

IVS/EDU

TO: Joseph A. Mendenhall, Director July 31, 1967
FROM: Dwane E. Hammer, AAC/LP
SUBJECT: Monthly Report, July, 1967

General

Ambassador Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Farwell, Dr. Andrus and Dr. Hall attended the pre-service graduation exercises at ENI in Luang Prabang.

Chao Khoueng Hom Sundara's arrival was much welcomed in Luang Prabang from his medical leave. He is slowly returning to normal activities.

The Muong of Muong Met which was created approximately eight months ago has now a Chao Muong in residence. The Deputy Chao Khoueng accompanied him to Muong Met for official installation ceremonies. There are more Lao official changes anticipated which will be reported at a later date.

General Tiao Siyvong has been installed as new Commander General of MR 1.

Personnel changes in the area are as follows: Mac Thompson, IVS/RD has been assigned to Xieng Lom; Alex McIntosh, IVS in residence in Ban Dong.

The census of Luang Prabang has been completed but the program did not go as smoothly as was anticipated. First problem was the lack of coordination between Vientiane both RLG and USAID and respective offices in Luang Prabang. Certain forms were received by this office at various times throughout the program with instructions to do this and that but without follow-up. The latest form was personnel evaluation sent to the Education Advisor who has had no personal contact with any of the summer student employees. This was all handled through the training center and an IVS person who was assigned very quickly without complete orientation with his main job as timesheet attendant and when the program was completed he left immediately for his assigned station, not knowing that personnel evaluation had to be done.

Rural Development

The Xieng Ngeun cluster conducted the first Nai Ban Training Course in the Province of Luang Prabang with very good success even though two days before the starting of the program P. L. activity caused quite a bit of difficulty in the area by partially blowing out a bridge and damaging TP equipment. The program received a lot of enthusiasm from the Deputy Chao Khoueng right on down through RLG officials. The biggest complaint was that it was not long enough. Attendance was very good and a lot of enthusiasm was shown by the Nai Bans. More Courses will be planned at a later date.

The rainy season has virtually stopped all self-help projects in the area but plans are being drawn up for projects to begin as soon as the dry season is here.

Relocation of refugees from Soptiek has been settled upon the return of the Chao Khoueng.

Agriculture

Mr. Scott, USAID/AGR Ex.; ADO and IVS have all been very active in rice seed and fertilizer dissemination. The rice crop in the Luang Prabang area looks very good and we have not had problems of drought and insects such as has been reported by Ban Houei Sai. The insect problem of Ban Houei Sai has been taken care of by the Extension Advisor.

Irrigation is now doing a feasibility study on the proposed irrigation sites in Ban Houei Sai and Muong Nane areas. Canal construction on the Nam Khane is on-going with the general problem of keeping bulldozer in operating condition.

Education

Two very successful training programs were conducted in Luang Prabang by the PSI and representatives from USAID/Vte. and IVS. A lot of enthusiasm was shown by instructors and students. I feel that these are programs that should be developed and carried out throughout the year not just at the end or during vacation time. This is a problem that the Education Advisor is working on to see if smaller training sessions can be conducted.

BPR

With equipment damaged by P. L. in the cluster, all TP equipment has been hauled back to Luang Prabang and the Sub-Division Chief is very reluctant to do any work outside Luang Prabang without complete assurance of security. This causes a problem of lack of maintenance on the road to Muong Khay and the road to Xieng Ngeun. A detailed survey was made on the proposed road from Muong Nane to the Mekong River by the Chao Muong of Muong Nane, Sub-Division Chief of Sayaboury and Mr. Smith of BPR.

OICC

The decking on the Nam Khane bridge is completed. The handrails on the catwalks and the lumber at the bottom of the rail on the catwalk has been installed to provide better safety.

The inspection of the dormitory at ENI was held with just a few minor additional changes. A Tel Thai contractor has completed all work required in his present contract and has returned. Construction of the Groupe Scolaire in Ban Houei Sai is picking up. The contractor is making up the deficit that he had at the beginning of his contract. Warehouse in Sayaboury should be completed within a week.

PROBLEMS

It is suggested that all people going either to Sayaboury, Luang Prabang or Ban Houei Sai refer back to the Action Memo stating that concurrence is required by all people before going into the area.

It is recommended that certain divisions check Action Memos stating all commodities being shipped to the field should either be new or in the top notch working condition.

P. L. activity will be reported in a separate report.

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