

June 27, 1973

To : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, Education
Contract Representative

From : Lucius Butler, Chief of Party
University of Hawaii Contract Team/Laos

Subject: June, 1973, Monthly Report



Problems:

There are several small problems currently under study related to the Fa Ngum project, however the only problem I wish to bring forward in this last monthly report concerns:

LACK OF OVERLAP BETWEEN CHIEF OF PARTY BUTLER AND MARTIN.

Background:

Butler - Ihara letter no. 2: "The team was in complete agreement that ten days was too short a period and that a full month would be ideal."

Ihara - Butler letter no 3: "I agree with you that the overlap of 10 days is too short. Actually we planned for 15 days, but Dwane reduced it to ten. For next year, if need be we can increase that to 30 days if team members can be prevailed to stay longer."

Butler - Ihara letter no. 76: "I need some indication from you as to my departure date from Laos. I want to be available to help Bob get "settled in" if he would so desire. There are several things I would like to do before returning to the campus and in making my plans I need a departure date which will coincide with my going off salary with the UH/Laos Contract with whatever return travel time is authorized."

Ihara - Butler letter no. 59: "As to your departure date from Laos, you can make it as of June 30, 1973. Dr. Bob Martin feels he needs time to get settled after he arrives in Vientiane and that he will forego your kind offer. Incidentally, you will be moved back to the Educational Communications faculty salary as of July 1, 1973. As for travel, we allow 1 1/2 days. If you would like, and with Mr. Norm Green's concurrence, you could leave earlier than June 30, if you still have some vacation time coming to you. If you do not have vacation time, we could still put you on leave without pay until July 1, so as not to affect your other state benefits if you still want to depart earlier than July 1."

Butler - Ihara letter no. 77: "In line with your fifth paragraph in letter number 59, I will plan to leave Vientiane on June 30, 1973, unless requested differently. Since I go on the Educ. Comm. payroll as of 1 July 73, how do I arrange for the 1½ days travel under the contract? Leaving Vientiane at noon on July 29th would seem one possibility, but that seems strange to me. At any rate, it appears that there will be no overlap of time in Laos authorized by the contract for Bob Martin and I. From your letter I gather that this arrangement is preferred by Bob Martin. Is this true?

Ihara - Butler letter no. 61: "You asked me whether or not Dr. Bob Martin preferred that there be no overlap. He reiterated his position to the Dean at a meeting we held in his office. I will ask him to write to you." (Note: no letter was received as of June 26, 1973).

Ihara - Butler letter no. 65: (note handwritten at bottom) "P.S. Bob Martin's ETA Vientiane is July 2, 6:00 PM via Royal Air Lao #403."

Statement of the Problem:

The lack of overlap between chief of party Butler and Martin will not only place an additional burden and responsibility upon Hawaii team logistics officer and acting chief of party John Rantala to provide a team orientation, but also places an additional work load on contract representative Norman Green in matters of protocol, etc.

In addition to these, there are hundreds of informal contacts within the U.S. Mission, the Royal Lao Government and the community at large which will not be continued due to the lack of overlap. I believe this to be a serious oversight which will require several months to bring about what could have been handled in a week or two.

I have attempted to put on paper and cassette tape some of the "informal" information which I would have found helpful in my first weeks and months in Vientiane. However, I have not felt free to put on paper and tape so many things which I feel would be of assistance to the incoming chief of party.

The 12th semi annual report contains most of the information which I feel I can share without a face-to-face meeting. This report has been dittoed in draft format and is attached herewith.

Progress:

Curriculum Implementation Activities:

There are a series of workshops, seminars and related activities which are planned for the next three months aimed at preparing in-service teachers to implement the Lao language of instruction and modern teaching methods.

Seven workshop/seminars planned are as follows:

Science	July 2-20
Lao language	July 16-August?
Library	July 2-13
Office Practice	July 16-27
Maintenance	August-4 weeks
Home Economics	August-2 weeks
Social Studies	September-2 weeks

Several of these workshops/seminars include in-service teachers from non-project secondary school and/or teacher training schools.

Construction Activities

Mr. Rantala's report covers these activities. It has been reported that the final phase of construction in Luang Prabang may be completed as early as mid-August, 1973.

Textbook Activities

Mr. Kumabe, Acting Curriculum Director, has covered most of the textbook and curriculum center activities in his report. No books were delivered during the month of June, however, the goal of 50 titles by the close of FY73 (June 30, 1973) was achieved during May, 1973.

The construction of several science and industrial arts word-lists during this month has again begun an effort to systematically work on one of the major problems of this project.

The summary of textbook production is given on page 4. This report also summarizes the total and percentage of pages, titles and copies for each fiscal year (FY) since the beginning of the project. Of particular interest is the average number of pages per book each fiscal year. During the current fiscal year each book had from 51 to over 300 pages, with an average of 172 pages. This was the highest average thus far during the six years of the project. It is also noted that 53 per cent of all pages, 48 per cent of all titles and 40 per cent of all copies of textbooks were published during the period July 1, 1972, and June 30, 1973.

Summary of Textbook Production

Textbook production during each fiscal year (FY) is shown below by number of pages (number of titles in parentheses) for each subject area delivered from the printer in final offset printed books.

Subject area	FY68	FY69	FY70	FY71	FY72	FY73	Total
Lao Language	0	0	385(2)	197(1)	0	100(4)	1582(7)
Social Studies	0	0	135(1)	0	282(1)	469(4)	336(9)
Science	0	0	137(1)	0	774(7)	229(1)	1140(9)
Mathematics	0	0	101(1)	0	208(1)	313(1)	622(3)
Agriculture	0	0	140(1)	0	178(1)	465(2)	783(4)
Business	0	0	198(2)	134(1)	240(2)	233(5)	1505(10)
Home Economics	0	0	0	56(1)	165(1)	146(1)	367(3)
Industrial Arts	0	0	91(1)	0	182(1)	561(6)	834(8)
Total							
Pages :	0	0	1187	387	2029	4116	7725
Titles:	0	0	(9)	(3)	(14)	(24)	(50)
Copies	0	0	47000	14,000	65,000	101,000	227,000

The percentage of pages, titles and copies for each fiscal year (FY) are shown for purposes of comparison.

	FY68	FY69	FY70	FY71	FY72	FY73	Total
Total pages	0	0	1187	387	2029	4116	7725
% of total	0	0	15%	5%	27%	53%	100%
Total titles	0	0	9	3	14	24	50
% of total	0	0	18%	6%	28%	48%	100%
Total copies	0	0	47000	14000	65000	86000	227,000
% of total	0	0	23%	6%	31%	40%	100%
Average no.							
pages per book	0	0	150	130	145	172	154

Present Operational System of the University of Hawaii Contract Team/Laos.

Reference is made to pages 3 and 4 of the November, 1972, Monthly Report concerning the reorganization of the Hawaii Team as a result of the visit of the contract campus coordinator.

It is my opinion, after working within the present de-centralized system for seven months, that this system is neither efficient nor effective in meeting contract objectives. The system was not of my choice or design, however, I was willing to "give it a try" because it could also be effective. Our experience has shown that while construction activities did progress, curriculum and textbook activities slowed down to the point where during the five months; February thru June, 1973, only two books were submitted to the USAID/Communications Media.

I point this out as an example, since it is one of the quantitative objectives of the project design. The need to have 20 books published and delivered by June, 1974, to meet the some project design objective will require considerable direct leadership by someone. FY73 publishing totaled 24 books in spite of the slow-down caused, in part, by the reorganization.

Personal Note:

In conclusion of this last monthly report, may I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the entire U.S. AID Mission. Particularly helpful, was Mr. Norman Green, Chief, EDU, and Contract Representative, whose guidance and counsel were consistently accurate and valuable.

Encls:

- Mr. Rantala's report
- Mr. Kumabe's report
- Semi-annual report (12th)

The comments on "slowed down" production of textbooks seem contradicted by the good progress noted in Mr. Kumabe's report

Norm Green