

November 1, 1973

To : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division  
Contract Representative, USAID/Laos

From : *Robert M. Martin*  
Robert M. Martin, Chief of Party  
University of Hawaii Contract Team/Laos

Subject: October, 1973 Monthly Report

With the opening of all secondary schools, including the five Fa Ngum Comprehensive Schools, on October 1, team activities were focused upon school program operations. Reports by University of Hawaii advisors reflect their field trips and school advisory efforts.

#### A. Activities and Accomplishments

##### 1. Field Trips: All curriculum advisors carried out field trips as follows:

Allen-----Phone Hong, Luang Prabang  
Blake-----Phone Hong, Pakse, Savanavithay  
Crisfield-Juane, Chalong  
Fulta-----Savanavithay  
Kumabe-----Phone Hong (twice)  
Rantala-----Savanavithay, Luang Prabang

The procedure for field trips is as follows: curriculum advisors to arrange informally with the SE advisor for the purpose of the trip. Then a letter is sent to the SE advisor outlining the objectives of the visit and requesting the SE advisor to arrange the trip. The SE advisor will then arrange the trip at times and under other circumstances which are suitable to the situation.

Individual reports by advisors on the various types of activities characterizing each school visit are:

1. A check on programs in progress.
2. In-service assistance to teachers.
3. A careful utilization of the SE advisor and other available materials.

It will also be noted that we are making an effort to visit the Phone Hong school weekly to maintain contact with the SE advisor who has been assigned to that school.

##### 2. Program of Studies Review and Materials

Jane Fulta has been coordinating joint efforts by all curriculum advisors and Lao department heads to develop a program of Studies Booklets. The target date is December 10, and it is expected that it will provide a complete list of subjects offered in the Lao schools by grade with appropriate textbooks. The program is being developed.

Perhaps the greatest value to grow out of this project will be the process whereby curriculum director Somsak, Jans Kultz, each department head and each UH curriculum advisor have formed subject matter curriculum committees for the purpose of analyzing and validating the course sequence in each area. It is expected that these curriculum committees will next work toward further development of course of study guides for each subject area.

### 3. Master List of Textbooks (attached)

Iwao Kumabe has compiled a master list of all textbooks printed or in the process of production under the project. It should be noted that each title is serially numbered when it is added to the list. This number is to serve as an additional reference to the UH in each case.

The first use of this list has been to check it in to the five schools as a check on titles which are at each school. Mr. Jon Phommavong will then ship all titles not checked by the schools. This will prevent a recurrence of the book shortage situation experienced this fall in several schools. Then, as each new printing is turned over to the Ministry of Education, an automatic distribution will be made to all Fa Ngum schools. This will also relieve the overcrowded storage facilities at Dong Lak.

### 4. Electricity at Savannakhet

The long awaited electrical hookup at the Savannakhet school has been made.

### 5. Teacher Supply at Fa Ngum Schools

When the schools opened October 1, 1973, shortages of teachers were in four of the five schools. This necessitated the sharing of teachers of classes and teachers. However, there should have been no such sharing in such cases. Credit must be given to Mr. Phou Phommavong, Director of Secondary Education, Ministry of Education for his willingness to accept the expanding teacher needs of both the Fa Ngum and other secondary schools in Laos. It must be appreciated that four of the five schools added complete grades this year. The hardship being appreciated, the problem and the solution being made to solve it each year.

### 6. Biology Glossary

Leslie Allen has dictated the compilation of a photocopied Biology Glossary. Because each title is given in both English and Lao, the Glossary will be valuable to students in Biology. Future Glossaries in other subject areas will be developed.

### 7. Teacher's Cottage-Phong Lang

A teacher's cottage was built by students and staff in the direction of Mr. Bounlann, teacher at the school. The splendid work of the self-help idea was culminated by a pig feeding program which was supervised by students and UH advisors participated.

B. Problems at Fa Ngum Schools

(note: While reference to problems is somewhat like scratching at sores, still it is the conviction of the UH team that the first step toward solving a problem is to identify it by name, check its dimensions and plan the solution.)

1. Maintenance at Fa Ngum Schools

These instances of problems, some of them continuing, are identified by the various SE advisors and by John Bantala in their reports. OICC and PWD are fully informed in each case and are giving each problem their attention.

2. Agriculture

Here the problem is two-fold:

a. The complexity of attempting to establish uniform projects for all schools given the diversity of growth conditions, local traditions and practices and teacher competence.

b. The necessity of one advisor to divide his time between curriculum advising in agriculture and that of SE advisor at Fa Ngum Vientiane, makes it difficult for the UH team to give the sustained importance in agriculture needed in the school. It must be stated that Hartwell Blake is rendering heroic service in agriculture in a project that it requires the full-time services of an advisor.

C. Future Plans

1. Evaluation Project

Planning is underway to set up a project for the year, which by the team of the UH project in Laos. This must be done in terms of the educational product (what is to be done at the schools). This achievement must be measured in terms of the project objectives governing the project.

Two factors tend to impede the project:

- a. Dwane Collins, an authority on the project is remaining in Hawaii team in January, 1971. This is a major loss of ground work before that time, and it cannot be facilitated.
- b. The first graduating class (now in grade 13) finished in June, 1970.

2. Teacher Workshops (1971)

UH staff members are now planning for teacher workshops and seminars for next summer. It is expected that the first workshop will be held in Laos in January 1971.

### 3. English-Lao Dictionary

Art Crisfield has recommended that the joint UR-Lao educational staffs undertake to produce an English-Lao Dictionary. At present, none exists in the country. It is expected that our staff will study ways and means of beginning this. Perhaps, a modest beginning in educational terms and a target date of 1976 would be reasonable goals.

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