

Wordson

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

NW Green

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, April, 1973

Refugee School Construction

Twenty temporary classrooms are under construction in Sedone for Saravane refugees and for refugees along the Saigon road. Eleven more temporary rooms are being constructed in Savannakhet for refugees from Atsaphone and Done Hene. These rooms will be ready for the opening of school in September and in some cases will also be used during the summer vacation period for classes conducted by student volunteers.

An Activity Plan to construct 26 permanent classrooms in the Thasano area has been approved.

Two Activity Plans to rehabilitate the war-damaged Khongsedone Groupe Scolaire and the PSI/Wapikhamthong Office are in final approval process.

Two refugee schools in the Luang Prabang area at Xieng Mene and Paks Muot were dedicated early in the month.

Recruitment of Teachers from Minority Groups

The Ministry has recently issued a significant order facilitating the entrance of students from ethnic minority groups into two-year teacher training schools. The order requests PSIs to identify students from minority groups who are among the candidates applying to enter the ENIs and to make recommendations concerning each candidate. The ENIs are then authorized to accept for entrance, on the basis of an examination and other criteria, a percentage of minority students equivalent to the percentage passing among regular students.

The Ministry is also making special provisions to transfer about

30 teachers in the Houei Sai area from military to CREC status. Most of these teachers are from minority groups.

School Improvement and Maintenance Projects

The demonstration Lao house for the home economics program at the Fa Ngum Vientiane School was officially opened on April 26. Many persons, including Fa Ngum students and faculty, UH and USAID personnel, and community members, contributed to the successful completion of this project.

A second well has been drilled at the Fa Ngum School in Vientiane in order to supplement the very limited amounts of water presently being received at the school from the city water system. The new well tested at a capacity of 65 gallons per minute but unfortunately its salt content was quite high. At PWD's recommendation, the well has been capped and will be retested during the rainy season to see if the salt content is reduced.

At the ENI in Luang Prabang, an ambitious self-help project has been completed which greatly improves the school's drainage and septic tank system.

Various

Among his many activities prior to departing from Laos, Ambassador Godley dedicated two schools in the Savannakhet area--the Na Ke urban groupe scolaire and the refugee school at Nong Saphay.

Division personnel spent a considerable amount of time during the past month preparing the EDU presentation for the annual spring program and budget review.

A revised project design for the Secondary Education project was also completed during the month. All of the EDU sub-projects now have new project logical frameworks which have been discussed with the RLG project managers and reviewed and printed by EPM.

Other Donors

The Functional Literacy program in Laos continues to receive support from various donors, the latest being \$5000 from UNESCO Clubs of Holland for supplies and equipment, 1.2 million kip from the Asia Foundation to purchase Lao books for little libraries, and 500 reams of paper from the American Women's Club to print adult literacy booklets.

The three-room refugee school and dispensary constructed by the Vientiane Rotary Club at Y Lai #1 (Ban Phon Keo) was dedicated by the Prime Minister this month.

USIS is again offering four scholarships to the East-West Center and four IIE scholarships to other U.S. universities, beginning in the 1974-75 school year. These scholarships for Lao high school graduates are designed to lead to Bachelor degrees in various fields.

Personnel

Mr. Larry Woodson, Community Education contract advisor for refugee schools, departed for home leave in early April. He is expected back at post June 4.

Mr. Woodson's assistant, Mr. Oudone Souvannarath, also left to accept a long-term scholarship provided by the Australian government. We are recruiting for his replacement.

We were saddened by the tragic death of the Primary School Inspector for Vang Vieng, Mr. Sonthany Meunmahathay who was killed in a helicopter crash this month.

Reporting Units: School Maintenance and Supply Advisor
Teacher Training
Secondary Education
Community Education

EDU:NWGreen:ei

DIST: OD/DD-2, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/P, AD/RA, Esch AC
HRDD, EPM-2, AGR, PHD, PSD, PWD, OICC, SMD 2, IVS
EDU-16, Laos Desk, SA/TCD/LD/ED, CLR-2