

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: April 7, 1972

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director  
FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division  
SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for March, 1972



Refugee Schools

Ten temporary classrooms have been completed in Vang Vieng to provide schooling for Muong Kassy students and work has started on 20 temporary classrooms in the Hin Heup refugee area.

The Teacher Training project is sponsoring a training course for 54 Xieng Khouang teachers who currently do not have classes to teach. The training program will begin in early April.

Community Education

Training programs were held in Savannakhet and Pakse during this month for the instructors of this summer's CREC Teachers Workshops. In her report, Lee Engler notes among other things the good use made of returned participants in these training programs.

A problem in the construction of nine self help urban groupes scolaires approved for this year appears to have been resolved with the release by the Ministry of Finance of documents needed to pay for contracts and materials.

Two deadlined Dodge M-37 trucks from the CE project were turned over as Grants-in-Aid to the Savannakhet Technical School for use in the instructional program in the school's new Auto Mechanics workshop.

Teacher Training

The curriculum of the two year program at the ENIs has been revised in

order to incorporate the use of the Lao language Fa Ngum textbooks, which are now completely available for 7th and 8th grade classes. Mr. Thanh Phomsavanh, who is on temporary assignment to EDU, was instrumental in working out the necessary curriculum revisions with the Teacher Training department.

Final year students at the ENIs are beginning their practice teaching assignments. At Luang Prabang, students are constructing teaching aids to take with them on their assignments.

TT maintenance personnel visited the ENIs at Savannakhet, Luang Prabang and Ban Keun during the month to make plans for student summer work projects. At Savannakhet, the possibility of extending city electric power to the ENI is being explored. At Luang Prabang, TT personnel worked with school officials to clear out stopped up sewage pipes and filled up septic tanks. Work will be done this summer to replace unsatisfactory porcelain sinks, toilet flushing mechanisms, and washroom mirrors with more durable equipment.

### Secondary Education

The Ministry has appointed Mr. Bounnak Phommarath as deputy director for Secondary Education. During the first part of this school year Mr. Khamsay Soukhavong, the new Lao director of the Vientiane Lycee, had been given the impossible additional assignment of part time deputy director at the Ministry. Mr. Bounnak's full time assignment to this position should be of great assistance to the SE project.

A meeting of all secondary school directors was held during the month, followed by a special meeting of directors of Fa Ngum Schools. Discussion topics at the latter meeting included budgeting and supply systems, second cycle curriculum plans, classroom utilization, and in-service "career ladder" training programs for teachers.

A number of cooperative projects between the University of Hawaii and UNDP curriculum teams are taking shape. One project is to have seven or eight students in next year's senior class at the ESP do intern teaching at Fa Ngum for three days a week throughout the entire year. Back-up will be provided by UNDP advisors and coordination by the UH math-science advisor. The

students will teach one section of science or math in the second cycle and will also assist with the development of Lao language materials at this level.

Progress has been made in textbook writing to such an extent that bottlenecks have developed in typing and illustrating the manuscripts. We are attempting to recruit a full time artist for the project and are assigning additional staff to part time typing duties. We may be able to use student typists during the summer vacation to catch up on typing requirements; if not, we will need to request an additional contract position for a full time Lao typist.

### General

Schools throughout the country held ceremonies in honor of Teachers Day, March 10.

The Resident Auditor General's office is continuing its audit of the Education sector.

Mr. Thomas Liston, Vocational Education Advisor with USOM/Thailand, spent one week in Laos this month helping Mr. Khamphat Syhanath, the Director of Technical Education, think through plans for developing non-formal skill training and other related vocational programs. Mr. Khamphat, incidentally, is leaving for the United States in April for a one-month leadership grant sponsored by USIS.

### Educational Materials

Educational materials completed this month:

CE	Science, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 3	5,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 5	2,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 2	8,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 8 (Astronomy)	6,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 8 (Plants & Animals)	6,000 copies

**Educational materials being printed:**

SE	Lao Literature, Grade 9	6,000 copies
SE	Woodworking, Grade 9	3,000 copies
SE	Agriculture Plant Production, Grade 8	2,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 8 (2 parts)	6,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 9 (3 parts)	6,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 1	10,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 6	2,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 5	2,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 6	2,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 1 (Part I)	20,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 1 (Part II)	20,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 2	12,000 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

**Other Donors**

The new buildings at the Lao-German Technical School are nearly completed and will be turned over to the Lao government in ceremonies planned for April. Most of our EDU personnel made an informal visit to the school last month and we were favorably impressed by the program and the buildings. Cooperative arrangements with this school are being worked out for second cycle industrial arts instruction for Fa Ngum students.

10,000 copies of a book of Lao Fables have been reprinted by the American Women's Club and delivered to the Ministry of Education. The book is used for supplementary reading material in Grades 4, 5, and 6.

Personnel

Mr. Somsa Phanrsvong, Administrative Assistant in the Education Division for many years, was promoted this month to a new job with EPM.

Mr. Phoumy Phommachak was assigned as Administrative Assistant in the education office in Savannakhet.

Reporting Units

Teacher Training  
Community Education  
Secondary Education

EDU: NWGreen:ei

DIST: OD/DD-2, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/P, AD/RA. Each AC,  
EPM-2, HRDD, AGR, PHD, PSD, PWD, OICC, SMB-2, IVS,  
EDU-19, Laos Desk, SA/IR/TECH/ED, C&R-3