

March 7, 1973

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

From : Lucius Butler, Chief of Party
University of Hawaii Contract Team

Subject: February, 1973, Monthly Report


PROBLEMS:

There are no major problems to bring forward at this time.

PROGRESS:

The attached reports by Mr. Santala and Dr. Mills provide details of project progress during February, 1973. The Chief of Party/Project Manager was on vacation during the period February 13-28. Special thanks are due to Mr. John Santala who served as Acting Chief of Party during this period.

Linguist

The arrival of Arthur Criefield to Laos to join the University of Hawaii team as staff linguist and Lao language/literature curriculum adviser on February 3 brings the team strength to twelve. Art has been busy during the month becoming acquainted with various aspects of the project and its relationship with other educational and development efforts in the Kingdom of Laos. He serves on the curriculum center staff with Dr. Fuller and the other curriculum advisers.

Curriculum Center

Efforts to up-grade project activities have continued during the month with particular emphasis on greater involvement of Lao teachers as well as Lao persons outside of the Pa Ngum schools in the development of curriculum materials.

It is expected that with the services of a staff linguist, it will be possible to make greater use of outside Lao personnel in development of second-cycle (grade 11-13) highly technical-oriented textbooks.

Evaluation of textbooks will also be given greater attention, using outside organizations and individuals as we have in the past. Several revisions are being proposed to improve the "first-draft" editions now being used throughout project schools.

Progress on textbook production has been delayed for a variety of reasons with only one business textbook on Pen-key Adding Machine Operation coming from the printer and no books being turned in to USAID/GM during this month.

Project Schools

Steady progress toward completion of construction is seen at each project school as team administrative advisors continue to assist the RLG school directors in site development and curriculum implementation.

Government school furniture (AP-SE-70/5) was completed during the month. This is one of the last "prior year" activity proposals to be completed as we have worked toward bringing our activities up-to-date. (Still have "Khong sedang" furniture ^{NuXi} to do)

Phum Hong school reservoir was enlarged through joint PWD-OEG-EDU-FHA cooperation to provide sufficient agricultural water resources.

Luang Prabang school Phase IIA construction is nearing completion and Phase IIB work is well underway. An extensive check-list has been developed which Mr. Bantala will use for monitoring final construction inspections.

Pakse school site land clearing and related activities continue with RLG involvement in school site boundary determination. It is anticipated that the first construction phase will include the Ann Economics/Agriculture Building and one Toilet Building.

Vientiane construction, including the Hong Sengman practice house, the motor/electric shop building and the curriculum center are all progressing, although there has been some delay.

Project Budgets and Funding

Approaching the fourth quarter of this fiscal year we find ourselves adjusting budget line items to better implement the program as it has developed during the past months.

Some activities will need to be delayed until FY76 unless additional funds can be found. PL/CI's have been submitted beyond the current budget level in the hope that some end-of-year balances can be used to order instructional equipment.

American Field Service Scholarships: 1973-74

Scholarship recipients for the A.F.S. year - abroad in the United States include the following three students from Fa Ngum, Vientiane:

Mr. Booneng, grade 11.
Mr. Mue Lda, grade 12.
Mr. Suanak, grade 12.

Currently, two Fa Ngum students are in the United States on A.F.S. scholarships and one student went to Australia for a 4-year educational scholarship.

We are happy to see the efforts of the total program, and particularly the English (TEFL) curriculum and teaching, result in Fa Ngum students receiving scholarships for international experience and training.

EDU/SE:LAButlar:dk

Attachments:

Feb. report by Dr. Fulton
Feb. report by Mr. Rantala