

TO: Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/National

January 30, 1973

FROM: Richard M. Costantino, CEA/Operations *RM Costantino*

SUBJ: Monthly Report for January

PROBLEMS

No serious problems noted this reporting period.

PROGRESS

Refugee Schools

Refugees from Thailand and Laos have been moved to a new village next to the Thasany Refugee Center. Over 120 families are presently living there and as soon as all refugees are settled twelve classrooms will be constructed for the children in the area.

Many refugees from Phongsavath have returned to their areas. The temporary school has been repaired and books, supplies and other items have been distributed.

The CIA informed all of the PSEs in this area that more supplies are on their way from the Ministry of Education.

Non-refugee Schools

General

All PSEs attended the PSE Conference which was held in Phnom Hong from January 15-25, 1973. The CIA attended one week of the conference and was impressed with the determination the PSEs were attacking their problems.

The six Teaching Supervisors of the Luang Prabang, Pakse and Savannakhet areas have been working hard this last semester. Most of them are devoting full time to seminars in Lao, Savannakhet and Pakse. The CIA has been meeting with them to see if they need assistance of any kind.

School gardening projects are getting along well this year. In all areas, students in P-5 and P-6 are growing vegetables and taking them home when they are full grown.

Luang Prabang Area

The CIA/National visited Luang Prabang to observe projects. Trips were made to refugee schools, program societies undergoing repairs, and schools being constructed during the dry season.

Six PPs were made out for the Long Veasy Demonstration School. Ban Khoy three room addition, Thong Thua repair, Pa Ngue Drouge Scolaire eight room addition, 300 school furniture sets, and Phay (SRDA). All have been submitted to Vientiane for approval.

Urban school construction for this period is as follows:

Fa Ngum Groupe Scolaire	LP 3-003	Lumber ordered
Muong Phiang	CE 2-014	306

The FSO donated 25 empty gasoline and kerosene drums to the group school in Luang Prabang city. These have been distributed and another list is being drawn up from schools requesting additional trash cans.

The PSI, Deputy PSI and CEA visited various projects to ascertain school needs. Most of the requests were for items which could be easily obtained from local PTAs. The CEA promised to assist refugee schools and the PSI promised to supply texts to schools requesting them.

Work is ready to begin on the Fa Ngum Groupe Scolaire eight room addition. Lumber has become a problem in northern Laos since most of it is being sold to Thailand. The PSI has core lumber and the saw mill has promised to supply the remaining amount needed for actual construction by February 1st. Work is proceeding slowly on the Muong Phiang Groupe Scolaire in Sayaboury.

Savannakhet Area

The rehabilitation on the Choukeo Groupe Scolaire has been completed. The PTA supplied laborers and PWD provided a qualified painter who supervised the work. PWD also assisted with the repair of the gate entrance which was damaged by one of the USAID trucks bringing rice to the refugees living at the school. Several meetings have been held with the Director requesting that he provide coolies to keep the school clean and proper maintenance on the buildings.

The CEA reported to PWD that the Na Ka Groupe Scolaire was not given a second coat of paint. Also the benches were not completely painted. The work was completed and now the school is ready for dedication. The PTA provided an electric pump for the school and sufficient water is available. Electricity has also been provided so that the school may be used for in-service training courses and workshops. The PTA is presently raising money for the construction of a fence and bicycle racks. The Director of Primary Education requested that the dedication take place with local officials officiating at the ceremony.

The Rattamangsy Groupe Scolaire has been experiencing problems with the toilets. The CEA took a USAID plumber to ascertain amount of work needed to get the work done. Less than \$20 worth of commodities were needed and the PTA agreed to provide the plumber to install the faucets and plumbing fixtures needed.

The PTA of Sayamoung-houng Groupe Scolaire renovated the building which needed a new roof. They also replastered the cement for the walls making the school building look like new. They were ready to begin work on the second building which needs plastering but found out they were short of funds. Cement blocks are being made at the school for the FY 73 project at Na Seng. As soon as sufficient blocks are made for this project, an additional amount will be made for the Sayamoung-houng building needing repair.

School supplies are being distributed to schools in Savannakhet, Kengkol and Thakhek. A visit to Kengkol by the IIA was made. He inspected schools damaged by the enemy attack on the town and repairs are being made soon. The CEA/Assistant will supply the items needed for the new Groupe Scolaire building at Kengkol.

The rehabilitation on the Thakhek Groupe Scolaire has been completed. Security is still a problem for this area as schools were not visited.

Status report on urban school construction:	Na Ka	CE 2-014	100%
	Na Seng	CE 3-006	5%
	Thakhek	CE 3-005	Not started

Pakse Area

The CDA has submitted APs on all schools needed for self-help construction. As soon as approval is received the classroom will be built. Champassak has three APs with 27 rooms, Sithandone has 22 classrooms on two APs and Sedone will construct 30 rooms on three APs.

The rehabilitation of the groupes scolaires constructed by USAID have been completed. The only items remaining to be done are attaching door pulls and locks which are on back-order and should be arriving soon. The Pakse Groupe Scolaire eight room building will be dedicated in early February. The only item remaining is 16 bulletin boards which are also on back-order.

CE urban self-help construction is as follows:

Done Total	US \$ 1,000	100%
Pakse	US 2,370	100%
Sedone	US 3,492	30%

The CEA/National visited the Pakse area in early January. He visited various projects and assisted the American team in plans in distributing "Comchai Goes to Market".

The Chao Khoueng of Sedone has made repeated requests to the AD and CEA for a temporary site for the college of Sarsane. The 190 students presently studying in the Chinese School have been asked to vacate the school since the Chinese are expanding in September. The final decision rests with the Ministry of National Education.

The Deputy PSI/Sedone requested assistance with school supplies he needs for a project he is working on in his schools. He attended INVOIECH in Singapore and wants to introduce team teaching and simple programmed learning concepts in primary mathematics. The CEA/National requested that he submit his proposals in writing and he will seek assistance for the project.

Land clearing began on the Fa Ngum Comprehensive School in Pakse but one of the owners of the land staked out an area of 125 meters by 29 meters and refused to allow the land to be cleared. The Khoueng Council has decided to honor her request and have requested that the Ministry of Education leave out the triangular shaped area she claims. The area outside of one volleyball area from the school grounds.

The CEA met with the new CDA/Minister who is attempting to rebuild the town of Khong Sedone. He is the only of the inhabitants have returned and he and the Chao Khoueng are working on various possible projects which can be undertaken to get the town back to normal. Discussions were held on school, supplies, textbooks, etc. and the CDA and PSI are ready to assist when called upon to do so.

The Ministry of Education has announced that competitive entrance exams will be given on June 11, 1973 for students leaving 7-8 who would like to attend the new Fa Ngum School in Pakse. It is hoped that the first building is ready for the students in October.

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