

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 1972

TO : Mr. James B. Chandler, Acting Director  
FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division  
SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for July, 1972

*NW Green*

Refugee Schools

General Vang Pao and Chao Saykham, Chao Khoueng/Xieng Khouang, made a visit early in July to the Fa Ngum Vientiane School and the classrooms and dormitories being used there by students from the displaced Sam Thong College. This was an introductory visit for these officials; its purpose was mainly to acquaint them with the Fa Ngum program and to begin thinking about future plans for the Sam Thong College and secondary education programs in general in MR II.

We are keeping in touch with the Khong Sedone refugee situation and are prepared to provide supplies and other assistance for temporary schools, including a temporary college, if necessary.

Permanent refugee classroom construction on the Vientiane Plains is progressing well. The special summer teaching provided by secondary school students in the work experience program at these and many other locations has helped refugee children catch up on lost years of their education.

Mr. Woodson and Mr. Costantino are working with ACs and CDAAAs on plans for FY 73 refugee school construction. APs for textbooks and school supplies for this year have also been prepared.

Community Education

During the reporting period the Ministry of Education with USAID assistance completed the third year of its project to train and qualify CREC teachers as regular members of the Ministry's staff. About 1000 CREC personnel, including many refugee school teachers, participated in first-, second-, and third-year training programs this year. Four preliminary courses were conducted for the instructors of the CREC training and these were helpful in improving the quality of the summer courses. CE staff spent the greater part of the month visiting the training centers and consulting with the course directors.

Community Education (continued)

Seventy groupe scolaire directors received training in Houei Sai and Savannakhet. Former CE participants who took training in Thailand in supervision and testing were valuable members of the instructional staff.

Nineteen additional classroom supervisors and testing specialists will complete their training in Laos next month and depart for six months' intensive training in Thailand in September.

Teacher Training

A considerable amount of work has been done to improve the curriculum for the two-year training program for primary teachers which is offered at seven of the ENIs. Mr. Thanh, on leave from his position as PSI for Vientiane/South, has been invaluable in this curriculum work. Where appropriate, Fa Ngum textbooks will be used in implementing the new curriculum.

Building maintenance and improvement projects at all teacher training schools continued this month under the TT student summer work program. A wind-storm on July 8 added to the work projects at Dong Dok by uprooting 23 trees, damaging the roof of two buildings, and knocking down some wires and light poles. All damage was quickly repaired but the trees are still on the ground. We were lucky there was not more damage from the falling trees.

A Lao typing class for 30 TT and SE clerical staff is being given under TT sponsorship at the Fa Ngum School.

Secondary Education

Fa Ngum textbook production is progressing steadily. Two books were completed this month and ten are now at the printers. The Hawaii Team and the Lao teachers and writers are to be congratulated on their concerted efforts.

School construction status, as of 7/31/72, was as follows:

Secondary Education (continued)

- Phone Hong - the final phase of construction was 90% complete
- Savannakhet - the total project was reported to be 84% complete
- Luang Prabang - Phase I has been completed; Phase II-A was 36% complete; plans for Phase II-B (which add 2 buildings and incorporate recommended change orders in prior plans) are expected to be ready by mid-August
- Vientiane - PWD is assisting with plans for an electronics-motor shop; construction bids for the new curriculum center building were rejected for being too high

The Hawaii Team's office was moved from Building 100 to Building 505 during the month. The move was necessitated by additional space requirements in EDU and seems a satisfactory solution, so far, for all concerned.

General

Mr. Khamtanh Chantala has been appointed Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Education (after his nomination to be Secretary of State for Education was withdrawn). Potentially, his new role could be very helpful in coordinating Donor Country assistance, in strengthening educational planning, and in instituting financial and administrative reforms. Some shuffling of Ministry personnel is still going on, however, so we may not have the last word on Mr. Khamtanh's position.

Educational Materials

Educational materials completed this month:

CE	Reading, Grade 3	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 4	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 5	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 6	6,000 copies
SE	Lao Literature, Grade 9	6,000 copies
SE	Woodworking, Grade 9	3,000 copies

Educational Materials (continued)

## Educational materials being printed:

SE	Lao Language, Grade 9	6,000 copies
SE	Lao Language, Grade 10	6,000 copies
SE	Business Grade 11 - Accounting	2,000 copies
SE	Agriculture Field Crops	2,000 copies
SE	Mathematics, Geometry, Grade 9	6,000 copies
SE	Social Studies, Lao Government, Grade 7	10,000 copies
SE	Home Economics, Grade 9	2,000 copies
SE	Business Grade 9 - Abacus	3,000 copies
SE	Social Studies, Grade 9 - Australia	6,000 copies
SE	Industrial Arts, Grade 10 - Introduction to Metals	3,000 copies

Personnel

Mr. Myron Thomas, Teacher Training Maintenance Advisor, departed post on separation orders.

The mission has concurred in the nomination of Mr. Tom Liston to the new position of National Maintenance Advisor. Mr. Liston is expected to arrive in Laos in early September.

Mr. Sayathone, CE Administrative Assistant for refugee school programs, resigned from USAID in order to accept a scholarship in Great Britain.

Reporting Units

Secondary Education  
Teacher Training  
Community Education

EDU:NWGreen:ei

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