

May 3, 1973

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division
FROM : Thomas A. Liston, Maintenance Advisor
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - April 1973

Problems:

- A. The requirement to "Buy America" is still creating problems for Education construction. Roofing sheets for the curriculum center at the Fa Ngum School, Vientiane and the second classroom building and the auditorium at the Fa Ngum School, Luang Prabang are not available. The contractor of the curriculum center has notified USAID that a charge of US \$35.00 a day will be made while waiting for G.F.M. items that are not available. This looks to be a continuing problem as SMD is not able to keep sufficient construction materials on hand to take care of all construction projects. This contractor presented a list of 15 items which were not available to him. However, with the help of SMD it was possible to find substitutes for 13 of the 15 items; this is a stop gap measure and does not take care of the problem of inadequate quantities of material on hand to complete planned and funded projects.
- B. A request to PWD for a drainage plan for the FNI campus at Pakse was made March 20, 1973. There has been no response to this request. This information is needed in order to get work underway prior to the rainy season. It was hoped that this might be completed before school is closed for this year.
- C. The well drilling rig has still not been made available for drilling a back-up well at the Teacher Training College, Dong Dok. The well drilling section of PWD first stated that this machine would be available in February 1973. For various reasons this has been delayed. The present well is pumping at about one-fourth of the estimated daily requirement. This well has also been operating one month longer than any other has pumped without failing. There may be

Roofing sheets
reported to be
arriving mid-May.
needs

a critical water shortage any hour.

- D. Theft of property from the campus at Dong Dok has become quite a problem. This is especially true of copper wire used for electric transmission. The electric line to the last well that went out was taken and on the night of May 1st the line from the English Section to the main gate guard house was removed.
- E. Distribution of the Fa Ngum Lao language textbooks has still not been resolved. Even though the director of secondary education has approved the distribution to the FNI schools there has no letter or other transmission to Mr. Done Phommachak authorizing him to release these textbooks. This situation has existed since January of this year.
- F. The roof of the 3rd science laboratory, at the FNI School, Luang Prabang, although already repaired, looks as if this season's monsoon will still find its way through a few cold joints. As picture #1 shows the cold joint has caused a crack in the mastic adjacent to the area repaired last year. Picture #2 shows the tendency of the mastic used to soften with the heat due to an inadequate covering of reflecting material (see picture #3 also). One of the roof hatches appears to have inadequate flashing (picture #4). Attached is a memo written last year by Mr. C. Keur regarding the leaky roof. Unless further repairs are made, this memo may be equally valid in August, 1973.

Memo to PWD
on subject sent
5/10/73
NWG

Progress:

- I. Work has almost been completed on development of a tablet arm chair for the Fa Ngum Schools. The Vientiane Technical School worked from a design developed by Mr. Rantala and myself. This chair has been presented to the Director of Fa Ngum School, Vientiane and his staff for approval, several changes were suggested. The chair has been returned to the Vientiane Technical School for the changes and a cost estimate.
- II. The new well at the Fa Ngum School, Vientiane was completed. However, due to an excessive salt content of the water when first pumped this well will not be utilized at this time. It has been suggested by Mr. Fry that we wait until the rainy season and then re-test for the salt

content of the water. There are plans for a ground level tank to be built to store water from the city system and the existing producing well. However, PWD is going to measure the quantity of water available from these two sources before the tank size can be determined. This tank when completed should help relieve the shortage of water at this institution.

- III. The modification of the drainage system for all three dormitories at the FNI school Luang Prabang was completed during this reporting period. All bath, laundry and wash water has been diverted from the septic tank system. This has proved very satisfactory as the septic tanks are functioning as they should. This work was accomplished by Mr. Bounthanh, Mr. Frank Welsh the staff and students of the FNI school. The original estimate to solve this problem was approximately 12 to 15 thousand dollars. This work was accomplished at a cost of three hundred dollars utilizing student and staff labor.
- IV. The fence post and barbe wire for 2,200 feet of fence at the FNI school Luang Prabang have been installed. About half of the chainlink fence has been installed. Chainlink is out of stock at SMD; otherwise, this project would have been completed. A new supply of this material is expected in late May or early June. This fence is costing about one dollar a foot to install.
- V. The interior fencing of the campus at Dong Dok was completed during this reporting period. However, the first weekend after this work was completed an unidentified American cut the wire so that he could park his car near the number one tree on the golf course; this was done even though there is a paved parking area within walking distance.

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