

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 12, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

*Norman W. Green*

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, January, 1973

Primary School Inspectors' Conference

The 15th Annual Primary School Inspectors' Conference was held in Phone Hong, January 15-25. Curriculum development in science (see remarks below) and in the "youth movement" program was given priority attention. The objectives and course outlines for the youth movement program presented by the committee chairman were reviewed by the group but were returned for further work by a new committee which was charged with improving instructional content and with giving greater emphasis to the development of proper attitudes in young people.

Mr. Khamtanh Chantala, Deputy Director General, spoke to the conference on the subject of education for minority groups. A summary of his remarks has been distributed to interested persons. Among other things, he stated that he would ask the Director of Teacher Training to study the problems and make proposals to increase and improve educational opportunities for minority groups.

Other agenda topics included test results on Secondary Education entrance examinations, the extension of teacher training programs for Lac language teachers, traffic safety education programs for elementary schools, and problems of the Teachers' Association. A complete report of the conference is being prepared by the CE staff.

ENI Directors' Conference

Teacher Training administrators also met last month for their annual conference, which was held in Luang Prabang. A major topic of the conference was a discussion of plans for extending normal school instruction for three additional years to Grade 13. It is planned to begin this program at

the Vientiane ENI in 1973-74, with the other major ENIs to follow in subsequent years. Problems of practice teaching programs, instructional materials, instruction in Lao and other matters were also reviewed.

### Science Instruction

As noted above, one of the principal activities at the PSI conference was to review the elementary science curriculum. Objectives were established, course outlines for Grades 1-3 were completed and some sample lesson plans were produced for illustrative purposes. The curriculum work, which actually began several months ago, will continue, leading to the revision of textbooks when necessary and to training courses for teachers to help implement the new concepts.

At the same time, work to improve science instruction in the normal schools was started at a science seminar held in Luang Prabang concurrently with the ENI Directors' Conference. It was recognized that the training program for elementary teachers must relate closely to the revised science curriculum for elementary schools. Greater use of Lao language materials and locally produced teaching aids were also cited as requirements for the normal school science program.

We are expecting to use the resources and personnel of the SEAMEO regional science center (RECSAM), in Penang, to help with these on-going science improvement programs.

### Electrical Seminar

The Department of Technical Education sponsored a one-week seminar to begin coordination of electrical usage leading toward the development of an electrical installation code in Laos. Among other reasons, such a code is needed in order to set standards for training electrical workers. Another problem is the lack of standardization of Lao terminology for technical terms in this area. The seminar made a good beginning on working on these problems. A similar seminar is planned for the future in the area of plumbing.

Educational Materials

## Educational Materials completed this month:

CE	Geography, Grade 5	3,000 copies
CE	Geography, Grade 6	3,000 copies
SE	Lao Literature: Lao Calendar	5,000 copies

## Educational Materials being printed:

SE	Business: Adding Machines	3,000 copies
SE	Lao History	6,000 copies
SE	Biology	6,000 copies
SE	Horticulture	3,000 copies
SE	Machine Metals	3,000 copies
SE	Sheet Metals	3,000 copies
SE	Bench Metals	3,000 copies
SE	Advanced Lao Typing	2,000 copies
CE	Lao Fables, Grades 4-5-6	8,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 3	6,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 4	4,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 5	3,000 copies
CE	Ethics, Grade 6	2,000 copies
AWC/CE	Civics, Grade 4	25,000 copies
AWC/CE	Civics, Grade 5	19,000 copies
AWC/CE	Civics, Grade 6	15,275 copies
CE	Notebooks	300,000 copies

Refugee Schools

A long-delayed delivery of lumber for the construction of furniture for refugee schools in the Vientiane Plain has been received; the furniture is now expected to be completed in February. A new activity proposal covering additional requirements for furniture in the North Nam Ngum area is being circulated. Another A. P. for emergency procurement of chalk is also in the approval process.

Urban Groupes Scolaires

Three eight-room buildings at the Na Ke Groupe Scolaire in Savannakhet,

the Chomphet Groupe Scolaire in Vientiane, and the Done Talat Groupe Scolaire in Champassak were completed this month. Three more urban buildings are at least 95 per cent completed, five are at lesser levels of completion, and six projects are just getting started.

Good progress is being made on maintenance work at urban elementary schools, with strong participation in many places from school officials and PTAs. We think the efforts of all concerned with these projects will result in some degree of self-perpetuated school maintenance work in the future.

#### Improvement Projects at Dong Dok

The surfacing of the roads at Dong Dok is now completed, to the great benefit of the school. Repairs and improvements are being made to the sanitary facilities at the buildings being used by the Sam Thong ENI. Maintenance and administrative supplies are being consolidated at a central storage point on the campus. Work is also underway on replacing the main wall which caved in last December.

#### Fa Ngum School, Pakse

EDU and UH staff have reviewed with PWD and OICC all change orders made during the construction of other Fa Ngum School to be certain that those improvements are incorporated into the plans for the Pakse school. However, the "Buy America" policy is giving us some problems in meeting the planned construction schedule. We are proposing to proceed with the construction of the one-story Agriculture and Home Economics building and one toilet building, which would give us adequate facilities to admit the first class of students in October, 1973. It may be necessary to request a waiver for the off-shore procurement of some materials needed to construct the first buildings; presumably materials for the other buildings could be received from the U. S. in time to avoid requiring additional waivers.

In another development, a woman in Pakse has requested compensation for trees she planted on the school property and has also claimed ownership of a small slice of land in the southeast corner of the site. These disputes have delayed PWD's land-clearing work, but the Ministry is taking action to resolve the conflict. The Ministry has also obtained a letter of commitment to provide water to the school but has not yet furnished us with a

similar letter for electrical power.

#### Development of Water Resources at Fa Ngum Schools

A study of agriculture water resources at Fa Ngum Phone Hong was recently completed. PWD has recommended we not attempt to improve the first reservoir at the school but instead concentrate efforts on expanding the capacity of the second reservoir, which can be done fairly simply. A project proposal is being prepared to do the work.

At Vientiane, practically no water is being received from the city water system and the school's well is not meeting daily water requirements. We have requested PWD's assistance in installing a back-up well and work has started on improving the intake from the city's system.

A work plan for the irrigation and sanitary water supply at Luang Prabang was agreed upon at a meeting called by PWD. The plan incorporates the use of city water, which is expected to be available soon at the Fa Ngum School.

#### Other Donors

The French Cultural Mission is providing 700 French elementary language books to refugee schools. In addition, the Casa Lao book store has donated some teaching materials and supplementary books for use by teachers of the upper grades of elementary refugee schools.

#### Various

Minister Leuam and several senior staff from the Ministry attended the annual SEAMEC meeting, held last month in Phnom Penh.

The visit to Laos by a group of senators last month was highlighted for us by Senator Inouye's tour of the Fa Ngum Vientiane School.

Bill Hart, a former EDU division chief, and Cora May Hart returned to Laos for a few days' visit. Bill made trips to two of the Fa Ngum Schools and to Dong Dok during their brief stay.

A response to the Education Sector audit was completed during the month. The six recommendations will provide us with useful reference points for future planning.

EPM's work on project logical frameworks with MoE project managers is progressing well. The Community Education and Teacher Training documents are completed and preliminary discussions have been held for Secondary Education.

Personnel

Mr. Arthur Crisfield arrived in early February to assume the position of Linguist on the University of Hawaii Contract Team.

Mr. Thach Phomsavanh, who was formerly PSI for Vientiane-South and then on contract for one year with the EDU Teacher Training project, has now been appointed Deputy Director for Administration in the Department of Primary and Adult Education.

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

EDU:NWGreen:el

DIST: OD/DD-2, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/P, AD/RA, Each AC,  
HRDD, EPM-2, AGR, PHD, PSD, PWD, OICC, SMD-2, IVS,  
EDU-16, Laos Desk, SA/TCD/LD/ED, C&R-2