

TO : Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/National May, 31, 1972
FROM : Richard N. Costantino, CEA/Operations *McIntire*
SUBJECT : Education Monthly Report for May, 1972

PROBLEMS

No new significant problems noted this reporting period.

PROGRESS

The CEA/Operations reported on board on May 1, 1972.

Refugee Schools

On May 19 - 20th Khong Sedone, Wapikhamthong fell to the enemy. Refugees poured into Savannakhet, Se Bung Hien and the Pakse area. As of this date over 1,000 refugees were reported in the Pakse area. The PSI/Wapikhamthong is the fourth PSI now living in the city of Pakse. Over 200 teachers left Khong Sedone area and the PSI has requested that the MoE assist in getting them placed for the next school year. Two CREC workshops and the PSI Conference are slated to be held in Khong Sedone in FY '73. Twelve classrooms at Chomkeo G. S. in Savannakhet are being used to occupy the refugees from Wapikhamthong.

Refugees living in the Phou Ba Chieng area had to evacuate twice due to rockets in the area. A study will be made during the summer months to determine how many children are not in school to determine the number of classrooms needed.

In the Savannakhet area it was decided that 16 temporary classrooms would be constructed for the Thasano Refugee Camp in the immediate future. Eight more would be proposed for a later date and That Ing Hang would be provided 4-5 more classrooms because of the increase in number of refugee children there. It has been difficult trying to obtain statistics for this area.

Savannakhet

The PSI/Savannakhet has requested reimbursement for lumber purchased for the construction of the Na Ke Groupe Scolaire building from the Ministry of Finance but has not received it. The Director of Primary Education has stated that the money is forthcoming. FWD has agreed to work on other aspects of the projects until more lumber can be bought.

The CEA spent most of the month working on correcting audit deficiencies. Sewing machines and bicycles were inventoried and those in Savannakhet and Kengkok have been packed for shipment to Vientiane for disposal.

The PSI/Savannakhet has requested to the Director of Primary Education that Sayamoukhoun Groupe Scolaire which is badly in need of repairs be used as the FY73 urban school construction project. The buildings were built by the French and the consensus of opinion is that repairs would not help much. It was recommended that the buildings be replaced by new one and the local PTA assist with the construction.

The PTA of Phonesavan Groupe Scolaire has replaced the thatch wall of the building adjacent to the main street with a wooden structure. The doors and windows will be installed at a later date.

The two supervisors who recently returned from Thailand and are assigned to Savannakhet and Khammouane provinces were issued motorcycles to assist them in their work. Mr. Som Singvongsa, Teaching Supervisor for Savannakhet is submitting a copy of his itinerary from March through June to the CEA showing his accomplishments since his return. Mr. Hoy Ninthala, Teaching Supervisor from Nong Bok has also agreed to do the same. Mr. Bouiteng, newly appointed trainee from Khammouane departed for Dong Dok where he is receiving four months of training.

All PSIs are working on commodity lists for common use and local supplies for CREC workshops in their areas. These will be submitted as soon as they are obtained.

The Director of the Technical School requested that USAID reconsider his request for an administration building for his school. This has been included in the FY 73 and 74 planning. The three vehicles donated to the school as a Grant-in-aid are being used by the students in auto mechanics. The Director paid K 125,840 for 400 sheets of window glass loures for new buildings he is constructing.

Status of approved CE construction projects:
CE 2011 Na Ke Groupe Scolaire, Savannakhet

48%

Pakse

The CEA spent much of his time in the Pakse area working with the correction of audit deficiencies. In Pakse, Sithandone and Champassak, the PSIs are packing the sewing machines and bicycles which have been recommended for disposal and shipping them to Vientiane. Also wood stain has been ordered for all CE urban construction schools and the PTAs will apply the stain during the summer months.

In a meeting with the AC/Pakse and the PSI/Sedone, it was decided that future selection of CDB school construction sites would be made only with the absolute approval of the PSI. In the past, Chao Muong, and CDAs made recommendations which were not acceptable to the PSI nor Chao Khoueng and these were questioned by the Director of Primary Education.

The well at the Pakse Groupe Scolaire was redrilled and is presently awaiting the arrival of an electric pump which will be paid for by the PTA but purchased by USAID well section.

All PSIs having CREC workshops in their areas are preparing lists of common use and local supplies needed for the training courses. These will be submitted to Vientiane for approval.

The Pakse City Water Company is ready to install water pipes in the Pakse and Ban Thong groupes scolaires. The water system will aid in having sufficient water for these schools.

The visited all schools in which CE urban construction was involved. A report on these schools was made in his field trip reports on May 15th and 26th.

Follow-up reports are being made on Mr. Houm Sonthongkham, Mr. Angmor Paphone, and Mr. Bounthong Bounyarith, Supervisors who recently returned from Thailand. They have agreed to submit resumes of their work from March through June. This will then be submitted to the Training Office.

Due to transportation problems, the CEA and his Assistant were unable to go to Khong Island, Sithandone to work with the PSI. A visit has been scheduled for June 5th.

Status of CE Urban construction is as follows:

CE 0108	Thahai Groupe Scolaire, Pakse	95%
CE 1005	Done Talat Groupe Scolaire, Champassak	45%
CE 2010	Pakse Groupe Scolaire, Pakse	15%
CE 2003	Khong Sedone College, Wapikhamthong	Suspended

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