

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

July 6, 1972

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director  
FROM : Hunter Fitzgerald, Acting Chief, Education Division  
SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for June, 1972

Refugee Schools

An Activity Plan which provides for the printing of refugee textbooks and notebooks for Fiscal Year 1973 is now in the approval process.

Fifty-four displaced Xieng Khouang teachers completed a three-month training course at Site 318.

The PSI Xieng Khouang has received permission from the MoE to establish school early this year on a pilot basis. This idea was suggested some time ago to the MoE so that Xieng Khouang students will have the opportunity to complete a full school year of education.

HRDD Activity Plan 2001, Amendment #1, provides for one hundred student summer work experience positions. Mr. Woodson is assisting IVS coordinate this program in which work experience students will teach primary classes to refugee students.

Permanent refugee classroom construction on the Vientiane Plain is progressing well.

Secondary Education

Dr. Butler has submitted a detailed progress report on Fa Ngum construction projects. His report is summarized below:

<u>Fa Ngum School</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Per Cent Complete</u>
Phoze Hong	1-3	100%
Phone Hong	4	76%
Savannakhet	All phases	75%
Luang Prabang	1	96%
Luang Prabang	2	24%

Secondary Education (continued)

The Hawaii Team members have been working intensively on textbook production aspects of the SE project. Most of the textbooks (approximately 75 titles) appear to be on, or nearly on, schedule. A detailed survey on each of the 75 texts is available upon receipt of request.

The Secondary Education project is implementing a "career ladder" program of participant training which provides degree earning opportunities to experienced teachers. The recommendation of short-term participants to regional centers is being made on the same basis as above.

Results of examinations for Grade 10 "Diplomas" and entrance to Upper Secondary level ("Second Cycle") Grade 11 for this year (June 72) compared to the same information from last year (June 71):

<u>Item</u>	Year of Exams:		June 1971		June 1972	
			<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Entered Grade 10 in October			86	100%	101	100%
Passed "Diploma" exam			80	93%	89	89%
Promoted to Grade 11 automatically* (*on basis of GPA of 2.80 or better)			20	25%	27	30%
Took Grade 11 entrance exam			60	100%	58	100%
Passed Grade 11 entrance exam			40	66%	41	70%
Students promoted to Grade 11			60	69%	68	68%
Students to repeat Grade 11			0		8	
Total			60		72	

The increase of students finishing grade 10 has carried through in promotion to grade 11 by various means. It should be noted that these first two groups of Fa Ngum students have been handicapped by a lack of completed textbooks and generally inexperienced teachers.

Secondary Education (continued)

Mr. Hartwell Blake, Hawaii Team agriculture advisor, returned from a highly successful visit to IRRI in the Philippines. The purpose of the trip was to gather pertinent textbook materials and observe their program in terms of its application to the Fa Ngum project here in Laos.

Fifty-nine candidates for the BEPC and DEPCEN at the Lycee Vientiane were caught cheating and have received strong sanctions from the RLG. All reports indicate that MoE officials handled the problem in a straight forward professional manner.

On June 26, 1972 the Director of Secondary Education announced the results of the Lao Baccalaureat tests in national Secondary Education. Seventy-two out of 208 candidates have definitely been accepted. The results for the French Baccalaureat were that 156 passed out of 266 candidates.

During the reporting period the Director of Secondary Education requested USAID assistance in building a College of Saravane in Pakse. After consultation with AC/Pakse and meetings with MoE officials, Mr. Phou, the Director of Secondary Education, decided to request the use of the Chinese School in Pakse for another year and not construct a separate College in Pakse.

Director Phou also agreed to write each Fa Ngum school principal and remind them of RLG regulations on equipment accountability and that the school principal must insure that these regulations are followed to the letter.

Community Education

More than 1,000 CREC and Refugee teachers began in-service training July 1, 1972. A complete explanation of the training project was distributed to field personnel and interested offices. A special note of thanks is due to Cashier/Vientiane, OFIN, and to his staff who have all been extremely cooperative in facilitating payments of per diem to participants throughout the Kingdom.

The final draft of this year's conference for Primary School Inspectors is nearing completion and should be ready for distribution during the next reporting period.

All positions for the summer work experience project which were requested

Community Education (continued)

by the Community and Secondary Education projects have been filled. In addition to teaching refugee children, projects include: assisting in refugee school construction, preparation of literacy materials, and school rehabilitation.

The Functional Literacy Service for Farmers of the Vientiane Plain and the Director of the National Library have cooperated in a project of rural mobile libraries for the villages of the Vientiane Plain. The Service is also sponsoring functional literacy classes for the orthopedic center in Vientiane, and an experimental agricultural extension program by radio.

Teacher Training

A proposal to the East Asia Research Projects (EARP) was submitted through Mission channels to assist the MoE establish a Department of Lao Language for Lao language teachers at ESP, Dong Dok. The proposal provides for a consultant linguist and some other costs. The Teacher Training Division of the MoE will establish the department in September of this year and ten students and staff members will be assigned on a pilot basis.

As reported last month Dr. Veo, Director of Teacher Training, has proposed organizing Dong Dok into departments. This idea has already been submitted to the Director General for consideration and approval.

Thirteen participants, recently graduated from the English Section at Dong Dok, departed for twelve weeks of intensive English training at the Regional English Language Center in Singapore. According to the MoE all of these individuals will be assigned to teach English in the lower secondary schools.

General

Possible recommendations for the Director to make to the RLG on reform of the MoE budget were submitted to the Director. Other questions and issues brought out during the Spring Review have been answered by separate memo to the Director.

General (continued)

Dr. Eleanor Green, Education Backstop Officer, Technical and Capital Assistance, Bureau of Supporting Assistance, AID/Washington, visited the Mission June 24-26, 1972. Dr. Green was briefed by the Director, Deputy Director, and attended a three-hour review of the Education Division projects. Time only permitted visits to: an in-service training course for supervisors, the Fa Ngum Comprehensive High School, and various elementary schools.

The INNOTECH Seminar, which followed the INNOTECH Conference, in Vientiane studied and discussed curriculum reform in primary education. Some of the more important recommendations were:

1. Stress should be placed in mathematics instruction on establishing objectives. They felt currently many teachers do not teach math properly because they have no objectives.
2. The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade science curriculums need major revision.
3. The Lao language committee suggested reducing the use of French in schools at all levels.

The Ministry of Education has proposed candidates for the following U. S. scholarships:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. American Field Services              | 16 candidates |
| 2. East-West Center                     | 8 candidates  |
| 3. Institute of International Education | 8 candidates  |

The Royal School of Medicine will offer the fourth year of medical school next year.

Three educators, Mr. Chai Sithisack, Director of Religious Education; Thao Bounxab Phangmanivong, and Mr. Soukanh Sisounthone were transferred by Ministerial Decree from the Ministry of Cults to the Ministry of Education.

Educational Materials

## Educational materials completed this month:

SE	Agriculture Plant Production, Grade 8	2,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 9 (3 parts)	6,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 1 (Part II)	20,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 2	12,000 copies
CE	Stock Issue Cards	18,000 copies

## Educational materials being printed:

SE	Lao Literature, Grade 9	6,000 copies
SE	Woodworking, Grade 9	3,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 3	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 4	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 5	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 6	6,000 copies
SE	Agriculture Field Crops	2,000 copies
SE	Mathematics, Geometry, Grade 9	6,000 copies

Other Donors

The French Cultural Mission is sponsoring five 10-day training course in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Khammouane, and Pakse to train approximately 320 grade four teachers in the 'Ly et Naly' method of teaching French.

The Lao Student Association of the East West Center in Hawaii collected 40 cases of supplies and have sent them to Laos for distribution to refugees.

Mr. Lyle Bachman, Ford Foundation Testing Specialist with the English Language Center, Bangkok, visited Dong Dok for three days. He advised on setting up an English language testing program and assisted the staff at the English Section, ESP, with other related problems.

Personnel

Miss Bligh Des Brisay, CEA/Luang Prabang, departed on Home Leave.

Mr. James Colman, Chief TT, departed on Home Leave.

Mr. John Rantala, University of Hawaii Contract, departed on Home Leave.

Dr. Leslie Allen, UH Contract, assumed his new assignment as Math and Science advisor.

Mr. Francis Wong, UH Contract, returned from Home Leave and assumed his duties as Secondary Education Advisor/Savannakhet.

Mrs. Khamsook, SE, and Mr. Soukane, CE, completed the "Super-Man II" course sponsored by HRDD/LT.

Reporting Units

Secondary Education  
Teacher Training  
Community Education

EDU:HAFitzgerald: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-19, Laos Desk, SA/IR/TECH/ED, C&R 2