

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

November 6, 1972

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

NW Green

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for October, 1972

Of the twenty-eight graduates from the English Section at Dong Dok last year, five are now in the U. S. studying for a B. A., four are preparing to go to Australia in January for further studies, 13 are teaching in Fa Ngum Schools, five in colleges and lycees, and one at the ESP. Those teaching in secondary schools were given intensive summer course work at either the RELC (Singapore) or RECSAM (Penang) SEAMEO centers this summer.

Some thirteen returned participants with Associate or Bachelor Degrees from Thailand were placed in Fa Ngum Schools this year. There are also two back from the U. S. and one from Hong Kong with B. A.'s.

Student enrollment figures at the Fa Ngum Schools this year are as follows:

<u>SCHOOL/GRADE</u>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	TOTALS
Vientiane	149	117	124	100	67	54	-	611
Phong Hong	105	106	106	98	-	-	-	415
Savannakhet	110	112	94	-	-	-	-	316
Luang Prabang	108	94	-	-	-	-	-	202
TOTALS	472	429	324	198	67	54	-	1544

Total enrollment figures by subject areas are as follows:

Grade 7 (orientation)	472
Agriculture	329
Business	302
Home Economics	146
Industrial Arts	295
	<u>1544</u>

Construction progress on Fa Ngum Schools:

Vientiane Work is expected to get started soon on two small projects: (1) a Home Economics practice house and (2) a motor-electric shop building. Bids on the Curriculum Center project are still being negotiated.

Phone Hong A final inspection was made this month of the last phase of construction at Phone Hong. Construction of this school is now completed except for a few minor corrections, including a remedy for an unsodded embankment.

Savannakhet We expect to make a final inspection of this project during November. Some drainage problems have been reported and work to connect the school with city electric power is still to be done.

Luang Prabang Work continues on the second phase of the construction and the addition of the final two buildings is being negotiated with the present contractor. The water distribution system requires additional work and attention.

Pakse OICC is working on the final building plans. For this school to open in October, 1973, the contractor should begin work in February, which means bids need to go out by mid-December, 1972. The PIO/T for this project has not yet been issued.

A ninth grade Lao textbook in Agriculture for instruction in field crops was received from the printers this month.

4,500 copies of a Lao primer designed especially for teaching functional

literacy to farmers were presented to the Ministry by the Asia Foundation this month. Also in regard to literacy work in Laos, UNESCO provided four study programs for Ministry officials to observe literacy projects in Iran and Afghanistan after attending seminars on this subject in France.

In Community Education, work in curriculum development during the next several months will concentrate on the area of elementary science. The following steps have been planned:

1. An elementary science advisor from RECSAM will visit Laos in early November, under our auspices, to confer with RLG and EDU technicians;
2. Five Primary School Inspectors will then go to RECSAM for a ten-day seminary, again sponsored by USAID;
3. The five PSIs will draft new objectives and course outlines for elementary science and, if possible, prepare a few sample units of instruction giving particular attention to the use of locally made teaching aids;
4. The PSIs will present their report and recommendations to the PSI Conference which is scheduled for January, 1973.

Meanwhile, work continues on improving and revising the crucial sixth grade leaving examination. Lee Engler did a good analysis of the results of last year's tests and is discussing her conclusions and recommendations with the testing committee.

Elementary school construction approved at the Dry Season Review is here summarized in brief:

Refugee and narcotics related:

Already approved	126 classrooms
New - temporary	109 "
New - permanent	121 "

Other:

Already approved	116 "
New	<u>252</u> "

TOTAL	724 classrooms
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Current construction projects are, of course, being slowed by the rice harvest. However two more eight-room urban self-help school construction projects were completed in Vientiane last month -- one at Hong Seng and the other at Bo O. Another school project of special interest is a proposal by the International Rotary Club of Vientiane to build a permanent refugee school on the Vientiane Plain.

The majority of the projects to rehabilitate the older urban groupes scolaires are proceeding in a satisfactory manner. However some of the schools have some particularly difficult problems -- such as a sinking foundation on the Phone Kham School in Luang Prabang -- and there are still some across-the-board problems with water supply systems. Tom Liston will be pulling together recommendations for dealing with both types of problems.

Lightning strikes on one night and a blown fuse at Krh-6 on another night caused a 60 KW transformer, a pump, and other electrical equipment to be burned out at ESP. The equipment was rapidly replaced but the damage was expensive. Messrs. Colman, Liston, and Keur and their RLG counterparts are analyzing both the electrical and water supply systems at Dong Dok with the goal of recommending means of thwarting future disruptions.

Mr. Liston has started work on improving the CE school supply catalog so that it may be used by other levels of the school system in the future. In addition, he has assisted in moving the Lao secondary textbooks out of a classroom at the Fa Ngum School to the Dong Dok warehouse where they are being shelved and inventoried.

A new administrative assistant, Mr. Phonekeo, is being assigned to the education office in Luang Prabang in early November, thus filling a position that has been vacant for some time.

Minister Leuam, Director General Khamkhing, and Director of Secondary Education Phou Rasphone formed the delegation from Laos to the UNESCO General Conference in Paris. As you know, the Minister and Mr. Phou stopped in Hawaii for what was apparently a successful two-day visit while en route to the conference. Mr. Khamkhing spent about ten days in Japan at the invitation of the Japanese government prior to going to Paris.

Reporting units: School Maintenance and Supply Advisor, Teacher Training, Secondary Education, 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/LD/ED, C&R -2