

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: October 5, 1972

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, EDU

FROM : James A. Colman, Teacher Education Advisor

SUBJECT: Teacher Training Monthly Report for September, 1972

Problem:

During September plumbing at 2 new dormitories at Dong Dok developed artesian wells. OICC was contacted because the buildings were new. Mr. Redmond reported capillary action on the pipes similar to acid action, making holes. If the leaking in one year old buildings are developing major leaks, Mr. Redmond agreed that the 11 year old main lines on the campus are responsible for the water tank never filling. The main pump at Dong Dok pumped 115,000 gal of water every twenty-four hours, never filling the main water tank, indicating that somewhere the water is leaving the system other than human use. There were no students on campus.

Action must be taken as soon as possible to correct the chemical action on plumbing. The suggestion made is to install plastic pipe. Plastic pipe is cheaper than metal pipe and can eliminate the problem of chemical action caused by the chemical content in the source of water.

Progress:

The Teacher Training Project has proven to be a completely different operation during September than the operation of June of last year. There are many changes which will be commented upon. This has become evident since his leave (June 7 - August 30). September is the first full month of work after returning to post.

The evidences of the work of the AACTE Contract is starting to show. One major contribution is the new Lac Section in RSP. Mr. Jim Chamberlin, assistant of a new staff member of the new Law Department is a major and Dong Dok contribution. This has come about from a long persistent effort.

The pre-school preparation at the English Section this year was more of a calm planned operation. The assistance in administrative development has definitely made a change from a crisis jumping operation to a functioning organization. To say there are no rough spots in the present operation would be wrong. However, the change in administrative operation and procedure is easily observed by those who visit the school frequently.

There has been a major change in appearance in each of the Teacher Training campuses. The summer work program on each campus has contributed to this change. Improved supervision, supply delivery for the work and follow up by the Lao have all effected the end results. Before the work began, complete work plans were made with the Lao Assistant Director of Teacher Training. When agreements were made, estimates of materials needed to carry out the work were made and/or acquired. In many cases, estimates were wrong but much was accomplished because of planning. The month of September, Mr. Phansy, Deputy Director of Teacher Training, visited each campus to evaluate the work according to plan. These campuses were, Ban Khou, Vong Vieng, Kena Thao, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Pakse; and Dong Dok. Never has so much interest by the Ministry been given to each campus. The most remarkable changes have been taken place at Dong Dok and Luang Prabang. In this positive change, part of the results have been caused by one year of field work and training of staff to be responsible for the care and upkeep of campuses. Continual encouragement of head administrators to establish staffs was necessary. In February of 1972, when the army took 67 men out of this staff it was felt most effort was lost. However had the shock, at this time, the staff has recovered and has made sufficient strides in accomplishment to permanently establish their worth in the minds of educational leaders. Now that the need has been created in the Lao administrators, the time for a long term program of developing personnel in depth is necessary to insure quality and continuation of the work.

Another change taking place is in the 7th and 8th grades curriculum. With the help of Mr. Thany, a mature Lao educator, each staff teaching in grade seven and eight will be using the Fa Ngum textbook this year. This may not appear to be a great step forward but in fact it is a very large stride. The importance of this change is the attitude of the Lao. The desire for Lao instruction has been actually demonstrated in action. During the month of September, Mr. Thany visited each III school. Introduction to the new curriculum was given through discussions with the schools' Directors and their staffs. The Fa Ngum textbooks have not arrived in each campus but this is expected to take place in October.

Another major change and adjustment being made is the availability of USAID staff. In June, Miss Bligh Des Brisay was in the north, Mr. Dick Costantino was in the south, and Myron Thomas was in Vientiane. Where there were four supply technicians one person is now carrying out the budgets, supply logistics and maintenance requirements of eight campuses, 4,000 students and 200 Lao staff. This does not include the many demands of the multiple

foreign staffs. During the past year much planning was initiated. Much is yet to be done. Not one school has a budget of their own. Every school is depending upon AID for operation of institutional living of hundreds of students. For one technician to sign every voucher of every expenditure of nine schools is not only a administrative bottleneck but a nightmare to the project manager. During the next year some major changes in the operation will be absolutely essential.

With all the frustration of working alone, deciding how to move 21 large trees blown down at Dong Dok, seeking solutions to technical engineering problems of Dong Dok's water system, solving Savannakhet's electrical problems, and correcting Pakse's building problems, some positive observations have been made. On some campuses, where unsolvable problems existed during the past year, the Lao in the local areas, in the absence of available technical advice, solved the unsolvable problems. In Luang Prabang where smoke clogged the kitchen screens making it unsightly, the Lao raised the entire roof on one side of the building allowing all the smoke to escape immediately. The stoves were relocated and remodeled in Savannakhet. In both, Luang Prabang and Savannakhet, the kitchens were extremely clean, freshly painted, new screens and basically problemless.

END/TT:JAGolman:sd