

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 1, 1972

TO : Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, Acting Chief, EDU
FROM : Miss Lee Engler, CEA/Program
SUBJECT: Monthly Report for May 1972

Problems

No new significant problems not reported previously.

Project Progress

The four-month course for twenty supervisor trainees at the Teacher Training Center has continued under the direction of Tiao Vannitha, Deputy Director of Primary Education. Special lessons on how to use a library have been added to the instructional program through voluntary assistance by Mr. Prachith Soulisak, Deputy Director of the National Library and Museum. A PIO/P to provide six-months' supplementary training in Thailand for the supervisors is being processed by HRDD/PT.

Four Activity Proposals to train 1016 refugee and CREC teachers and two others to train 70 elementary school principals have been approved and instructional programs prepared by MoE. The courses will be conducted in July and August. Draft PIO/Ps were submitted to HRDD/PT for two-year training of administrative personnel with the Primary Education Department -- one each for Statistics and Budget and two for Educational Evaluation and Guidance.

Participants trained last year in supervision and testing in Thailand will work again as instructors in training courses, this time in the courses for elementary school principals to be held in Savannakhet and Houei Sai. In addition, participants in testing, under Ministry direction, prepared objective type tests for upper elementary, including the sixth grade final examination, which were conducted on May 29 throughout the Kingdom. (Objective tests were used for the first time last year in experimental areas.) The Deputy Director of Primary Education stated that test results would be carefully analyzed by the test committee to evaluate teaching as well as the tests. Progress in test reform has been remarkable; it is worth reviewing at this time. In November 1970 at MoE request, USAID sponsored a five-day visit to Thailand by the Deputy Director of Primary Education and four other officials to study elementary school testing procedures. The program was arranged by the Primary Education Department in Bangkok. In January 1971, the group appeared as a committee at the National Primary Inspectors Conference, presented a report on their trip, and discussed inadequacies and inequities in testing activities, leading to group study by the inspectors and recommendations by the Department for test reform. The committee

prepared and administered objective tests for the first time in selected areas in May 1971. In August, at MoE request three of ten supervisor trainees were designated to study tests and testing regulations in Thailand for six months. When they returned in February 1972, two were assigned to the Primary Education Department to prepare test materials; the other was assigned to Phone Hong to try out materials. In May the MoE sent out Forms A and B of a new examination on basic elementary school subject matter to all centers to test fourth and fifth as well as sixth graders. At present, the major innovation has been the adoption of objective tests, facilitating broader subject matter testing scope and elimination of unfairness in grading. The Ministry expects to continue development of its testing system and from study and analysis of test results to generate improvement in instruction, curriculum, and materials. Five of the twenty supervisors presently taking a special course at the Teacher Training Center, have been selected for six-months' study of test materials and techniques in Thailand. Two participants have been nominated by MoE to train for two years in educational guidance and evaluation. After completion of their study, the two will be assigned to the Ministry to plan and conduct a guidance and evaluation program under the direction of the Deputy Director for Supervision; the eight others will be assigned to specific areas to assist PSIs in implementing test reforms and guidance activities.

In the Summer Student Work Experience Program, seventy-three students have been requested by Community Education and Secondary Education. Projects will involve activities such as teaching summer school to refugee children, helping refugees to construct schools, preparation of literacy materials, and school rehabilitation.

An Activity Proposal was prepared to print civics textbooks for pupils in grades 4, 5, and 6. Printing costs will be supported by the American Women's Club and EDU will supply paper.

Seven thousand copies of a supplementary reader for beginners were prepared and printed by the American Women's Club. Mrs. G. McMurtrie Godley, with the President of the Women's Club, other members, and also the advisor and translator, Mrs. Khamleck Vilay participated in the initial distribution of 400 readers to first graders at Sikhay Groupe Scolaire and two wat schools. Mr. Khampheul, PSI Vientiane/North, and Miss Saysamone, Director of Sikhay Groupe Scolaire, made good arrangements. Further distribution is being planned in other areas.

Primary Education officials and representatives from the Secondary and Teacher Training Departments reviewed the primary school program with INNOTECH Governing Board Members in a three-day meeting following the Governing Board Conference.

EDU/CE:LMEngler:mv