

October 1, 1973

To : Dr. Robert H. Martin, Chief of Party, III Team
(signed in draft)

From : Jane W. Paltz, Social Studies-English Adviser

Subject: Monthly Report for September, 1973

PROBLEMS:

How can we "complete" this conception task of curriculum development and implementation during the remaining years of the project?

There is a prevailing sense of urgency in what we're about, but at the same time limitations in manpower, availability of counterpart participation, cultural factors and the like tend to challenge any professional strategy.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:Social Studies Workshop - September 17 - 19.

Although we did not have the number of teachers that we had anticipated in the beginning, I believe the workshop was successful in realizing the proposed objectives as stated in the A². The eight teachers who attended represented all of the Fa Ngum schools with the exception of Pakse.

The small group proved to be a blessing in that group cohesion for the tasks to be undertaken emerged in short order. Each teacher readily assumed personal responsibilities for the development and implementation of curriculum materials.

Personally, I am pleased and gratified by the results of the workshop. Teachers left with some feeling of direction - "Whither social studies in the first cycle at Fa Ngum?" - and also, with materials that they had developed during the short two week period.

Curriculum materials may be here today and gone tomorrow, but personal involvement in curriculum development and implementation among and with peers pay off dividends in the long run, I believe.

(A more detailed report on the workshop is forthcoming).

IVS Seminar on TEFL for 1973 - September 10, 11 & 14

This was my first attendance at such a seminar sponsored by IVS. I'm glad I attended for it gave me an opportunity to meet and talk with the new IVS teachers of English. It also helped me to familiarize myself with the IVS office and Donny Uck's English section.

Mrs. Pinkham spoke on general administration, the Ministry of Education and the Lao schools, selection of Dong Dok students from the lycées and Fa Ngum, special problems of working in the Lao schools, and the RELC Center at Singapore.

Tom Tufts and Phillip Sudge spoke on the Lao National English syllabus and how attempts were being made to make the first and second year syllabus more Lao oriented.

Michael Parton provided information on how Dong Dok's English section was engaged in teacher education.

IVS'ers at Fa Ngum Vientiane - Friday, September 14

The seminar participants moved from Dong Dok to Fa Ngum on Friday. Inkhiane Viravong, Tom Tufts and Jane Fultz planned a program of activities that was to begin at 8:30 and to end at 10:30, but it went on till noon after a coffee repast.

The USIS film on Fa Ngum was shown first and an informal introduction to Fa Ngum and English teaching followed. Mr. Bacon, the new Director of Studies at Fa Ngum Vientiane, attended in the absence of Director Samsak. Mr. Martir and Dr. Crisfield also participated in the program.

We hope that this activity gave our new IVS teachers some feeling of identity and common purpose in assisting the Ministry of Education in implementing the Education Reform Act of 1962.

Move to new Curriculum Center

Another milestone in education development is here!

Our work at the Center will be enhanced greatly as soon as something is done about electricity.

Observations-Recommendations:

1. Workshops here are most productive if they are held during the summer, preferably in September before schools get underway. That period immediately after the closing of schools and the week before the opening of schools should be avoided.
2. Two to three weeks seem reasonable enough for a workshop.
3. The possibilities of getting Ministry letters to teachers before they leave for their vacations should be explored.
4. Kip payments for per diem should be increased.