AIRGRAM

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Date Sent: October 27, 1960

FROM: AmEmbassy BANGKOK

TO: SecState WASHINGTON

NO: G-141

RPTD INFO: AmEmbassy SAIGON G-43

5701 Refugees-Vietnamese

Ref: Emb G-139, rptd Saigon G-42

In response THAI RAIWAN reports mentioned ref airgram, Thai language KIATTISAK reports it made inquiries with officials concerned and with Thai Red Cross Comite and learned "no truth" to reports and that Gvt had "never considered" shifting refugees away from border.

BANGKOK POST Oct 26 quotes Gen Praphat stating Vietnamese along northeast border "are glad Vietminh Communists now in Laos since their presence will make it possible for them go back and live in Laos from which they originally came."

Minister added if Vietnamese want return Laos they may do so. "We cannot stop them. We have no right. It will save us money in having them transported to North Vietnam."

DVB
JOHNSON

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POL:LGPickering:la
Oct. 27, 1960

10-22-60

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Department of State
FORM DS-4
1-3-55

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: April 12, 1960

TO: AmEmbassy BANGKOK

For the Attention of: → Files ←

FROM: AmEmbassy SAIGON

TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE	TO THE DEPARTMENT
☐ For Transmittal to Addressee at the Discretion of Post	☐ Dept. Information Only
☒ Post Information Only	☐ CERP Publications
☐ Transmit to Foreign Office	☐ Enclosure to Previous Despatch
☐ Submit Report	
☐ Reply to the Individual	☐ Reply to Dept. Request

☐ Transmit to: ☐ Inform: *(U.S. Agency)*

REFERENCE

21 APR 1960

JCG DNB NG JR JSR
MFT ELM JTK JS

ITEMS/REMARKS

La Verite (Phnom Penh) March 9, 1960 story on Vietnamese refugees repatriated to NVN from Thailand. Reported Saigon's G-168 to the Department.

JSR:mmm

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NUMBER AND DRAFTING OFFICE

FILE NO.: UNCLASSIFIED

SIGNATURE: Joseph A. Mendenhall

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICE: Counselor of Embassy for Political Affairs

Army-Admin Cen-Japan

PHNOM PENH LA VERITE IN FRENCH MAR 9 1960--S
(ARTICLE: "THE SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES RETURNING FROM THAILAND")
( )
(TEXT) AFTER "TET," THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES RETURNING FROM THAILAND WERE GRADUALLY SETTLED AT VARIOUS PRODUCTION SITES, WHILE THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PLACED IN NURSERIES.
IN THAI NGUYEN RPT THAI NGUYEN: 1105 ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED

03F
FIVE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN DISPERSED AMONG VARIOUS COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL BRANCHES AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES.
IN GHE AN RPT NGHE AN: THE AUTHORITIES OF THIS PROVINCE HAVE SENT 4 FOUR YOUNG MEN TO LEARN TRADES. A FAMILY HAS BEEN SETTLED AT FACTORY NUMBER 250 TWO HUNDRED FIFTY IN THE TAY HIEU RPT TAY HIEU COLLECTIVE FARM.
IN THANH HOA RPT THANH HOA: REFUGEES HAVE BEEN GIVEN JOBS ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY.
IN PHU THO RPT PHU THO: THE FIRST FAMILY WHICH ARRIVED WAS SSTTLED BY THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES. OTHER REFUGEES HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE VIET TRI AND LAM THAO RPT VIET TRI AND LAM THAO SECTORS.
ON FEB 11 ELEVEN THE THIRD CONTINGENT OF 607 SIX HUNDRED SEVEN REFUGEES ARRIVED IN HAIPHONG RPT HAIPHONG. THIS TIME "UNCLE" HO CHI MINH WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. ONLY TO QUANG DAU, HO VAN MINH, VU TIEN THO, HOANG HUU NHAN, AND VU TRONG KHANH RPT TO QUANG DAU, HO VAN MINH, VU TIEN THO, HOANG HUU NHAN, AND VU TRANH KHANH WERE PRESENT TO WELCOME THEM.
ALL THESE VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN PLACED AT WORK AT VARIOUS SITES, ON FARMS AND RUBBER PLANTATIONS IN TAY HIEU RPT TAY HIEU.

03F
THEIR BELONGINGS--MACHINES, GOLD, AND SO FORTH--HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED FOR THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN GROUPED.
NOT RPT NOT HAVING PAID THEIR DEBTS, 8 EIGHT FAMILIES HAVE BEEN JAILED.
NOW A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PROCOMMUNIST REFUGEES--ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAD ASKED FOR REPATRIATION TO NORTH VIETNAM--HAVE REALIZED THEIR MISTAKE IN HAVING LEFT SOUTH VIETNAM AND ADDRESSED LETTERS TO THEIR PARENTS AND RELATIVES STILL IN THAILAND--VIA HONGKONG AND BANGKOK--DESCRIBING THE UNHAPPY SITUATION IN THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED ZONE. IN GENERAL, THEY TOLD THEM:

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570.1 Refugees (Vietnamese)
4-12-60

Bang Viet

PHNOM PENH LA VERITE IN FRENCH MAR 9
1960--S

(ARTICLE ON OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE RETURNING TO NORTH VIETNAM)
X X X THEY TOLD THEM.

(CONCLUDING TEXT) BICYCLES BOUGHT IN THAILAND HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED BY THE AUTHORITIES AND EACH FAMILY CAN ONLY OWN ONE; THE LIVING STANDARD IN NORTH VIETNAM IS MUCH LOWER THAN IN THAILAND; AFTER THEIR RETURN, REFUGEES ARE FORCED TO PARTICIPATE IN INDOCTRINATION COURSES FOR A PERIOD FROM 3 THREE TO 5 FIVE MONTHS,

04F
AND SO FORTH. MOREOVER IN THESE LETTERS, THEY ADVISED THEIR PARENTS AND RELATIVES STILL IN THAILAND TO SECRETLY PROVIDE WITH GOLD AND SILVER, BECAUSE IN NORTH VIETNAM, SILVER IS VERY RARE AND EXPENSIVE.

SUCH NEWS HAS AROUSED STRONG APPREHENSION AMONG VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND THAT THEY WILL FIND A HELL INSTEAD OF A PARADISE IN NORTH VIETNAM; AND THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE RESORTED TO EVERY MEANS TO REMAIN IN THAILAND OR FLEE TO LAOS. NOW THE VIET CONG AGENTS ARE TRYING TO REPATRIATE TO NORTH VIETNAM ONLY THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS. THEY ARE FORCING THE OTHERS TO REMAIN AND WORK SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE TIME TO EDUCATE THEM.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST NEWS, THERE ARE 2,000 TWO THOUSAND PERSONS IN THE FIRST 3 THREE CONTINGENTS OF VIETNAMESE REFUTEES FROM THAILAND WHO HAVE RETURNED TO NORTH VIETNAM. OTHER CONTINGENTS WILL FOLLOW. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1,000 ONE THOUSAND REFUGEES ON THE AVERAGE WILL BE REPATRIATED EACH MONTH TO NORTH VIETNAM. THUS 4 FOUR YEARS WILL BE NEEDED TO LIQUIDATE ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND.

THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN AN AFFAIR WHICH WILL WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK AND MONEY.

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