

September 4, 1972

TO : Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/National  
FROM : Miss Lee Engler, CEA/Program  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report for August 1972

Problems

No new significant problems not reported previously.

Project Progress

In-Service Training

1. Seventeen Primary School Inspectors participated in the National Family Planning Seminar, directed by the Secretary of State for Public Health. The Inspectors will remain in Vientiane for their annual planning meeting with the Director of Primary Education and his Deputy on September 4-5. USAID Community Education Advisors have been invited to join the session on September 5; in-service training objectives and activities will be a major topic for review and program proposals.
2. The final course in the national CREC in-service training project, conducted in Nam you, Houa Khong Province, ended as scheduled on August 15. Bill Sage, CDS/BHS, in cooperation with EDU, gave excellent support. His report, as that of the Deputy Director of Primary Education, indicated considerable success in the training activity.

Based on materials and comments submitted by PSIs, CEA/Operations, and CEA/Refugees, a general appraisal of the in-service training projects with suggestions for improvements was prepared and submitted to the CEA/National for consideration in PSI-CEA program planning. Twenty-one Activity Completion Reports on the training were also prepared and submitted to the CEA/N and EPM.

3. Two instructors at the Home Economics School in Vientiane were selected by the Primary Education Department to participate in a Home Economics Seminar to be conducted at Fa Ngum Comprehensive Secondary School in Vientiane, with the Ministry of Public Health cooperating with the Ministry of Education in providing instructors for courses in MCH and Family Planning.

Participant Training

1. Nineteen participants (one was released on family emergency), who completed a special three-month course conducted at the Teacher Training Center, are scheduled to report for orientation with MoE and USAID on September 6-7, before going to Thailand for six months' training in educational supervision.

2. Four other participant nominees, designated for two-year training in testing and guidance (2), educational statistics and budget-fiscal have MoE approval for two months' pre-academic training at HRDD/LT in Thai language, mathematics, science, and English language, beginning September 5. Their level of study will be determined and classes arranged, following consideration of their placement test results and progress report during the first week.
3. Six-month Follow-Up Reports were completed on participants in supervision and testing and submitted to HRDD/LT. The success of the training activity was described in previous reports. The participants returned from Thailand in February; their assistance, particularly in in-service teacher training projects and test reform, has been noted by the Ministry for its competence and effectiveness.

### Test Reform

1. Guidelines to study and improve the sixth grade final test conducted this year were developed, with assistance from MoE Test Committee Members, for review by the CEA/N and for discussions with the Deputy Director for Supervision.

Issues include duration of examination, number of test items, testing scope, single-type testing, test content in relation to subject objectives and curricula, subject content sequences in the curricula and time allotment in the teaching schedule, teaching efficiency and accountability. These issues and others offer implications for the great decrease in the number of students passing the examination. The most obvious explanation, however, is the broad scope of subject content covered by the objective tests in comparison with that of the traditional essay tests.

An analysis of test items and comparative study of the 1972 test, experimental tests given in 1971, and the traditional types are being made to determine with MoE the status of test reform and requirements to promote and expand implementation measures.

### Report on the Primary School Inspectors Conference

Contents include:

1. Introductory statements by the Deputy Director of Primary Education and the CEA/N.
2. Participants
3. Agenda
4. Speeches at the Opening Ceremony
5. Plenary Sessions (Speeches and Question-Answer Sessions)
6. Speeches at the Closing Ceremony
7. Revised Primary School Regulations - Group I
8. New Lao Language Curriculum for Grades 1-3 - Group II
9. Excerpts from PSI Education Status Reports

As mentioned in the introduction, the report is a good reference on primary education; it also reveals increasing interministerial cooperation. It is expected that this report like the previous one will be used by MoE officials in their SEA conferences, which are conducted in English.

Summer Student Work Program

All projects have continued to operate satisfactorily. A summary of achievements will be given in the September report.

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