

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

New Stream

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, June 1973

Reorganization of Ministry Personnel

A number of significant changes in the organization of the Ministry of Education were approved by the Cabinet on June 14 and are expected to become effective August 1:

1. Mr. Khamtanh Chanthala, Deputy Director General, is appointed Rector of Sisavangvong University, which includes the schools of Education, Medicine, and Law and Public Administration.
2. Dr. Teut Teso, Director of IRDA, is appointed Director of Educational Planning.
3. Dr. Ven Vanh Homsembath, Director of Teacher Training, is appointed Director of Pedagogy and Curriculum Research.
4. Mr. Oudone Varinthrasack, formerly Director of the ENI, Pakse and recently returned from studies in France, is appointed Director of Teacher Training with responsibility for all Normal Schools (but not the ESP).
5. Mr. Phansy Abhay, Deputy Director of Teacher Training, is appointed Director of Private Education.
6. Mr. Bounthavy Insienmay, Deputy Director of Secondary Education, is appointed Director of Scholarships.
7. Mr. Souvthong Khamsingsavat, Deputy Director of Primary Education, is appointed Director of Administration and Personnel.

- 8 Mrs. Viengsay, Mr. Saing and Mr. Peachth are promoted to full directorship positions for, respectively, External Affairs, Materials Production, and the National Library and Museum.

The shifts are the result of a great deal of thought and are taking place without any apparent dissension. From our viewpoint, these young officials have a high level of competence and suitability for their jobs, their appointments give the Ministry greater managerial depth and more responsible leadership.

Reorganization of Iang Dok

In conjunction with the administrative changes described above, the Ministry is also making clearer distinctions between secondary-level and higher level teacher training programs. Grades 11, 12, and 13 are being taken out of the College of Education (ESP) and, beginning in October, they will be placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the Vientiane Normal School. The Normal School will thus have two cycles (Grades 7-10 and 11-13) with an enrollment of about 1,700 students. Some 100 students will be enrolled in college level courses at the ESP which will be an integral part of Sisavangvong University. It is to be noted that the present 'English Section' will also be administered under the Vientiane Normal School rather than the ESP.

Teacher Training Examinations

Unofficial results of teacher training school examinations in June indicate the following availability of new teachers for the 1973-74 school year:

To teach in Grades 1-3	805
To teach in Grades 4-6	370
To teach in Grades 7-8	74
To teach in Grades 9-10	5
To teach in Grades 11-13	14
	<hr/> 866

The 12 students qualified to teach Grades 11-13 are the first group to receive their licence (B.A.) in teacher education in Laos. In addition to the 856 students expected to enter teaching, 194 students at various levels were selected to continue their training in the next cycle of the program.

For next year's 7th Grade classes at the Normal Schools 350 students were selected out of 2550 applicants for the two-year normal school program and 630 were selected out of 7127 applicants for the four-year program. Only 140 of the 630 four-year students will be granted scholarships.

Secondary School Examinations

The Vientiane Lycee produced 134 graduates out of 351 candidates for the 'National Bar' and 203 graduates out of 389 candidates for the 'French Bar' this June. There is considerable duplication in the two sets of figures, since many students take both examinations. A make-up examination in September will add a few more students to the number of successful graduates.

The Lao government is offering 40 scholarships to France for these Lycee graduates. Candidates must pass still another examination to be selected. 16 of the scholarships are for teaching, 18 for science and technology, 6 for economics, and 4 for other fields.

Examination figures for the beginning of the secondary school program are not nearly so small: about 12,200 students applied to enter Seventh Grade and only 2,100 were accepted. The six Fa Ngum Schools (including the Ministry's new, small 'Fa Ngum' at Ban Hom, Vientiane Province) had half the total number of applicants but could only accept 630 students. The 1470 other students were accepted in the 18 lycees and colleges.

Summer Training Programs

Besides examinations, June is also the month for preparing for summer in-service training work. This year there will be about 1000 CREC and Refugee teachers studying at 25 centers during July. Smaller groups of

teachers from the normal schools and secondary schools will attend seminars and workshops in science, Lao language, home economics, social studies, and other subjects. A more detailed report on these training courses will be given next month.

Elementary School Construction - FY 73

According to an unofficial log kept in the Community Education office, 54 Activity Proposals were approved during FY 73 for construction activities at 123 elementary schools. These AP's provided for a total of 405 classrooms, including 126 for refugee schools, 199 for rural self help schools, and 80 for CE urban school projects.

Other Donors

The Ministry's Materials Production Center has received a Fujii 8 automatic letterpress from the Reitaku Association for Overseas Development in Japan. The MPC also has on hand the matrices for Lao character type face which were developed under UNESCO auspices in Japan. The MPC plans to use the Lao type and the letterpress for printing new educational materials for which offset plates have not been prepared.

The Attapeu College, in refugee status at Pakse, received a donation of K1 100,000 from private sources in France.

Personnel

Dr. Robert Martin took over Chief of Party duties for the University of Hawaii Contract Team from Dr. Lucius Butler at the beginning of July. Dr. Butler is returning to his campus assignment.

Mr. Richard Costantino, CEA/Operations, departed post June 17. His next immediate assignment was TDY in AID/Washington.

Mr. Houmpheng Savatphonh, CE Administrative Assistant, was terminated June 25. Mr. Souvanh Vongdara was employed to take his place.

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