Mr. SCHMITZ. Mr. Chairman, unless you have a line of questioning that I am interrupting here, I have a question for Dr. Weldon.

Dr. Weldon, the Laos area is part of what is known as the Golden Triangle for poppy growth as a source of narcotics. To what extent are the poppies grown in the communist-controlled area and to what extent are the poppies grown in the noncommunist-controlled areas?

Dr. WELDON. Let’s speak of Laos. When you say the Golden Triangle now, this implies to me parts of at least three countries.

Mr. SCHMITZ. That is right; it’s an area of Southeast Asia, but including Laos.

Dr. WELDON. It includes, in my definition, a very small proportion of Laos. When I arrived in Laos actually there were considerable areas in the northern part of the country that were devoted to the cultivation of the poppies. A lot of it was consumed locally, certainly a lot of it was exported. I don’t know what the total production was in the country, but the estimates we made shortly after we arrived there was about a hundred tons a year.

Mr. SCHMITZ. How much was that?

Dr. WELDON. About a hundred tons a year. These were just rough calculations we made, and I don’t really know how accurate this was. But I think it is probably of the proper magnitude.

Now, the opium, as you may know, is a very sensitive crop, and it takes a very specific type of soil and climatic conditions. Now, the part of Laos that was growing poppies has practically all been taken over by the communists. The best poppy-growing areas were in the northern part of the country, and this is the part that is primarily, that primarily fell to the communists. So there is not very much opium grown in Laos right now, not any change, really, except that they have just lost the places where opium can be grown.

Mr. SCHMITZ. When you say there is not much grown in Laos now because the communists took over, you mean the communists stopped growing it?

Dr. WELDON. Yes. It takes a tremendous amount of labor to grow and harvest opium, and the people have left these areas when the communists occupied them, and people fled in front of them, and there are no people there to grow the opium.

Mr. SCHMITZ. You know they are not growing it any more back there?

Dr. WELDON. This is pretty much true, yes. Now I am talking about Laos, Mr. Schmitz. It’s my impression that most of the opium that is being; that crosses the Golden Triangle is not really grown in the Golden Triangle; it’s grown in northern Burma. This is the big producer now. It comes down through the Golden Triangle, and probably quite a bit of it is processed in the Golden Triangle.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Do you know how much of it is going into China for processing?

Dr. WELDON. I don’t know, but we don’t have any information; I have no information that would indicate to me that any of it is going into China.

Mr. SCHMITZ. I do.

Dr. WELDON. Well, I don’t. I am just saying that I don’t.
Mr. SCHMITZ. You have no information on the poppies grown in China, either?
Dr. WELDON. No, sir.
Mr. SCHMITZ. But in northern Burma——
Dr. WELDON. And still some in Laos, but not very much in Laos. As I say, mainly it's because we just lost the country that grows poppies. But my calculations now, and I am not very expert in this field, believe me, but my own calculations are that probably last year there were maybe 20 tons of opium grown in Laos and with the very large numbers of addicts that we have, particularly among the hill tribes, I think that probably the great proportion of it was consumed locally.

Mr. SCHMITZ. The hill tribes didn't leave?
Dr. WELDON. Sir?
Mr. SCHMITZ. You said the hill tribes——
Dr. WELDON. They have left, but they are still in other areas. They are still growing some opium, but it is hardly 20 percent of what it was at the time that I arrived in 1963.

Mr. DAVIS. Twenty percent grown or 20 percent exported?
Dr. WELDON. Twenty percent grown. Like I say, our calculations were that there were about a hundred tons a year grown or produced in Laos when I arrived. The estimates we made last year were about 20 tons.

Mr. SCHMITZ. How do you base your estimate after the communist takeover?
Dr. WELDON. The 20 tons I am talking about are grown in government-controlled areas, Mr. Schmitz. Now, the only information that we have about the communist areas are the occasional person who comes out of the communist areas and our overflights by aircraft.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What is the estimate now, what are the intelligence estimates of what is grown in the communist area right now?
Dr. WELDON. I can only give you my own impression from talking to people that have come out from the communist areas recently, and I don't think there is very much being grown in northern Laos in the areas that are occupied by the communists.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Why do you think that?
Dr. WELDON. Well, first of all, overflying, I don't see it on the ground, this is the main thing; and, secondly, again I don't think that they have sufficient people there to produce opium.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What about the communist troops?
Dr. WELDON. I guess they could.
Mr. SCHMITZ. They do in China. In other words, your only reason that you don't think they are growing poppies is that, the basis that they don't have the people to do it, so, therefore, you come to the conclusion that they are not?
Dr. WELDON. No, I am coming to the conclusion primarily from the fact that the people coming out from these areas come in and tell us that opium is not being grown. Secondly——

Mr. SCHMITZ. Do they tell you why it is not being grown, because of lack of people?
Dr. WELDON. Lack of people and also some interdiction, or just a general policy, on the part of the Pathet Lao to interdict the growing of opium.
Mr. SCHMITZ. You have no information on the poppies grown in China, either?

Dr. WELDON. No, sir.

Mr. SCHMITZ. But in northern Burma——

Dr. WELDON. And still some in Laos, but not very much in Laos. As I say, mainly it's because we just lost the country that grows poppies. But my calculations now, and I am not very expert in this field, believe me, but my own calculations are that probably last year there were maybe 20 tons of opium grown in Laos and with the very large numbers of addicts that we have, particularly among the hill tribes, I think that probably the great proportion of it was consumed locally.

Mr. SCHMITZ. The hill tribes didn't leave?

Dr. WELDON. Sir?

Mr. SCHMITZ. You said the hill tribes——

Dr. WELDON. They have left, but they are still in other areas. They are still growing some opium, but it is hardly 20 percent of what it was at the time that I arrived in 1963.

Mr. DAVIS. Twenty percent grown or 20 percent exported?

Dr. WELDON. Twenty percent grown. Like I say, our calculations were that there were about a hundred tons a year grown or produced in Laos when I arrived. The estimates we made last year were about 20 tons.

Mr. SCHMITZ. How do you base your estimate after the communist takeover?

Dr. WELDON. The 20 tons I am talking about are grown in government-controlled areas, Mr. Schmitz. Now, the only information that we have about the communist areas are the occasional person who comes out of the communist areas and our overflights by aircraft.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What is the estimate now, what are the intelligence estimates of what is grown in the communist area right now?

Dr. WELDON. I can only give you my own impression from talking to people that have come out from the communist areas recently, and I don't think there is very much being grown in northern Laos in the areas that are occupied by the communists.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Why do you think that?

Dr. WELDON. Well, first of all, overflying, I don't see it on the ground, this is the main thing; and, secondly, again I don't think that they have sufficient people there to produce opium.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What about the communist troops?

Dr. WELDON. I guess they could.

Mr. SCHMITZ. They do in China. In other words, your only reason that you don't think they are growing poppies is that, the basis that they don't have the people to do it, so, therefore, you come to the conclusion that they are not?

Dr. WELDON. No, I am coming to the conclusion primarily from the fact that the people coming out from these areas come in and tell us that opium is not being grown. Secondly——

Mr. SCHMITZ. Do they tell you why it is not being grown, because of lack of people?

Dr. WELDON. Lack of people and also some interdiction, or just a general policy, on the part of the Pathet Lao to interdict the growing of opium.
Mr. SCHMITZ. Mr. Chairman, unless you have a line of questioning that I am interrupting here, I have a question for Dr. Weldon.

Dr. Weldon, the Laos area is part of what is known as the Golden Triangle for poppy growth as a source of narcotics. To what extent are the poppies grown in the communist-controlled area and to what extent are the poppies grown in the noncommunist-controlled areas?

Dr. WELDON. Let's speak of Laos. When you say the Golden Triangle now, this implies to me parts of at least three countries.

Mr. SCHMITZ. That is right; it's an area of Southeast Asia, but including Laos.

Dr. WELDON. It includes, in my definition, a very small proportion of Laos. When I arrived in Laos actually there were considerable areas in the northern part of the country that were devoted to the cultivation of the poppies. A lot of it was consumed locally, certainly a lot of it was exported. I don't know what the total production was in the country, but the estimates we made shortly after we arrived there was about a hundred tons a year.

Mr. SCHMITZ. How much was that?

Dr. WELDON. About a hundred tons a year. These were just rough calculations we made, and I don't really know how accurate this was. But I think it is probably of the proper magnitude.

Now, the opium, as you may know, is a very sensitive crop, and it takes a very specific type of soil and climatic conditions. Now, the part of Laos that was growing poppies has practically all been taken over by the communists. The best poppy-growing areas were in the northern part of the country, and this is the part that is primarily that primarily fell to the communists. So there is not very much opium grown in Laos right now, not any change, really, except that they have just lost the places where opium can be grown.

Mr. SCHMITZ. When you say there is not much grown in Laos now because the communists took over, you mean the communists stopped growing it?

Dr. WELDON. Yes. It takes a tremendous amount of labor to grow and harvest opium, and the people have left these areas when the communists occupied them, and people fled in front of them, and there are no people there to grow the opium.

Mr. SCHMITZ. You know they are not growing it any more back there?

Dr. WELDON. This is pretty much true, yes. Now I am talking about Laos, Mr. Schmitz. It's my impression that most of the opium that is being, that crosses the Golden Triangle is not really grown in the Golden Triangle; it's grown in northern Burma. This is the big producer now. It comes down through the Golden Triangle, and probably quite a bit of it is processed in the Golden Triangle.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Do you know how much of it is going into China for processing?

Dr. WELDON. I don't know, but we don't have any information; I have no information that would indicate to me that any of it is going into China.

Mr. SCHMITZ. I do.

Dr. WELDON. Well, I don't. I am just saying that I don't.
Mr. SCHMITZ. Is this their policy?

DR. WELDON. Yes, sir.

Mr. SCHMITZ. That is an official policy?

Dr. WELDON. It seems to me, that is what we gather from the people who come out.

Mr. SCHMITZ. It seems to be an official policy of the Pathet Lao. Do you have any evidence other than the people coming out saying that?

The reason I am probing here is because this is a great controversy between our officials here, and of course you are—but I have seen evidence coming out of Red China that the Red Chinese are having as an official program, the growing of poppies. I talked to one girl that escaped from China, through the Yunnan Province, who saw Chinese troops cultivating the fields.

Now you say, and we keep getting it from our Government here, that it is the official policy of Red China not to grow it, yet the evidence seems to be it is the official policy to grow it.

Dr. WELDON. No, sir; I am talking about Laos.

Mr. SCHMITZ. I am wondering what the evidence is that the Pathet Lao have as their official policy the interdiction of growing of poppies. I don't like to take that at face value. There is nothing personal here, but I have heard it too often here in Washington that the Red Chinese have the official policy not to grow it, and the evidence is too overwhelming otherwise.

Dr. WELDON. To answer the question of whether it is an official policy or not, this is the only information I have, to talk to a person that has come out of an area that is controlled by the communists. Now the local communist official, you know, that was under the administrative person on the communist side that he was responsible to, has told him that he is not to grow opium. Now, whether this represents an official policy or not, I don't know, but it would seem to me that it would.

Mr. SCHMITZ. It would be an official policy that he is not to grow it. If the troops are cultivating it in Red China, maybe they don't want him to grow it; they want the troops to grow it.

Dr. WELDON. I don't know. But practically all of the people that we have talked to in the last year, particularly that have come out of northern Laos in the areas where they used to grow opium, these people tell us that they have been forbidden from growing opium, and this has been one reason, it has not been a very significant reason, but it has been one reason that has been expressed to us by these people for their leaving the communist areas.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Because they had their livelihood taken away?

Dr. WELDON. Not so much livelihood as the fact that they had addicts in the family, and they could not get opium, the members of the family that smoked opium.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Can you tell me the dates when the communists took over the opium-growing areas, primarily?

Dr. WELDON. It has been a gradual thing starting in about 1965, and moving southward, you know, as the fortunes of war, they have come south and probably it culminated this year. As far as I am concerned, the last really significant opium-growing area in Laos, this is the area somewhat in between Vientiane—

Mr. SCHMITZ. Perhaps you could show it on the map behind you there, the general area.
Dr. Weldon. Here is Vientiane, the capital city, here. Here is Yunnan and Luang Prabang, the royal capital, and most of the opium in Laos is grown in an area across the top of the country right through here [indicating], the extreme northern part of the country.

As they have taken this area, they have taken the places where opium used to be grown. The last place that was left in Laos that was really a significant producing area was a place we call Kheo Ka Cham, which is right up in this area, southeast of Luang Prabang. This area was occupied by the communists this year.

Mr. Schmitz. Are you familiar with General Vang Pao?

Dr. Weldon. Yes, sir, I know him very well.

Mr. Schmitz. What area does he control?

Dr. Weldon. General Vang Pao is the military commander of Region 2, and Region 2 primarily composes the provinces of Xieng Khouang and Sam Neua in this area in here.

Mr. Schmitz. That is south of the opium-growing area?

Dr. Weldon. If you define Region 2 in the strict sense, it includes a lot of the opium-growing area, and that is south of it. But the northern part of Region 2 is all controlled by the enemy now.

Mr. Schmitz. So that the enemy controls the opium-growing part of the general's district?

Dr. Weldon. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. Schmitz. Then the press reports that he is growing opium in his district are rather inaccurate?

Dr. Weldon. There is opium grown in Region 2; there is opium grown in Region 2 where General Vang Pao is the commander, but it is a minuscule amount.

Mr. Davis. Also, Dr. Weldon, wouldn't you say it would be difficult?

Dr. Weldon. Believe me, General Vang Pao is having enough trouble to grow rice to keep his people alive; he is not very interested in opium right now. There is no commercial opium grown in Region 2.

There is a family that has addicts and they have a little patch of opium, trying to grow some on one of those bare hills out there just to support a habit, but it is a minuscule amount and, believe me, General Vang Pao is not involved in the growing of opium.

I have practically slept with General Vang Pao for the last 9 years, working with his people in Region 2, and I know this man, we are like brothers, and this doesn't happen.

I wish I could give you more concrete reasons, but it is just not so. General Vang Pao is not involved in the damned opium business. There isn't any opium being grown up in Region 2, except a little raunchy patch in the ground that is really not very suitable for it, some family, you know, that has people addicted trying to get a little opium to support the habit.

Mr. Schmitz. And you would say at this date, today, what would you say, 90 to 95 percent of the Laotian opium-growing areas are under communist control?

Dr. Weldon. I would say a good 90 percent now, with the loss of Kheo Ka Cham. We may take Kheo Ka Cham back. We have reoccupied most of that area, so if we do in fact take over Kheo Ka Cham again this year, we will probably be back with maybe 15 to 20 percent. But probably, at this moment, 90 percent of the opium-growing area is in enemy hands.
Dr. WELDON. Here is Vientiane, the capital city, here. Here is Yunnan and Luang Prabang, the royal capital, and most of the opium in Laos is grown in an area across the top of the country right through here [indicating], the extreme northern part of the country.

As they have taken this area, they have taken the places where opium used to be grown. The last place that was left in Laos that was really a significant producing area was a place we call Kheo Ka Cham, which is right up in this area, southeast of Luang Prabang. This area was occupied by the communists this year.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Are you familiar with General Yang Pao?

Dr. WELDON. Yes, sir, I know him very well.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What area does he control?

Dr. WELDON. General Yang Pao is the military commander of Region 2, and Region 2 primarily composes the provinces of Xieng Khouang and Sam Neua in this area in here.

Mr. SCHMITZ. That is south of the opium-growing area!

Dr. WELDON. If you define Region 2 in the strict sense, it includes a lot of the opium-growing area, and that is south of it. But the northern part of Region 2 is all controlled by the enemy now.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Then the press reports that he is growing opium in his district are rather inaccurate.

Dr. WELDON. There is opium grown in Region 2; there is opium grown in Region 2 where General Yang Pao is the commander, but it is a minuscule amount.

Mr. DAVIS. Also, Dr. Weldon, wouldn't you say it would be difficult?

Dr. WELDON. Believe me, General Yang Pao is having enough trouble to grow rice to keep his people alive; he is not very interested in opium right now. There is no commercial opium grown in Region 2.

There is a family that has addicts and they have a little patch of opium, trying to grow some on one of those bare hills out there just to support a habit, but it is a minuscule amount and, believe me, General Yang Pao is not involved in the growing of opium.

I have practically slept with General Yang Pao for the last 9 years, working with his people in Region 2, and I know this man, we are like brothers, and this doesn't happen.

I wish I could give you more concrete reasons, but it is just not so. General Yang Pao is not involved in the damned opium business. There isn't any opium being grown up in Region 2, except a little raunchy patch in the ground that is really not very suitable for it, some family, you know, that has people addicted trying to get a little opium to support the habit.

Mr. SCHMITZ. And you would say at this date, today, what would you say, 90 to 95 percent of the Laotian opium-growing areas are under communist control?

Dr. WELDON. I would say a good 90 percent now, with the loss of Kheo Ka Cham. We may take Kheo Ka Cham back. We have reoccupied most of that area, so if we do in fact take over Kheo Ka Cham again this year, we will probably be back with maybe 15 to 20 percent. But probably, at this moment, 90 percent of the opium-growing area is in enemy hands.
Mr. SCHMITZ. Is this their policy?
Dr. WELDON. Yes, sir.
Mr. SCHMITZ. That is an official policy?
Dr. WELDON. It seems to me, that is what we gather from the people who come out.

Mr. SCHMITZ. It seems to be an official policy of the Pathet Lao. Do you have any evidence other than the people coming out saying that?

The reason I am probing here is because this is a great controversy between our officials here, and of course you are—but I have seen evidence coming out of Red China that the Red Chinese are having as an official program, the growing of poppies. I talked to one girl that escaped from China, through the Yunnan Province, who saw Chinese troops cultivating the fields.

Now you say. and we keep getting it from our Government here, that it is the official policy of Red China not to grow it. yet the evidence seems to be it is the official policy to grow it.

Dr. WELDON. No, sir; I am talking about Laos.

Mr. SCHMITZ. I am wondering what the evidence is that the Pathet Lao have as their official policy the interdiction of growing of poppies. I don't like to take that at face value. There is nothing personal here, but I have heard it too often here in Washington that the Red Chinese have the official policy not to grow it, and the evidence is too overwhelming otherwise.

Dr. WELDON. To answer the question of whether it is an official policy or not, this is the only information I have, to talk to a person that has come out of an area that is controlled by the communists. Now the local communist official, you know, that was under the administrative person on the communist side that he was responsible to, has told him that he is not to grow opium. Now, whether this represents an official policy or not, I don't know, but it would seem to me that it would.

Mr. SCHMITZ. It would be an official policy that he is not to grow it. If the troops are cultivating it in Red China, maybe they don't want him to grow it; they want the troops to grow it.

Dr. WELDON. I don't know. But practically all of the people that we have talked to in the last year, particularly that have come out of northern Laos in the areas where they used to grow opium, these people tell us that they have been forbidden from growing opium, and this has been one reason, it has not been a very significant reason, but it has been one reason that has been expressed to us by these people for their leaving the communist areas.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Because they had their livelihood taken away?

Dr. WELDON. Not so much livelihood as the fact that they had addicts in the family, and they could not get opium, the members of the family that smoked opium.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Can you tell me the dates when the communists took over the opium-growing areas, primarily?

Dr. WELDON. It has been a gradual thing starting in about 1965, and moving southward, you know, as the fortunes of war, they have come south and probably it culminated this year. As far as I am concerned, the last really significant opium-growing area in Laos, this is the area somewhat in between Vientiane—

Mr. SCHMITZ. Perhaps you could show it on the map behind you there, the general area.
Mr. Schmitz. I may be facetious, but maybe they are worried about their competition.

Mr. White. Dr. Weldon, are there any legitimate uses for opium in Laos and similar primitive societies?

Dr. Weldon. Yes, sir. The Lao use opium just like we did some time ago, particularly. You have got to remember, as I have indicated, there is not very good medical care there and particularly in the more remote areas, and if you are hurting morphine will certainly relieve pain, and this is a very legitimate use for it. Also, if you have a severe case of diarrhea and that is all you have got, it is a very effective antidiarrhetic. And even, you know, particularly in the old people that have a lot of chronic illness, opium is a very good symptomatic. We use analgesics, of course, in medicine to a large extent, and the Lao have used them in the medical sense for centuries.

Mr. White. During your stay in Laos, Doctor, have you had an opportunity to take photographs which would be illustrative of the communist commitment to force and violence there?

Dr. Weldon. I think that we have some of these. Of course, I am on home leave and I did not anticipate that I would be talking to this committee, and I have nothing like that with me. But I think that we probably have some photographs which illustrate this type of thing. When I get back I will be glad to look over this stuff that we do have available and, if you would like, I can send you this sort of thing.

Mr. White. Could you also identify these in writing, of course?

Dr. Weldon. Certainly.

Mr. White. Would the Chair direct that these photographs be entered in the record when and if we receive them from Dr. Weldon?

Mr. Davis. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. White. Dr. Weldon, I invite your attention to our Exhibit No. 1 and Exhibit No. 2. Exhibit No. 1 is denominated, "FACTS/PHOTOGRAPHS, USAID Operations at LS-272"; Exhibit No. 2 is denominated, "FACTS/PHOTOGRAPHS, Refugee Relief—Vientiane Plain."

Now I ask you if you recognize these two documents and if you are familiar with the contents of them, the photographs as well as the factual contents of the documents?

(At this point Mr. Preyer entered the hearing room.)

Dr. Weldon. Yes, I am acquainted with these two documents.

Mr. White. Do these accurately reflect, to the extent that they purport to, our efforts in Vietnam, the refugee problems, the medical problems, and the construction efforts that have been made there to the extent that they purport to?

Dr. Weldon. You said Vietnam. It would be Laos, of course.

Mr. White. I beg your pardon, Laos.

Dr. Weldon. Yes, they do.

Mr. White. We would like to offer these for the record, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Davis. Are there any objections? Without objection, they will be entered in the record.

(Documents marked: Committee Exhibits Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. See appendix I, pages 7805–7816.)

1 The photographs were not obtainable and therefore cannot be included in the hearing record.
Mr. WHITE. A while ago we were speaking of representatives of the press visiting Laos, Dr. Weldon, and some of the things that they inquired about, including atrocities that were committed in Laos, and if so, whose?

Dr. WELDON. Yes, sir. Particularly in the last 2 years there has been a lot of interest by the press, you know, as far as atrocities in the country, particularly with injury to civilians, but the interest has primarily been in what atrocities the Americans have committed. I hate to say it, but I can't recall a time when any of the press has discussed with me the subjects that we have this morning, what atrocities the communists have committed. They don't seem to happen to be particularly interested in this subject.

Maybe this is not quite fair to the press, but I am constantly asked about civilian casualties that we have created by bombing, and all of this type of thing, but no one has ever asked me about atrocities or casualties of the enemy's, that the enemy has created. I tried to bring this subject up with them on occasion.

Mr. WHITE. That is very interesting. Have you had an opportunity to see any Chinese military personnel in Laos, particularly northern Laos, of course?

Dr. WELDON. No, sir. I have never seen any.

Mr. WHITE. Are there any Chinese operations in northern Laos?

Dr. WELDON. Yes, sir, particularly the road that is being built in northern Laos. The road system that is being built out from Yunnan through the northern part of the country, the first phase of it was to build it from coming out of Yunnan into Muang Sing, Nam Tha, and into Muang Sai.

The road comes out of China up in this area and then swings to the east toward Muang Sai in here, and then down to Pak Beng on the Mekong down in this area. At the same time the North Vietnamese have been building a road out of Dien Bien Phu to connect into Muang Sai from this side. The road that the Chinese and the part that the Chinese are working on now from Muang Sai down to Pak Beng, they have just about completed it to the Mekong.

Mr. WHITE. Do you know what the purpose of this road net may be?

Dr. WELDON. I have my opinions. I don't know why they are building it, but I have my opinions. I don't really know why they are building it.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Dr. Weldon, could we have your opinion on it?

Dr. WELDON. I am convinced that the Chinese communists intend dominating all that part of the world, the Malay and the Indochina peninsulas.

Mr. SCHMIDT. So this is a road for violence?

Dr. WELDON. This is my opinion, they have only built it for one damned reason, to build it for the next phase.

Mr. SCHMIDT. I have just heard about it, and that is the obvious thing that pops into my head.

Dr. WELDON. It is pretty sparsely settled country, particularly right now. There is not much in the way of attraction to build a major highway down there, other than the rest of Southeast Asia.

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you.
Mr. White. A while ago we were speaking of representatives of the press visiting Laos, Dr. Weldon, and some of the things that they inquired about, including atrocities that were committed in Laos, and if so, whose?

Dr. Weldon. Yes, sir. Particularly in the last 2 years there has been a lot of interest by the press, you know, as far as atrocities in the country, particularly with injury to civilians, but the interest has primarily been in what atrocities the Americans have committed. I hate to say it, but I can't recall a time when any of the press has discussed with me the subjects that we have this morning, what atrocities the communists have committed. They don't seem to happen to be particularly interested in this subject.

Maybe this is not quite fair to the press, but I am constantly asked about civilian casualties that we have created by bombing, and all of this type of thing, but no one has ever asked me about atrocities or casualties of the enemy's, that the enemy has created. I tried to bring this subject up with them on occasion.

Mr. White. That is very interesting. Have you had an opportunity to see any Chinese military personnel in Laos, particularly northern Laos, of course?

Dr. Weldon. No, sir. I have never seen any.

Mr. White. Are there any Chinese operations in northern Laos?

Dr. Weldon. Yes, sir, particularly the road that is being built in northern Laos. The road system that is being built out from Yunnan through the northern part of the country, the first phase of it was to build it from coming out of Yunnan into Muang Sing, Nam Tha, and into Muang Sai.

The road comes out of China up in this area and then swings to the east toward Muang Sai in here, and then down to Pak Beng on the Mekong down in this area. At the same time the North Vietnamese have been building a road out of Dien Bien Phu to connect into Muang Sai from this side. The road that the Chinese and the part that the Chinese are working on now from Muang Sai down to Pak Beng, they have just about completed it to the Mekong.

Mr. White. Do you know what the purpose of this road net may be?

Dr. Weldon. I have my opinions. I don't know why they are building it, but I have my opinions. I don't really know why they are building it.

Mr. Schmitz. Dr. Weldon, could we have your opinion on it?

Dr. Weldon. I am convinced that the Chinese communists intend dominating all that part of the world, the Malay and the Indochina peninsulas.

Mr. Schmitz. So this is a road for violence?

Dr. Weldon. This is my opinion, they have only built it for one damned reason, to build it for the next phase.

Mr. Schmitz. I have just heard about it, and that is the obvious thing that pops into my head.

Dr. Weldon. It is pretty sparsely settled country, particularly right now. There is not much in the way of attraction to build a major highway down there, other than the rest of Southeast Asia.

Mr. White. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Mr. Davis. Thank you.
Dr. Weldon, first of all let me thank you for appearing before this committee, for your enlightening testimony, some of which we realize was very hard on you because of your close relationship with these people.

At this time, Mr. Preyer of North Carolina, do you have any questions?

Mr. PREYER. Thank you, Dr. Weldon, I regret that I missed some of your testimony and perhaps you covered this in it. I was a member of the health subcommittee last summer that visited the Golden Triangle area in northern Thailand. Of course we did not get over into Burma or Laos, and we were there primarily looking into the drug traffic situation. But we found considerable concern and considerable activity in Thailand about the insurgents who were coming over the border into Thailand. I don't know if you touched on this in your testimony or not. I wondered if you had any comments to make on that subject and if you could identify who the insurgents are and if you have any thoughts about what their objectives are in that land.

Dr. WELDON. I have had some contact with this, Mr. Preyer. Having worked up in that area of Laos a lot over the years, we have run into various groups out in Burma and northern Thailand.

There are probably three or four different factions that are involved in this. There are remnants of the old KMT, of course, the Chinese Nationalists that are left up there, there are probably 3,000 or so of them still operating in that area, and they are primarily involved in the opium and gold trade. They control it to a considerable extent, the movement particularly through that area.

Mr. PREYER. They are primarily involved in protecting the drug traffic but are not involved in trying to overthrow the Thai Government?

Dr. WELDON. It is hard to say, but they don't seem to be involved politically. If they are involved politically, they are probably more sympathetic to the anticommunist side than they are to the communist side.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. PREYER. Surely.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Where do these insurgents get the gold and the narcotics from? They are insurgents, but they are controlling the traffic. Who are they trafficking from and who are they trafficking to?

It seems incredible to me that insurgents, the remnants of the KMT, have gold and they are trafficking in gold. That does not sound very insurgent to me.

Dr. WELDON. As I say, there are several people involved that usually come under this term, several groups of people. One of them is the KMT, up there.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What I am pointing out is that you commented that they are trafficking in gold and narcotics, and mostly in the transportation thereof. Who are they transporting from and who are they transporting to?

Dr. WELDON. Primarily from the Shan States down into the Golden Triangle where it is then turned over to whoever the international buyers are, whoever the international buyers are. I am not sure who is buying the opium from them, for instance.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Do we have the same definition of an insurgent?
Dr. WELDON. These people are all so involved in insurgents' activities up in that area because they are trying to protect their own interests there.

As I say, there are three or four people, as far as I am concerned, three or four groups of people, that fall into this category. The other, and probably most significant group of people in that area are the minority non-Burmese groups who are in rebellion against the Burmese Government. These are composed of Shan, Koran, Chin, variation of the ethnic minorities in that area.

Mr. SCHMITZ. If the gentleman would yield further, before you move to another area, I have this stuck in my mind about insurgents trafficking in gold.

If they are in charge of the traffic, it is traffic from someone to someone else. Where do the insurgents pick up the gold?

Dr. WELDON. Part of this is produced up in that area; there is gold produced in areas up there.

Mr. SCHMITZ. And the remnants of the Kuomintang army control the area?

Dr. WELDON. They don't control the area, but they do control the transportation and the contacts with the outside, apparently.

Mr. PREYER. If I might comment on that; the information that we got up there was very much what Dr. Weldon is saying, that the KMT, the remnants of that, are not insurgents in the sense that we perhaps formally think of it in trying to overthrow the Thai Government. What they are doing is serving as bodyguards in bringing the opium out of the Golden Triangle area where it is grown, down into Thailand where it has been routed out by the rest of the world. So they are against the Thai Government insofar as the Thai Government is trying to stamp out opium growing up there in northern Thailand.

They are not trying to overthrow the Thai Government, but they are not anxious for the Thai Government to stop opium growing. So they sometimes make common cause with these other groups who do want to go beyond just keeping opium in there, they want to overthrow the Thai Government.

Where their funds come from, I don't know about the gold, but our information is the farmers in that area of northern Thailand, and just over the border in Burma and Laos, grow opium there and sell it to mainly Chinese merchants who take it out. Therefore, they get their pay from the merchants.

Mr. SCHMITZ. In our jargon they would be soldiers of fortune, and they were left there and they didn't make it to Taiwan, so they have become hired bodyguards in which their loyalties are to themselves, I suppose.

Mr. PREYER. And some have intermarried, I understand.

Dr. WELDON. It is pretty hard to separate the thing out. Certainly there is a lot of self-interest, and they have to support themselves, but there is also probably some political relationship back in Nationalist China, too.

Mr. SCHMITZ. This is why I am wondering where the gold comes in here. You struck a chord there. Are they taking this gold out to Nationalist China, is that what they are doing?

Dr. WELDON. Maybe the gold trade is not that significant. The main thing is opium, of course, but there is a lot of gold that goes back and forth in that area, mainly because it is a medium of exchange.
Dr. Weldon. These people are all so involved in insurgents' activities up in that area because they are trying to protect their own interests there.

As I say, there are three or four people, as far as I am concerned, three or four groups of people, that fall into this category. The other, and probably most significant group of people in that area are the minority non-Burmese groups who are in rebellion against the Burmese Government. These are composed of Shan, Koran, Chin, variation of the ethnic minorities in that area.

Mr. Schmitz. If the gentleman would yield further, before you move to another area, I have this stuck in my mind about insurgents trafficking in gold.

If they are in charge of the traffic, it is traffic from someone to someone else. Where do the insurgents pick up the gold?

Dr. Weldon. Part of this is produced up in that area; there is gold produced in areas up there.

Mr. Schmitz. And the remnants of the Kuomintang army control the area?

Dr. Weldon. They don't control the area, but they do control the transportation and the contacts with the outside, apparently.

Mr. Preyer. If I might comment on that; the information that we got up there was very much what Dr. Weldon is saying, that the KMT, the remnants of that, are not insurgents in the sense that we perhaps formally think of it in trying to overthrow the Thai Government. What they are doing is serving as bodyguards in bringing the opium out of the Golden Triangle area where it is grown, down into Thailand where it has been routed out by the rest of the world. So they are against the Thai Government insofar as the Thai Government is trying to stamp out opium growing up there in northern Thailand.

They are not trying to overthrow the Thai Government, but they are not anxious for the Thai Government to stop opium growing. So they sometimes make common cause with these other groups who do want to go beyond just keeping opium in there, they want to overthrow the Thai Government.

Where their funds come from, I don't know about the gold, but our information is the farmers in that area of northern Thailand, and just over the border in Burma and Laos, grow opium there and sell it to mainly Chinese merchants who take it out. Therefore, they get their pay from the merchants.

Mr. Schmitz. In our jargon they would be soldiers of fortune, and they were left there and they didn't make it to Taiwan, so they have become hired bodyguards in which their loyalties are to themselves, I suppose.

Mr. Preyer. And some have intermarried, I understand.

Dr. Weldon. It is pretty hard to separate the thing out. Certainly there is a lot of self-interest, and they have to support themselves, but there is also probably some political relationship back in Nationalist China, too.

Mr. Schmitz. This is why I am wondering where the gold comes in here. You struck a chord there. Are they taking this gold out to Nationalist China, is that what they are doing?

Dr. Weldon. Maybe the gold trade is not that significant. The main thing is opium, of course, but there is a lot of gold that goes back and forth in that area, mainly because it is a medium of exchange.
Dr. Weldon, first of all let me thank you for appearing before this committee, for your enlightening testimony, some of which we realize was very hard on you because of your close relationship with these people.

At this time, Mr. Preyer of North Carolina, do you have any questions?

Mr. PREYER. Thank you. Dr. Weldon, I regret that I missed some of your testimony and perhaps you covered this in it. I was a member of the health subcommittee last summer that visited the Golden Triangle area in northern Thailand. Of course we did not get over into Burma or Laos, and we were there primarily looking into the drug traffic situation. But we found considerable concern and considerable activity in Thailand about the insurgents who were coming over the border into Thailand. I don't know if you touched on this in your testimony or not. I wondered if you had any comments to make on that subject and if you could identify who the insurgents are and if you have any thoughts about what their objectives are in that land.

Dr. WELDON. I have had some contact with this, Mr. Preyer. Having worked up in that area of Laos a lot over the years, we have run into various groups out in Burma and northern Thailand.

There are probably three or four different factions that are involved in this. There are remnants of the old KMT, of course, the Chinese Nationalists that are left up there, there are probably 3,000 or so of them still operating in that area, and they are primarily involved in the opium and gold trade. They control it to a considerable extent, the movement particularly through that area.

Mr. PREYER. They are primarily involved in protecting the drug traffic but are not involved in trying to overthrow the Thai Government?

Dr. WELDON. It is hard to say, but they don't seem to be involved politically. If they are involved politically, they are probably more sympathetic to the anticommunist side than they are to the communist side.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. PREYER. Surely.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Where do these insurgents get the gold and the narcotics from? They are insurgents, but they are controlling the traffic. Who are they trafficking from and who are they trafficking to?

It seems incredible to me that insurgents, the remnants of the KMT, have gold and they are trafficking in gold. That does not sound very insurgent to me.

Dr. WELDON. As I say, there are several people involved that usually come under this term, several groups of people. One of them is the KMT, up there.

Mr. SCHMITZ. What I am pointing out is that you commented that they are trafficking in gold and narcotics, and mostly in the transportation thereof. Who are they transporting from and who are they transporting to?

Dr. WELDON. Primarily from the Shan States down into the Golden Triangle where it is then turned over to whoever the international buyers are, whoever the international buyers are. I am not sure who is buying the opium from them, for instance.

Mr. SCHMITZ. Do we have the same definition of an insurgent?
You have to have money to carry on this business and it is a pretty
lucrative business. The only currency that can be used is gold. They
won't accept anything else.

Mr. Schmitz. What do they do with the gold after they get paid in
gold?

Dr. Weldon. Just like we use dollars, but in that area the medium
of exchange is gold. They just don't have any trust in any other kind
of currency. All business is done in gold.

Mr. Schmitz. So this is tied in with the narcotics traffic as a medium
of exchange?

Dr. Weldon. Yes.

Mr. Schmitz. Where are they picking up the narcotics?

Dr. Weldon. In the Shan States, primarily. This map doesn't go up
that far, but primarily up in this area over here.

Mr. Schmitz. That is in Thailand?

Dr. Weldon. Burma. Certainly the major production is in Burma
right now.

Mr. Schmitz. And you mentioned the KMT insurgents as being an­
other group. These are the people growing the opium, and so forth?

Dr. Weldon. Some of these people, a lot of these people, are in­
volved in growing opium, but also they happen to be the dissident
groups in these areas that are in rebellion against the central Burmese
Government.

Mr. Schmitz. Where are the people trafficking in narcotics getting
the narcotics from?

Dr. Weldon. From Burma, in the Shan area.

Mr. Schmitz. Who is growing it?

Dr. Weldon. The Shan.

Mr. Schmitz. The insurgents or noninsurgents?

Dr. Weldon. I don't think you can sort them out. The total num­
ber of insurgents, if you are talking about people carrying rifles, and
so on, there are only a few thousand.

Mr. Schmitz. Do the insurgents control the area in these Shan
provinces?

Dr. Weldon. They probably do. The political factions in Burma are
so fragmented that it is pretty hard to answer your question. There is
a lot of in-fighting.

Mr. Schmitz. Where are they getting their weapons?

Dr. Weldon. There is another question. I am not sure where they
are getting them.

Mr. Schmitz. Red China?

Dr. Weldon. No, I don't think so.

Mr. Schmitz. My information is that they are getting their weapons
from Red China.

Dr. Weldon. This could be true.

Mr. Schmitz. If this is true, I will check that out. But, then it is
alleged that these remnants of the Nationalist Chinese groups who
are sympathetic to Nationalist China are trading the narcotics and
going dough for it out of there; that doesn't make sense.

What does make sense is that there seems to be a reluctance on the
part of everyone, a great willingness to believe that the Nationalist
Chinese are somehow engaged in narcotics traffic but the Red Chinese
are pure as the driven snow in narcotics traffic.
Dr. Weldon. That is just the impression I get working out of there. I have not been able, and believe me this has been of considerable interest, but in my endeavors in living out there I have not found anything that indicated to me that the Chinese communists are involved in international traffic.

Mr. Schmitz. What if I introduce you to the girl who escaped and saw the Chinese troops cultivating the fields?

Dr. Weldon. I would believe her. I am telling you in my experience I have not had this experience; I am not saying that it is not true, Mr. Schmitz. I have been asked a question and I am saying I do not have any experience or knowledge that indicates such to me.

Mr. Schmitz. But you don't have any knowledge that it is not happening either?

Dr. Weldon. Of course not. I don't know what is going on there.

Mr. Schmitz. I don't mean to be especially rough here, it is just that you are a Government official, and I have just come to the conclusion that Government officials are presently briefed to stay away from that one area.

Dr. Weldon. I can assure you that I have not been briefed on anything. I had no idea of coming before this committee.

Mr. Preyer. If the gentleman will yield, I will just say that our experience going to the Golden Triangle is very much like Dr. Weldon's and we talked not just to American officials there but to the Thai border police patrol people, and they say they simply see no evidence of the Chinese communists encouraging this opium trade at all.

That isn't to say, as Dr. Weldon has been fair in saying, that is not saying that may not happen, but so far no one seems to see any evidence of it there, including the Thais.

Dr. Weldon. I am only giving you the negative evidence. I do not know what is going on over there and you could well be right. But in the 9 years that I have been there, I have not gained any knowledge which supports this premise.

Mr. Schmitz. I am not making any point, except I would like to make one point here at this time, that your experience is from the noncommunist-occupied areas?

Dr. Weldon. Absolutely.

Mr. Schmitz. So your knowledge of the areas that the communists occupy is obviously more limited than your knowledge of the area that they don't?

Dr. Weldon. My knowledge of what is happening in China is nil; the only knowledge that I have with the communist areas are just portions of those in Laos where we have some people filtering out and I have the opportunity to talk to them. But I haven't talked to anybody out of China.

Mr. Schmitz. Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to ask if I could submit information with regard to the Red Chinese involvement in the insurgent group in Burma in this area. I think it is a significant point I am making because the confusing aspect of so-called former KMT troops sympathetic to Nationalist China, being used as bodyguards in the transportation of narcotics out of an area controlled by insurgents, if those insurgents are in turn under the control of the Red Chinese there is something wrong here, unless those former KMT troops are now just soldiers of fortune. The government of free China has not controlled them for over 20 years.
Dr. Weldon. That is just the impression I get working out of there. I have not been able, and believe me this has been of considerable interest, but in my endeavors in living out there I have not found anything that indicated to me that the Chinese communists are involved in international traffic.

Mr. Schmitz. What if I introduce you to the girl who escaped and saw the Chinese troops cultivating the fields?

Dr. Weldon. I would believe her. I am telling you in my experience I have not had this experience; I am not saying that it is not true, Mr. Schmitz. I have been asked a question and I am saying I do not have any experience or knowledge that indicates such to me.

Mr. Schmitz. But you don't have any knowledge that it is not happening either?

Dr. Weldon. Of course not. I don't know what is going on there.

Mr. Schmitz. I don't mean to be especially rough here, it is just that you are a Government official, and I have just come to the conclusion that Government officials are presently briefed to stay away from that one area.

Dr. Weldon. I can assure you that I have not been briefed on anything. I had no idea of coming before this committee.

Mr. Preyer. If the gentleman will yield, I will just say that our experience going to the Golden Triangle is very much like Dr. Weldon's and we talked not just to American officials there but to the Thai border police patrol people, and they say they simply see no evidence of the Chinese communists encouraging this opium trade at all.

That isn't to say, as Dr. Weldon has been fair in saying, that is not saying that may not happen, but so far no one seems to see any evidence of it there, including the Thais.

Dr. Weldon. I am only giving you the negative evidence. I do not know what is going on over there and you could well be right. But in the 9 years that I have been there, I have not gained any knowledge which supports this premise.

Mr. Schmitz. I am not making any point, except I would like to make one point here at this time, that your experience is from the noncommunist-occupied areas?

Dr. Weldon. Absolutely.

Mr. Schmitz. So your knowledge of the areas that the communists occupy is obviously more limited than your knowledge of the area that they don't?

Dr. Weldon. My knowledge of what is happening in China is nil; the only knowledge that I have with the communist areas are just portions of those in Laos where we have some people filtering out and I have the opportunity to talk to them. But I haven't talked to anybody out of China.

Mr. Schmitz. Mr. Chairman, at this point I would like to ask if I could submit information with regard to the Red Chinese involvement in the insurgent group in Burma in this area. I think it is a significant point I am making because the confusing aspect of so-called former KMT troops sympathetic to Nationalist China, being used as bodyguards in the transportation of narcotics out of an area controlled by insurgents, if those insurgents are in turn under the control of the Red Chinese there is something wrong here, unless those former KMT troops are now just soldiers of fortune. The government of free China has not controlled them for over 20 years.
You have to have money to carry on this business and it is a pretty lucrative business. The only currency that can be used is gold. They won't accept anything else.

Mr. Schmitz. What do they do with the gold after they get paid in gold?

Dr. Weldon. Just like we use dollars, but in that area the medium of exchange is gold. They just don't have any trust in any other kind of currency. All business is done in gold.

Mr. Schmitz. So this is tied in with the narcotics traffic as a medium of exchange?

Dr. Weldon. Yes.

Mr. Schmitz. Where are they picking up the narcotics?

Dr. Weldon. In the Shan States, primarily. This map doesn't go up that far, but primarily up in this area over here.

Mr. Schmitz. That is in Thailand?

Dr. Weldon. Burma. Certainly the major production is in Burma right now.

Mr. Schmitz. And you mentioned the KMT insurgents as being another group. These are the people growing the opium, and so forth?

Dr. Weldon. Some of these people, a lot of these people, are involved in growing opium, but also they happen to be the dissident groups in these areas that are in rebellion against the central Burmese Government.

Mr. Schmitz. Where are the people trafficking in narcotics getting the narcotics from?

Dr. Weldon. From Burma, in the Shan area.

Mr. Schmitz. Who is growing it?

Dr. Weldon. The Shan.

Mr. Schmitz. The insurgents or noninsurgents?

Dr. Weldon. I don't think you can sort them out. The total number of insurgents, if you are talking about people carrying rifles, and so on, there are only a few thousand.

Mr. Schmitz. Do the insurgents control the area in these Shan provinces?

Dr. Weldon. They probably do. The political factions in Burma are so fragmented that it is pretty hard to answer your question. There is a lot of in-fighting.

Mr. Schmitz. Where are they getting their weapons?

Dr. Weldon. There is another question. I am not sure where they are getting them.

Mr. Schmitz. Red China?

Dr. Weldon. No, I don't think so.

Mr. Schmitz. My information is that they are getting their weapons from Red China.

Dr. Weldon. This could be true.

Mr. Schmitz. If this is true, I will check that out. But, then it is alleged that these remnants of the Nationalist Chinese groups who are sympathetic to Nationalist China are trading the narcotics and getting dough for it out of there; that doesn't make sense.

What does make sense is that there seems to be a reluctance on the part of everyone, a great willingness to believe that the Nationalist Chinese are somehow engaged in narcotics traffic but the Red Chinese are pure as the driven snow in narcotics traffic.
I would like permission to put this information I referred to about the Red Chinese arms being supplied to these insurgents in Burma in the record at this point. I think it is significant there, it is important to my line of questioning. Either this area is not controlled by the Red Chinese or Red Chinese subsidized or supported insurgents or these KMT troops are not sympathetic to Nationalist China and are simply soldiers of fortune working for, in this case, the Red Chinese, and I think it is completely different from the Red Chinese affiliates, insurgents in north Burma.

Mr. Davis. Without objection.

(For statement of Congressman John G. Schmitz entitled “Communist Involvement in the Golden Triangle Opium Traffic,” see appendix II, page 7817.)

Mr. Preyer. Our information there, speaking again in this Golden Triangle opium-growing area, was that nobody controls those areas; that is one reason it is so difficult to do anything about the opium traffic. Burma can't control its part of the territory, Laos doesn't control it, Thailand can't control it, yet these are all farmers—we flew over the fields and you could see them—that are very primitive people. And I am sure they don't have any kind of ideology, in that some of them grow this stuff and pack it out of these fields on their backs and they will sell it to the first middleman and then exchange. They get rice and gold or brass armbands to decorate themselves with and they use those to trade for wives, that kind of thing. This is the level of the economy of the people that grow these things. It is wild country, and nobody controls it.

Dr. Weldon. I have not had the opportunity to finish what I was going to say about that people that were up there and you asked me who were these people. Now, we have identified the KMT and we have identified the insurgents that are in Burma.

Now, these people are primarily in an insurgency movement against the Burmese Government. Now, the other group that is operating in that area are insurgents which are in Thailand and Laos which are controlled by the communists, and they are primarily being supported and supplied by the North Vietnamese, even though they are working up in the northern part of Thailand.

These are the groups that are involved up there, and the insurgents that are in Thailand and northern Thailand are not the same people as the insurgents that are up in Burma in rebellion against the Burmese Government. Do I make myself clear?

Mr. Schmitz. You say there are two types of—excuse me.

Mr. Preyer. I was just wondering, the insurgents, then, that are imposing a threat to Thailand, these are North Vietnamese-sponsored insurgents?

Dr. Weldon. North Vietnamese-sponsored, yes. They are primarily Thai and Lao in that area, I mean ethnic; they are all Thai citizens, but ethnically they are Thai and Lao.

Mr. Preyer. So their equipment probably comes through North Vietnam and, therefore, China and Russia?

Dr. Weldon. Yes. But then the opium-growing area, the place where it is being grown now, is primarily in Burma, in the Shan areas. This is an insurgent area. These people are ethnic minorities in Burma who
are under the insurgency movement against their own government in Rangoon and are not related to what is going on down in Thailand.

Mr. SCHMITZ. They could be related in this regard, that they are both getting guns from the same common source?

Dr. WELDON. That is possible, yes.

Mr. SCHMITZ. That is simply the point I would like to submit.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Preyer, do you have any further questions?

Mr. PREYER. No. I thank you for your interesting testimony.

Mr. DAVIS. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. SCHMITZ. Not at this point.

Mr. DAVIS. Dr. Weldon, again, thank you for giving up this time on your leave. Thank you for your testimony and the answers to the questions.

If there is no further business, the committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., Thursday, July 20, 1972, the committee recessed, subject to call of the Chair.)
are under the insurgency movement against their own government in Rangoon and are not related to what is going on down in Thailand.

Mr. Schmitz. They could be related in this regard, that they are both getting guns from the same common source?

Dr. Weldon. That is possible, yes.

Mr. Schmitz. That is simply the point I would like to submit.

Mr. Davis. Mr. Preyer, do you have any further questions?

Mr. Preyer. No. I thank you for your interesting testimony.

Mr. Davis. Do you have any further questions?

Mr. Schmitz. Not at this point.

Mr. Davis. Dr. Weldon, again, thank you for giving up this time on your leave. Thank you for your testimony and the answers to the questions.

If there is no further business, the committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a.m., Thursday, July 20, 1972, the committee recessed, subject to call of the Chair.)
I would like permission to put this information I referred to about the Red Chinese arms being supplied to these insurgents in Burma in the record at this point. I think it is significant there, it is important to my line of questioning. Either this area is not controlled by the Red Chinese or Red Chinese subsidized or supported insurgents or these KMT troops are not sympathetic to Nationalist China and are simply soldiers of fortune working for, in this case, the Red Chinese, and I think it is completely different from the Red Chinese affiliates, insurgents in north Burma.

Mr. Davis. Without objection.

(For statement of Congressman John G. Schmitz entitled “Communist Involvement in the Golden Triangle Opium Traffic,” see appendix II, page 7817.)

Mr. Preyer. Our information there, speaking again in this Golden Triangle opium-growing area, was that nobody controls those areas; that is one reason it is so difficult to do anything about the opium traffic. Burma can’t control its part of the territory, Laos doesn’t control it, Thailand can’t control it, yet these are all farmers—we flew over the fields and you could see them—that are very primitive people. And I am sure they don’t have any kind of ideology, in that some of them grow this stuff and pack it out of these fields on their backs and they will sell it to the first middleman and then exchange. They get rice and gold or brass armbands to decorate themselves with and they use those to trade for wives, that kind of thing. This is the level of the economy of the people that grow these things. It is wild country, and nobody controls it.

Dr. Weldon. I have not had the opportunity to finish what I was going to say about that people that were up there and you asked me who were these people. Now, we have identified the KMT and we have identified the insurgents that are in Burma.

Now, these people are primarily in an insurgency movement against the Burmese Government. Now, the other group that is operating in that area are insurgents which are in Thailand and Laos which are controlled by the communists, and they are primarily being supported and supplied by the North Vietnamese, even though they are working up in the northern part of Thailand.

These are the groups that are involved up there, and the insurgents that are in Thailand and northern Thailand are not the same people as the insurgents that are up in Burma in rebellion against the Burmese Government. Do I make myself clear?

Mr. Schmitz. You say there are two types of—excuse me.

Mr. Preyer. I was just wondering, the insurgents, then, that are imposing a threat to Thailand, these are North Vietnamese-sponsored insurgents?

Dr. Weldon. North Vietnamese-sponsored, yes. They are primarily Thai and Lao in that area, I mean ethnic; they are all Thai citizens, but ethnically they are Thai and Lao.

Mr. Preyer. So their equipment probably comes through North Vietnam and, therefore, China and Russia?

Dr. Weldon. Yes. But then the opium-growing area, the place where it is being grown now, is primarily in Burma, in the Shan areas. This is an insurgent area. These people are ethnic minorities in Burma who
Sixty miles north of Vientiane on a plateau near the village of Ban Xon, a complex of wooden buildings along the airstrip designated LS-272 is the control center for refugee supply operations in Xieng Khouang Province. In this mountainous region of forests, there are at present 119,322 refugees or 49 percent of the refugee population of Laos. Most of these refugees are Meo who for more than a decade have been pushed into an ever-diminishing land area as the war in Laos has increased in scope and intensity. Over 110,000 now inhabit a stretch of land that extends 80 miles east from LS-272 in the Muong Cha valley to the village of Muong Nam southeast of the Plain of Jars. Over 8,800 refugees are located in three isolated enclaves north of the Plain of Jars. The mountains in the region rise 3,000 to 6,000 ft in a series of sharp crested ridges; in this range, Phou Bia, the highest mountain in Laos, rises to 9,242 ft immediately south of the Plain of Jars.

Their villages are built on the slope or summit of the mountains. If they remain long enough in one place or if the land is arable, they plant upland rice on the hill sides. These conditions seldom prevail. Over 80 percent of the refugees depend on outside help for food. If the terrain permits, they clear an airstrip near the village where a Porter (a small STOL aircraft) or a helicopter can land. If the terrain does not permit, they clear a space on the hillside where food for the village is air-dropped from Porter or C-46 aircraft. At any one time, over 65 percent of the total number of refugees in Xieng Khouang Province depend on the airdrop for food.

LS-272 was established in March 1970 after the fall of Sam Thong which, until that time, had functioned as the supply center for refugee operations in Xieng Khouang Province. The site was a public works construction camp located 44 km from Route 13 on the Houei Paman road.
which was to link Route 13 with Sam Thong. Refugee movements into the area began in January 1970 when 8,000 people were evacuated by air from Haua Phan Province near Sam Neua. The fall of Sam Thong and the drive against Long Tieng pushed the major portion of the population of southern Xieng Khouang Province into the area that they now occupy.

A stream in which children play separates LS-272 from Ban Xon, a village of 214 people. The roar of aircraft is constant. On the 3,040 ft gravel runway, aircraft land and take off at intervals measured in minutes. As many as 900 landings in one day are recorded.

The USAID complex consists of a rice warehouse, a medical supply warehouse, a 200-bed field hospital, an air operations office, and a trailer which is the USAID office. Here, schedules for air delivery of food to refugee groups scattered on remote hilltops are coordinated from messages which arrive by "jungle telegraph" or modern telecommunications. At 54 sites, delivery is by airdrop; at 42 sites, there are short, crude landing strips where cargo can be air-landed. During April 1972, the delivery of 1,872 MT of commodities was coordinated out of LS-272. These commodities consist of rice, salt,
which was to link Route 13 with Sam Thong. Refugee movements into the area began in January 1970 when 8,000 people were evacuated by air from Houa Phan Province near Sam Neua. The fall of Sam Thong and the drive against Long Tieng pushed the major portion of the population of southern Xieng Khouang Province into the area that they now occupy.

A stream in which children play separates LS-272 from Ban Xon, a village of 214 people. The roar of aircraft is constant. On the 3,040 ft gravel runway, aircraft land and take off at intervals measured in minutes. As many as 900 landings in one day are recorded.

The USAID complex consists of a rice warehouse, a medical supply warehouse, a 200-bed field hospital, an air operations office, and a trailer which is the USAID office. Here, schedules for air delivery of food to refugee groups scattered on remote hilltops are coordinated from messages which arrive by "jungle telegraph" or modern telecommunications. At 54 sites, delivery is by airdrop; at 42 sites, there are short, crude landing strips where cargo can be air-landed. During April 1972, the delivery of 1,872 MT of commodities was coordinated out of LS-272. These commodities consist of rice, salt,
Sixty miles north of Vientiane on a plateau near the village of Ban Xon, a complex of wooden buildings along the airstrip designated LS-272 is the control center for refugee supply operations in Xieng Khouang Province. In this mountainous region of forests, there are at present 119,322 refugees or 49 percent of the refugee population of Laos. Most of these refugees are Meo who for more than a decade have been pushed into an ever-diminishing land area as the war in Laos has increased in scope and intensity. Over 110,000 now inhabit a stretch of land that extends 80 miles east from LS-272 in the Muong Cha valley to the village of Muong Nam southeast of the Plain of Jars. Over 8,800 refugees are located in three isolated enclaves north of the Plain of Jars. The mountains in the region rise 3,000 to 6,000 ft in a series of sharp crested ridges; in this range, Phou Bia, the highest mountain in Laos, rises to 9,242 ft immediately south of the Plain of Jars.

Their villages are built on the slope or summit of the mountains. If they remain long enough in one place or if the land is arable, they plant upland rice on the hill sides. These conditions seldom prevail. Over 80 percent of the refugees depend on outside help for food. If the terrain permits, they clear an airstrip near the village where a Porter (a small STOL aircraft) or a helicopter can land. If the terrain does not permit, they clear a space on the hillside where food for the village is air-dropped from Porter or C-46 aircraft. At any one time, over 65 percent of the total number of refugees in Xieng Khouang Province depend on the air drop for food.

LS-272 was established in March 1970 after the fall of Sam Thong which, until that time, had functioned as the supply center for refugee operations in Xieng Khouang Province. The site was a public works construction camp located 44 km from Route 13 on the Houei Pamone road.