

Woodson

IVS/ED

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Department of State
Agency for International Development

Memorandum of Conversation

Date of Meeting: December 4-6, 1967

SUBJECT: Teacher Training Conference

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Sophon Oudomvilay, Director of Teacher Training, RLG
Mr. Phansy Abhay, Director of L.P. SMI, RLG
Mr. Oudone Varinthasarakul, Director of Pakse ENI, RLG
Mrs. Pinkham Simalavong, Director of English Section, ESP
Mr. Bounpheng, Director of Vang Vieng ENI, RLG
Mr. Phia Khamphay, Director of Vientiane ENI, RLG
Mr. Thongsai, Director of Student Teaching, ENI, Vientiane
Mr. Don Phommachakr, Teacher of Agriculture, ESP
Mr. Khamphoui, Farm, ESP
Mr. William G. Hart, Chief, Education Division, USAID
Dr. Ralph H. Hall, Teacher Education Advisor, USAID
Miss Bligh DesBrisay, GEA/LP, USAID
Mr. Richard T. Costantino, GEA/Pakse, USAID
Mr. Bernard Wilder, Chief of Party, IVS/ED
Mr. Larry Woodson, Associate Chief of Party, IVS/ED

COPIES TO: All participants named above and OD/DD, OPE, PWD, OICG,
CON, DEY, AGR, MD/IT, MD/PT, AC's, IVS/ED 3, AD/ANI,
EMB/POL, ANB/DCM, OMS, Hawaii Team, State Lao Desk,
AID/W Lao Desk, GCR 3

The meeting was opened by Dr. Sophon with brief statements of why the meeting was called, what we hoped to achieve at the meeting and how we would attack the agenda items. A suggestion was made by Dr. Hall that we might find it profitable if each Director would go through a listing of problems being faced at his school and we could discuss them at appropriate points on the agenda. This suggestion was followed and the following items noted.

Vang Vieng: (Mr. Bounpheng)

1. The accelerated program at Vang Vieng is near, therefore, it would be very helpful for planning to know the level of projected assistance for the school.
2. Need electricity and water at the school.
3. Would like to get started on another self-help building similar to present building so that classrooms and dormitory space could be

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separated.

Vientiane ENI: (Mr. Mike Murphy)

The most pressing needs are additional classrooms and books.

Luang Prabang ENI: (Mr. Murphy)

Electricity is a problem since the old generators are unreliable and no city power is available; transportation is a real problem since it is insufficient for the program and unreliable due to age of vehicles; new construction planned is badly needed.

A discussion followed on the craft building status. The letter to the Ministry of Finance from USAID Controller on this subject was read. Dr. Hall suggested that the space under the Salle de Fetes be utilized for crafts (according to previous discussions) as the only realistic solution at this time. The money matters on the previously planned craft building have been straightened out and the remainder of funds in the counterpart account should be available for purchase of necessary sand, gravel and wood. There would be no new practical arts building planned for a later date. The laboratory building being proposed for construction in FY 69 would be able to accommodate agriculture, home economics and science instruction. All agreed that work should start on the development of the space under the Salle de Fetes. USAID is to effect release of cement for the purpose.

Pakse ENI: (Mr. Oudone)

1. The water situation on the second floors of the two new dormitories makes a new water tower a necessity.
2. Electricity is a real problem since city electricity is erratic and not available several nights each week.
3. The road and playground grading is needed.
4. Supplies requested have not arrived.
5. Old vehicles are expensive to maintain and insufficient transportation to accomplish the supervision and placement of students in student teaching.
6. Kitchen expansion is needed to meet the food handling problem.
7. Need science and home economics laboratory building.
8. Need tools and equipment for teaching industrial arts and crafts (previous request received no action).

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9. Need a ceiling on demonstration school (this will be taken care of immediately through self-help).
10. Need to have a clear explanation of procedure for fund handling since several bills submitted for payment were disapproved by Dr. Hall to be paid from Trust Fund. Also need a clear explanation of how to handle emergency purchases.
11. Need a building to be used for a motor pool.
12. Would like to change two classrooms into a library for use next year and also will need bookcases for library use.
13. Need laboratory equipment for teaching science.
14. Would like to add to the agenda a discussion on student exchanges between schools and the possibility of organizing literary and scientific workshops to include members of the teacher training faculties.

IVS/ED: (Mr. Wilder)

Suggest that we add to the agenda a discussion on scheduling since coordination is difficult but very necessary. This is a general problem encountered by all schools.

Discussion followed: The number of students and teachers is unknown until school starts and the fields of specialization are also unknown. So the question of who makes out the schedule and who changes it considerable discussion ensued. However, an attempt will be made to develop a coordinated program schedule next year where practical arts will be a part of the program and not supplementary to the program. Dr. Hall suggested that the schedule should be developed to fit the students - not the faculty. This raised considerable discussion and citing of cases where schedule was changed to fit faculty without considering the total student needs. An attempt will be made to improve the development of a schedule next year.

Coffee break.

Items one and two to be considered Monday. The other items to be held for Wednesday and (if necessary) Thursday discussions.

Personnel

Dr. Somphon: It is difficult to plan ahead regarding personnel (teachers and administrators) since the quality of returns from abroad is unknown and must be assigned after they are known. Also the ability of foreign teachers is unknown and Lao teachers cannot be placed under their control.

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Dr. Hall: Recommend three months of practical training but should have the names by the end of December in order to establish the training program. When should training start?

Mr. Gudons: Has names now for Vakea.

Dr. Sompou: They should start at the end of the school year. We will attempt to secure a man for Devanavithet to be trained this manner.

It is difficult to plan the administrative and teaching staff since these are not fully known until the school gets started.

The ENI in Vientiane will move next year to Vang Vieng if proper arrangements can be made and acceptance is gained from the Vang Vieng administration. A visit will be made to Vang Vieng to determine feasibility on December 8. If the change can be made, the first year of the ENI will be in Vang Vieng next year and the second year moved the following year. Thinking also involves the possibility of Ban Keun. These teachers will be taught by Leo in the Laotian language. Consideration will also be given to taking three students after the third and fourth year into teacher training for two years.

Discussion on the Vang Vieng school followed. Since Dr. Sompou was going to go to Vang Vieng December 8, Dr. Hall asked if he would check with the town council on electricity for the school. Mr. Boupheng said that the water and electricity problems were in the hands of USAID.

Dr. Hall: This is not really true. Mr. Boupheng had been informed that electricity awaited the council action and USAID would not act upon it. The water problem was to be discussed with the CDAA at Vang Vieng. USAID had promised well ring forms and cement. The well was to be dug and rings made by the school. We would try to get a hand pump. The well was to be dug at the lower level below the bank.

Mr. Boupheng: Would like furniture delivered to Vang Vieng by 22nd of December when Prime Minister comes to dedicate the hospital.

Dr. Hall: Will try. (Later discussion involved fact that Mr. Boupheng probably meant housing furniture in which USAID is not involved. Classroom furniture is on order but will not be ready until January.)

Mr. Boupheng: Will USAID help with the new classroom building?

Dr. Hall: USAID will help with materials as was done with first building. Self-help must be used on securing bamboo and construction. Dr. Hall then discussed the budget allocation for Vang Vieng (Mr. Boupheng was to report the next day) and how the money is being handled and what the budget covered.

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Dr. Somphou: Can ENI directors have an emergency fund to use even though items may be in the warehouse.

Dr. Hall: If it is a real emergency, funds can be used upon agreement of the ENI Director and CEA (example: parts for a water pump that has gone out of operation and no substitute available).

Miss DesBrisay: A larger stock of maintenance material should be at each ENI.

Mr. Wilder: Isn't USAID establishing small Common Use warehouse in Luang Prabang and Pakse?

Dr. Hall: A few common maintenance items should be stocked at each location.

Participants and IVS/ED Staffing

Dr. Somphou: Would like a paper on definition of conditions of grants to participants and in-country conditions in each country. (Per diem, living conditions, housing regulations, travel, etc.)

Mr. Oudone: Has two IVS/ED, one for agriculture and one for English. Has a Lao practical arts teacher. Hopes to get a Lao to teach agriculture next year. Otherwise, will need an IVS to teach animal husbandry.

Dr. Hall: Will we be able to hold the Utheng Mai graduates for the ENI's next year?

Dr. Somphou: Yes.

Dr. Hall: Can we plan on one at Luang Prabang, one at Pakse and one at ESP? We need to quickly obtain counterparts for all IVS team members in Practical Arts.

Dr. Somphou: Yes. We did not approve extension of training and hope to have them at the schools next fall.

Mr. Oudone: If this is so, then two IVS/ED should be enough next year. However, English teaching this year involves 32 hours in the four year program (none in the two year program). May need another English teacher.

Mr. Phansy: LP has three hours per week in two year program. Two IVS/ED will be enough.

Dr. Hall: Should English be taught in two year program?

(No decision was reached on this question although it will be basis for further discussion this year).

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Dr. Hall: We will do all possible. Should we plan two science laboratories, home economics laboratory, agricultural room and craft room in the laboratory building being planned for the ENI's? Will this fill the needs?

Mr. Oudone: Yes.

Miss DesBrisay: This should be a six-room building.

Mr. Oudone: Pakse needs a water tower and a motor pool where cars can be washed, greased and checked.

Dr. Hall: We will press for a water tower, although it is not in the budget for this year. OIGG/PW will work on the road and ditch soon. The recreation area probably can not be done. The school should attempt to develop the fields on a self-help basis.

Mr. Oudone: Can USAID furnish cement for facilities to teach Health and Physical Education? We will need approximately six tons.

Dr. Hall: We should be able to get cement for developing teaching facilities if self-help is used.

Mr. Oudone: How about the coiling on the demonstration school?

Dr. Hall: No problem. Plywood is being released for this purpose, other wood will have to come out of your budget.

Dr. Somphou: Can USAID furnish some construction material for Ban Keun if self-help is used for the rest?

Dr. Hall: There shouldn't be any problem if it is handled the same as Vang Vieng.

Dr. Somphou: Ministry believes all four year students and two year students should be moved outside of Vientiane for first and second year. The third and fourth year would be given at the ESP.

Dr. Hall: Agricultural and practical arts instruction needs to be improved and students given credit for these.

Dr. Somphou: The Ministry recognizes the need for better instruction in these fields and when the three Chieng Mai students come back improvement should ensue. We shall see.

Mr. Wilder: We must be careful teaching agriculture or all we will be teaching is that agriculture is damned hard work and that they never want to do it again!

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Mr. Gudone: Can we get money for students to develop teaching kits for practice teaching? At present, there are enough materials for one out of four students.

Dr. Hall: Each should have a kit made at the workshops being conducted at each school.

Dr. Somphon: Teaching materials are necessary. Mr. Gudone asked students to spend their own money but they did not have a sufficient amount.

Dr. Hall: The workshops should take care of this problem.

Dr. Somphon: Pakse has already started their workshops and Luang Prabang has theirs scheduled for January 3rd.

Dr. Hall: We need to know the projects planned and material needed so that we can draw necessary items from Common Use stocks before purchasing other items.

Dr. Somphon: The 1962 Reform Act - we discussed this earlier - it cannot be followed exactly due to lack of personnel. As people return we will try to follow the act as far as conditions permit. (Mentioned IWS as being necessary for some time since they were the only available competent teachers at present.)

The teaching of agriculture needs practice and theory - not for less emphasis but for better motivation.

Dr. Hall: Pointed out the need for grades for practical arts subjects as part of motivation and the counting of the grades toward passing or failing. Also, the Practical Arts teachers (IWS) should be invited to teacher meetings. This omission has caused considerable hard feelings in the past.

Dr. Somphon: This will be done in the future.

Dr. Hall: Built up Somphon as potential assistant in student teaching and the possibility of helping in developing curriculums for one, two and four year programs. He can also help in supervision of student teachers and in helping them prepare material to make their teaching more meaningful.

Dr. Somphon: All agree this is needed and the development of material cannot be done in the classroom. Can we use him in the practice teaching in the two year program?

Dr. Hall: The teachers need to know the "why" as well as the "how" - need to know theoretical as well as practical applications of what they teach. Teachers are afraid of and ignore teaching those things they do not

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understand.

Dr. Somphou: We could use him in practical arts for students teaching outside the school.

Dr. Hall: Why not use him in practice teaching supervision and planning?

Dr. Somphou: Give instructions to Mr. Shampay to use Bramhan in practice teaching.

In Japan the various countries reported difficulty in implementing new programs of the 100% type. Most of the other countries have given up and reverted to academic training only. The Minister says to work toward the goal even if not 100% successful - that 10-15% will be good.

Dr. Hall: The U.S. faced the same problem and it took almost 100 years before final achievement.

Mr. Oudone: Would like to get practical arts teaching started. Need tools for teaching this area.

Dr. Hall: Give us a list of what you need and we will do all we can to help get this started.

Dr. Somphou: Textbooks: The Ministry assigned the NPS to develop books. If they do and we accept them, we will use them.

Dr. Hall: Can we get copies of materials from the teachers at each school which they have developed? The NPS works on the assumption that teacher training will develop the material and they will do the necessary technical work to get them in print.

Mr. Oudone: Polse has been developing a guide for practice teaching which will be done the middle of January.

Dr. Hall: Urged them to submit it so that it can be checked and possibly used by all schools.

Mr. Oudone: Some material has been developed. History, Geography, Teaching Guides, etc. have been mimeographed.

Dr. Hall: Send them in. They can be reviewed here. Dr. Somphou could assign reviewing committees and if accepted they can be printed for all schools to use. There is a great deal of work already done, now we should collect and utilize this work.

Dr. Somphou: Director of Practical Teaching did a paper on a guide for practice teaching. Dr. Somphou will review and possibly submit it for printing.

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Mr. Oudone: Requested a book of forms for observing practice teaching be printed.

Dr. Somphou: In service training already discussed. Now, can we discuss the exchange teacher item? Problem is transport and where should they go. Can transportation be provided for trips between schools?

Dr. Hall: Sorry to have to give you this answer but all programs will have to be planned within the facility limitations of the school. USAID cannot be asked to transport students for the schools.

Dr. Somphou: The schools have done all they can for short trips, previous trips between schools have been done through the military but now this is very difficult.

Dr. Hall: It is easier through the military than through USAID.

Dr. Somphou: We would like staff conferences between all teacher education staffs. This could be done in the summer for about two weeks.

Dr. Hall: How many people?

Dr. Somphou: Just the academic staff.

Dr. Hall: Should include the entire staff. How many people would that involve?

Dr. Somphou: About thirty.

Dr. Hall: It would be better if we set bigger objectives - upgrading as well as exchange of ideas. Also, it probably should be for a longer period of time - thirty days.

Discussion followed on the possible attack and purpose of such a program. Further discussion will be held in order to develop concrete plans and explore possibilities.

Dr. Somphou: One item left: miscellaneous.

Dr. Hall: Directors should check the textbooks in the warehouse to make certain they have all they need.

Mr. Oudone: Can we get some Thai textbooks for the library? (He was promised these by USIS but did not get them.)

Dr. Hall: Send a list of what is desired and we will check them against the order already underway. Maybe, we should get these for all schools.

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Mr. Oudone: Have no list except by subject.

Dr. Somphou closed the meeting and all agreed that it was a very good meeting for getting information out where all could discuss. This closed the second annual Teacher Training Conference of USAID and School Directors.

Drafting Officer: EDU: ~~Ball: wnt~~

Date of Preparation: December 13, 1967.

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Agenda

- I. Personnel
 - A. Present staff
 - B. Projected staff needs for 1968
 - a) ESP
 - b) ENI
 - c) Savannakhet
 - C. IVS personnel requirements
- II. Participant training abroad
 - A. Students
 - B. Government employees
- III. Funding needs
 - A. New construction - 1968
 - B. Construction in process
 - C. Maintenance needs
 - D. Operating expenses
- IV. Practice teaching
 - A. Placement and supervision
 - a) 4 year program
 - b) 2 year program
 - B. Implementation of 1962 Reform Act
 - a) Agriculture instruction
 - b) Practical arts
 - C. Textbooks
 - a) Pedagogy
 - b) Academic subjects
 - c) Practical arts and agriculture
 - D. In-service training
- V. Miscellaneous