

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 11, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, December, 1972



Community Education

Final arrangements are being made for the 15th annual Primary School Inspectors' Conference which will be held in Phone Hong January 15-25. Review of the elementary science curriculum, the student activities program ("mouvement de jeunesse"), and a traffic safety program are among the main topics on the agenda. The CE project is sponsoring the attendance of Mr. David Harper, RECSAM advisor, at the conference to assist with the work on the new science curriculum. Mr. Chandler will speak to the school inspectors on one day. The RLG Police Safety Director will also be among those making a presentation at the conference.

Lee Engler was in Bangkok for two days to review CE participant training programs. Four elementary curriculum specialists and 21 elementary supervisors and testing officers are making satisfactory progress. Plans were made for four other long term training programs which will start soon in Testing and Guidance, Statistics, and School Finance.

Elementary schools -- refugee and non-refugee -- are about out of chalk. A large shipment is expected from Australia but the Australian Embassy has not yet been able to give us an arrival date. SMD is also out of chalk in common-use supplies but a shipment is due in January. Meanwhile, a small amount of chalk has been purchased locally for distribution to refugee schools.

Teacher Training

Work on surfacing the roads at the Dong Dok campus is nearing completion. The new roads, plus the fencing that was done some time ago, have made the school a much more pleasant and healthy place for living and working.

Unfortunately, there is also some less good news from Dong Dok. The main well caved in last month after four years of service. The second well is providing reduced quantities of water to the school but the situation is somewhat precarious because there is now no deep well backup system in case of additional trouble. While we may request the drilling of a new well, the persistent problems with deep wells are leading TT personnel to explore possibilities for making greater use of surface water at Dong Dok. It should be noted that IVSer Case Keur's November report on the Dong Dok water system predicted an early need for additional water sources, but we had not expected the need to come quite this soon.

We are making plans for Mr. Saly Chittavovong to return to the U.S. to complete work for a B.A. in TOEFL. He has had ten years experience teaching at the Buddhist Institute and LAA and a great deal of training which would qualify him for a senior position at ESP, assuming he can get the required degree.

### Secondary Education

The Fa Ngum School in Savannakhet was dedicated in early December by the Ambassador and the Minister of Education. A small balance of funds in the PIO/T enables us to carry out a few additional projects at the school involving the irrigation system, drainage ditches, top soil, sidewalks and curbs. Some progress has been made on completing the electrical power line but the hook up to city power will not be possible for several more months.

The woodworking and metal shops at Fa Ngum Luang Prabang have been set up, the tractor and other agriculture implements have been delivered and an activity proposal has been prepared for the installation of an irrigation pump.

PWD is now clearing the site for the Fa Ngum School in Pakse. Building plans are being given final reviews and should go out for bid in a few weeks. However, we still do not have letters of commitment from EDL and the Lao Water Association to provide electrical power and potable water to the school. The Ministry tells us this is "no problem" but we need to get the commitment in writing.

Teacher Supply

Information from various sources indicates that at least 170 new Lao teachers will be available for teaching in secondary schools and teacher training schools in the 1973-74 school year. There will still be some teacher shortages in specialized subjects and in the higher grades, since most of the new teachers will be qualified to teach only academic subjects in the lower levels of secondary schools. These problems will not be unmanageable, however.

A recent study of Lao students abroad prepared by HRDD indicates that at least 50 students will return to the teaching profession in 1973. Of this number, 21 are USAID participants in Thailand. Most of the USAID participants will obtain an Associate (2 year college) degree, distributed as follows:

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Social Studies  | 3        |
| Science         | 2        |
| Mathematics     | 2        |
| Home Economics  | 2        |
| Industrial Arts | 3        |
| Business        | 3        |
| Agriculture     | <u>6</u> |
|                 | 21       |

At the ESP, 128 students are in the 13th year, 21 in the 15th year, and 13 in the 17th year. In addition, 10 math/science and 28 social studies/English teachers will complete their high school level studies at the English Section next June. Thus a total of 200 students will complete a level of training in Laos next June which qualifies them to teach in secondary schools. About forty percent of this number will continue their studies in the next cycle of training here or abroad, leaving at least 120 graduates available for teaching in secondary school in October.

The 120 students trained in Laos plus the 50 students trained abroad give us the total of 170 new secondary level teachers expected to be available for the next school year.

Educational Materials

A Ladder Series book concerning population education entitled Our

Overcrowded World has been translated and mimeographed in Lao by the SE project. USIS is considering printing the Lao version in pocketbook form.

**Educational Materials completed this month:**

|    |                                      |              |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| SE | Social Studies, New Zealand, Grade 9 | 6,000 copies |
| SE | Lao Language, Grade 9                | 6,000 copies |
| SE | Business: Accounting, Grade 11       | 2,000 copies |

**Educational Materials being printed:**

|        |                              |               |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------|
| SE     | Lao Literature: Lao Calendar | 5,000 copies  |
| SE     | Business: Adding Machines    | 3,000 copies  |
| CE     | Lao Fables, Grades 4-5-6     | 8,000 copies  |
| CE     | Ethics, Grade 2              | 8,000 copies  |
| CE     | Ethics, Grade 3              | 6,000 copies  |
| CE     | Ethics, Grade 4              | 4,000 copies  |
| CE     | Ethics, Grade 5              | 3,000 copies  |
| CE     | Ethics, Grade 6              | 2,000 copies  |
| CE     | Geography, Grade 5           | 3,000 copies  |
| CE     | Geography, Grade 6           | 2,000 copies  |
| AWC/CE | Civics, Grade 4              | 25,000 copies |
| AWC/CE | Civics, Grade 5              | 19,000 copies |
| AWC/CE | Civics, Grade 6              | 15,275 copies |

Other Donors

The French Cultural Mission sponsored four-day seminars in Vientiane, Pakse, and Luang Prabang for Lao teachers of French in secondary schools. A similar seminar will be held in Savannakhet in January.

Reporting units: School Maintenance and Supply Advisor  
Teacher Training  
Secondary Education  
Community Education

EDU:NWGreen:ei

DIST: CD/DD-2, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/P, AD/RA, Each AC,  
HRDD, EPM-2, AGR, PHD, PSD, PWD, OICC, SMD-2, IVS,  
EDU-16, Laos Desk, SA/TCD/LD/ED, C&R-2.