

October 1, 1973

To : Dr. Robert M. Martin, Chief of Party, UH Team

(signed in draft)

From : Arthur G. Cristofaldi, Linguist Advisor

Subject: Monthly Report for September, 1973

PROBLEMS:

1. Our most pressing concern now is to establish a structure and methods for assessing the Lao language curriculum, books and teaching methods.
2. Ways must be sought to help upgrade the education of the Lao language teachers. See recommendation below.

ACTIVITIES:

Proofreading and editing activities this month were very satisfying. New procedures, instituted by Mr. Kumbhe, have not only helped eliminate mistakes and saved time but have boosted morale greatly.

Editing of the Electricity Lab manual was completed together with the proofing of several other texts which are listed in Mr. Kumbhe's report.

The first weekly meeting of the Lao language department was held and teaching assignments were the main order of business. Plans were made for reviewing the curriculum and texts at successive weekly meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

As the level of education of all Lao teachers rises, it must not be denied to the teachers of Lao language and literature. Although these two areas are often taken for granted and considered self-sufficient in terms of subject matter, they require new teaching techniques to keep up with the other subject areas. If the locus of Lao language development resides with the Lao language department, the teachers must be given the chance to take further education in order to keep step with not only their students but especially with the demands of textbook writing in all fields. To leave the language field in the hands of the writers and typists, as we have seen, invites error.

RECOMMENDATIONS: