

October 29, 1973

To : Dr. Robert Martin, Chief of Party, UN Team  
 signed in draft

From : Leslie R. Allen, Math/Science Advisor, UN Team

Subject: Report for the month of October, 1973

Problems:

1. The entire textbook distribution program for provincial Pa Seng schools needs review as it is beyond the UN's capacity to handle.
2. See under Cooperative Activities

Activities:

The status of science and mathematics is as follows:

1. Biology Glossary: This has now been completed, collated and stapled and is ready for distribution to biology teachers and other interested parties.
2. Grade 11 Chemistry, Volume 2: This has been sent to the printer for forwarding to the printer.
3. Grade 12 Physics: Mr. Sarang, who has made a start on this ICR but I have not seen the outcome. Mr. Sarang has prepared to commit himself to a work beyond his allowed twelve hours per week. Director Samsak on this matter will be discussed again, the necessity of a director's approval.
4. Mathematics: Nothing further to report for the month of October.

Cooperative Activities

Fal Ngum schools were visited as follows:

Phone Hong: October 8 - 9, Saranath  
Prabang: October 24 - 26. The purpose of these visits was to observe science classes and to hold discussions with a view to improving the quality of instruction. The emphasis was placed upon a laboratory approach to all Directors.

Visits to the provincial Pa Seng schools to observe and collect ideas and to Vientiane. The following concerns the latter part of the month.

Savannakhet: Teachers' desks have been removed from classrooms and placed in the Teachers' Work Room where each teacher now has his own locked desk for personal items and extra papers can be stored and lessons prepared. It was most impressive to observe the excellent use of time in this room in Savannakhet and the professional atmosphere present there.

I consider this innovation a most important step forward because teachers are hereby encouraged to (1) remain on school premises and, (2) attend to their professional duties in a more diligent manner than might otherwise be the case.

Luang Prabang: The textbook storeroom in this school is a model of which any school, anywhere in the world, could justifiably be proud. Books are categorized under subjects, labeled boldly, and the quantity available is readily apparent. The room is well lit and clean.

A reference here to Vientiane is inevitable. It is my present understanding that the textbook store there is presently equipped with extensive and expensive shelving in order to improve the earlier chaotic situation in this room. Unfortunately, conditions in some ways now seem to be worse than before. The books remain packed, no attempt at categorization has been made, numbers in stock are impossible to determine by inspection, and the passages are cluttered with a variety of equipment making them difficult and even dangerous. Suggestions to Mr. Don have not had a visible result.

Luang Prabang's inventory system is impressive and merits wide consideration.

#### Recommendations:

See above.

EDU/SE:LRAllen:kk