

February 2, 1973

TO : Mr. Hunter Fitzgerald, CEA/National

FROM : Miss Lee Engler, CEA/Program *Lee Engler*

SUBJECT : Monthly Report for January 1973

### Problems

No new significant problems not reported previously.

### Local In-Service Training

1. The Primary School Inspectors Fifteenth National Annual Conference was conducted in Phons Hong, January 15-25. The agenda was well prepared, based on a planning meeting last September with Primary School Inspectors. In particular, the subjects selected for presentation and discussion by the Directors of other departments and other ministries were more significant to education and country development. Subject included Tests Results on Secondary School Entrance Examinations, Educational Policy Concerning Minority Groups, Extension of the Teacher Training Program for Lao Language Teachers, Traffic Safety Education Program for Primary Schools, Labor Laws, and Future Problems of the Teacher Association.

2. Curriculum development in science and youth movement was given priority time and attention. The science committee completed objectives, course outlines for grades 1-3 and several illustrated sample lesson plans, which were all reviewed and accepted by the conference. Mr. David Harper, RECSAM Advisor who continued as consultant, included a step-by-step analysis with the committee of their continuing responsibilities in the development of the science curriculum.

The objectives and course outlines for youth movement presented by the committee chairman were reviewed by the group but not accepted. The instructional content was considered inadequate, and more emphasis was required on the development of attitudes and appreciations in young people. It was agreed that a new committee would be appointed by the Director of Primary and Adult Education to complete work on the curriculum with the Department of Sports and Youth.

3. The Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, and Fine Arts participated in the Opening Ceremony. Among points of interest in his address, he urged close cooperation between the school and the community. The Director General of

Education, at the closing ceremony, advised the group to preserve important traditions and to realize the "old methods might not enable us to solve our new problems." Mr. James Chandler, DD/USAID, reviewed ten years of MoE/USAID cooperation in education. He also visited the Fa Ngum School and attended the USAID reception; he was accompanied by Mr. Norman Green, EDU, and Mr. Earl Young, AC/Vientiane. The Deputy Director General of Education talked on educational opportunities for minority groups and also on the school as a community center, which led the Primary School Inspectors into serious discussion. The Deputy Director General 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. He advised that people at the community level were responsible for developing cooperation among themselves rather than to expect it from a decree.

Good management of the conference by the Director of Primary and Adult Education was reflected particularly in the orderly presentation and improved quality of the educational status reports by the Primary School Inspectors.

4. The cooperative study at the conference of results of secondary school entrance examinations will help to coordinate and extend test reform in Primary and Secondary Education.
5. Mr. Thanh, new Deputy Director for Administration in Primary Education, participated in the seminar conducted by Teacher Training for Normal School Directors. This beginning effort should increase coordination in curriculum development activities in the two departments.
6. EDJ participation in the Conference received good support and cooperation, in particular, from the Fa Ngum Phone Hong School, which hosted the USAID reception for the Primary School Inspectors.

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