

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: March 13, 1972

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director



FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for February, 1972

Refugee Schools

In response to the disruption of the school program in the Xieng Khouang area, a Teacher Training activity plan is being presented to initiate immediately in-service training courses for a large group of teachers who are presently refugees and unable to teach. We are also hoping to work out with the Ministry a plan to hold regular school during the usual summer vacation when the security situation in the area will hopefully be more stable. These proposals are being planned with local Lao and USAID officials and are designed to upgrade professional abilities during a period of forced inactivity for teachers and to make up for lost classroom time during the summer months when the children would normally be out of school. Older students from Grades 5 and 6 in the Long Tieng area are in school now, preparing for final examinations in a special program established for them at LS-318.

Ten new classrooms for refugee children in the Paksane area are now in use. The teachers were transferred to Paksane from Xieng Khouang province.

The Ministry has assigned the PSI/Vang Vieng to coordinate refugee schools for the Hin Heup project. The Xieng Khouang and Houa Phan PSIs will assist with teachers and other support as needed. An ORA activity plan to construct twenty temporary classrooms is being circulated for approvals.

Ten temporary classrooms are under construction in the Vang Vieng area for Muong Kassy students. Schools in Vang Vieng itself, including the ENI, have been reopened.

Community Education

The 14th Annual Conference of Primary School Inspectors was held in Sayaboury, February 6-17. All PSI, many senior Education officials, representatives from other Ministries, and USAID Community Education staff were in attendance. Mr. Bounthong, the new Director of Primary Education replacing Mr. Khamphao Phonekeo, capably chaired the conference. The main topics on the agenda were the improvement of Lao language teaching in elementary schools and review and revision of elementary school regulations, including examination procedures. In my address to the conference I stressed the need for greater activity and a more systematic approach to meet the requirements for reprinting elementary textbooks. A complete report on the conference is being prepared by Community Education. The next annual conference is scheduled for Khongsedone in 1973.

The Ministry of Education's proposals to the Commission of the Plan for FY 73 Development Budget activities include ten additional eight-room urban groupes scolaires similar to the one dedicated in Savannakhet on March 4. The proposed locations of these new projects and other pertinent information have been forwarded to the Area Coordinators for whatever recommendations they may wish to make in this year's Spring Review.

Workshops are in process to train a total of 85 groupe scolaire directors and experienced teachers to serve as instructors in summer courses for CREC and Refugee teachers. The trainees are learning especially to improve methods of teaching language arts, arithmetic, and science. The workshops are being held sequentially in Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Savannakhet, and Pakse.

Teacher Training

A three-day national seminar for English teachers from all secondary and teacher training schools was held during the month under the chairmanship of Mr. Bounlieng, director of the ESP English Section. Committee work on the English syllabus and on the development of supplemental teaching materials continues.

Teacher Training (continued)

The three-story multi-purpose building (which includes classrooms, a library, an auditorium, and science labs) at the Luang Prabang ENI was completed and turned over to the Ministry. Final furniture orders have been made to complete the furnishings of the building. IVSer Steve Bunck has visited the ENI to give the science teachers some guidance in the use of the new science equipment. Dedication ceremonies are expected to take place in April.

Maintenance work continues to progress at Dong Dok. A contract has been let to get the termites out of the main building and some of the roof tiles are being replaced. Mr. Onsey is doing a good job managing maintenance activities even though he recently lost some of his workers to the army, including the chief electrician.

Secondary Education

Construction is proceeding, though very slowly, at the Phone Hong and Savannakhet Fa Ngum Schools. A contract has been let for Phase I of the construction for Fa Ngum Luang Prabang.

Alterations have started in the Home Economics Department of the Fa Ngum Vientiane School to set up an improved Lao-style kitchen.

Textbooks production is progressing satisfactorily. Four manuscripts were delivered to CM during the month for processing for printing (see list below).

Educational Materials

Educational materials completed this month:

CE	Hygiene, Grade 4	3,000 copies
CE	Science Charts (series of 15)	2,000 copies

Educational Materials (continued)

Educational materials being printed:

SE	Woodworking, Grade 9	3,000 copies
SE	Agriculture Plant Production, Gr. 8	2,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 8 (4 parts)	6,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 9 (3 parts)	6,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 1	10,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 3	5,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 5	2,000 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 (AWC)	Lao Fables, Grades 4, 5, 6	10,000 copies

General

Mr. Colman, Teacher Training Advisor, and Mr. Khamphat Sihanath, Director of Technical Education, spent five days in Thailand this month conferring with Thai and USOM officials and visiting schools and projects where skill training is taking place. The main purpose of the visit was to help Mr. Khamphat plan vocational training programs suitable for Laos. The Thai expressed a willingness to help Laos with vocational education and stated this again at the meeting of the Thai-Lao Mixed Commission in early March.

Other Donors

The twelfth annual meeting of the Commission for Franco-Lao Cultural Cooperation was held in Vientiane February 23-24. The two delegations agreed that the number of French teachers in Laos will remain basically unchanged in FY 73, with a few additional posts to be established at the ESP and the normal schools in Savannakhet and Luang Prabang. The French agreed to study a Lao proposal to establish a National Pedagogy

Other Donors (continued)

Center at Dong Dok but said they could not consider at this time a proposal to construct a National Library. Substantial amounts of support will be given for construction and equipment at the School of Agriculture and the Medical School and lesser amounts to the Public Works training center and the proposed center for Posts and Telecommunications. French government scholarships will be provided for 10 new and 10 continuing academic programs and for 44 new and 21 continuing technical training programs. A more complete report on the meeting is being prepared.

Personnel

Mr. Richard Costantino, Community Education Advisor for Savannakhet-Pakse, departed for home leave on February 16.

Mr. Shozun Yamauchi, Hawaii contract advisor for the Fa Ngum School in Luang Prabang, returned from home leave during the month.

We are pleased to have Mr. Thanh Phomsavanh, former Primary School Inspector for Vientiane/South, as a temporary member of the division's staff. He will be working on curriculum and materials for pre-service and in-service training of elementary teachers.

Mr. Soukane Souksamlane, Community Education office manager and this year's president of ALEAM, resigned from USAID this month to become a superintendent with ESSO. His services in Education and his leadership among the Lao employees will be difficult to replace.

Reporting Units

Teacher Training
Community Education
Secondary Education

EDU:NWGreen:ei

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