

January 3, 1973

To : Dr. Lucius Butler, Chief of Party, U/Hawaii Team  
From : *JW Rantala*  
John Rantala, Procurement & Logistics Officer, UH Contract  
Subject: Monthly Report December 1972

This position is largely one of service to the Fa Ngum Schools, so the activities and accomplishments are reported in terms of the F.N.S. to which the service was rendered.

#### I. SAVANNAKHET

The long delay in bringing about the necessary EDL action for the installation of a power line to the Fa Ngum School is about to end with decisive action. The present situation appears to be as follows:

1. The 75 SIB purchased, 121 concrete electrical poles are sufficient in number to meet the job requirements. This assumption is made on the basis that the 73 unbroken poles delivered will be erected without further breakage. (2 were broken in off-loading in Svkt.)
2. P&D will use an endloader tractor and truck to pick up, transport and set up the concrete poles.
3. The AC and FSO will hire local labor to dig 2M holes 60CM in diameter for each pole. The same labor will be used to backfill the holes with laterite. Every 5th hole will be back-filled with concrete. The labor and materials will be charged to secondary education.
4. The Chief of Education has made the necessary arrangements with the Program office and Finance to allow for OIC procurement of the pole hardware, insulators, cross arms and guy wires. The cost of these materials will be charged to the Savannakhet Fa Ngum School Construction PIO/C.
5. EDL will install the crossarms, hardware and insulators. They will also string the conductor wire and make the hook up to the pole mounted transformers on the Fa Ngum School campus.
6. The appropriate electrical power meter will be selected, procured and installed on the basis of OIC-EDL negotiations or the market.
7. The estimated date of power delivery has not been established. Using Fa Ngum Luang Prabang experience as the basis of an estimate, I would say June 1, 1973 would be a reasonable expectation. This expectation is based upon the assumption that OICC will be allowed to make local purchase of foreign made (Japanese) insulators and pole hardware. If "buy U.S." is made mandatory, an additional 4-6 months delay can be expected.

It should be pointed out that the long delay in procuring the power poles and bringing EDL up to its present course of action has all been during the interim period of EDL installing additional generating capacity at Savannakhet. The possibility of power for La Ngum School did not become practically feasible until December 1972, so delay in the installation of power is only a matter of approximately 6 months, although preparatory activities and intensive follow-up have stretched over two years.

#### B. Corrections following final inspection.

1. The final inspection of FNS, Svkt. revealed a number of minor structural cracks, probably due to slight settling of the foundations of the first classroom building and toilet buildings. These cracks caused sufficient movement to crack the interior and exterior cement plastering.

These cracks had been satisfactorily grooved and replastered when inspected on a follow-up visit of December 11, 1972. It is possible, however, that further settling will occur, followed by renewed cracking. Close attention should be given to this possibility so that additional repairs if required, can be called for during the one year guarantee period.

2. Minor faults of unsatisfactory sodding, poorly designed door steps, an uneven classroom floor, faulty bathroom mirror, drainage ditch erosion, poor gutter design, electrical switch malfunctioning and soft spots in drive and parkways have all been satisfactorily repaired and noted for future improvement in FNS construction.

3. Possible FNS design improvements based upon FNS Svkt. construction:

The relocation of sidewalks under building eaves, pebble surfaced stairwells, terrazzo sinks and toilet building surfaces, improved mounting of science lab fixtures, elimination of wooden base boards, delivery convenience to shop and agricultural buildings, cement asbestos roofing, heavier gutter materials, Lao style kitchen facility in Home Economics Lab, better location of Home Economics electric range outlets, better door locks on classroom buildings, classroom storage cabinets.

4. Additional project work deemed essential at FNS Svkt.

The following order of priority was established. Work will be done to the extent of funds available.

- a. Installation of two potable water pumps with irrigation capability on limited basis
- b. Erosion treatment to drainage ditch paralleling front edge of campus.
- c. Hauling of agricultural soil from Mekong River bed

- d. Installation of agricultural irrigation lines
- e. Widening of sidewalks to extend them under eaves of Science, Agriculture/Home Economics and Shop buildings.
- f. Curbing paralleling Agriculture/Home Economics building to help prevent erosion of steep slope from building to driveway.

## II. LIANG PRABANG

Rankin & Bantala made a visit to install Industrial Arts Shop equipment and to study reported construction deficiencies, Dec. 5-9, 1972.

- A. The following woodworking machines were positioned, assembled, checked out, adjusted and lubricated:

1. Jointer
2. Planer
3. Tablesaw
4. Bandsaw
5. Jig saw
6. Drill press

B. One bench vise was installed on a demonstration basis. It was noted to be of a poor design and inferior quality. It will be a subject of complaint to GSA via SMS.

C. Every possible opportunity was used to give the Woodworking Instructor, Mr. Say on-the-job training in operation, safety and maintenance procedures on woodworking machines. He proved to be a very able and willing assistant.

D. The following metalworking equipment was unboxed, assembled and placed on benches. No time was available for checking, adjusting and lubricating.

1. Lathe
2. Shaper
3. Slip-roll
4. Beading and burring
5. Drill press
6. Bar folder
7. Metal working tool cabinet and tools

Bantala and Rankin will visit Luang Prabang on January 9-11 for the purpose of assisting with the setting up of the Metal Work Shop and to consult with Mr. Bewitz on installation of irrigation pump as per AP developed by FWD.

E. During the course of our visit we noted a very unsatisfactory repair procedure being used on the leaking 6" plastic line. Concrete blocks were being cast around leaking joints. It is predictable that these blocks will sink, thus drawing the pipe down and causing leaks elsewhere in the line. A complaint was made to OIC on the procedure, however the method is still being used unsatisfactorily as noted in Mr. Yamauchi's monthly report, December 1972.

F. It is recommended that an engineering study be made of the suitability of this 6" plastic line for its intended purpose. The quality of its installation should also be studied. There is considerable evidence to date that the Lao will not be able to repair this line should it spring a leak after MOE acceptance of the completed project. Repeated attempts of the present contractor to repair leaking joints have all been unsatisfactory.

G. The John Deere tractor, plow, disc, harrow and furrower have been received, inspected, assembled (in part) and transported by air to the PWS. Operation and maintenance manuals collected for safe keeping by PWD, who assembled the tractor, are being forwarded to Mr. Yamauchi.

H. Mr. Tileston of PWD has completed the Activity Plan requested for the installation of the irrigation pump. The AP will be discussed with Mr. Sewitz for additional ideas and/or material needs.

### III. PAKSE

A. The early plot plan with suggested building locations was reviewed by Mr. Gus Carlson of PWD. Mr. Carlson's proposed relocation of buildings was deemed a better layout, so changes were initiated accordingly.

B. A review of the 2nd plot plan by MOE resulted in a few minor changes being recommended. The proposed changes were incorporated into another revision. The remaining plans for PWS Pakse will be completed by OIC for a design review on January 14, 1973.

C. PWD prepared the necessary AP for the land clearing. It has been approved by Program, Finance, Education and MOE. PWD Pakse is in process of clearing the land.

D. Expectations are that contract bidding will be on schedule, allowing for a late February 1973 start of construction.

E. Visits were made to IOE to discuss with Mr. Bounthavy and Mr. Phou, the necessary commitments from EDL and Lao Water Association to provide electrical power and potable water to the PWS. The problem is anticipated in acquiring these commitments. OIC has been informed that construction is not to start until the letters of commitment are in hand.

#### IV. VIENTIANE

A. Construction has started on the Curriculum Center. Completion is expected in 4 months. The problems of contractor equipment access and use of Fa Ngum potable water and electrical power have been successfully negotiated.

B. The revised plans were reviewed by Mr. Green & Mr. Rantala with the FNS Director, Mr. Somsak. The minor proposed changes of office location and substitution of removable partition for non-removable wall present no problem. The necessary change order will be submitted.

C. The Home Economics Practice Cottage (Lao Style house) is proceeding slightly ahead of schedule but not in accordance with the AP. The student labor from Industrial Arts classes has proven to be more difficult to schedule than anticipated.

D. The Small Engines (Power Mechanics) shop for Industrial Arts was proposed as a PWD Force Account construction project. The required AP was approved as of Dec. 15, 1972 and Mr. Dant, Chief of PWD, has directed that construction begin January 1973.

It is an interesting matter of note that we have experienced no difficulty in collecting an assortment of worn out small engines and components from other USAID activities. They will serve very well as training aids. The necessary tools, manuals and new engines needed to set up the course and prepare instructional materials have been procured.

E. The temporary disruption of the Vientiane City pumping schedule caused an acute potable water problem. The back up water system (tube well submersible upump & water tower) was simultaneously out of order. The breakdown of the back up system had been repeatedly reported along with requests to PWD for its repair. The press of more urgent work made it impossible for PWD to take on the repair. We had to resort to immediate contract repair using the Phone Hong back up pump for replacement of the Vientiane pump.

Mr. Fittro of PWD will be consulted for his recommendation on the type of replacement pump to order for the Phone Hong FNS back up system. We seem to be getting more reliable service from reciprocating pump jacks.

F. The impending visit of Senator Inouye and other Washington dignitaries has touched off a flurry of painting, clean up and repair activities. No difficulty is anticipated in having FNS Vientiane look very presentable by January 16, 1973. The situation has loaned itself to the planning of a joint social and work activity of the Fa Ngum Staff, JH Advisors and PFA for January 6, 1973.

V. PHONE HONG

A. Questionable security caused a slight disruption in the advisory services of Mr. Zane and IVS instructors. The situation appears normal and all are at their posts again.

B. PLO services have centered mostly in processing 203's and shipping instructional materials.

C. The 7 HP gasoline driven irrigation pump purchased from ADO has been installed by Mr. Zane and found to be very satisfactory.

D. The kind of repair parts being procured for the repair of the Director's vehicle (Scout 800-A) indicate that the maintenance of the vehicle will be a growing problem. The evidence points to considerable wear and tear.

E. The heavy slitting shear of FNS, Luang Prabang was transferred to FNS Phone Hong to meet present needs of metal classes at Phone Hong. A replacement shear was ordered for Luang Prabang.

F. OICC has informed us that the FNS Phone Savanh (Phone Hong) construction cost GFM materials have exceeded funds available by 6 to 8 thousand dollars. Exact figures are being procured from SMD. We have asked for a phase by phase accounting so that it can be established what the excess costs were for. These costs may have been incurred prior to the days of computer print outs. OICC records have already been sent to Bangkok so SMD records of 203's for early phase will have to be checked.

VI. 2ND CYCLE FA NGUM SCHOOL PROCUREMENT

All Curriculum Advisors have been requested to submit requirements by description, quantity, cost and source of procurement. All requests received to date have been processed for procurement.