

**AIRGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

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FROM - Vientiane  
E. O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT - Education for Minority Groups

REFERENCE -

The Lao Ministry of National Education recently issued a significant Ministerial Order pertaining to education for minority groups in Laos. The purpose of the Ministerial Order (see Attachment A) is to make more places available for students from ethnic minorities in the seven two-year normal schools in Laos where teachers for grades 1-3 in village schools are trained.

By encouraging these students to enter the normal schools, the Ministry will produce more teachers who will be willing, and better suited, to live and work in the rural uplands where most of the minority groups are located. The Order is directed particularly towards the smaller hill tribes which only lately have developed interest in educational programs.

The Ministerial Order does not indicate the adoption of a new educational principle in Laos but it is significant as a concrete step towards the implementation of an established goal to make education available to all children in the Kingdom. The 1962 Education Reform Act calls for "a real equality of access to education." Article 3 of the Act states, "Education is at the service of the whole Lao community. It is not

Attachment A: RLG Ministry of Education;  
Ministerial Order No. 27/ED, 3/13/73

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AID AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS  
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made to perpetuate privileges, but on the contrary its national role will be to let the most talented children, whatever their extraction, acquire, through their education, positions of responsibility which they can best fulfill for the development of the country."

*Ja* DEAN *WY*

## Attachment A

(Unofficial Translation)

MINISTERIAL ORDER NO. 27/ED

To solve the problem of sending teachers out to teach in ethnic minority villages, the Ministry established this order to facilitate entrance of students from ethnic minority groups into two-year normal schools. This order is addressed to:

**1. Primary School Inspectors**

Make a list of students from minority groups who request to take the entrance test; make recommendations concerning each; and tell how many special teachers you need for minority group children. Send this information to the normal school in your area.

**2. Directors of Normal Schools****a. Two-year normal schools:**

The Examination Committee will make a list of the minority students, organize them into groups for testing, and accept for entrance a percentage equivalent to the percentage passing among regular students.

**b. Four-year normal schools:**

At present there is no agreement on special provisions; however you should help minority students who take examinations, in any way you can. To achieve the objective of the Ministry of Education, the person responsible, in the school, for minority group students should take special care of them by tutoring, guidance, and encouragement; in return for special assistance to them, the students should sign a contract that they will teach in their own village, or in the area, after they have been trained.

Those concerned must carry out these instructions beginning with entrance tests given at the end of the 1972-73 school session.

Vientiane, March 13, 1973

Signed: Phagna Sayaphetchamphone  
(Leuam INSISIENMAY)

Minister of National Education,  
Fine Arts, and Sports and Youth

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