

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 1973

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division
FROM : James A. Dolan, Teacher Education Adviser
SUBJECT : Monthly Report for October 1973

Problems:

Nothing that has not been reported previously.

Activities:

Mr. Udorn Warintrasack, Director of Teacher Training, assumed his new role as head of training all teachers in Laos during September. As soon as school began, a visit with Mr. Udorn was made to the following locations:

Savannakhet ENI:

School was visited and a meeting was held with all the teachers to discuss this year's school operation. The school at Savannakhet was a disappointment. After two months of summer work program, the school appeared to have deteriorated. The Headmaster of the school said that he would try to maintain the school in a better condition. The generators on campus have been giving trouble and therefore the water supply has been interrupted. The water pumps also have broken down. All of these problems have contributed to the deterioration of the school.

Pakse ENI:

School was visited twice during the month to work with the ENI staff to complete the already started drainage development. The school at Pakse has been improved so much that a person would not know it was the same place. The new director and his staff have been working hard to correct the many problems that have plagued the campus for the past two years. There have been major changes in grounds, dormitories, lavatories and classroom buildings. The new staff are seriously taking their role in campus improvement. The students seem to be responding and the director or headmaster of the school is leading staff and students in the overall improvement. Pakse has definitely made the largest strides in improvement of any of the ENI schools during the last few months.

Luang Prabang ENI:

School was visited and the staff met with the Director of the Teacher Training school. There are still problems of staffing the school with adequate science teachers. The physical plant is being kept at a very acceptable condition under the leadership of Mr. Somlith. The new demonstration school, in four months, has all eight classrooms completed

with only the floor and finish work left. When one considers the work is basically volunteer labor, there has been a lot accomplished during the four month period. The floors will be filled with sand before the cement is laid.

This requires bringing the sand from the river. Until the river is lower it is impossible to get the sand. There is now enough money to finish the school from contributions from the local citizens. The prospect of finishing this project is very good.

Sam Thong ENI:

School now located at Ban Nam Moe, was visited twice during the month. The school has progressed very satisfactorily during the three weeks that it has been located at the new site. The furniture was delayed because kiln dried lumber was not available. The furniture is in sight during the first week of November and will help the school operation. The agriculture part of the school is developing. The area is cleared and the plans for animal housing are progressing. Material has been dispatched for construction and animals will soon be added to the location. Gardens and raising of food will be a large part of the school's program for instruction and extra curricular activities because of the food shortage at the old location. Students and teachers have been ill at the location. The differences in temperature from day to night and the local malaria has made students, staff and staff children ill. The work of PWD at Ban Nam Moe has been completed and inspected. The staff will build their dining tables from pre-cut lumber. Plywood will be supplied for the tops of the dining-room tables.

Vang Vieng ENI:

Campus was visited by the Director for the first time. A large number of students are enrolled this year than in previous years. The school appeared in good condition. There were problems of lights to study by during the evening because the hospital had stopped furnishing electrical power to the campus. Some lanterns were dispatched for the need. Benches are needed so the students can sit down to a meal. Wood will be supplied for the staff to construct adequate benches for the student body. The new director of Vang Vieng ENI was assigned from the ESP staff. The school appeared to be in good operation even though a new director was in charge.

Ban Keun and Kene Thao will be visited by the director during the month of November if the schedule will permit. The visit to the schools by the director makes it possible for him to understand the problems as they are sent to his office for assistance.

The new administration requirement for all students to live on campus is presenting a critical problem. Rooms have been altered to help, however, caution on this requirement is needed. The new staff and new administration need to prove the capability of handling the number they have on campus now. This requirement of mandatory living on campus has the potential of undoing the total school operation as well as the government itself. Proper supervision of kitchens and dormitories has not been demonstrated the first month. Adequate supervision for kitchens and dormitories has been planned. Time will be the factor to see if the staff is capable of providing adequate supervision.

Training of Lao teachers who teach education courses was started during the month of October. The training will take place at Dong Dok for three months. Thai and Lao staff are trying to prepare Lao staff and materials to improve the pedagogy and the preparation of the student teacher to practice teach.

The integration of the English Section with the ENI school has proven to be positive. The foreign staff teaching courses in Education are now teaching with Lao. The other schools (the ESP and ENIs) are looking to the work that is going on in the English Section as a source of help to supply ideas and material for preparation of student teachers in the other sections. The English Section staff is working hard to make quality material in Lao so it will be a contribution to Lao Education development. All of the students in the English Section are contributing to the material development as well as the staff.

Education material for the month has been in retyping the Practice Teaching Handbook for the English Section and two titles of Agriculture education material developed by Gary Alex while he was teaching in Pakse ENI. The material has been edited and prepared to be reproduced in mimeograph form. The material will be shared with each school.

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