

August 27, 1973

To : Dr. Robert M. Martin, Chief of Party, UH Team

(Signed in draft)

From : Francis K.C. Wong, SEA/SVK

Subject: Monthly Report, August, 1973

Problems:

1. The gas engine for the Dempster pump broke down but MTB was able to make minor repairs and it is running again.
2. The starter for the generator finally broke down and repairs were made. We still have frequent problems with the alternator keeping the battery charged even though the dynamo has been fixed many times.
3. EDL informed me that they were short 47 insulators. I have informed John Rantala of the fact and he is working on the acquisition. EDL gave me the wrong estimate so it looks like we will have a delay unless the insulators can get here within two weeks.

Activities/Accomplishments:

1. The tractor is back after repairs and Mr. Linh is using the post hole implement to prepare holes for the planting of pine trees.
2. Rose plants and mulberry cuttings from the Yamauchis' are doing well so far.
3. Sawdust is being hauled to the school daily and is stockpiled near the terraces. Unfortunately, the trucks can't dump where we want due to the muddy ground so student help will be utilized to spread the sawdust using the tractor and trailer.
4. All of the student desks and chairs from the French Technical School has been delivered. All that remain are 5 teachers desks before the contract is fulfilled. The contract is for replacement furniture that was sent down to Pakse for the Thong Sedona School.
5. The smaller reservoir has been stocked with about 160 tilapia purchased from a local fish pond. We are still waiting for fingerlings from the Pakse hatchery.

Other Donors

1. EDL is stringing conductors for the power system. They are working in segments and will be able to string at least 2/3 of the distance to Fa Ngum School. If the insulators arrive, then the remainder of the distance can be completed. I am still hopeful of electricity being available before school starts.
2. PWD plans to build a road passing in front of the school starting around September 20 and at that time, the earth hauling for the bicycle racks will also commence. John Rantala is rewriting the AP to meet the different requirements.

Recommendations:

1. It would be most helpful in the purchasing of lumber for projects if the different lengths, widths, etc were given instead of just the total amount of cubic meters. The AP for the Lao Practice Home will soon be approved and lumber to build will have to be purchased. I would appreciate details as to the purchase of this lumber.
2. Having observed the success of concrete propagation boxes filled with sand at Fa Ngum Luang Prabang, I recommend that funds be made available so that at least two of these boxes be built for Fa Ngum Savannakhet. Somehow, the boxes were crossed out from the plans when the green house was being built.

EDU/SE:FIGWong:kk

cc: Mr. Sanford J. Stone, AC/SVKT
Mr. Hongthong Niravanh, Director/Fa Ngum Savannakhet