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SUMMARY: ENGLISH TEACHING IN LAOS IS CENTERED CHIEFLY IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE LAO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, ALTHOUGH SOME INSTRUCTION IS GIVEN IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND CLASSES AND UNDER COLOMBO PLAN ASSISTANCE. THE DEMAND IS LIKELY TO INCREASE.

1. There are in Laos six French secondary schools (four lycées and two collèges), two French technical schools, one complete normal school (three other reduced-cycle teacher training institutions are conducted in the Lao language and do not have English as a regular part of the curriculum), one school of law and administration, and one medical school--all operating under the Ministry of Education. Only the last-named does not have regular classes in English. Plans are underway to open other colleges this fall and in 1966. All lycées and collèges now open are run by the French.

a. The Vientiane Lycée is the most advanced general school in the country. Seven years of academic instruction are given in the senior section and it is the only institution that is approved to grant the "Baccalaureat Complet"--which qualifies students to go on to French universities. For the 1965-66 school year there are seven full-time English teachers: five French, one British, and one American. English is taught in grades seven through thirteen (sixième-terminale) as a compulsory subject for four years and as an optional one for the other three. Perhaps 1,500 students are studying English this year out of a total of approximately 1,700 in the senior lycée.

b. The lycées in Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, and Pakse offer six years of schooling in grades seven through twelve and each has two full-time English teachers: one Frenchman and one American. English is taught in five grades, with every student being required to study the subject for at least three years. The provincial lycées in Luang Prabang and Savannakhet each have about 250 students studying English out of an enrollment of some 475. The Pakse lycée has about 350 out of 530.

c. Khammouane Collège in Thakek conducts classes in grades seven through ten. The only English teacher is the Lao wife of the French director, Mme. Pierre Daudin (née Kongman Phromviharn) who studied in the U.S. English is required during the last three years and there are about 150 in these grades in a student body of 200.

d. Saravane Collège conducts classes only in grades seven through nine but plans to add a tenth grade next year. They have not had an English teacher before this year but now have one American. The total enrollment is just over 100, of whom about 30 have started a beginning English course.

e. The Vientiane Technical School is under new direction this

year, after a student strike last spring forced the ouster of the previous Lao Director of Technical Education. His Lao successor is a former teacher at the Vientiane Higher Teacher Training School who studied in the U.S. under the Teacher Development Program. Four years of instruction are given (grades ~~8~~ through ten) and one Canadian and one American teach English as a required subject to the 330 students.

f. The Savannakhet Technical School is directed by a Frenchman and has an enrollment of about 420 students in grades seven through ten. English is a compulsory subject and both instructors are American.

g. The Higher Teacher Training School (Ecole Superieure de Pedagogie-ESP), formerly known as the National Education Center, is located on the outskirts of Vientiane and has three sections: French, English and Lao.

i. The French Section is by far the largest and has about 1,200 students in three cycles: four-year (grades seven to ten), seven-year (grades seven to thirteen), and nine-year (two years added to the seven-year program). English is compulsory for up to eight years and there are about 1,120 students taking the language this year. Three Americans teach full-time and one Lao who has studied in the U.S. teaches part-time in the four-year cycle. Three Americans teach full-time in the seven to nine-year programs.

ii. The English Section of the E.S. has about 110 students in a seven-year program (grades seven to thirteen) and naturally English is compulsory for all grades. Five Americans and one Englishman teach English full-time and other classes are conducted with English as the medium of instruction.

iii. The Lao Section has just been started this year on an experimental basis with about 80 students. English is not being taught but plans call for three years of compulsory English beginning next year when the full four-year program (grades seven to ten) has been accepted.

h. The Lao -language normal schools (Ecole Normale d'Instituteurs^{stituteurs} E.N.I.) do not have regular English classes, although one American gives part-time instruction to about 50 pupils in the student body of 165 at Pakse. No school instruction is yet available to the 100 students in Luang Prabang or the 70 students in the Vientiane E.N.I. Two classes are conducted in each E.N.I. at the seventh and eighth grade levels and it is planned eventually to provide the schools with a two-year and a four-year cycle. At that time, English may become required for the last one and three years respectively.

i. The Royal School of Law and Administration in Vientiane (Institut Royal de Droit et d'Administration-I.R.D.A.) requires

English for its 80 students in six grades (eleven to thirteen and a higher cycle of three additional years). One Canadian teacher conducts all the classes.

j. The Royal Medical School in Vientiane (Ecole Royale de Medecine) has about 70 students in grades eleven to fourteen but no English instruction is given. The Lao Director of the Medical School speaks English himself but has stated that his students do not have time to add another course to their crowded schedule.

2. Two semi-private secondary schools exist in Vientiane.

a. The Buddhist Institute (Pali High School) requires English for its 270 students in the five years of classes it conducts now (four years at the intermediate level and the first year of an advanced three-year cycle started this year.) The three English teachers are all Lao. French, incidentally, is started in the fourth year of the primary level and thus has a three-year head start on English.

b. The Lao-German Technical School, started in 1964, does not give English instruction to its 82 students in two classes.

c. The completely private Lycée Somboun Inthavong in Vientiane closed down during the summer of 1965 and has not yet reopened. If and when it does, English will probably be taught.

3. The American and British Embassies also sponsor English teaching.

a. The Lao-American Association has about 1,300 students in regular classes in the main building in Vientiane and another 225 in special classes throughout the city. Three years of three terms each are given normally and advanced conversation classes on demand. LAA has branches in Luang Prabang and Savannakhet have already about 50 and 300 students respectively. An American has recently been assigned full-time to Pakse to begin classes there and another American is being sent to Vang Vieng to revive special English classes in that town. It is estimated that at least 100 students will begin studying in each of these locations and Pakse has the potential to grow to rival Savannakhet.

b. At the present time USAID, under the IAP program, is conducting English classes for officers and men of the Royal Lao Air Force and Royal Lao Army who are going to the U.S. for training. In Vientiane, 100 Army personnel are in an intensive course (6 hours, 5½ days a week), while 100 men are studying two hours, five days per week. In Savannakhet, there are 7 members of the Royal Lao Army and 26 Royal Lao Air Force personnel studying full-time, and 35 Army personnel studying ten hours weekly. In Pakse, 35 members of the Army are enrolled in the full-time course. All of these

classes are conducted by either Thai or Filipino instructors. There are two American advisors at present--one in Savannakhet and one in Vientiane--but this number is to be increased by two within the next few months.

c. The British Embassy sponsors English classes under the Colombo Plan and conducts up to seven terms. At present there are about 250 students being taught by six Lao, three French and three British part-time instructors.

d. The British Information Service also conducts classes for about 140 students. Three terms are given with the teaching being handled by five British teachers.

4. Recent plans by the Ministry of National Education call for the beginning of many new colleges during the next few years. Paksane and Khong (Sithandone Province) have already opened under French directors. Attopeu and Kengkok are also slated to start under Lao directors. The program for 1966 ~~also~~ calls for other colleges in Sayaboury, Champassak, Sam Thong (Kiong Khouang Province), Pouchi Sai, and Phonehong (Vientiane Province) - in that order. It is unlikely that all of these will open within the next year but some certainly will. No demands for English teachers have been made yet, since each new school will increase by only one grade at a time and they wish to get firmly established first. It is very likely, however, that requests for more American teachers of English will be forthcoming in the coming years.