

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 3, 1972

TO : Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/National

FROM : *Lee Engler*
Lee Engler, CEA/Program

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - February, 1972

The National Conference of Primary School Inspectors in Sayaboury, an annual in-service training project supported by USAID, demonstrated, under a new Director, continued Ministry leadership in development of the primary school system. Improvement of the language arts curriculum and review of internal school regulations were key issues selected for pre-conference study, committee reports in plenary sessions, work group study, and recommendations to implement improved practices. Participation by representatives of other education departments, as well as from other Ministries, as in previous conferences, permitted educational leaders, in particular, opportunities to consider overall progress, problems, and plans and to coordinate efforts with other agencies to promote economic growth. A complete report on the conference is being prepared by EDU/CE.

In another in-service activity to increase and improve local training capability, eighty-five groupe scolaire directors and experienced teachers are being trained to serve as instructors in summer courses for CREC and Refugee teachers. The trainees are learning to improve methods of teaching language arts, arithmetic, and science by observation of teaching in primary schools, demonstration lessons by the instructors, and discussions for evaluation of teaching. Preliminary review of the first course conducted in Luang Prabang and the second in Vientiane revealed improvements especially in demonstration teaching by the instructors.

The workshops are also expanding use of Lao language, both written and oral, developing the role of the Lao instructor, and emphasizing fabrication and use of equipment from simple materials to teach mathematics and science. The two remaining courses are scheduled for Savannakhet, March 12-21, and Pakse, March 26-April 4.

Activity Proposals to provide training for 760 CREC and Refugee teachers have been tentatively revised in accordance with pending fund availability and support requested from ORA. Workshops are planned for first-

second-, and third-year trainees in eleven centers, a Ministry long-term project to give CREC teachers opportunity to become qualified.

Seven participants in supervision and three in testing completed six months' study in Thailand. Each supervisor is planning a program, in cooperation with the Primary School Inspector, which he will conduct to improve instruction in primary schools, as was advised by the Deputy Director for Supervision in the Primary Education Department. The supervisors will also work as consultants in summer training courses; the one assigned to the PSI/Vientiane/North performed very effectively as a consultant in the course for CREC instructors conducted in Vientiane. One of the three participants in testing, assigned to MoE, and the other two, to PSI areas, are analyzing last year's tests, considering defects, and drafting new materials to submit to the Ministry for this year's test program, in particular the sixth-grade final examination.

The Primary Education Department will submit to USAID nominations for participants in Social Studies, Language Arts, Testing and Guidance, Budget and Fiscal, and Planning and Statistics. MoE is also very interested in training in Thailand 15 additional persons in supervision and five in testing to work at the provincial level. Plans for all training requests have been drafted and will be processed pending availability of funds.

Problems - none

EDU/CE:LMEngler:ei