

August 1, 1973

TO : Miss Lee Engler, CEA/Program

FROM : Larry Woodson, CEA/Refugee

SUBJECT : Monthly Report for July 1973

Problems:

No new significant problems.

Accomplishments:

The month of July was dedicated to observing the fourth year of the CREC/Refugee in-service training program conducted in 25 centers in Laos. The balanced academic curriculum was taught by instructors composed of Primary School Inspectors, Groupe Scolaire Directors and teachers with many years of training and experience. Several centers utilized instructors that had recently returned from RECSAM in Malaysia and education programs in Thailand.

The program showed continued improvement in the quality of teaching methods, course content and a better utilization of Lao language textbooks and simple teaching aids. (See CEA/P's report for additional information)

Surveys are being conducted to determine what is required to open all the refugee schools next month. Some repair and expansion is indicated and materials have been ordered for areas that have submitted their requirements.

The Khammouane refugees at Pak Sop are trying to use school construction as a lever to get more rice. They recently indicated that they would not complete the school if they did not get 15 kilograms of rice per person instead of 8 kilograms plus PC-430 commodities. The Ministry of Education and the Primary School Inspector are aware of the problem and have informed the villagers that teachers and supplies will be made available just as soon as the school is completed and housing is available for the teachers. USAID has already assisted with clearing the site, providing and hauling construction materials such as planks for bench and table tops, nails, and miscellaneous hand tools.

Lumber is still being delivered to Kao Liao for cutting and prefabrication of school furniture for refugee schools in North Nam Ngum per activity plan VT-3047. Lumber is difficult to obtain due to unavailability of certain sizes at some saw mills and rising prices.

Discussions have been held with various USAID and RLG officials concerning the rehabilitation of the Long Tieng schools. Activity plans previously written and approved are being amended to provide necessary materials for the project.

The PSI/Kieng Khouang had not planned on opening the Long Tieng Schools this year due to the need for numerous and time-consuming school repair required and due to staff housing problems. Most of the teachers' houses were either destroyed or severely damaged.

On July 26th, General Vang Pao requested that the Long Tieng Schools be opened and that he would help repair the teachers' houses by providing lumber from his sawmill at LS-266. He also indicated that the Groupe Scolaire near the market would become a school for war orphans.

Attachment * School Statistics

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