

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 3, 1970

TO : Norman Green, Chief, EDU  
 FROM : *Dwane R. Collins*  
 DWane Collins, COP - UoH Contract  
 SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - July 1970

Problems:

The Fa Ngum Savannakhet land difficulty reported last month has now been resolved through the generosity of Deputy Lieb who signed over his property to the school and through the facilitating services of Chao Khoueng Sisouvan.

The problem of voltages and cycles on GSA ordered equipment will continue to need even more careful surveillance. Only after several months has our overhead projector trade (220v to 110v) been consummated through the kindness of the Vientiane 3M representative.

The construction of the Phone Hong teachers' cottages has been delayed because the MoE is temporarily out of funds and cannot purchase the lumber. USAID materials and available student labor are on the site.

The funds in question are under new allocations which the MoE is not yet authorized to spend. The summer student workers, meanwhile, are doing other projects at the school.

Program Progress

The arrival on July 8 of Mr. Stanley Yoshimoto, new University of Hawaii Team member, his wife Sherri, son Kenneth (5), and daughter Mary (3), promises much for the Comprehensive High School Project. Mr. Yoshimoto will supervise the development at Fa Ngum Savannakhet; he and his family will be stationed in Savannakhet. Mr. Yoshimoto received his BS from the University of Hawaii and his Masters in Agriculture Education at Oregon State University, Corvallis. His experience as teacher of agriculture, FFA advisor, Young Adult Farmer Chapter Advisor, and management of the six acre farm complex at Kohala High School (Hawaii) has equipped Mr. Yoshimoto excellently for his assignment. He has been undergoing a concentrated orientation program and is taking lessons in spoken Lao. The family is now living in a guest house apartment in Vientiane and will move to Savannakhet during the latter part of August.

The University of Hawaii Team and the three Directors of the Fa Ngum Schools, Messrs. Somsak, Phone and Hongthong held lengthy conferences during July on the curriculum, grading system and teaching improvement.

The staff of MD/PT, USAID/Laos and USOM/Thailand deserve special commendation for their huge effort in processing the sizable short term participant training program for Fa Ngum teachers and college personnel. Twenty-nine of the former group left for Thailand during the month in preplanned personnel units to develop curriculum materials and to observe and discuss modern teaching techniques with Thai teachers and school-university officials. The latter group also left for Thailand to observe comprehensive school operations after a week of orientation at Fa Ngum Vientiane. Norman Green, Chief of EDU, MoE Director of Secondary Education Phou, Fa Ngum Directors Somsak and Phone, and the University of Hawaii Consultants, especially Messrs. Zane and Stevens developed the program which included lectures, examination of textbooks and other curriculum materials and visitation to the various departments of the school. Upon their return from Thailand they will continue the workshop at Fa Ngum Vientiane completing questionnaires designed to make specific plans for the transition of their colleges to the Lao language and inclusion of selected prevocational units and to assess their feelings toward comprehensive type education and their summer workshop's experience. Upon Mr. Stevens' return from Thailand where he observed the college group in their studies, he reported that those he spoke with were very favorably inclined toward comprehensive education.

UofH Consultants Tsutsui, Yamauchi and Stevens returned from TDY in Thailand where they worked with their Lao counterparts attending the summer workshop. They reported that the group got a slow start but were having very worthwhile experiences by the end of the month.

On July 19 the three Fa Ngum Directors left for a week's training in Bangkok then proceeded to Honolulu where they will enroll in the Second Summer Session of the University of Hawaii. Their courses in administration of the comprehensive school will be pointed toward the Masters Degree. This participant training is a part of the University of Hawaii/USAID Contract. The fourth member of the original group, Mr. Tou Fu was requested to stay in Laos to do urgent refugee work.

In collaboration with the MoE, EDU Chief Green and MD Chief Beyda, I surveyed all of our long term participants (47) now in training and make a calendar projection for FY1971 (41).

In the ongoing operation at the Fa Ngum Schools the experimental rice project progressed well during the month. Students participating in the work study program are keeping daily statistics on precipitation, disease, insects, fertilization, insecticides and general care of the project. Selected Fa Ngum agriculture students supervised and assisted the Sam Thong refugee students develop their self-help garden which is between the dormitories. The gardens were planned, fenced, seed bed prepared, seeded, water line installed, fertilized and maintained. The huge landscaping project looks good. All plants look alive and healthy.

The work study students in the Fa Ngum Vientiane library project are keeping the library open for the use of students engaged in summer time study classes, the other work study students and the Sam Thong refugee students.

Some of the second year textbooks have been approved by the MoE, typed and with a few finishing touches on the illustrations will be put out for printing bids. Several others are still being reviewed by MoE officials while two have not been fully prepared for review.

All the Phone Hong items of equipment which had been stored in a variety of places in Vientiane were moved to Fa Ngum Phone Hong during the month and are being sorted, set up and put in place or stored. The shop is substantially completed, it is hoped that the Science building will be ready for occupancy in October. Much of the Phase II Phone Hong School furniture was refused because the contractor's workers failed to glue the joints. The units were then taken apart, glued and reassembled. Twenty three new Olympia typewriters in the Lao alphabet and several other items for Fa Ngum Savannakhet have been received.

During the last week of the month official documents cleared the land title at Fa Ngum Savannakhet as indicated in the Problems section. On the last day of the month MoE Director of Secondary Education approved the placement of buildings recommended by OICC, USAID/EDU and the UofH Team Consultants.

In response to a request from CM for materials for the new display case in the foyer of the new USAID administration building a display of the new Fa Ngum textbooks has been readied.

Mr. Stevens reports that 450 pages of supplementary teaching materials in various fields of study have been translated or developed during the past few months. These have been bound into pamphlets and brochures.

On July 27 I was invited to speak to the Rotary Club of Vientiane (of which I am a member) on the topic, "The Fa Ngum Project and Its Implications for the Future of Laos." The 40 attendants (largest in the History of the Club) asked many questions and expressed keen interest in the Project.

A July statistics summary of the June admissions data revealed that 2261 applicants took the new objective type examinations, of which 321 were selected: 105 for Fa Ngum Vientiane and 108 each for Savannakhet and Phone Hong.

Visitors during July included Dr. Robert Jacobs, from the RED office at Bangkok and Mr. James Faulhaber, former Chief of the Education Division USAID/Laos during the early planning stages of the Fa Ngum Project. He said that the developments he observed gave him great personal and professional satisfaction.

During the month 45 Lao elementary school teachers attending a local workshop under the leadership of Mr. Khamphoui Silavong, Primary School Inspector, visited Fa Ngum Vientiane. They reacted very favorably to the school buildings, equipment and program. As a part of Mr. Yoshimoto's orientation, he and I visited the Phone Hong and Vientiane Schools. His wife Sherri, Ah Chong Zane and I accompanied him on a visit to Savannakhet to review developments of the Fa Ngum number three

school. AC Stone and wife were not only good informants but were also very hospitable hosts. During our visit we visited the school site, the Technical School, the Chinese School (one of the latter two may be used to house our school until permanent buildings are ready) and to select a very satisfactory house for the Yoshimoto from the three preferred.

Personnel developments also included the acquisition of permanent housing in Vientiane for Team member Hagiwara and his wife (who will arrive on post in August). Mr. Hong Thong's (Director of the new Fa Ngum Savannakhet) wife presented him with a fine baby girl. Team member Francis Wong left on home leave July 1.

Mrs. Collins and I returned from home leave on July 14. During my home leave I had the opportunity to discuss the total project with Dr. Ihara, Campus Coordinator, Dean Hubert Everly of the College of Education and President Harlan Cleveland of the University of Hawaii. Considerable attention was given to providing continuity to the project during the change of leadership of the Consultation Team. It was decided that I shall be given my sabbatical leave between the termination of my formal association with the project July 1971 and the resumption of my duties on the UofH campus. President Cleveland expressed strong interest in the appointment of my successor suggesting that he might be a scholar of South East Asian affairs. Since our conference, Dr. Ihara and my team members have given considerable thought to my replacement. We appreciate the value of the helpfulness the sophistication of South East Asian affairs would be but insist strongly that intimate knowledge of how to develop a comprehensive secondary school is of first importance. This knowledge can be obtained solely through secondary school experience and experience in the development of secondary school personnel. Another thought to provide continuity of operation which received strong support was the implementation of the recent recommendation of the USAID/W Committee on University Contracts. The committee recommends that the Chief of Party should alternate his services between the Contract and his campus responsibilities and during his interim return to the campus he should have supervisory advisement responsibilities of the project.

Also during my home leave I was interviewed by news reporters. Two favorable reports were published: a brief item summarizing the project in the Newton (Iowa) Daily News and a half page feature article in the Honolulu Star Bulletin.

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