

THE CIVIC



ACTION



PROGRAM

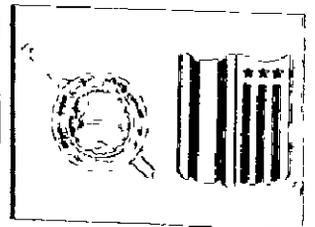


OF

THE BORDER PATROL POLICE

AND

THE USOM PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION



THE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM



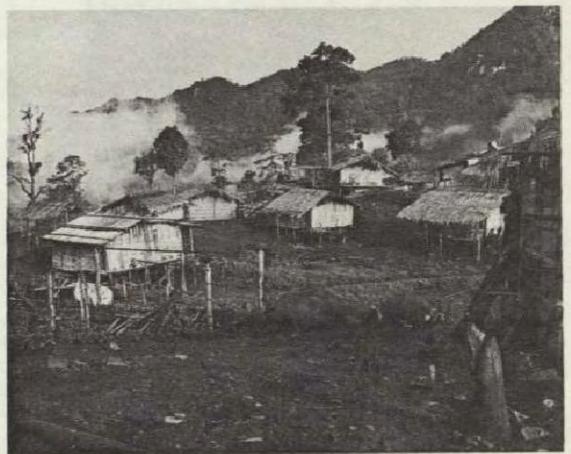


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E-Kaw girls in their colorful daily dress

THE PURPOSE OF CIVIC ACTION IN THAILAND



The Border Patrol Police (BPP) of Thailand is unique among similar security forces found in other countries of the world. Its officers and men carry out tasks which go far beyond the normal duties and responsibilities of the Border Patrol, all for most important reasons.

While the BPP of Thailand has, in fact, been engaged in certain aspects of civic action since approximately 1955, this activity had been more of a fulfillment of urgent needs encountered among the remote peoples. With meager financial support, the BPP endeavored to bring to these people basic education, and shared with them their own small supplies of medicaments. In some locations, the BPP introduced certain vegetables and advised the people on better village sanitation methods. They explained to those that would listen that sickness and disease are spread and contracted through filth and by invisible germs. All of these efforts had been mainly one of humanitarian obligation, a sharing of the better things with those that did not know.

The objectives in 1955 were certainly different from those which became important after 1959. Up to this period, the question of Communist infiltration and subversion had been relatively unimportant, but the BPP remained alert to this possibility and had even then a vision for the importance of a civic action program to counter subversion when it came.

Since 1960, many new facets of BPP responsibilities developed as a result of definite Communist attempts at infiltration and subversion of the remote area peoples. In addition, the problem of the hill tribes became intensified as a result of enforced laws against the cultivation of opium poppies and other mountain crops which required much forest destruction. It was natural for the thousands of hill tribesmen to misunderstand the purposes behind the RTG decision, and many of them listened to Communist propaganda which suggested that such action was designed to ruin the hill peoples. Communist agents were quick to seize the opportunities for their anti-government indoctrination and took advantage of the confusion which the tribes felt. From this period onward, the

masses of remote area peoples, including over 200,000 hill tribes, became very important in terms of national security. There was a distinct threat that the masses of uneducated remote peoples would succumb to Chinese Communist propaganda just as had occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Malaya.

Not least of the considerations were the potential insurgency and unconventional war capabilities of these jungle people. This was and is a primary objective in the Communist policy for Southeast Asia. It has necessarily become a task of great importance to the RTG in order that her borders might remain free.

The need for a vigorous civic action program was born almost overnight. In order to carry this out to the widely scattered border areas, an enormous task, requiring thousands of trained and experienced personnel was presented. If this media had not already existed

BPP NCO and a tribal helper going down a difficult jungle trail to a hilltribe village



in the BPP, there might not have been enough time remaining before the Communist control of the remote areas would have been a reality. Without such a framework, the RTG would face a limiting factor, since it requires many years of experience and physical sturdiness for men to reach and work effectively among the many different tribal peoples found in the remote areas. The BPP had all these qualifications from over eight years of living and working with these remote peoples. Their burden has already been a great one in carrying out their basic duties of patrolling the borders of Thailand with a minimum of personnel. Today, as the BPP shoulder additional burdens of responsibilities in the field of civic action, they have proved again their deep sense of dedication to serve their country.

At this time the BPP have launched an intensified civic action program which shows the promise of such favorable success as to counter effectively within the BPP areas of responsibilities, any attempts made by enemy propagandists. They have managed to suppress subversion at important points and are developing more favor-

able conditions within which they can effectively perform their basic duties. Where the BPP have had the support of commodities needed for civic action, they have quickly won the hearts and the understanding of thousands of remote people, at the same time gaining for Thailand the precious loyalty of these people. All this has been carried out at a fraction of the cost that would be required to launch armed action or to train the thousands of new enumerants which would be necessary for this task.

The loyalty and support of the people in the remote areas is the most significant factor which decides whether or not the area is to come under the administrative control of a government. Without such support, the BPP would be unable to perform their duties effectively. It is a testimony of the success which the BPP have had in gaining local support which has made the BPP grow in stature through the years. They have achieved this through hard labors and through personal humanitarian conduct. And yet, the average BPP man describes only a thin line through a vast region which he alone cannot cover completely. An impor-

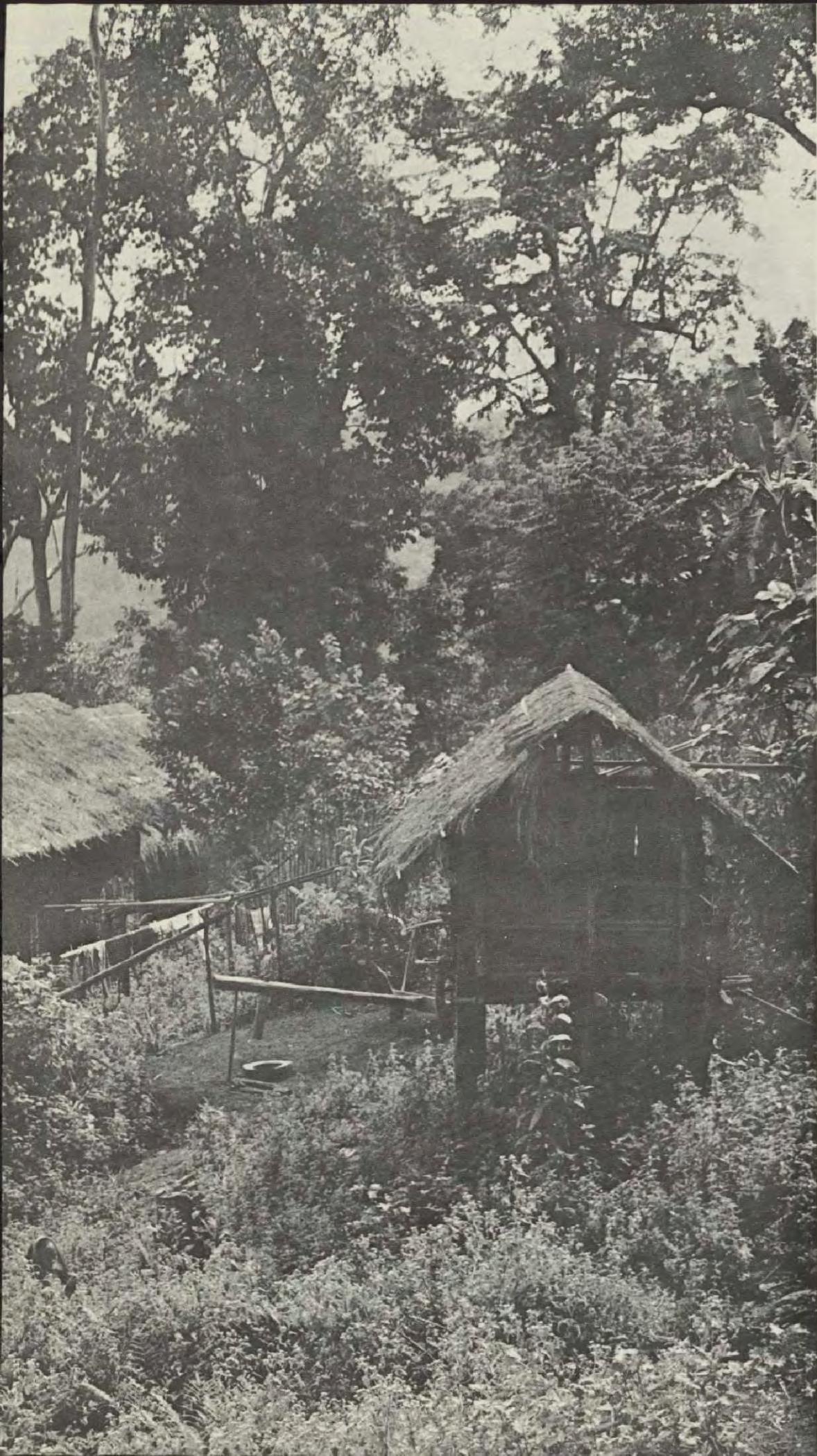
tant purpose of the civic action program is to support every platoon in such a way that this action can enjoy this necessary expansion to every corner of BPP operational areas.

In the time of emergency, the heritage which is rightfully Thailand's could be harnessed to the ultimate benefit of the country's national interests, instead of finding a costly and hopeless task of contending with a jungle-wise people whose purposes had become anti-government. Finally, it is an obvious point of question to consider that without internal security and public safety any aspect of economic or social development would be jeopardized. This internal security is to be maintained by insuring that the borders of Thailand do not become the bases of operations for communist subversive elements, since these are the natural locations of cover that they seek. Armaments and mighty machinery cannot achieve this; it can be achieved only through vigorous and carefully planned civic action programs.



A typical hilltribes village situated high in the mountains and in deep forests





THE PLANNED ACTION AND ITS SCOPE



Along the approximately 5,000 kilometers of Thailand's land and fresh-water boundaries are the countries of Malaya, Burma, Laos, and Cambodia. Peoples of four separate countries live in and around these borders, adding a complexity of languages and social customs such as might be found in few other lands. Of the seven BPP areas within this border area, there are no two areas which have the same problems or the same ethnic peoples among which the BPP must work and live. However, these areas have one thing in common; they are located within remote vastnesses of hill and lowland jungles. There are platoons which require many days of foot travel over the most difficult of trails to be reached. The long rainy season adds just that much more of the difficulties to the BPP man who must and does travel during this season. There are areas which the BPP maintain as regular outposts which can be reached only by helicopter or by parachuting into the location. His only fresh meat may depend upon wild game that he hunts for this purpose and the vegetables must come from his own garden.

Over one hundred BPP platoons stand at various intervals along this long border, covering by individual patrols most of this rugged line. In this area, the city-born BPP man has had to become a trained woodsman and a linguist to live under these circumstances and to communicate with strange tribal people around him. All other government services have yet to reach these areas so that the BPP represent the only government authorities in the vicinity.

Over the past five years, the BPP established some 150 schools for remote area children and some adult classes. 134 of these schools continue to be run by BPP schoolteachers who live in the selected villages and teach full-time. The remoteness of these schools is such that very few of them could be turned over to provincial education departments to relieve the burden from the BPP. Over 5,000 children are enrolled in BPP schools throughout the seven areas, coming from some twenty different tribal groups, both Thai and non-Thai. In addition to the young people, adult classes are held in many villages at the popular request of the village adults.



A new school (temporary) at a Mussuh village near the Burma Border





Some of the Yao tribe school children at a new school in Amphur Mae Chan, Chiengrai





A quickly-prepared temporary school house where a new school was recently established among Red Mussuh tribe in Amphur Fang, Chiangmai



The BPP schoolteacher's job is a unique one indeed. He must be teacher, medic, sheriff, farm advisor, and general information man to the people. At times he is needed to help settle disputes and petty lawsuits or to represent the village people at courts. But at all times, he is teaching and answering the thousands of questions which the people have for him. His personal ministry has become the greatest single instrument of village improvement that could possibly come to an uneducated and primitive community. Lacking the necessary commodities to assist the people, the BPP man has had to call upon his own resourcefulness and make use of materials at hand. But repeatedly the BPP schoolteachers have activated one-man civic action projects at important border villages which today have become launching points for a more expanded program.





The great destruction of forests which hilltribes must carry out in order to make annual rice fields

Since mid-1961, the assistance of USOM Agriculture Division was obtained by the BPP and USOM/PSD in order to begin on an exploratory basis certain types of agricultural assistance work among the hilltribes. Boar pigs of pure-bred strains were distributed to several villages together with Western breeds of chickens and many new strains of high-yielding crop seeds. It was learned through these efforts that the idea of improving the village swine herds by a single pure-bred sire was both very popular with the hilltribes and proved most profitable to them. The chickens and most of the crops did not enjoy the same outstanding results. Further exploration of what might be the best way to assist the tribes brought to light enough information to plan effective future village programs.



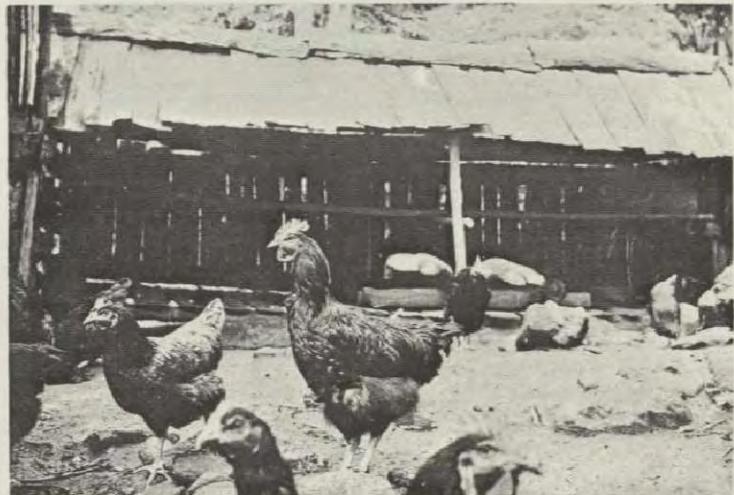
BPP advising the Yao headman on the location and construction of a suitable boar pen and run



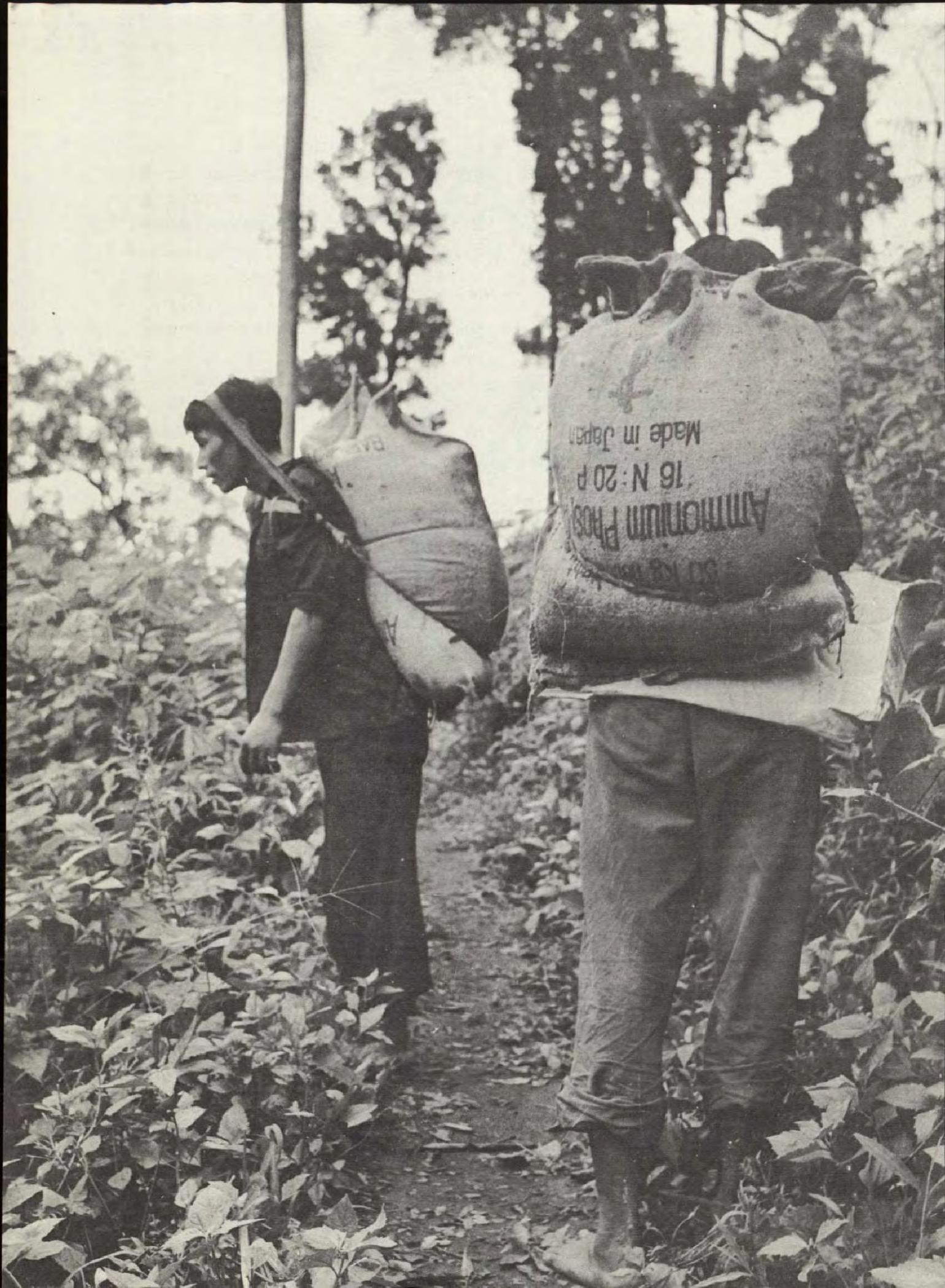
Some pure-bred chickens which Karen tribe people were very happy to receive



A Duroc-Jersey boar is turned over to E-Kaw tribesmen



Rhode Island Red chickens given to Meo tribesmen living in the special coops made by the tribesmen and BPP



By early 1962, USOM Public Safety Division worked out a civic action program with BPP Headquarters which was an amalgamation of previous efforts to assist the remote peoples. Public Safety Division appointed a fulltime civic action advisor and BPP Headquarters placed a senior staff officer as counterpart to the program. In addition, each BPP area selected a civic action officer to supervise the activities within the BPP area. The objectives embraced all aspects of civic action among remote peoples, including medical, educational and agricultural assistance, and was expanded to include all of the BPP areas. Prior to this, the activities, limited as they were, had been confined to the northernmost area, Area No. 5.

The new arrangement not only has solved the difficult problem of distributing commodities and labors to the different areas, but represents a streamlined approach which quickly facilitates the action. At present, any needed supplies are purchased for a particular

area (often with specific items specially suited to that area) and shipped from Bangkok to the area headquarters with the further assistance of aircraft which serve BPP. Much of the delays have thus been eliminated and necessary supervision exists at each stage of the distribution. Planning has been greatly facilitated because of the attention which the area officer can now give to the needs of his particular area. His suggestions are promptly considered by headquarters officers and put into action as soon as possible.

In the past this civic action program had not enjoyed the benefit of definite planning nor did it have the necessary officers who could feel free to concentrate their efforts to implement it. It had taken over a year to establish civic action projects at eleven selected tribal villages in Area 5 on a limited scale. During the month of September 1962, alone, seventeen village projects were established in Area 4, practically encompassing the entire area for its initial assistance. The same system is being employed to assist the other remaining areas. It should also be noted

Mussuh tribesmen carrying fertilizers given to them by BPP and USOM up a steep trail to their village gardens





that this was achieved despite the heavy rains and at a time of the year when travel conditions are at its worst.

It might well be said that the present planned action represents the culmination of many years of experience and enjoys thorough understanding of the different situations and the specific needs of these areas. This in itself has been no small task. The full importance had to be understood first and viewed in the light of its possible merits. Then extensive orientation of BPP personnel was necessary in order that the job could be carried out systematically and efficiently. In this fashion, the maximum benefits could be realized from a low-cost project which is serving a vitally important purpose.

The planned action would have little significance were it not for the energetic response demonstrated by BPP officers

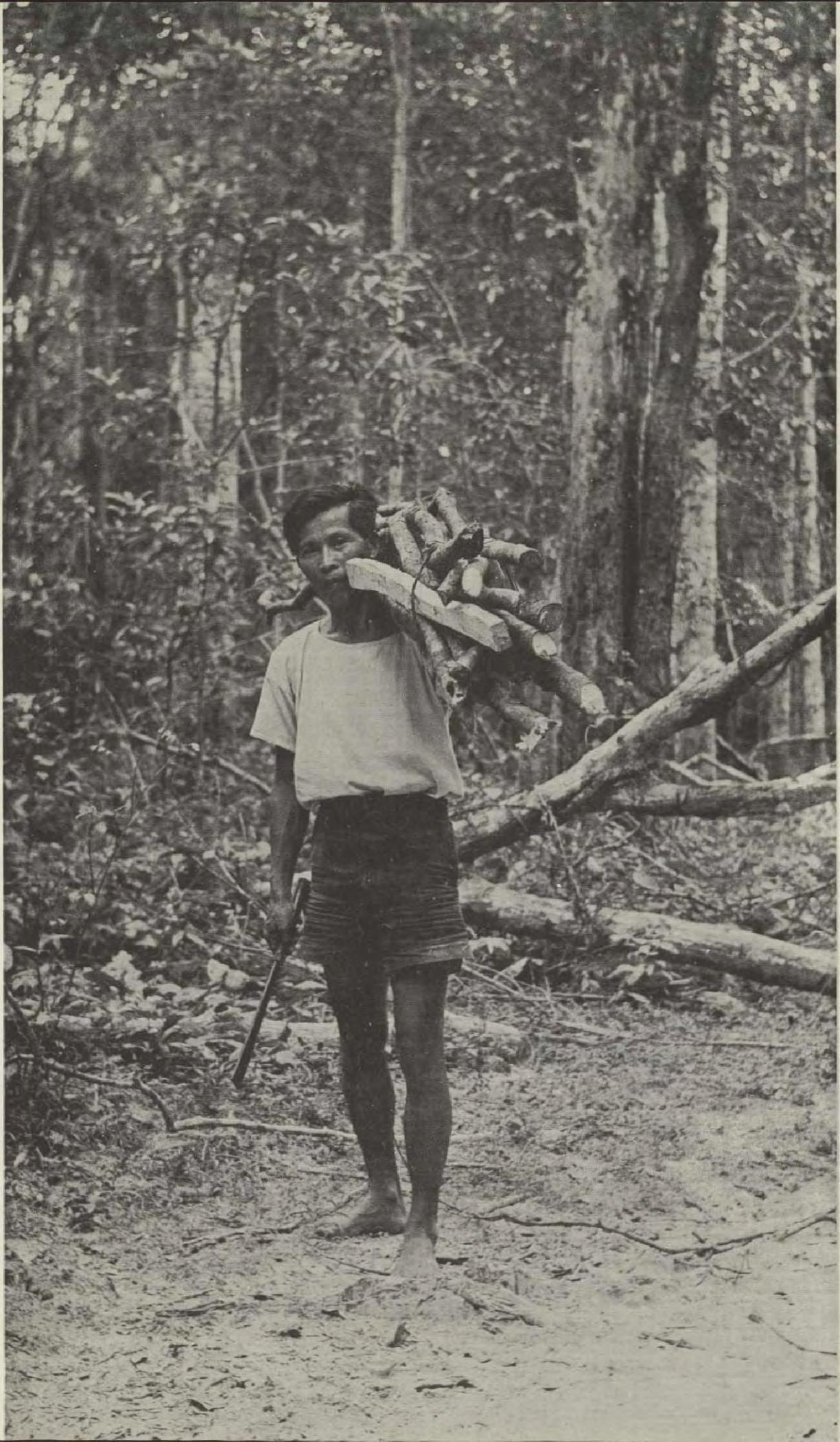
Blue Meo women take care of the growing Hampshire boar given to them

and men of each area. There is a whole-hearted enthusiasm and determination from a BPP force which stands ready to carry out the task even though they must themselves work harder and longer hours. Much of this stems from the long associations with the people of the remote areas which has permanently developed in the BPP a feeling of love and compassion for their fellow man. For this reason the BPP who live in the various areas are themselves as desirous to see civic action commodities reach the needy people as are the people to receive them. It has become the highest quality of dedication to be found among men in the service of the Government of Thailand.

It would be well to mention here some examples of BPP men in action to better illustrate the real and active dedication of the BPP man who serves quietly but effectively in his country's distant corners. These are stories of great perseverance, bravery, and human kindness that cannot be forgotten. These are the men who preserve Thailand's territorial integrity and to whom a great debt of gratitude is owed.

L/Cpl. Bai had served the BPP for over seven years, having been stationed in other areas before he was assigned to Platoon 413, Area 4. For three years L/Cpl. Bai taught in the school which he had organized for Thai I-san children from two villages. The school is located in the middle of deep jungles, midway between the two villages, and has 62 children, many of whom now are able to read and write Thai very well. Five mornings a week, the children gather before the raised flag to pledge their allegiance to their country's King, then to learn more about their country along with the other educational courses given. Before this school had been opened, these communities were indifferent to the Thai Government and had little or no sense of belonging to any country at all.

It was a Sunday morning when the Civic Action Advisor and several officers of the BPP came along the jungle trail leading to the school, having had no way to inform L/Cpl. Bai of the visit. As the party neared the school, a lone man was seen gathering firewood in the jungle nearby. Thinking that he was





Raising the flag at a tribal village school



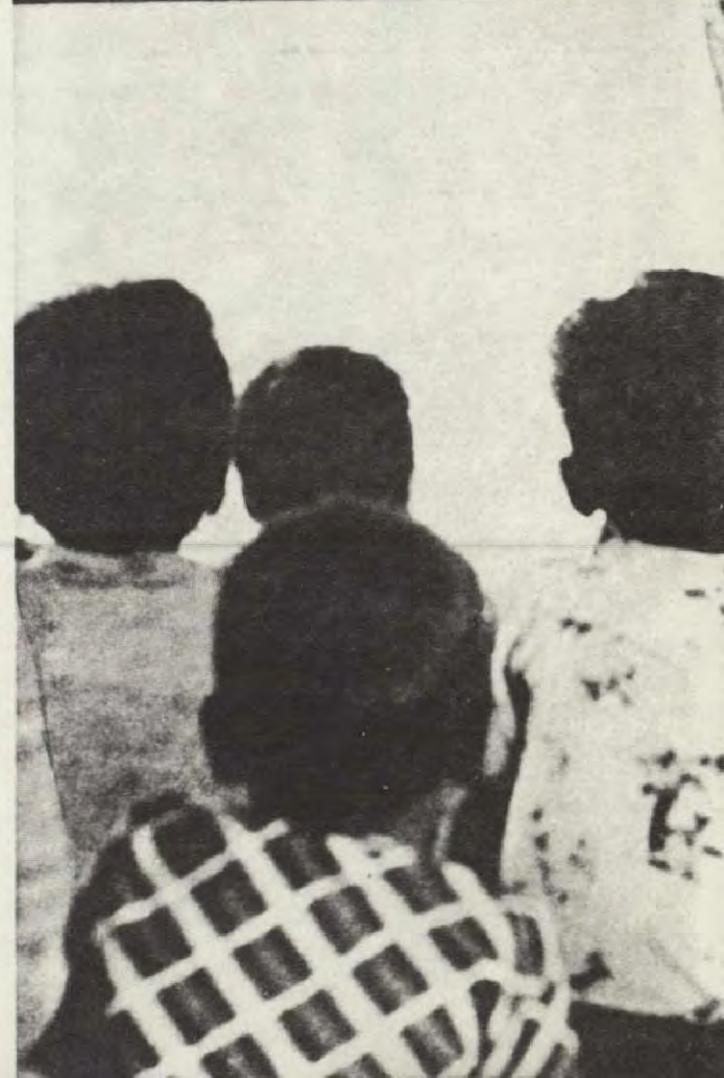
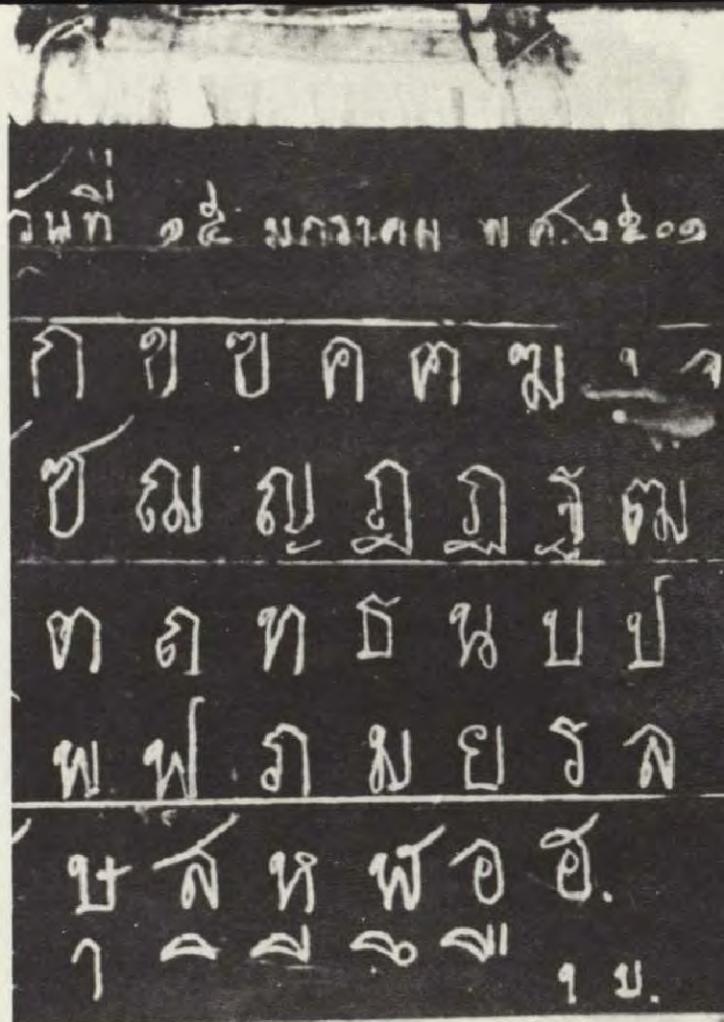
one of the villagers, inquiry was made to him as to where L/Cpl. Bai might be found. The man, dressed in old clothes like any villager and in bare feet, ran up to the visitors and reported that he was L/Cpl. Bai, the school teacher. Lean and toughened from living in the jungled area, he smiled and apologized for his appearance and for being out of uniform on this occasion.

This incident stirred those from Headquarters very deeply. Here was an educated and trained BPP man who had the humility to live a simple jungle farmer's life, and who on a Sunday morning must perform the basic chores to survive in this primitive setting. He undoubtedly desired to have his deserved time off and to find time for entertainment after regular working days. But in L/Cpl. Bai's particular post, there is no opportunity for time off. He must be concerned with the important business of existence. The dedicated services of such men as L/Cpl. Bai is not at all different from that of the missionary who carries out his calling by great personal sacrifice. Here a NCO of the BPP was serving his country

without recognition or praise, but through personal sacrifices he was fulfilling the highest traditions of the BPP.

So much a part of the remote community is L/Cpl. Bai that he is thoroughly accepted as one of the villagers. He enjoys the full confidence of the people and is loved by all of them, especially the children in his school. In this position he is very far ahead of any Communist agent who might seek to gain entrance among the people of this location. In addition, he knows the peculiar dialect of the people fluently and the trails of the jungle as well as the people themselves. He has learned how to survive in deep jungles and could track a Communist terrorist through the bush as well as he has learned to track the wild boar. L/Cpl. Bai is a tremendous asset to his country.

Lt. Surachai, Leader of Plt. 415 was raised in the great city of Bangkok. A far cry from his city days is the present location in which he lives. It was his responsibility to carve out of very wild jungles a platoon headquarters which would be a suitable place in which the men of his platoon could live





with their families and also serve as Platoon Headquarters. Lt. Surachai first sought the friendship of the several villages in his area before launching a rigorous program of building the new camp. Because of limited funds, much depended upon his resourcefulness and upon the willing labor that the village people might donate. Because Lt. Surachai had formed a strong popularity among the village folk, all the needed help was forthcoming from which an excellent platoon headquarters resulted, complete with a 10-kilometer jeep road which connects with the main road. The lumber for his buildings was hewed from forest trees by the villagers and the BPP men. A model farm was made under Lt. Surachai's supervision which now serves as an example to the primitive farmers around him and also feeds the camp.

It happens that the area for which Lt. Surachai is responsible has been an easy opening for communist subversive activities because of its proximity to an easily accessible section of the border. The striking example which Lt. Surachai has radiated in his area has won him the confidence and love of

BPP school teacher instructing calisthenics to Karen school children (Mae Sodt)



the people around him, rendering any subversive attempts by Communist infiltrators a most difficult task. The two schools which come under his supervision enjoy the same touch of orderliness and good planning which is typical of this officer. He has seen to it that the villages in his area practice better sanitation methods and has lent his own knowledge of improved agriculture methods to the benefit of the farmers. The people of this region have come to love Lt. Surachai. His only enemies are the losing Communist infiltrators.





In whatever area one might travel, men of the caliber of Lt. Surachai and L/Cpl. Bai will be found among the BPP. Because this is true, the future of Thailand is brightened immeasurably. Civic action could not today be effective except that the BPP has constructed through the years of sweat and toil a media via which the masses of remote border people can be reached. The commodities which today are being sent through the USOM Public Safety Program into each area are only an aid to the already existing civic action which comes from individual and joint efforts of the members of the BPP who are there and doing the work.

In the field of agricultural support, emphasis is being placed upon the distribution of boar pigs, fertilizers, hoes, diggers, axes, sickles, vegetable seeds, and special steel bars for the tribes which prefer to forge their own tools and implements. A sack of concentrate feed goes with each young boar pig in order to assist it in adjusting to the local feed and to insure good health in its early months.



Medical supplies are made up in bundles which contain all of the basic medicines that an average village might need. Along with this is a booklet which can be referred to by literate members or the BPP teachers living in the village. Two hundred medical bundles will be made up to reach at least many villages during the remaining period of 1962.

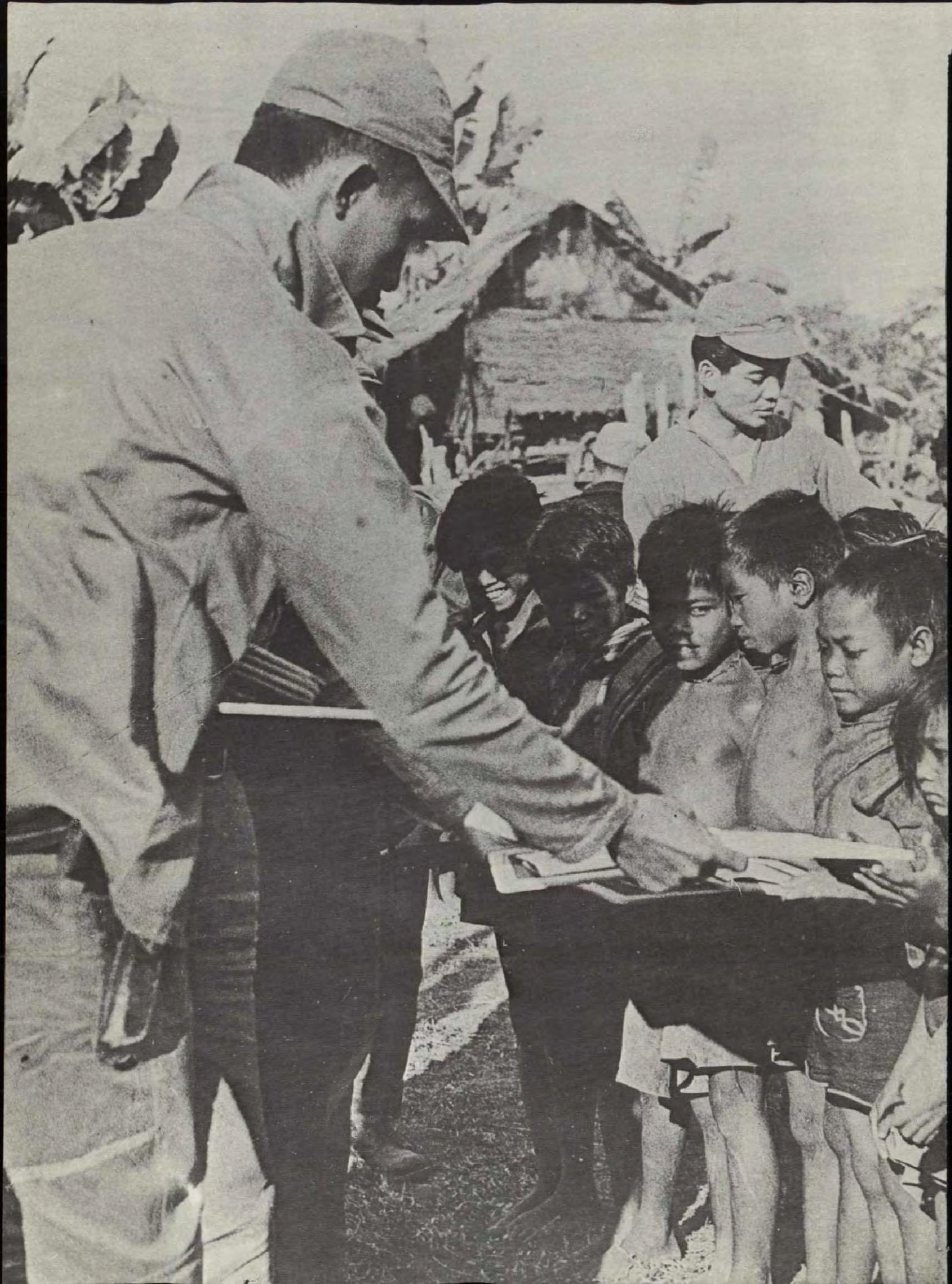
All of the schools currently



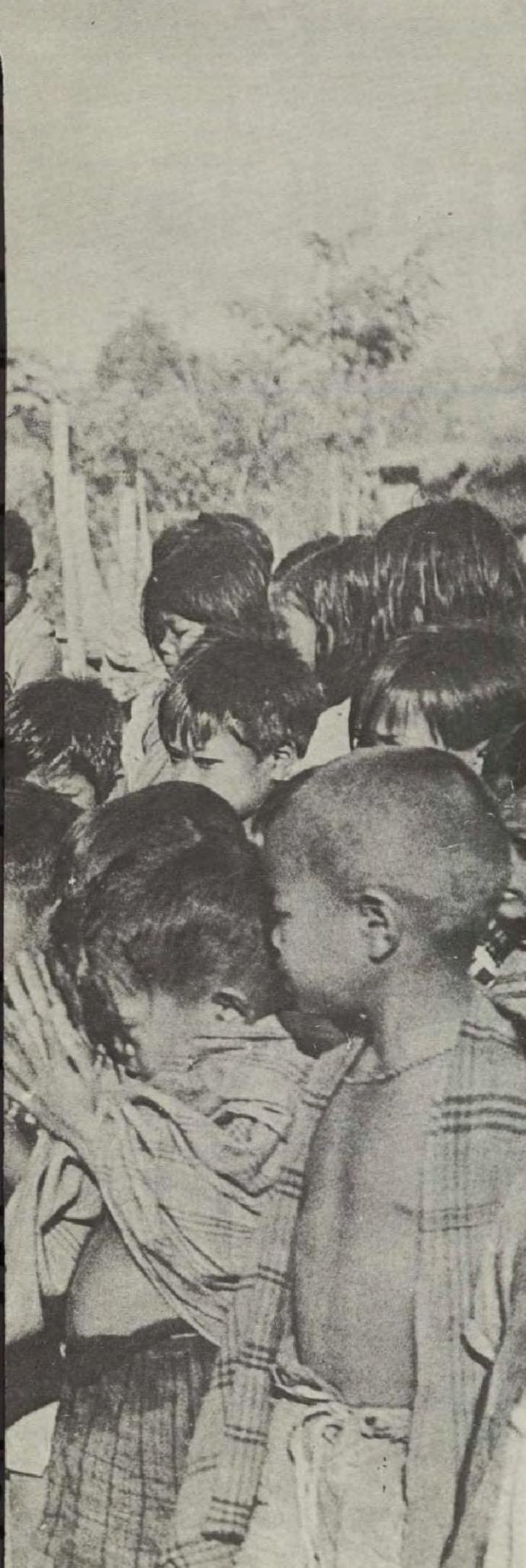
USOM and Border Police officials inspect supplies going to Hill Tribe schools

maintained by the BPP will be restocked with the necessary school supplies, including pencils, colored pencils, slates, slate pencils, rulers, and exercise books for each student. For each school there are new framed pictures of the King and Queen of Thailand, a new Thai flag, and fingernail clippers with which the teacher can teach the importance of clean fingers among his students. Each school boy and girl is

given for hygiene instruction a new toothbrush, toothpaste and a bar of soap, also combs, and a pretty plastic bag in which to keep pencils, combs, etc. While this latter may not appear to have long-term significance, the gesture is of very great importance. Only rarely do these children have such joy come to them, however simple this gift might be. It serves to make their day a little brighter and brings a happiness to the parents.



It is hoped that a greatly expanded program will be conducted during 1963 in order to accommodate the numerous requests from the BPP areas for new schools as well as special village projects where schools cannot feasibly be established. The field of labor for the BPP is enormous, yet only they can effectively perform the huge task which faces the RTG today. It can be said of the BPP: "The difficult they can do at once; the impossible takes a little longer."



*BPP School teachers issuing new slates
and exercise books to tribal children*

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS



In reviewing the results which the BPP have accomplished in the field of civic action, some individual situations best illustrate this.

Schools While there are some 134 schools now in session among the 20-odd different ethnic peoples, the results have a similar story to that of the BPP school at the E-Kaw hill-tribe village of Sen Chai, Amphur Mae Chan, Chiengrai. At present some 44 children attend this school, situated high on a mountain ridge and in the center of one of the biggest E-Kaw villages. Three years ago, the people of this village were not only indifferent to any outside visitor, but they bordered on outright hostility. It was absolutely not permissible for anyone to take photographs of these people because they believed that such an act tended to remove from them their souls.

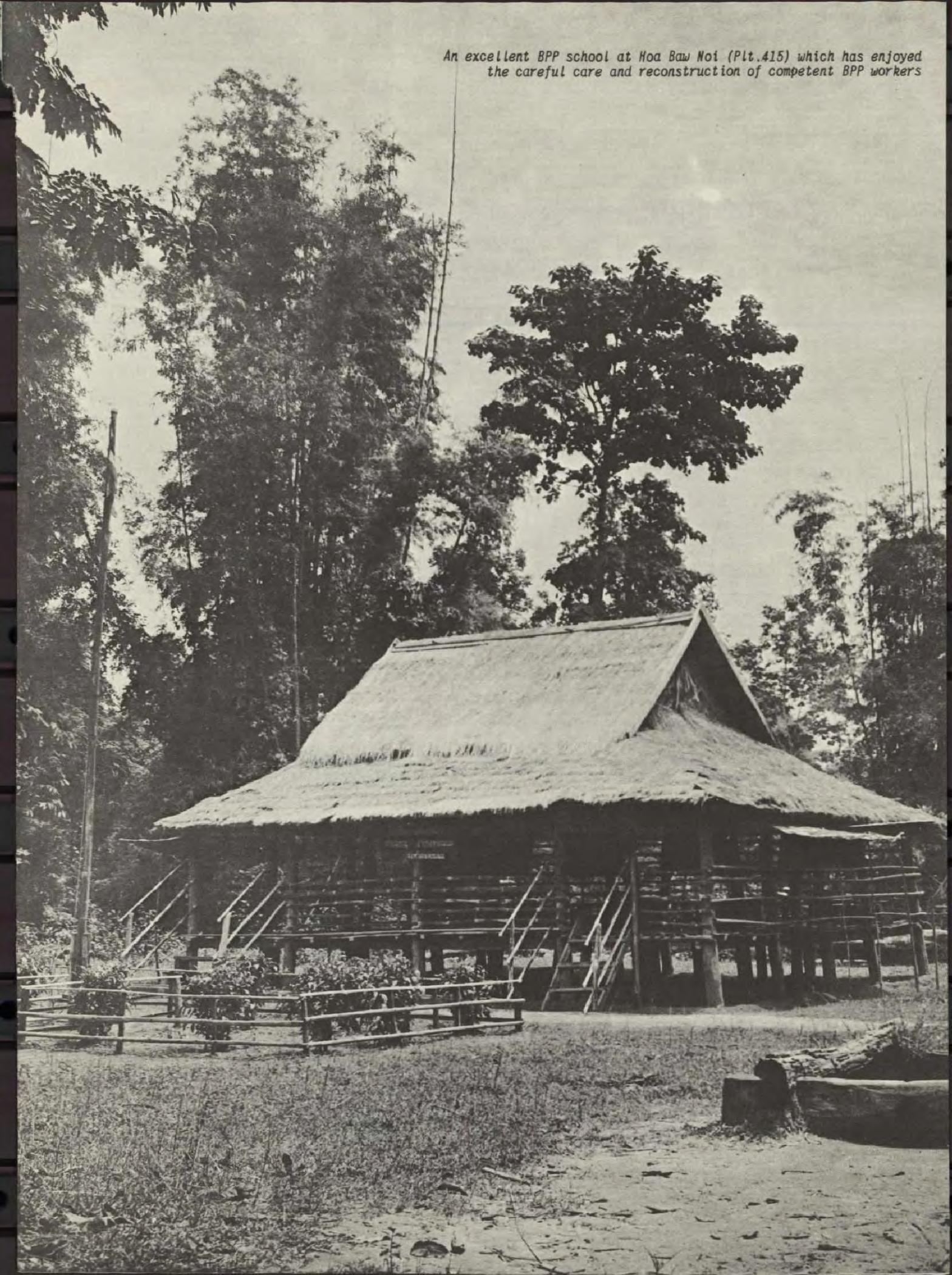
Today, there are many E-Kaw children who can read and write Thai. The people of this community have solidly identified themselves with Thailand and they are proud in the new understanding that they are indeed citizens of this land. The flag of Thailand waves proudly from a flagpole in the middle of the village. It is as though they had been recently invited from a foreign country to become citizens of Thailand. Yet, the only action had been through the one school and through the influence that the BPP teachers had upon these primitive folk. This new feeling of confidence has spread out to the many E-Kaw communities to be found in this area.

The chieftain of this village, Sen Chai, is also the nominal head of all of Thailand's E-Kaw tribespeople. With his new-found confidence has come the confidence of some 25,000 E-Kaw who do not hesitate today to call the BPP their good friends. They have demonstrated their loyalty to their country on a number of occasions when such was demanded of them. Coming from a people who for hundreds of years have been traditional enemies with any outsider or those not

of their tribe, this accomplishment must be considered as nearly unbelievable. Missionaries who for years had labored to convert these people, speaking to them in their own language had been unable to make a single convert. These had been the most superstitious of tribesmen, who felt that the mere presence of an outsider won for the BPP an important friendship. Sen Chai has used his influence since to convince thousands of Lahu, Lisu, and Yao tribesmen living in adjacent areas concerning the value of the school and the friendship of the BPP.

When Communist-led infiltrators attempted to influence the E-Kaw community near Sen Chai's village in March of this year, their requests were refused and their presence reported immediately to the BPP. Later, the E-Kaw took it upon themselves to fight a group of infiltrators since they had no time to call the BPP. A close cooperation continues to exist even now between the BPP of this area and the E-Kaw mountain people, a far cry from what existed in 1959.

An excellent BPP school at Hoa Baw Noi (Plt. 415) which has enjoyed the careful care and reconstruction of competent BPP workers

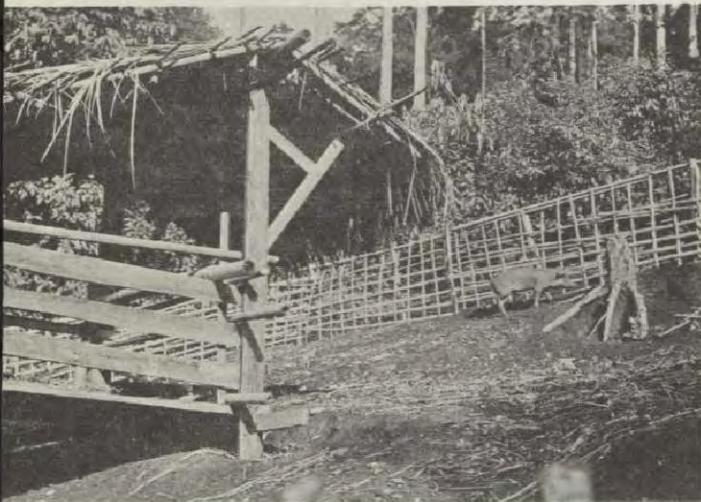


Agriculture

The Lahu village of Whey Tat does not represent a lone example of the excellent success which these people and the BPP have had in this aspect of civic action. Just one year ago, a pure-bred Duroc-Jersey boar pig was given to these people to improve the local strain of pigs. After the boar had matured and was old enough to use, some 250 young pigs were sired from local sows. The old sway-back, slow-growing pig's characteristics had disappeared in this first generation. The new cross-breds were so popular in this locality that they were sold as fast as they were weaned, sometimes in advance. During June of this year, the total income from the offspring of the one boar amounted to Baht 56,170. The same community, had they raised opium instead, could not have realized more than Baht 60,000 during this period, provided that they could have raised opium freely. Had the boar worked for the entire 12-months period, there would have been more than 500 young pigs. In this case, it took the first six months to mature the boar.

The people of this community rejoice in their present ability to earn legally an income which can amount to a greater total than opium cultivation. This is most important indeed and serves as a shining example to those communities of mountain people who still attempt to grow opium poppies under the constant fear that their fields might be discovered. A huge burden of anxiety has been removed through the efforts of civic action among these hilltribes, enhancing their welfare by leaps and bounds.

When the BPP needed the assistance of the people of this community in order to apprehend some agents of the Communists, such help came readily to their assistance. The same people willingly continued to help the BPP until all of the particulars in this case had been compromised. They continue to show their deep gratitude for the help they have received by standing ready to assist the BPP as jungle trail guides and in any way that they might be of value. For this particular community, it can be said that their loyalties just one year ago were most questionable. This is no longer a question.



Above Left: The reason why poor profits come from previous pig-raising systems. Good boars and raising techniques taught these Lisu tribal people will improve this. Above Right: The results of cross-breeding to the pure-bred boar and improved care of the sow. Middle: An excellent boar pen and the newly-given Duroc boar at a Mussuh village. The pen was constructed under the supervision of BPP and USOM advisors and it is the first time a fence was ever constructed in this village. Below Left: BPP turning over a pure-bred Duroc-Jersey boar to Yao tribesmen. Below Right: Happy Meo tribesmen accepting a boar Hampshire pig from a BPP NCO.





A typical remote tribal (E-San) Thai dwelling where sicknesses and poverty is a great problem



Medical Despite the critical shortage that has always existed of medical supplies which the BPP themselves need in the platoons, they have never hesitated to share this with the remote people. In the past a very considerable amount of medicines had been purchased by USOM/PSD for distribution to the BPP and to remote area people, and this continues to be one of the most important considerations today.

Medical assistance has repeatedly won friends for the BPP. Whole tribes which had been suspicious of modern drugs have come to know their importance through efforts by BPP men to introduce them. For instance, malaria has been considered to be caused by evil spirits which dwell in the lowlands, so that many tribes were reluctant to visit valley communities. The BPP and members of USOM/PSD have on many occasions given Aralen and other anti-malarial drugs to tribesmen and cured them successfully of the sickness.

The BPP medic is the busiest man on any patrol. Not only does he have a big responsibility in keeping the

men themselves well, but he is approached by hundreds of people during any patrol for many different ailments. He typically returns completely exhausted of his medical supplies; there is never enough. But wherever he has gone, he leaves in his wake many grateful people, some of whom would have died had it not been for his ministrations.

The importance of medical assistance in civic action cannot be emphasized enough. Such cases as the following have been repeated many times and continue to occur regularly.

In March, 1961, the young son of an important Meo chieftain was dying from complications resulting from a bad leg infection. The village had no contact with any hospitals or dispensaries, nor was it on the route of regular BPP patrols. The chieftain went to the BPP Platoon headquarters and asked that the "medicine man" come to see what could be done for his small son. The medic went to the village that same day, force-marching 31 kilometers and reaching his destination at 11:30 PM. On this trip he cured the pneumonia which the boy had contracted and began dressing

the infected leg. It took four separate visits during the month before the boy was completely recovered.

From the highly suspicious "witch doctor" to the last child in the village, here was to them a great medicine man. The Meo learned to love the BPP medic for this act of kindness and deeply appreciated the long treks that he had made. This was an important child of a big chieftain, so that the BPP had won through this action the loyalty and friendship of the entire Meo clan in that area.

The importance of the advice that BPP men give to remote villages for improvement of sanitary conditions can also not be stressed enough. This has been an integral part of medical assistance and is responsible for a greatly improved health of many remote communities. Cleanliness was completely foreign to the majority of remote peoples until the BPP teachers arrived to live with them. Starting from the children, the BPP taught personal hygiene to the people in each village in which they worked. The children line up each morning at the school and have their hands and faces in-



BPP medical team visiting a Karen tribe village and inspecting a sick child



BPP medic administering penicillin to a sick tribal child

spected, even their fingernails, which has become something of a ritual, with the teacher personally clipping fingernails and showing the children that it is important to keep themselves clean. Drainage of wastes in villages and good toilet habits are advised and have had excellent results in many communities.

There is small wonder that many remote communities have shown a typical lethargy because of ill health. With improved health comes a more active and vigorous people who are then better able to work harder and help themselves. The Border Police medic, while lacking professional training, is still a champion when compared with witch doctors and in some instances quack "doctors" who try to make a living off the uneducated people. With basic medicines, he is able to cure the majority of common diseases and the benefits which come from his good advice are immeasurable.

In concluding, it would be well to first state again that the objectives of the BPP/USOM civic action program are primarily concerned with the internal security of Thailand.

International Communism as promoted by the Chinese Peoples Republic is an aggressive, offensive venture which places the highest of priorities upon subversion of uneducated minority groups. They have long practiced civic action as the means through which they might gain and control the support of the remote people. In this area they labor tirelessly whenever they have the opportunity to do so, and they have had great successes in other areas of Southeast Asia.

The best way to discourage this ruthless incursion is through vigorous civic action, winning the people first or winning them back from Communist control. It is a fortunate thing that Communist subversion in the remote areas of Thailand has not become widespread. We have today the benefit of the lessons learned in Malaya, Vietnam, and Laos, which shows how costly and difficult it is to eradicate subversion once it has gained momentum. Thailand continues to hold the advantage with such an experienced and dedicated force as the Border Patrol Police. If we could view this country's position from the standpoint of

the Chinese Communists, undoubtedly there would be much gnashing of teeth for the BPP which has been the constant barrier against which they cannot pass with ease.

Spread out as it is along all of Thailand's frontiers, the Border Patrol Police has become the perfect structure through which civic action can do its part to help preserve the borders. The pride and Esprit-de-Corp to serve in this distinguished force, and the years of experience behind each BPP man presents a formidable wall to encroaching Communism.

Let us not assume, however, that the task is done. Rather, it has only begun with

the appearance of initial Communist subversion on Thailand's free soil. An enormous job lies before the Government of Thailand at this critical time. The civic action program of the Border Patrol Police and USOM Public Safety Division makes no delusion that efforts can be relaxed simply because the sword is in hand. Out in the remote areas, the vigilance and labor must be carried out day and night, doubling and tripling the intensity of this action. In this way, Civic Action can win in this struggle, and help win for Thailand its continued freedom and independence. To this end both the Border Patrol Police and USOM are dedicated.



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