sedone and then to Pakse because Saravane city was attacked and taken over. However most of these people have arrived in Pakse consistently groups by groups, between March 1968 and 1970. Presently, all together there are 74 families of 780 people now living at Km-4 (Dinsdeth) (WB-8971) and Km-6 (WB-9171). Especially those who lived at Km-4 (Dinsdeth) are not sure whether they can live there forever or not, because that place of land belongs to the Prince Boun Oume. However the situation in this site is good now they are not supported any more. All of them are civilian and they make a living either by farming or working as sootie. There are available places for them to find food, either in the forest and mountain or in the river Mekong river, and the river that runs through the village near by Ban Na Hek) on the contrary, I think the idea that they were put in there is good because partly once when the refugees have settled down in such a good place as this one they will never want to leave. And they are not sure that for how long they can live there. It is up to the Prince Boun Oume. Also, they can't make rice nor rice paddy on the Prince's land. Although those who were allowed to do so, they will never own it. For Km-6, the situation is good. They are not

supported any more. These also have available land to make rice fields but rice does not grow well because of the insects and the unfertility of the soil. Some of them became a smith and they are making tools and equipments for sale such as knives, plow, local hoe, etc... For the girls, the RIG/SA/AGR has sent the teachers out thereto to teach them lessons and practical works on home economics. This is being done in the school, rooms of this village. Altogether there were five teachers and fifty three students.

6. Describe the movements of this refugee group as they moved from one location to the next until arriving at the present one. Includes dates, routes, means of transportation, deaths and other significant aspects. They did not remove to any other place except Saravane, Khong Sedone, and Pakse. People from this village began to move between January and March of 1968, on foot, to Saravane, but all of the later groups came directly, on foot, to Khongsedone, which is closer than to Saravane, along the route No. 26. They took only one day to walk. When they arrived in Khongsedone, at Ban Laou (WC-9522), they caught a Taxi and rode along to Khongsedone and then to Pakse. As they arrived in Pakse they presented themselves to the Social Welfare in Pakse and were put into Km-4 where they presented living at now.

7. Briefly describe conditions in previous location especially what life was like with Pathet Lao and NVA forces.

Part of details given by Mr. Deu, The Tasseng to Tasseng Bungkham: Originally, when they were in the original village, which was in the area of the Tasseng Bungkham. They were under the control of the royal Lao Government. But as far back as 30 years ago the villagers of most of the villages in this tasseng were used to co-operating and working for the PL while the PL or the "Phak Lao Issara" were fighting for Lao Independence. Later as the RIG has got an Independence in 1947 those people turned back in and joined the RIG, even so still some were remaining as PL living in their native village as if they were villagers. By that time they were not in such a big group, therefore they were not able to make a change. And the villagers were also living in a good condition. Those who were remaining as the PL were mostly the villagers of Ban Nong Hine Nai, Ban Nong Hine Noi, Ban Na Pholeune, Ban Naphanouane, Ban Na Done Bong, and Ban Nong Mo. Later on as the political situation in Laos became more and more serious all those people from the above villages gathered in big groups and started to communicate with the PL and NVA in the other areas such as Muong Phine, Muong Nong and Attapeu area. Therefore by this time they began to grow bigger and bigger as a big group and at the same time, most of the ~~PL~~ ADC soldiers turned against the administration, Nai Ban and Tasseng. For instance like Ban Nong Hine Nai, Nong Hine Noi, Naphanouane and Na Done Bong. They began to act and turn against the government with rife before the PL and NVA took over the area of Tasseng Bung Kham, on March 1968.

8. What is the general attitude of these refugees towards their present location? Do they feel the present location and conditions are satisfactory or not? What do they feel are the prospects for the future?

They are satisfied to live in these places because it is close to the city. In the contrary they don't want to move to Houei Nam Phak, because some of them who used to have a frustration and conflict with the PL and NVA, are afraid to see them again. For instance Mr. Deu, the Tasseng himself is afraid in case he has a background with the PL before. For the future life, some of them like a job in the city, and some like to farm but lack of land.

9. What agricultural activity has been is or will be feasible at this location?
Agriculturally, they can't provide sufficient food a for temselves. This is
because of old hai field and insects.

10. What facilities and personnel are available to meet the medical needs?
There is not very oftern medical treatment. Usually they have to buy the medicine
themselves because the dedics don't have the medicine that they need.

11. What facilities and personnel are availabel to meet the education needs:
There is a two-rooms school at Km-6. And all children go to this school there
is only one teacher of rh is choool It is a frist grade class. So for the higher
lye livel students have to school in town.

12. Special remarks concerning this group of refugees.

TO: John W. MacQueen, AD/RA

Date: July 6, 1970

FROM: Miller

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - June 1970 (excerpt)

Refugees:

During the month of June, 1,070 families consisting of 5,976 people arrived from the Saravane area.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. John W. MacQueen, AD/RA

Date: July 9, 1971¹⁴⁷⁰

FROM: Herb Miller Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - April, 1970 (exmpts)

Refugees

Rice was distributed during April to 370/2315 refugees. The majority of these were in the environs of Pakse 132/families were in the outer provinces.

37/188 ethnic Lao arrived in Khinak, Sithandone, from Cambodia. 15 of these families have found shelter with relatives in the Khinak area and the remaining 22 families will be resettled on government land approximately 3 Km, South of Khinak.

A total of 242 people have arrived thus far as a result of the fighting in Attepeu. Of this total, 32 families are military dependents, 21 persons are dependents of Attepeu officials and 92 are male officials and police who came out with the retreating in Vientiane to request special permission from USAID to receive the officials on the refugee rolls.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Charles A. Mann, OD Date: August 6, 1970

FROM: Christopher H. Russell, AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - July 1970 (excerpts)

The evacuation of OB personnel from Paksong was specifically requested by the local commander of FAR forces in Paksong and by Gen. Phasouk, after a period of intensive psychological warfare by the enemy.

The significant aspect of the attack on Souvannakhily was the use of 122 mm, rockets against civilians killing 10 of the. The P.L. later expressed their regrets for the civilian casualties, but said that Souvannakhily must now be considered a war zone.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Loren E. Haffner, AD/FO

September 8, 1970

FROM: Miller

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - August, 1970 (exerpts)

Refugees

During new arrivals during September, there are presently 11,415 refugees on the Pakse rolls.

In the Sithadone area, RLAF air strikes 61/325 people to flee from their villages at Ban Saphangtai (WA-9077) and Ban Mong Hoi (WA-8369). They are presently located both at Khong Island and at Ban Donsan (WA-9277). They are to supported on a temporary basis until it can be determined if it is feasible for them to return to their homes.

During August, 108/746 refugees arrived from the Sarvane area (and some who were flown in from PS-38 near Attoupeu). Of this total 20/125 elected to stay in Khong Sedone for possible re-settlement.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Charles A. Mann, OD

Date: September 10, 1971

FROM: Christopher H. Russell, AC/Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - August 1970 (excerpts)

Security:

In early August the military situation in the areas of Paksong and Khong Island stabilized, and we decided to permit OB personnel to start residing again at the hospital in Paksong and to permit Americans to visit Khong Island without requiring aircraft to remain on the ground during their stay.

ORA:FCBenson:wh:7-9-71

TO: Mr. Loren E. Haffner, AD/FO

FROM: Greenough, Pakse

SUBJECT: Monthly, Report - September 1970 (excerpts)

The refugee situation in Region IV has stabilized.

ORA:FCBenson:ch:7-9-71

Chronology Refugee
Moves 1970 (?)

December 8 - 15

5/24 from Ban Lavi, Tass. Lavi, M. Ta Oy,
(XC-6771)
4/20 to Km 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
1/4 into Oudomsouk
3/19 from Ban Kengsim, Tass. Keng Sim, M. Saravan
to Pakse town.
1/5 from Ban. Na Xai Nhai, Tass. Soutabaly,
Saravane into Pakse town.
1/8 from Ban Khanthalath, Tass. Saravane. (XC-4938) to
Km 13 Saigon Road.

December 16 - 23

1/5 from Ban Nabone, Tass. Kengsim, Saravane to
Pakse.
1/7 from Ban Napheng, Tass. ~~Napheng~~ Napheng,
Saravane to Pakse (XC-409401).
1/7 from Ban Phone Phay, Tass. Saravane,
Saravane to Pakse.
1/6 from Ban Khoknhai, Tass. Khok Nhai,
Saravane to Km 6.
2/14 from Ban Dongnong, Tass. Dongnong, Saravane,
to Pakse.
2/15 from Nathoune, Tass. Nathoune, Saravane
to Pakse (XC-305706).
1/6 from Saravane Tass. Saravane to Pakse
(XC-308402).
2/10 from M. May, Tass. Attoupeu to Pakse (YB-008908)
114/543 from Ban Phokhem Nhai, Tass. Phokhem,
M. Laongam, Saravane to Houei Set.
17/84 from Ban Tayoune, Tass. Thateng, Saravane,
to Houei Set.
44/192 from Ban Nong Soung, Tass. Thateng to
Houei Set.
34/164 from Ban Phokhem Noi, Tass. Phokhem,
M. Laongam, Saravane.

December 24 - 31

No new refugees reported.

J. Benham

Pakse

Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

June 2, 1971

John W. MacQueen, AD/RA

Status of Villages at KM 28 and KM 30,
Paksong Road, Pakse Area

Following your request of June 1, I have obtained the following information on the subject villages from Howard Lewin, ORA/Pakse.

On May 31 approximately 700 people from the village at KM 30, Paksong Road moved to Pakse. These people have moved in with relatives in the city. To date we have no firm information concerning the village at KM 28. The people have been requested to vacate their villages by the FAR following a meeting with the Chao Khouseng on Saturday, May 29. It appears that the FAR wishes to install artillery in the vicinity of these two villages. Mr. Lewin is checking on the status of the KM 28 village and will send us information today.

Construction has begun on the new barracks building at the Km 4 Refugee Reception Center and we will have a general clean-up.

AD/RA JWM: C 4/10/71

Bill Dean

Please retain this for
future reference from 6/17

IV

PAKSE

15 June 71

~~(C-111)~~ (White)
Info on Ban Njik: (XB-1477)

Location: Paksong Rd, ~~Km 29-31~~ ^{Near Km. 30}

x No. Houses: 79

x No. People: 86 families 776 people

x Present Location: Most at: Km 11 Paksong Rd
Others at: Km 11 Saigon Rd.
of Ban Njik
villagers

Oudomsouk

Km 24 Saigon Rd.

B. Khan Khung

B. Pha Hai

B. Vat

B. Lum Fai

B. Khone Khong

B. Ockhat (Wapi)

Terwin has received no word to the
effect that B. Njik was destroyed

(1967)

Est. population of Paksong area -

13,000 - 14,000

Between Km 21 and Thatong, were
an estimated 7,000 Javen,
Balance of pop. Sao, Viet, etc.

F. BENSON

MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

ca Aug 71

14-21 May

1) Mil act move to high level of intensity with NVA forces exerting steady press on friendly positions in & around Houei Xai & Paksong on 15 & 16 May. Positions fell on 16 May. On 19 May Houei Kong evac.

2) On 15 May bet 1300 & 1345 hrs. Phon Kong Town (XB-4488), Phon Phai Mia (XB-4994), Phon Champi (XB-4779) & Phon Thevade (XB-3678) fell. Houei Xai abandoned at 1340 hrs & Paksong fell at 1600 hrs on 16 May.

3) On 19 May CV-432 & CV-433 withdrew from positions at Houay Kong on orders from HQ.

5 batt NVA estimated around Paksong

21 May - 28 May

- 1) mid activity at high level with most activity centering on area from 10-20 km west of Paksony, total 11 clashes.

28 May - 4 June

- 1) activities centered on FAR efforts to block further enemy advances west of Paksong along Rte 23. Friendly units along highway probed, mortared & harassed, and forced to withdraw gradually from Bz, Phakbout (XB-2274) to pos. loc 5 km west of the village.

4 June - 11 June

- 1) Operation Phudompitot launched on 9 June to retake Paksong, advance stalled 1st day along rte. 23 when both lead commanders killed & units returned to starting points. Started again on 10th & met opposition, followed up by 4 enemy tanks.

11 June - 18 June

- 1) On 16 June ^{Gen.} Phasouk announced end of offensive & concept for defending Pakse. FAR will conduct defense around Pakse & rely heavily on air & artillery to destroy enemy.

18 - 25 June

- 1) Only 4 minor incidents reported near Hwy 23, since of 10-11 June NVA counterattack against govt forces attempting to retake Paksong.
- 2) Enemy intentions point toward an offensive operation to retake Pakse

- 1) early June concentrated on attempts to defend Pakse
- 2) ^{3-prong} operations to retake Paksong & Saravane
Rich of 29 July

Phase I — began at 750 hrs on
28 July, 4 Batt. airlifted into
Saravane area. Flag flown
over city at 1000. No contact
w/ enemy troops until 29 July
11 km SE Saravane

Phase II — began morning 29 July
w/ 2 batt helifted to LZ on
west of Bolovens 34 km NE
Pakse. No opposition.

Phase III — 29 July 2 Fan Batt w/ 5
armoured cars advanced east along
Rte 23 towards B. White (XB-1477)

By 6 Aug B. Phakkout (XB-2274)
recaptured.

By 8 Aug, 8 km west Paksony
9 & 10 Aug — all units proved to be
hand

28 July 77

Saravane taken

ca Sept. 1971
Pakse area
F Benson

During mid-May military pressure reached a high level of intensity ~~and~~ ^{with} North Vietnamese forces exerting steady pressure against friendly positions in and around Houei Sai and Pakse, ~~and~~ ~~NS~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~May~~. Houei Sai was abandoned at 1340 hours on the 16th, and Pakse fell at 1600 hours. On ~~May 17~~ 19 May, Houei Kong was abandoned.

These key positions having been lost, the estimated five NVA battalions directed their efforts westward along the Pakse road. By the end of May, RLG forces withdrew from Ban Phakout (X B-2279). ~~It was~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ Ban Ouk (X B-1477) was captured by the enemy ~~and~~ during the first week of June.

During the course of the enemy push, about 8000 refugees were ~~forced~~ ~~to~~ ~~leave~~ ~~their~~ ~~villages~~ forced to flee ^{from} their villages located ^{primarily} along the ^{Pakse} road in search of safe haven in Pakse.

On 9 June, RLG forces launched an operation to retake Paksong. ~~However,~~ ^{However,} friendly offensive activities met with strong enemy resistance ~~however,~~ which was supplemented by four tanks.

By 16 June, the Military Region IV Commander called a halt to the operation and concentrated available resources ~~on~~ on the defense of Pakse.

~~During~~ ^{During} the latter part of June, and most of July, ~~enemy activity~~ ^{slowly diminished.} enemy activity. On 29 July, RLG forces launched a three-pronged ~~offensive~~ offensive to retake Saravane and Paksong. The former objective was attained on the same day, and it is expected that Paksong will be recaptured in the near future.

While ~~that~~ small groups of refugees continue to dribble out ~~of~~ the Paksong area, the current offensive is not expected to affect the refugee situation, most of the villagers in the area having fled ^{during} the NVA push ~~in~~ in May and early June.

Paksong
Recaptured
on 13 Sept.
Sao Nyam
recaptured
shortly
before.

Houei Nam Phak Settlement Project - Pakse, Laos

- I. Background and Objective - The Houei Nam Phak Relocation and Settlement Project originally was only part of a long-range plan of the Royal Lao Government -- a pilot effort -- utilizing refugees, disabled war veterans and available land and water resources for the intensive agricultural development and settlement of 12,000 hectares of state-owned land in the Pakse area. Development plans would include establishment of economically and politically stable farming communities in this most strategic area south of the city of Pakse.

The Houei Nam Phak pilot project area, itself, is situated 25 kilometers south of Pakse along Route 13 toward Cambodia. The project's immediate objective is implementation and evaluation of the settlement of 200 refugee and 100 disabled war veteran families on 1600 hectares of a 5,000 tract of forest reserve provided to the Ministry of Social Welfare in February, 1969.

Any project expansion up to 5,000 hectares or more is contingent upon: (1) experience gained from the pilot project (2) available USAID and Royal Lao Government resources, and (3) future refugee relocation or resettlement requirements in the Pakse Area.

- II. Administration and Staff - The Houei Nam Phak project is the direct responsibility of the Royal Lao Government's Ministry of Social Welfare. At the Pakse level, project policy and supervision is conducted by an RLG/USAID sub-committee chaired by the District Officer of Pakse and assisted by the Regional Social Welfare Officer and other Service Chiefs.

At the project site, the first 79 refugee families (selected from 1,200) have already elected their own officers in a Cooperative Association to regulate ~~social help requirements, provide village security and ensure~~ adherence to association by-laws.

The Royal Lao Government has assigned (1) a social welfare worker, (2) a community development worker, (3) eight teachers, (4) a Lao Army operations sergeant to help implement the project and (5) one company of troops from BV-42 for security.

USAID personnel inputs include: (1) the part-time services of one American Community Development Advisor, (2) one TON survey chief, (3) one TON agriculturist, (4) one FSL field assistant and (5) 15 local hire.

- III. The Record to Date - The first 79 families have been moved into permanent housing at the project site in village #1.

- Clearing of the site for Village #1 and the construction of a three-room school, a dispensary, a cooperative store a training center/office, village streets and community privies is 100% complete.

- Aided self-help housing is 100% complete.

- Over 12 kilometers of access road have been constructed.
- A dam has been completed as well as clearing and surveying of a canal route to irrigated 250 hectares. The canal may be constructed next dry season depending on security and availability of equipment.
- Mechanized clearing of 250 hectares for rice and diversified crops, vegetable gardens, fruit orchards and fish ponds is now 70% complete. After clearing and burning is completed, each family will receive two hectares of farm land with full title within three years.
- Establishment of community gardens, trial lowland and upland rice fields and fish pond surveys is completed. Villagers will be self-sufficient in rice after this year's harvest.
- Small industries are being established with charcoal already being manufactured and marketed.
- Selection and clearing survey, of the site for Village #2 is also complete. A total of 105 of a planned total of 140 families are in either temporary or permanent housing.
- Contingency plans for possible future expansion are being drafted by the RIG and USAID.

IV. Financial Summary - (Converted to dollars at 500 kip to \$1)

	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Royal Lao Government	\$1,606,450.-
USAID	275,714.- *
Refugee Settlers	in-kind self-help
	<hr/>
Total	\$1,882,194.-

Does not include salaries for RIG, USAID American, TCN or FSL employees.
DS/FO

DS/FO: Pakco: RBNelson: kb: 11/15/1971

STATISTICAL DATA AT KM-25 RESETTLEMENT AREA (HOUE NAMPKAK)*

<u>Village No. 1</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Chickens</u>	<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Area Devoted to Rice</u>	<u>Area Devoted to Field Crops</u>
BUNGKHAM	24	173	3	23	27	4.9 Hectares	.4 Hectare
PHOLONG	22	135	4	37	18	3.1 "	.5 "
KAZO*	<u>27</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>3.9</u> "	<u>3.0</u> "
<u>Total:</u>	73	461	14	121	146	11.9 Hectares	3.9 Hectares
<u>Village No. 2</u>							
NAVONE	55	339	-	-	-	1.5 Hectares	-
THAPHO	39	259	-	-	-	2.5 "	-
CAMP VILLAGES	<u>33</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39.0</u> Hectares	<u>-</u>
<u>Total:</u>	127	783	0	0	0	41.0 Hectares	0
UNEMPLOYED REFUGEES	96	578	-	-	-	-	-
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	296 Families	2,122 Persons	14 pigs	121 chickens	146 ducks	160 Hectares	3.9 Hectares

* Data taken November 15, 1971.

Chronology of Refugee Moves (Pakse - 1971)

Jan 1 - 7

4/18 from Ban Doo, Tass. Na Doo, Muong Phalithone, Saravane to Km 4 reception center.

2/25 from Ban Paksancho, Tass. Tangpling, Muong Kreum, Saravane to Km 10 Saigon Road.

2/25 from Saravane, Tass. Saravane to Km 2 Paksong Road (XC-508302).

2/18 from Ban Npholiun, Tass. Bung Kham, Saravane to Nong Eleung.

1/17 from Ban Dong Nong, Tass. Nakhoysao, Saravane to Pakse (XC-4533).

1/6 from Ban Nong Boua, Tass. Nong Boua, Saravane to Km 2 Paksong Road (XC-203309).

1/7 from Ban Nakokho, Tass. Saravane to Km 2 Paksong Road.

1/7 from Ban Na Thoune Nhai, Tass. Saravane to Km 2 Paksong Road.

33/158 from Ban Donelanga, Tass. Palachanh, Muong Palachanh, Khoueng Xiengteng, Cambodia, to Ban Donesadam and Ban Hong Khone, (XA-045396).

Jan 8 - 15

1/14 from Ban Nakhok, Tass. Saravane to Pakse Houei Poon (XC-5636).

1/6 from Ban Dorn Khanhoong, Tass. Na Doo, Saravane to Km 17 Paksong Road. (XC-3756).

1/7 from Ban Khan Ngous, Tass. Na Pheng, Saravane to Ban Na Khok, Pakse (XC-4141).

1/7 from Ban Na Thanko, Tass. Na Khoysao, Saravane to Pakse Ban Khankeung (XC-4733).

1/4 from Ban Na Donkhouang, Tass. Na Pheng, Saravane to Pakse (XC-4337).

1/9 from Ban Na Thankouai, Tass. Na Khoysao, Saravane to Pakse, B. Khankeung (XC-4631).

2/11 from Ban Na Hong, Tass. Na Doo, Saravane to Km 17. Paksong Road (XC-303601).

Jan 16 - 23

1/7 from Ban Phone Thanh, Tass. Nong Bok, Saravane to Km 9 Paksong Road (XC-5835).

1/7 from Ban Saravane, Tass. Saravane to Km 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paksong Road (XC-508302).

2/14 from Ban Dong Nong, Tass. Na Khoysao,
Saravane to Kokhamthep (XC-4533).

1/4 from Ban Na Thanko, Tass. Na Khoysao,
Saravane to Kokhamthep (XC-4631).

1/8 from Ban Na Lat, Tass. Na Khoysao, Saravane
to Kokhamthep (XC-5333).

2/17 from Ban Keng Muong Lao, Tass. Saravane
Kokhamthep (XC-4555).

4/23 from Ban Foui Noi, Tass. Kadab, Saravane
to (XC-5343).

Movement of Old Refugees to new Location:

XC - 4997 Nong Soung	11/47 to Km 28 Paksong Road.
	4/21 to Km 22 Paksong Road.
	25/97 to Ban Phine Km 21 Paksong Road.
XB - 3899 Phokhem	14/55 to Km 21 Paksong Road.
	25/115 to Ban Phine Km 21.
	24/128 to Km 21 Ban Phine.
	19/98 to Km 18 Paksong Road.

Most of above refugees from Houei Set area near Paksong.

Jan 24 - 31	1/6 from Ban Nathanko, Tass. Naukhoisao, Saravane (XC-4831) to Ban Khokko
	2/14 from Ban Nakoo (XC0303601) Tass. Keng Sim, Muong Phalinthone, Saravane to Km 15 Paksong Road.
	1/8 from Ban Saoukady, Tass. Napheng, Saravane (XC-4148) to Khoumkokte, Pakse.
	1/4 from Ban Lavy, Tass. Lavy, Saravane (XC-505503) to Km 22 Paksong Road.
	2/8 from Ban Nabone, Tass. Nadoo, Saravane to Km 13 Saigon Road.

1/6 from Ban Keng Noi, Tass. Keng Sim, Muong Phalinthone, Saravane to Km 4 reception center.

1/9 from Ban Nong Sai (XC-275377), Tass. Bungkham, Muong Soutabaly, Saravane to Km 4 Dinsadeth.

1/5 from Ban Thamouk (XC-447389) Tass. Kengkaxa, Muong Saravane to Pakse area t Thao Soubon's House.

1/9 from Ban Nathoune (XC-488338) Tass. Nakhoisao, Muong Saravane to Ban Khankeung, Pakse.

2/14 from Ban Senevang Noi, Tass. Saravane Muong Soutabaly, Saravane to Ban That Luang, Pakse.

2/10 from Ban Nong Boua (XC-203209), Tass. Nong Boua, Muong Saravane to Ban Muang, Champassak.

6/41 from Ban Yangko, (XC-6148), Tass. Tan Eun, Muong Ta-Oy, Saravane, to Km 4.

Feb 1 - 7

1/7 from Naay Nhai, Tass. Southabaly, Muong Southabaly, Saravane to Houei Keng Keung, Pakse (XC-209209).

2/9 from Nong Kha, Tass. Napheng, Muong Saravane to Houei Nam Phak (XC-401308).

1/10 from Nadone, Tass. Saravane, Muong Saravane to Km 3 (XC-505306).

1/5 from Nong Boua, Tass. Nong Boua, Saravane to Ban Muong Km 30 Saigon Road (XC-203309).

2/15 from Tha Muong Kao, Tass. Kaxa, Muong Saravane to Ban Kok Kham Thep, Pakse (XC-447389).

Feb. 8- 15

2/14 from Ban Sene Vang Noi, Tass. Sene Vang
M. Southabaly to Thaloang, Pakse (XC-302203).

1/4 from Ban Phone Phay, Tass. Phone Phay,
Saravane (XC-408308) to Km 4. reception center.

1/9 from Ban Songkhone, Tass. Kaxa, Saravane,
to Km 4 reception center.

1/5 from Ban Phone Muang, Tass. Bungkham,
Saravane (XC-299002) to Pakse Ban Khokhong.

1/8 from Ban Pakhongxeng, Tass. Saravane (XC-501306)
to Oudomsouk.

2/14 from Ban Namkhathung, Tass. Southabaly, Saravane
to Km 15.

1/6 from Nong Boua, Tass. Nong Boua to Khoumkokpho,
Pakse.

1/8 from Ban Thamuong, Tass. Kaxa, Saravane
(XC-405001) to Kok Khamthep, Pakse.

1/9 from Ban Naxay Nhai, Tass. Southabaly,
Saravane (XC-209209) to Ban Khankeung, Pakse.

11/6 from Ban Paksanot, Tass. Kaxa, Saravane
(XC-404003) to Ban Khankeung, Pakse.

19/85 from Ban Veunkham, Tass. Kahanh, Sithandone
(WA-98-54) to Khinak.

Feb 16 - 23

1/4 from Ban Kaxa, (XC-1326), Tass. Kaxa,
M. Saravane to Ban ~~Soung~~ Nabok, Pakse.

1/9 from Ban Soung (XC-4728), Tass. Nakhoisao,
M. Saravane to Kok Khamthep, Pakse.

4/27 from Ban Nalan (XC-106502) Tass. Nakhoisao,
M. Saravane to Phone Koung, Pakse.

4/32 from Ban Nakhoisao, (XC-4034), Tass. Nakhoisao, M.
Saravane to airport, Pakse.

1/8 from Ban Phakha, Tass. Khoknoi, M. Saravane
to Khong Sedone.

1/8 from Ban Khok Mai (XC- 5930), Tass. Khok Mai,
M. Saravane to Khong Sedone.

1/7 from Ban Naxai Nhai (XC-209209), Tass. Southabaly,
M. Saravane to Keng Keung, Pakse.

2/22 from Ban Phone (XC-408308), Tass. Saravane, Muong Saravane to KokKhamthep, Pakse.

Feb 24 - 28

2/15 from Ban Dane Paoub, Tass. Napheng, Saravane to Houei Luou, Pakse.

1/7 from Ban Kadad (XC-7754) Tass. Kaddad, Saravane to Oudomsouk.

1/5 from Ban Sao Kady, Tass. Napheng, Saravane (XC-4148) to Khoum Kok Khamthep, Pakse.

2/15 from Ban Phone Phay (XC-4080303) Tass. Napheng Saravane to Khoum Koktei, Pakse.

1/5 from Ban Soung (XC-4728), Tass. Nakhosao, Saravane to Khoum Wat Phabat, Pakse.

1/9 from Ban Song Nong (XC-405308), Tass. Napheng Saravane to Khoum Yotha, Pakse.

2/17 from Ban Leun Paoub, (XC-307405), Tass. Napheng, Saravane, to Khoum khankeung, Pakse.

Mar 1 - 7

2/22 from Ban Hong Leck (XC-5437), Tass. Saravane Muong Saravane to Khong Sedons.

Mar 8 - 15

No new refugees.

Mar 16 - 23

1/7 from Tha Muong Se (XC-405001), Tass. Keng Kaxa, Muong Saravane to Ban Phine, Km 21 Paksong Road.

1/6 from Ban Nakhok (XC-5636), Tass. Saravane, to Wapi Km 11.

2/14 from Ban Tonh (XC-302309), Tass. Eune, Muong Ta-Oy to Km 4 Reception center.

Joyce, a draft please
BR

same → DRAFT CABLE: ECKuhn:mhb:9-1-72

VIENTIANE

AIDAC

SUBJECT: KHONG SEDONE UPDATE: REFUGEES

REF: VTE 3858; VTE 3884

1. ~~Although~~ Royal Lao Government forces re-entered Khong Sedone town on 18 June 1972, enemy elements in ~~the~~ immediate vicinity of town only driven out mid-August. MR IV military commander ~~as yet~~ will not allow civilian officials to return to Khong Sedone town to resume official duties. Some civilians drifting back to Khong Sedone town to survey homes and then returning to Pakse.
2. Revised figures place total number people displaced at 28,000. Estimated 3,000 people no longer require food support as they receive government salaries. Under RLG Ministry of Social Welfare ~~policy~~ policy not to provide continued food support to refugees within Pakse and Savannakhet cities, 11,000 people were removed from the rolls. It is expected that many of these will return to food support rolls if they move to relocation sites in Pakse area or can return home to assess rice supplies. Now providing food support to 10,000 Khong Sedone refugees. Additional 4,000 refugees presently moving back to eight old village sites south of Khong Sedone town. USAID/RLG personnel making survey to locate people and determine needed support.

3. Seven temporary relocation sites have been set up for people not able to return home and for new refugees generated by continued fighting around Muong Wapi (WC 9834). Tenuous security in areas north, east, and north-east of Khong Sedone town, ^{currently} preclude full survey of ^{destruction in} villages, ~~destroyed~~, ~~at this time.~~

4. Inability of refugees to plant rice in 1972 ^{will} necessitates food support until potential rice harvest in November 1973 for approximately 18,000 people.

5. Implications for FY 73 budget for food support, ~~and~~ relocation areas or possible reconstruction costs of destroyed villages might require emergency funding if added to heavy refugee movements from enemy initiated dry season offensives. Estimated food support costs based on 50% rice and ^{target} 50% PL 480 commodities.

Rice	\$ 225,000
PL 480 Comm.	380,000

605

Estimated possible reconstruction costs for 3,600 families

Housing @ \$20.00/fam	\$ 72,000
Buffaloes @ 70.00/fam	252,000
Rice Seed	6,000

330

AAO/P coordination

of 1

needs a ^{from} clearance ^{from} ~~from~~ ~~from~~ cleared in Draft

15 SEPT 72
KUMN

TO -
From -
Ref.

WB 9876 14 Sept.
WB 9772 14
WD 9872 14th

Dut Khong Sedone/Wapi Refugee Update

1. 14-15 Sept USAID Mission American

personnel visited Khong Sedone/Wapi area by vehicle and helicopter.

Withdrawal of RLG troops from

2. ~~Enemy occupation of Muong Wapi on~~
caused flight of 1158 ~~refugees~~ ~~refugees~~
~~has displaced as of 14 Sept Sunday.~~

000 ref
leak from

09 Sept
withdrew

~~Refugees 1158~~

~~Flight of 145 Sept 100 pps. fled.~~ Bulk

Refugees located along road from

Ben Na Phong (WC 0728) to Ban ^{Kut namli} ~~1~~
and ⁹²³¹ ~~9434~~ ⁽²⁾ and ^{P. D. M. Kabin} ~~13~~ north from Ben Na Phong to (WC 06-30)

medical team on location to

treat refugees. Emergency ~~via~~ ~~road~~

many refugees staying in abandoned
houses and huts. If refugees not forced
to flee would Khong Sedone temporary relocation
cost minimal. If forced leave present location
proper relocation ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~possible~~

by ~~USAID~~ ^{and} World Vision Food Kits
issued by ~~USAID~~. Provincial govern
and other officials on location ^{visiting} at refugee

~~sites~~. ~~Both provincial authorities and~~

Refugees plan stay in present locations
if ~~security permits~~ in proximity of
original villages in order to return home
quickly if ~~security~~ PLG can reoccupy
lost villages.

3 Night of 14-15 100 plus more refugees ~~arrived~~
fled Wapicac. Daily exodus of refugees can be
expected until security improves. These people
will be ~~added~~ added to food support rolls
as they are recorded by USAP survey team.

4. ~~General inspection~~. Cursey inspection
of villages north Khong Sedone show ~~that~~

~~many villages intact~~ ~~shows some~~
until population ~~are~~ able return original home
damage to ~~some~~ villages due fighting. ↑ Other villages

intact and original inhabitants still there. Extensive
both north and south Khong Sedone
rice field observed but unable determine
~~the~~ status of crop at this time.

5. In general ~~no~~ civilians returning
to Khong Sedone town to collect household
effects and return Pakse. ~~By~~ Many
bicycles and trucks observed transporting household
effects from ~~Pakse~~ ^{Khong Sedone} to Pakse or civilian
~~are~~ ~~going~~ going back to evacuate houses and
return Pakse.

6. Local Police Major reported 72 police depending
Khong Sedone.

Cable ~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

VIENTIANE

AIDAC

SUBJECT: KHONG SEDONE AREA UPDATE: REFUGEES

REF: A. UTE 3858 (22)
B. UTE 3884
C. UTE 6840

1. ALL INFORMATION CURRENT ^{AS} ~~AT~~ OF
16 SEPT. 1972.

2. REF C para. 1 NUMBER CIVILIANS
REMAINING IN KHONG SEDONE TOWN
NEGLECTIBLE. ONE TAILOR SHOP
OPERATING PLUS FEW SMALL SHOPS
SELLING NECESSARY STAPLES. MANY
CIVILIANS COLLECTING HOUSEHOLD
EFFECTS AND ^{LEAVING} ~~RETURNING~~ ~~PAKIE~~
~~CITY~~ VIA NUMEROUS TAXIES AND

2
TRUCKS RUNNING BETWEEN
KHONG SEDONE ~~CITY~~ ^{TOWN} AND PAKSE
CITY.

3. LAO NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDANT
IN KHONG SEDONE ~~TOWN~~ REPORTED
72 POLICEMEN IN TOWN FOR
SECURITY.

4. PRIOR TO WITHDRAWAL ^{RLG} ~~OF THE LAO~~
~~GOVERNMENT~~ 09 SEPT. 1972, FROM
MOUNG WAPI (WC 9034), 800 ~~PEOPLE~~
CIVILIANS FLED AREA AND NOW
RELOCATED AT SELABAM (WB 8793) ^{TEMPORARY RELOCATION SITE.} ↑

5. ADDITIONAL 1276 HAVE FLED WAPI
AREA AND ARE PRESENTLY LIVING
IN ^{TEMPLES} ~~WATS~~ AND ABANDONED HOUSES
NORTH AND EAST FROM BAN NA

TPONG (WC 8728) ROAD JUNCTION OF

ROUTES 13 AND 160. REFUGEES PLANNING

STAY PRESENT LOCATIONS TO FACILITATE

QUICK RETURN ORIGINAL VILLAGES WHEN

SECURITY PERMITS.

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR VISITING REFUGEES

DAILY AND PROVINCIAL MOBILE MEDICAL

TEAM ON LOCATION TO TREAT REFUGEES.

RICE AND WORLD ^{VISION} ~~VISION~~ FOOD KITS

PROVIDED ON EMERGENCY BASIS.

SECSTATE

VIENTIANE

AIDAC

SUBJECT KHONG SEDONE AREA UPDATE - REFUGEES

REF A) VTE 3858; B) VTE 3884; C) VTE 6840; D) VTE 7027

1. ALL INFORMATION CURRENT 30 OCTOBER 1972.

2. PERIOD OF 21 SEPTEMBER TO 05 OCTOBER MILITARY SITUATION STABILIZED ALLOWING 814 REFUGEES TO RETURN HOME IN THE MUONG WAPI (WC 9833) - BAN NA PONG (WC 8728) AREA. REFTEL C PARA 2 ~~4703~~ ACTUAL FIGURE PEOPLE RETURNED HOME SOUTH KHONG SEDONE. ⁴⁷⁰³ NO FOOD SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR RETURNEES AT THAT TIME.

3. BY 10 OCTOBER MILITARY SITUATION DETERIORATED RAPIDLY IN MUONG WAPI WITH RLG FORCES WITHDRAWING FROM TOWN 17 OCTOBER.

4. 16 OCTOBER RLG FORCES SUSTAINED SETBACKS IN AREAS EAST KHONG SEDONE. CONTINUED FIGHTING CULMINATED IN RLG LOSS OF KHONG SEDONE AND BAN HIN SIOU ^{(WC8319), Ban Hin Siou} RETAKEN BY RLG FORCES 21 OCTOBER BUT ~~SITUATION IN AREA STILL TENUOUS.~~ ^{SECURITY NOT SUITABLE FOR CIVILIANS to REMAIN IN AREA.}

5. BY 26 OCTOBER 14 VILLAGES IN ~~KHONG SEDONE - BAN HIN SIOU~~ AREA TOTAL 4846 PEOPLE HAD FLED SOUTH ^{All} AND ARE TEMPORARILY

Due to heavy fighting in and around Ban Hin Siou.

RELOCATED ALONG ROUTE 13 FROM BAN TAT NGAO (WC 8302) SOUTH TO BAN NONG KHAM (WB 8697), ^{and are} TOTAL ~~4846~~ PEOPLE RECEIVING FULL FOOD SUPPORT.

6. IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE 1349 REFUGEES WHO HAD FLED NORTH FROM KHONG SEDONE - MUONG WAPI AREAS WERE RELOCATED IN UNUSED FAR MILITARY CAMP FOUR KILOMETERS OUTSIDE KENGGOK (WD 2218). THIS GROUP FORCED TO FLEE TOWARDS SAVANNAKHET WHEN NVA OVERRAN KENGGOK TOWN ON MORNING 28 OCTOBER.

7. PRESENT TIME NVA CONTROL BAN SAPHAT (XC 0435), MUONG WAPI AND PHU KONG (WC 8323) WHICH OVERLOOKS KHONG SEDONE AND ROUTE 13. FORESEE LITTLE ^{chance} ~~CHANGE~~ OF REFUGEES ^{FROM THESE AREAS} RETURNING HOME IN NEAR FUTURE.

8. PEOPLE DISPLACED IN KHONG SEDONE AREA SHOW 16,471 PEOPLE RELOCATED IN PAKSE AREA AND 1349 IN SAVANNAKHET FOR GRAND TOTAL 17,820 PEOPLE ON FULL FOOD SUPPORT.

GODLEY



FACTS

PHOTOGRAPHS

REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN LAOS PAKSE

USAID Mission to Laos

Located at the confluence of the Se Done and Mekong rivers, Pakse is the capital of Se Done Province and the commercial center of southern Laos. The economic resources of the six small provinces that make up this most southern region of Laos exceed those of other provinces. The lowland areas are suitable for rice, fruit, and vegetable cultivation, and the region has produced a rice surplus as high as 35,000 MT in one year. The Bolovens Plateau, which covers more than 4,000 sq km (1,544 sq mi) is a region with one of the largest agriculture potentials in Laos. Until it came under Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese control in June 1971, it was the center for livestock production, coffee, vegetables, fruit, as well as a limited amount of tea. A road network links the provinces and connects the region with Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. The Mekong is navigable from one end of the region to the other.

An estimated 546,000 people live in the six provinces. Of this number, about 320,000 are under Royal Lao Government control, 226,000 under Pathet Lao or North Vietnamese control. Of the total population, about 180,000 are tribal people of whom about 40,000 are under Royal Lao Government control. An estimated

40,000 to 50,000 people in the six provinces have moved under the pressure of war since 1962; however, the resources of the region allowed an assimilation into communities to the extent that by early 1970, refugees numbered 5,000. The situation changed with the fall of Attopeu and Saravane in June 1970 when 15,000 people moved into the environs of Pakse. In the increased military activity of the past two years, the number of refugees has grown until at present they total approximately

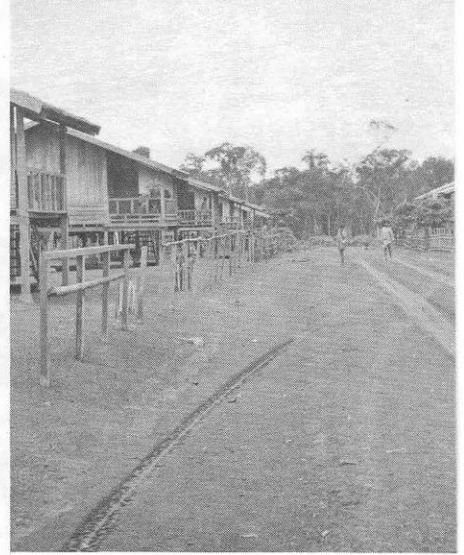
28,000 people. Of this number, 8,691 people live in villages on land reserved by the Royal Lao Government for the permanent resettlement of refugees: 3,017 at Houei Nam Phak in the National Forest Reserve, 25 km (16 mi) from Pakse, and 5,674 at Phou Ba Chiang, 12 km (7 mi) from Pakse.

The remaining number are in temporary relocation in the environs of Pakse.

In 1968, when deteriorating security conditions on the Bolovens Plateau prevented establishment of a pilot project in refugee resettlement, the Royal Lao Government authorized the use of 900 hectares (2,223 acres) at Houei Nam Phak in the National Forest Reserve as an alternate site. Houei Nam Phak was originally planned as an experimental project in agriculture and

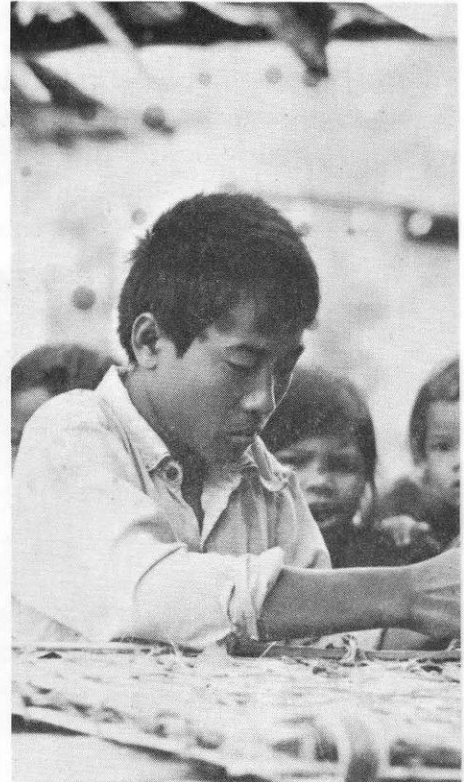


community development as well as refugee resettlement for 300 families who were either refugees or the families of disabled war veterans. The first 70 families who moved into Houei Nam Phak in April 1969 were selected from among 1,200 applicants after agreement to plant their land for six years and to work cooperatively on community projects. Of the three villages planned, two have been completed, and 214 families now live at Houei Nam Phak. The people are an ethnically diverse group - Lao, Lao Theung, and Souei. Traditionally, each village in Laos is made up of one ethnic group. Houei Nam Phak is an experimental project also in the sense that Lao and Mountain Mon-Khmer people live together in each of the two villages.



Resettlement costs at Houei Nam Phak fall into the two categories of dollar expenditures and local currency expenditures. Dollar expenditures total \$66,566 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 58,621,300 or \$244,255 which cover personnel costs and the purchase of local commodities. ¹/ These funds have been used

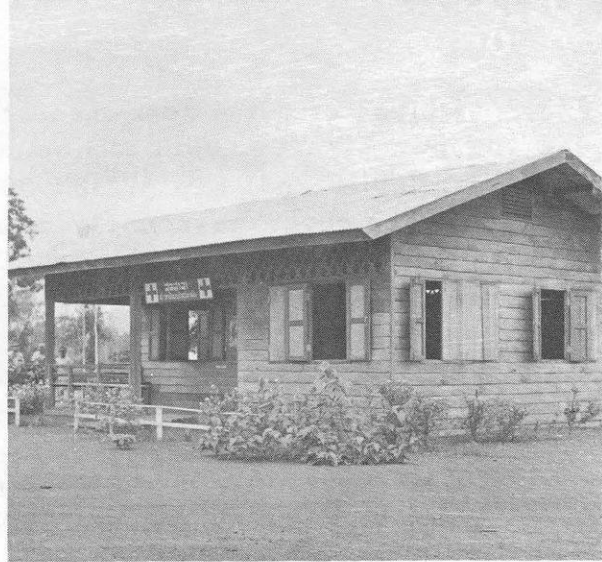
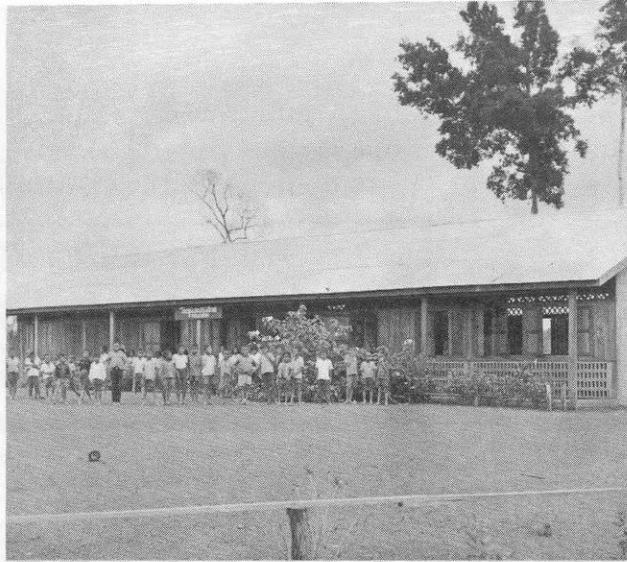
- To clear 200 hectares (494 acres) of land;
- To drill 3 wells;
- To construct 1 dam;
- To provide materials for the construction of 202 houses, 3 classrooms, 1 dispensary, 1 office building, 1 store for the Houei Nam Phak Cooperative Association;
- To construct 5 km (3 mi) of road.



The Phou Ba Chiang resettlement area lies at the base of the long, low mountain from which it takes its name. The site covers an area of approximately 10,000 hectares (24,700 acres), which is 10 km (6 mi) at its widest point and 15 km (9 mi) long. Phou Ba Chiang is planned for the resettlement of 1,500 families in 15 villages. During the nine months since work began at Phou Ba Chiang, 11 of these villages have been completed and 1,000 families now live in the resettlement area. Resettlement costs to date total

¹/ Kip 240 = \$1.00, the official exchange rate until the unified conversion rate of Kip 605 = \$1.00 was established in April 1972.



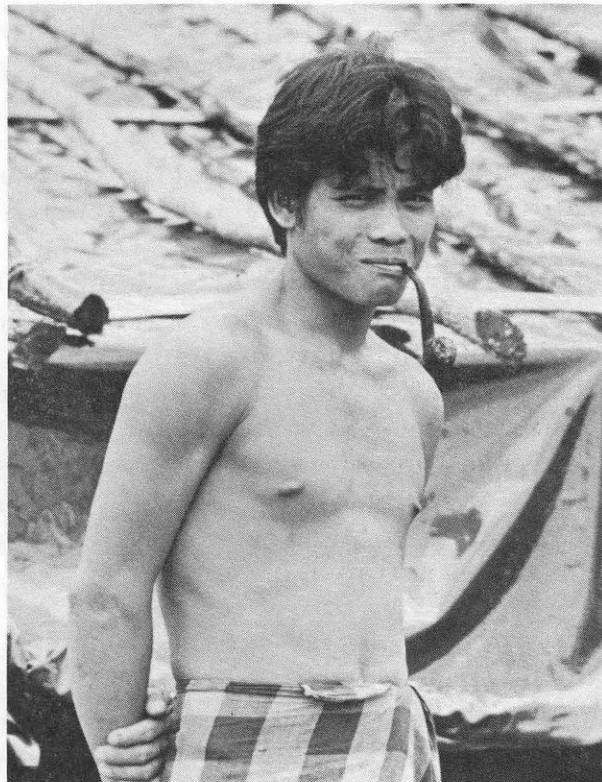


ABOVE: At Houei Nam Phak Main road with houses (prefabricated by USAID carpenters and erected by refugees). The center photo shows the school, and at the right is the dispensary which serves the community.

LEFT: At a temporary village along Route 13, a refugee builds a sidewall for a house with leaves and bamboo.

RIGHT: A member of one of the 27 Tau-Oi refugee families who live in a temporary village off Route 13.

BELOW: At Phou Ba Chiang Refugees, who moved out of the settlement, prepare to move back again. Center photo shows road construction and at right a woman works on thatch to make roofing for her house.



\$28,000 which cover the cost of equipment use and purchase of commodities not locally available and Kip 11,300,000 or \$18,677 which cover personnel costs and locally purchased commodities.^{2/} These funds have been used

- To transport 1,000 families from temporary relocation sites to Phou Ba Chiang;
- To construct 11 km (6.8 mi) of a 20 km (12.4 mi) road, 3 of 5 bridges, 1 of 3 small earth dams;
- To drill 3 of 20 wells;
- To provide nails, thatch roofing and tools for constructing 1,000 houses and 3 dispensaries.

Although located only slightly over seven miles from Pakse, lack of security is a major problem at Phou Ba Chiang. Military activity in and around the resettlement area has three times forced the removal of construction equipment and once the evacuation of refugees. A sense of unease pervades some of the villages in the resettlement area; a few of the refugees leave, but they return. The future of Phou Ba Chiang is uncertain - dependent on security conditions.

Over 19,000 refugees are in temporary relocation sites in the environs of Pakse. Among them are about 10,000 refugees from Khong Se Done, which fell to North Vietnamese forces in May of this year. They are reluctant to return although Khong Se Done has been retaken by Royal Lao Government forces. The refugees live in villages which they have built along Route 13 for a distance as far as 34 km (21 mi) north of Pakse. About 3,000 are located at the site of the Selabam hydroelectric project about 4 mi from Pakse. These refugees and those from Phou Ba Chiang fall into the USAID category of Full Support, which designates the degree of assistance which these refugee groups require. The table shows USAID expend-

itures for commodities used in refugee relief operations among these groups from July 1, 1971 through June 30, 1972.

COMMODITIES FOR REFUGEE RELIEF

FY 1972

PAKSE

\$ Thousand

Rice	\$ 143.8 ^{a/}
Salt	2.0
Canned meat	15.9
PL-480 foodstuffs	3.1
Medical supplies	21.3
Other ^{b/}	<u>29.4</u>
Total	\$ <u>215.5</u>

^{a/} Includes transportation costs.

^{b/} Blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, household utensils, clothing, plastic sheeting, tools.

^{2/} Kip 605 = \$1.00, the present official exchange rate. [October, 1972]

Refugees at Reception Center, Pakse.

