

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 29, 1972

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division
FROM : James A. Colman, Teacher Education Adviser
SUBJECT: Teacher Training Monthly Report for November, 1972

Problems:

Much time was spent on acquiring adequate gravel to pave the roads at the KM-9 campus. On Nov. 28, a second contract was ready for the contractor's signature. The cost of this material was approximately twice the estimate of SMB. The real problem then is the double cost of materials. The Kip budget for the project is now able to carry out half of the planned program for 1972-73.

Progress:

- 1). Numerous pieces of equipment have been at work on the campus at KM-9. Not only are roads being graded, widened, and readied for paving but many other needed works are taking place. Twenty-three (23) fallen trees are being removed from the campus, fence areas are being cleaned, and unsightly unlevel ground is being cleared and smoothed to make it possible for grass cutters to keep the grass cut. During the month of December, it is hoped that the paving of the roads will be completed.
- 2). The staff at Savannakhet ENI have requested to conduct an afternoon school for some of the 6th grade graduates who cannot find a school to attend. This may not appear very important on the surface, but could change the entire Lao educational operation. The change would be moving the education program from dependence upon external aid to self sufficiency. Tuition would be paid by the afternoon students. Half of the funds would be for teachers' salaries, and half for campus maintenance. By 1976 the ENI Savannakhet would have 600 students paying tuition, providing approximately one million Kip each month for the school. This is adequate to maintain this campus. With teachers receiving double salary, greater interest, and effort will take place by the present staff. The double salary will attract the better educated Lao in Teacher Education.

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The request has been approved by the Director of Teacher Training and sent to the Director of Education. Since Savannakhet is the Minister's home town and the Chao Khoueng has signed the request, it is anticipated there will be no opposition.

The staff would like to start the program in December for the 7th grade. In 1973-74 for grades 7 and 8, in 1974-75 for grades 7 - 8 - 9, and in 1975-76 have a complete school of grades 7 through 10 in the afternoon or a total of approximately 1,200 students on campus. The afternoon students would not be required to teach upon completion of the 10th grade.

3). A report on 1972-1973 enrollment is included in this report as attachment "A":

The school year started on October 2, 1972. The enrollment has settled to numbers that give us some indication of what Teacher Training will be for the rest of the year. At the KM-9 campus ESP section over 100 students were not allowed in classes until a dispute was settled with the grading procedure. All of the students were re-enstated and now are attending classes.

For those who are interested in enrollment levels the statistics supplied include what is known about the past and what is known about the planning of the future. It is hoped this will be useful. However, numbers are called statistics, but may not tell the whole story. While the effort was made to compile these figures on enrollment, the request from Savannakhet ENI arrived and may effect the levels of planned enrollment. By 1976 ENI Savannakhet would have 1,200 students in enrollment rather than 600.

In order to meet the needs of practice teaching at KM-9, a proposal was made to have a high school on campus just for practice teaching. This might well be a regular Fa Ngum high school from 7th to 13th year and would be operated from one PM to six PM and double this campus enrollment. So the enrollment for the future is planned but appears not to give an interested reader the possible magnitude of future growth of enrollment. If one ENI school has an afternoon school, this will soon be in all of the four large ENI schools and will mean a five thousand school enrollment from grades 7 - 10 instead of the 2,000 now enrolled. The students desire a 10th grade certificate because they will have a better chances of employment than a 6th grade graduate.

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4). There was set aside this month for one of the staff members to do some basic research. The research compiled together under one cover factual information for RIG and USAID on a very serious problem that can cause possible education program disruption, which could lead to serious political impact and embarrassment to both governments.

Mr. Cornelis M. Keur, IVS Maintenance Advisor, was the staff member available with Teacher Training who has the professional background. Mr. Cornelis M. Keur's compilation was thorough and was extremely impartial in its contents. This report is the basis for providing the Director of Teacher Training with sound information, answering the latest audit attacks, and providing the basis for recommendations to carry the project thorough to 1975. Dr. Veo has reported city water will be available by that date thorough Japanese efforts. The 1973-74 budget will include the cost of the recommendations if there is Education Division and Mission approval. The cost of the recommendations would have delayed this submission of the report for another month and it was decided to share the report for Mission reaction while cost factors were being gathered. Some changes and some work have already been set into action for improvements of our existing water supply.

A special thanks is due to Mr. Cornelis M. Keur for this quality work and the contribution it has provided Teacher Training Project. Attachment "B" of this report is Mr. Cornelis M. Keur's report.

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