

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/N  
FROM: Larry Woodson, CEA/R *LW*  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report for March, 1972

April 3, 1972

PROBLEMS

No problems of any significance.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Construction has commenced in accordance with the activity plan number VT-2014. This plan provides for the construction of 37 permanent classrooms on the Vientiane Plain. The majority of this advisor's time has been consumed coordinating the clearing, surveying and final location of the classrooms so that construction materials can be delivered and carpenters assigned.

Following a survey of the villages and the school age children in the Hin Heub area by the Ministry of Education, an activity plan has been drafted and approved for the construction of 20 temporary classrooms. The plan of action was discussed this week between the Lao project manager and the village leaders.

With regard to future temporary construction, the Ministry of Education has expressed their desire that the villagers be encouraged to improve the construction of their temporary classrooms so that the classrooms can be used for a minimum of two years with only minor repairs. Experience has proven that classroom construction utilizing black plastic is unsatisfactory. The only exception being classrooms constructed at higher elevations during the cool season.

Presently large number of refugees are moving from their old villages into the permanent relocation sites. Where possible, we have encouraged the villagers to move their school with them. In several areas it is anticipated that more temporary classrooms will be required. As the dust settles and a more accurate picture of the classroom requirement is painted, an activity plan will be drafted.

Training programs are commencing at Vang Vieng and Song Lai for displaced refugee teachers. The PSI/Vang Vieng reported that he had twenty-seven teachers from the Muong Kassy area that would received training until the end of the school year or until conditions allowed the teachers to return to their classrooms. Ten temporary classrooms were constructed at Phou Din Daeng with assistance from Mr. Chesson, CDAA Vang Vieng. The latest survey showed 762 refugee children from Muong Kassy were located in the Phou Din Daeng area.

At Song Lai, the PSI/Xieng Khouang has sixty teachers that will be attending classes until the end of the school year.

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