

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 1973

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

FROM : James A. Collins, *James A. Collins*  
Teacher Education Advisor

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for the Month of February, 1973

Problems:

The campus at Dong Dok is left with only one deep well which produces approximately 80 gallons per minute. The past history of deep wells at Dong Dok has been for a pump to function continually for a maximum of 90 days only. There is no back up well available, H/D promised to dig a back up well in February. Breweries and slaughter houses have taken priority over Teacher Training. One good student strike at Dong Dok during the negotiation of the formation of the new government may prove where the priority for wells should have been. This could prove embarrassing for the U.S. as well as Lao government.

Activities:

1. The Ministry of Education published two decrees this month. The decrees were dated November 1972 and January 1973. Attachment A and B are translations. Weekly meetings have been held with Mr. Khamphath, Director of Vocational Education, regarding the implications of the Ministry decrees. Because the decrees establish Vocational Teacher Training with the Vocational Department, Mr. Khamphath has requested assistance. The first need is to develop a 5 year plan. Vocational accredited and non-accredited educational programs are provided:

1. Returned service personnel opportunity to enter Lao economic life.
2. Assistance for improving village life.
3. Available manpower to assist the development of industry.
4. Willing workers to improve production of agricultural crops.
5. Diligence of Lao national power can be utilized the economy.

Because of the importance of the decrees and the development of vocational education Attachment C is included as a summary of Mr. Khamphath's needs for vocational development.

2. An AP was completed to include all the maintenance needs of Teacher Training for the rest of this school year. The AP was completed on the last day of the month.

3. Meetings have been conducted with IVS staff to consider existing problems and the future role of the IVS in development of Laos. Dr. Porter's placement in the BNI schools has helped to identify the amount of work needed in the preparation of primary teachers. The use of Lao materials in the two year program has proven the student teachers are able to meaningfully learn in their own language. They have not been able to learn adequately in the use of educational materials in languages other than Lao. The subject matter teachers in science, who met in Luang Prabang, expressed wish to work on the development of Lao science material for Teacher Training. The Lao administration has requested the subject matter teachers to begin work on materials immediately after school is out this year. IVSers who are competent in Lao and are science teachers can assist in the organization of needed teaching materials. Special Lao training was considered for IVS workers who are interested in cooperating with Lao subject matter teachers to organize materials. The subject matter area of pedagogy has some material that has been supplied from foreign countries and are of little use or no use to training teachers for a Lao primary school. All of the Lao pedagogy teachers must work together to produce meaningful teaching material in methods of teaching. A new role for the IVS could be to act as coordinators of Lao teachers to assist in the organization and compiling of needed educational materials in Laos.

4. Meetings were held with some of the staff at Dong Bok regarding practice teaching problems. The next school year will bring approximately 1,200 student teachers needing experience in practice teaching. The number grows each year and new approaches and programs are essential to keep practice teaching a meaningful experience.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number students teaching</u>	<u>Grades where they will teach</u>
0	120	1-2-3
10	90	4-5-6
11	87 English	7-8
12	124 French	7-8
15	38 Lao - French	9-10
17	19	11-12-13
<u>Total:</u>	<u>1,217</u>	

The largest problem in the practice teaching program is at Dong Bok. The transportation for 200 students is a very large transportation problem.

The purpose of the meetings were to develop some proposal for the Director of Teacher Training to consider for next school year. This is a very complex problem. Hopefully, a proposal will be available during the next month.

5. The need for long range plans and budgets has caused many meetings. The fact that each Teacher Training School has never had to make out a budget has lead to action. This year a form for a budget has been developed. Training will take place in March for the directors of the larger ENI schools to help them adequately prepare a meaningful budget for 1973-1974 school year. The budget will be sent to the Director of Teacher Training who will compile a national teacher training budget. This national budget will be available for the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Plan, and other interested parties. In the past the teacher training budget was developed in two places, USAID and the Ministry. The two budgets had no relation to each other or to the total need of Teacher Training. The Ministry budget funds were distributed according to individual directors request, without any plan. Basically it was a first come first serve program. The new approach will assist the Lao Director of Teacher Training to distribute MWG funds by need and priorities. This hopefully will allow a more equal distribution of available funds to all schools, not just Song Dak.

6. Besides the professional activities the project is digging a well by hand labor at Dong Bok, revising the plumbing at Luang Prabang, completing a clinic at Savannakhet and working on improvement of ENI Pakse. Travel was made to each campus and special training was given to local staffs in order to help them be more independent in maintenance.

In education development there are steps to be taken. Training staff preparing materials to carry out the education needed and then establishing facilities to conduct the education program. The Teacher Training Project has been going in reverse. The project has been busy with facility development and maintenance. The teaching of staff and material development has been neglected. Hopefully the project will be able to direct some of its energies to professional development as well as facilities and distribution of supplies.

Attachments -

ENI/TT/24/20/Jan/73