

Ecole Supérieure de Pédagogie.

The English Section was established on a tract of land nine kilometers north of Vientiane in September of 1959. The following year the Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs was moved to this site from the city of Vientiane.

The site of the school is one set aside by the Royal Lao Government for the establishment of Sisavang Vong University. The National Education Center is but one program of the total University. At present, it is the only program located at this site. As noted previously, the name has been changed to the Ecole Supérieure de Pédagogie.

All of the 1400 students are studying to be teachers. Virtually all are boarding students whose living expenses are paid by the government. Many of the teachers and most of the administrative staff live on campus. The school has its own water and sewage system. (One of two in the whole country, the other servicing an American housing compound.) The personnel who man and maintain these and other school services also live on campus. In all, a conservative estimate of the total number of people living on campus would be about 1,800 people.

All students enter the school after six years of previous schooling at present. The length of study depends upon the grade the graduate is to teach in. It varies from two to nine years. The two-year graduate can teach in grades one

Two and Three. The nine year graduate can teach in grades nine and ten. It is necessary to get training outside of Laos to teach in grades beyond ten as Laos, at present, does not have a full university level program in any area of study. The extreme number of years necessary to prepare a teacher is necessary because the school must not only train the student to be a teacher but must also give him a secondary education.

Programs vary not only in length, but in the language of instruction. The majority of the 1,400 students get their instruction in French. English is the language of instruction for 110. The Lao language is last year was used in the program of 180 students. The use of the Lao language is increasing and will continue to do so as more qualified Lao teachers become available.

The shortage of Lao teachers makes it necessary for the school to rely primarily on foreign staff. During the 1965-66 school year the teaching faculty consisted of 44 French, 23 Americans, 3 Thai, 3 Canadians, 2 British, 2 Indians, 1 Vietnamese and about 15 Lao. The figure for the Lao is approximate as some taught less than full loads. The administration of the school is entirely by Lao with aid from foreign advisors. A Frenchman supervises the French Teachers and an American supervises the American Teachers.

During the colonial days, Laos had to rely primarily on teachers trained outside its borders. The program of the ESP is an attempt to fill the ever growing teacher needs by training teachers within Laos. In the future when sufficient numbers of Lao have been trained at the university level outside the country, the ESP will become a Lao staffed school using the Lao language throughout.