

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

NW Green

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, February, 1973

In-Service Training for Teachers

An activity proposal to train 1047 CREC and Refugee teachers has been drafted for review with the Ministry by CE staff. Courses are planned at twenty centers in Laos for 36 days in July. This is the fourth year of the Ministry's sequential program to qualify CREC teachers for civil service status. The first group of about 40 CREC teachers will complete the four-year program this summer.

Attached to this report is a summary table of FY 72 Community Education in-service training activities which may be of interest to Area Coordinators and others. The table shows the number of teachers and school administrators who received training in each PSI district last year.

The Secondary Education and Teacher Training project managers are also developing plans with the Ministry for in-service training programs for teachers during the summer vacation.

English Language Seminar

The fourth annual National In-Service Seminar on English Language teaching in Laos was held at the Lao-American Association February 7-9. Mrs. Pinkham directed the seminar and made successful use of small-group discussion techniques. Lao and foreign teachers of English from all over the Kingdom were in attendance.

Practice Teaching

As the number of students in the teacher training schools grows, so too do the number requiring practice teaching experiences. Next year there

will be about 1200 student teachers who should receive a meaningful classroom teaching experience before graduation. These students are, of course, at different levels. The figures for next year are as follows: Grade 8, 350; Grade 10, 600; Grade 13, 210; Grade 15-40; Grade 17, 20. Placing, supporting, supervising, and transporting this number of students has become a time and energy-consuming problem, especially for the higher level students at Dong Dok. (The future elementary teachers in the provincial schools seem to require less attention though no doubt they should be getting more supervision than they do.) A series of meetings is being held at Dong Dok to review the complex problems and to develop some proposals for new approaches and programs for the Director of Teacher Training to consider for next year.

Curriculum Development

A healthy and positive climate of change in curriculum development and implementation has been noted recently with evidences of greater desire and need on the part of the Lao for involvement in the development of curriculum and materials for secondary education.

A curriculum committee and a special committee to discuss mutual concerns are now meeting on a regular weekly basis at Fa Ngum. One result of this has been to make greater efforts to draw on Lao technical expertise outside the Ministry of Education to plan and review Lao textbooks for the second cycle of secondary education. Art Crisfield, the newly assigned Lao linguist with the IRI team, has been helpful in making necessary contacts for this work.

Mr. Bounthavy, Deputy Director of Secondary Education, called a special meeting to review the mathematics curriculum. He had reviewed the 10th Grade mathematics manuscript and wished clarification in regard to its outline and content. A requirement to revise parts of the book resulted from this meeting.

A successful meeting of home economics specialists from the community was held at Fa Ngum to discuss and make recommendations for the use and furnishings of the Lao Home Economics practice cottages.

American Field Service Scholarships

Three boys from the Fa Ngum School in Vientiane were selected for AFS

scholarships for next year. The fourth student selected, a girl, is from the Lycee in Paks.

School Statistics

The official Ministry of Education school statistics for elementary education for 1971-72 have been translated and reproduced by CE staff. The report is being distributed to field personnel as an aid in planning school development programs. The Ministry has recently made great improvements in its statistical reporting on private schools in Laos. Figures for private elementary education in the country have been incorporated in the CE statistical report.

Attached to this report is an updated graph showing the increase in elementary school enrollment in Laos over a fifteen year period.

Functional Literacy Program

77 teachers for the Functional Literacy program were given a 15 day training course at Ban Amade last month. Most of these teachers will be assigned to the Vientiane State next month to begin a new, broader phase of the literacy program. Two of the trainees are from the Houm Sai region; they are expected to help establish literacy work in that area in the near future. UNESCO and the Asia Foundation are supporting the Ministry in this program.

Refugee Schools

An Activity Plan to provide for emergency procurement of 1000 lbs of chalk was approved and SMD has issued a contract for its purchase. Sufficient chalk should be on hand soon to finish out the school year.

The Khammouane Student Association at Dong Dok is assisting with the construction of three temporary classrooms for Thakhek refugee children at Pak Sap. The Dong Dok students will work on weekends under MoE supervision. The American Women's Club has agreed to provide a small amount of kip to purchase lunches for the student volunteers.

School Maintenance and Improvement Activities

The Fa Ngum Vientiane School is having serious water problems because the delivery from the city's system in this part of Vientiane is almost zero and the school's well is giving a very low yield. Activity Proposals are in process for drilling an additional well and for constructing an underground storage tank.

A large hand dug well is now down to five meters at the Dong Dok campus and it looks like a good potential source of water. There is still an urgent requirement for an additional back-up well at the school to replace one well that caved in several months ago, but the hand dug well should provide added insurance. At present there is only one deep well in operation, producing approximately 80 gallons per minute.

Thanks to FHWA, the irrigation water system at the Fa Ngum School in Phou Hong has been greatly improved. The first reservoir has been enlarged and cleared of trees and debris and the dike for the second reservoir has been raised.

Work has been started on excavations for the electric poles going to the Fa Ngum School in Savanakheth. However the city has been having power shortages so it may still be some time before city electric power is actually available at the school. Additional work completed or underway at the Savanakheth school includes construction of sidewalks, curbs and drainage ditches, installation of a second well and landscaping by the students. A pump failure made it necessary for the school to haul water for drinking and toilet use. A replacement pump has been shipped to Savanakheth and two additional pumps are being procured.

A project to repair the toilet buildings at the Sam Theng BHI has been completed with the assistance of the students.

A concrete hardener is being experimented with for the floors in two urban groupes scolaires under construction. The hardener should reduce dust and make cleaning and maintenance easier.

Fa Ngum School Phase

In regard to the Bay America policy, OIGC has developed a list of the

construction materials for the Fa Ngum School that are not available from SMD. We are requesting a waiver for off-shore purchase of most of these items.

We are still having problems with the land whose property adjoins the school site. Although the boundary has been settled there is a dispute about some trees she planted on the school property. The location of the trees will not delay construction of the buildings needed to open school in October. We are working with the Ministry and the A.C.'s office to resolve the problem.

Other Donors

We have been informed that a large shipment of Australian school supplies, including chalk, notebooks, slates and other bulk items, will arrive in Vietnam in May. They will be too late for use in this school year but at least the items can be distributed in plenty of time for the opening of schools in September.

Miss Doris Whitlock, a linguist with the Christian Missionary Alliance is instructing 27 Men students teachers at the Sam Thong EPJ 'n method of using the Men primers printed by the Asia Foundation. The primers are written in Leu script and have been approved by the Ministry of Education. Miss Whitlock is the author of the primers and is now working on additional reading materials in the Men language.

Construction of a three room school and a dispensary by the Rotary Club at Y-Lai refugee village No. 1 is nearing completion.

Meeting of Regional Education Division Chiefs

I attended a meeting in Bangkok February 16 with Dr. Eleanor Green, Supporting Assistance Education backstop officer, and the Education Division Chiefs from Saigon and Bangkok. Discussion centered around common regional problems and programs and was very profitable and informative.

Attachments (2)

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

EDU:NWGrounisi

Distribution:

OD/DD-2	HRDD	SMD-2
AD/M	SPM-2	IVS
AD/FIN	AGE	EDU-16
AD/FO	PHD	Laos Desk
AD/P	PSD	SA/TCD/LD/ED
AD/BA	PWD	C&R-2
Each AC	OICC	

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY PRIMARY SCHOOL INSPECTOR DISTRICTS

Type of Training	Atchapel	Chompasak	Bikhamvong	Bokeo	Huey Vang	Hua-Mueang	Phoukhout	Kong Keo	Khammouang	Mong Keo	Lang Phoung	Kham Mueang	Phoukhout	Phoung	Phoukhout/Phoung	Phoung	Phoung	Phoung	Phoung	Phoung	Phoung	Phoung	Total
Primary School Delegates Annual Conference	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Supervision and Training	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
Troop Soldier Discharge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
Instructors	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
First Year CIRC and Refugee Teachers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
Second Year CIRC and Refugee Teachers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
First Year CIRC and Refugee Teachers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
TOTAL	6	39	45	51	70	79	116	117	90	16	48	63	34	32	66	88	24	50	22	17	151	28	1257

(100)

2000



243,640

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