

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

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November 8, 1971

TO : Mr. Norman Green, Chief, Education Division

FROM : Lucius Butler, Chief of Party, University of Hawaii Team

SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report, October, 1971



Problems:

1. Lao instructional and administrative personnel. The operation of the Fa Ngum schools depends, to a great extent, upon the instructional and administrative personnel assigned to Fa Ngum schools by the RLG/MoE, department of secondary education. The role of the Hawaii team in (1) selection of personnel, (2) release of unqualified personnel, and (3) working hours of personnel, is limited to providing advice to the director of an individual school and the director of secondary education at the RLG/MoE. This situation is acceptable under the circumstances which exist, but the problem arises when this limitation also imposes an equal limitation on the ability of the Hawaii team to provide direct leadership in key decisions relating to personnel. This, in turn, limits the level of responsibility which the Hawaii team can accept in this situation.

The situation was highlighted during the month of October when school was to begin on October 11, but in Phone Hong, Savannakhet, and Luang Prabang, several teachers who were hired prior to October 11 did not show up for work (some still had not by November 8) and will not be penalized for a late start. Other teachers were not hired until after October 11 for a variety of reasons. In at least two cases, teachers assigned to teach have appeared at the school but have refused to conduct classes because either they feel unqualified to teach or want to teach only in Vientiane. While these are the exceptions, and there are many dedicated teachers working in Fa Ngum schools, the absence of authority to deal directly with these matters results in responsibility

being limited to advising the directors action which the Hawaii team has already taken.

In-service training activities have been carried on each summer to assist teachers in becoming more proficient in their responsibilities. Plans are underway for an extensive three summer institute type in-service training program, which include hopes for salary credits being included for successful completion and adequate support for teachers during training.

Pre-service training is still limited to French language, French-oriented training or English language training. The products of the French program require extensive re training in methods and student-teacher relations. In short, secondary school teacher training efforts by RLG and USAID in Laos are less than adequate for the comprehensive high school project. USAID participant training scholarships appear to be a more adequate source from a long range point of view, but the full impact of this USAID effort will not be felt for another three to five years. Meanwhile the project will be operating with a handicap in the area of Lao instructional personnel.

A strong statement that should be tempered by recognition of efforts being undertaken at Dong Dok

NW Green

2. Construction delay at Es-Annakhet. Construction activity continues to crawl along in spite of efforts of Hawaii team advisors Kestala and Yoshimoto. DIOC is also exerting considerable effort but it is doubtful that school can begin operation at site prior to January, 1972.

3. USAID vehicle utilization. Several questions have arisen in regard to utilization of the USAID vehicle assigned to the Hawaii team advisor. A memorandum of clarification has been requested from USAID/EDU Chief Norman Green.

Progress

1. Textbook Printing and Manuscript Writing

Concentrated emphasis on text and supplementary materials production has resulted in considerable progress. The general goal of all ninth grade texts ready for the printer by December, 1971, appears to be possible with perhaps one text delayed until February 1972. The general goal all tenth grade texts ready for the printer by June, 1972, also appears to be possible with the possible exception of two texts which may require some additional time. Each curriculum area is handling the materials as best suited to their needs.

Agriculture has completed 12 mimeographed first draft booklets ranging from 20 pages to 160 pages, totaling 600 pages of material, used as resource texts. Additional materials for students and teacher reference are ready for translation. The regular textbook for grades 8 and 9 should be ready for the printer by December, 1971.

Business has completed several supplementary student materials for the present textbooks. Business Math, grade 9, is being translated and Accounting I, grade 10, has been turned in to the advisor. Lao typing charts have been designed and are being painted at USAID/CM. The two charts completed are being used at Vienniane and Phone Hoang.

Home Economics grade 9 text draft is expected in early November, which should make it possible to meet the December goal if editorial work can be completed. Lack of counterpart availability has placed an extra burden on the advisor. Administrative action is being taken to clarify the situation.

Industrial Arts textbooks are moving toward completion in line with the goals. Grade 8 text, Mechanical Drawing, has been submitted to USAID/CM for printer's bids. Grade 9 text, Woodworking, was retrieved from the MoE Materials Production Center, where it had lain for five months with no activity, and the drawings needed are being completed by the Fa Ngum teachers. Grade 10 text, Metalworking, is expected during November. Editorial work should be completed in time to meet the goals. A previous translation on electrical theory is being read and evaluated by outside technical experts and a workbook on basic electricity is ready for translation for grades 10 and 11.

Lao language texts for grades 7 and 8 have been printed. Grade 9 text has been approved by the MoE and is ready for the final editorial check. Grade 10 text draft manuscript has been turned in and awaits some editorial work before being forwarded to the MoE for their approval. Lao literature materials are also being processed as supplementary texts.

Mathematics texts for grades 7 and 8 have been printed. Grade 9 text has been approved by the MoE and is ready for the final editorial check. Grade 10 text is expected in February. The possible use of programmed texts for grades 11-13 is being considered.

Science text for grade 7 has been printed. Grades 8 and 9 texts require only the final editorial check. Grade 10 text is expected by January, 1972. Texts for grades 11-13 in programmed-text format are being considered. A grade 7 teacher's guide has been mimeographed and a book of classroom experiments is being translated for general teacher reference use.

UNDP

The work anticipated by the UNESCO Math-Science Team at Dong Dok teacher training college is being considered for possible cooperative use in second cycle materials production.

Social Studies texts for grades 7 and 8 have been printed. Grade 9 text manuscript is expected during December. Part of the grade 10 text may be translated by a professional translator to meet the goal set.

English as a Foreign Language texts are purchased abroad from a British publishing firm. These materials are those which follow the National Lao English Language Syllabus and keep our Fa Ngum program on a par with other secondary school English language programs. Eventually it may be wise to develop books in English language training for Laos, but at the present time other curriculum areas need materials more.

French texts are provided by the MoE in cooperation with the French government. The Hawaii team has not been involved in the selection of these texts.

2 Curriculum Implementation

Each curriculum advisor and secondary education advisor have given

considerable time and energy to assisting the directors and teachers to implement the curriculum in the classrooms.

Analysis of the problems encountered indicates the need for pre-opening workshops for all new teachers assigned to teach at Fa Ngum schools. This has not been possible (see personnel problem discussed above) in previous years, but must be a priority item for August-September, 1972 activities.

Steps are also being taken to assist directors in ordering proper instructional supplies in time for use at school sites.

The question of the status of the Home Economics curriculum has been raised. Fa Ngum, Vientiane has only 40 students in grades 8 through 10, and only four students in grade 11. Probing the situation it was discovered that student (and teacher?) attitudes reflect the opinion that the bright students take commercial and the dull students take home economics. In view of related teacher and textbook problems, home economics advisor Malais is being asked to make an in-depth study and recommend action.

3. Instructional Materials Procurement Plan

The necessity of direct involvement of Lao school principals in routine procurement activities and of budget limits to be set by Fa Ngum school operations led to the development of a multi-phase system which is aimed toward a Royal Lao Government operated system, similar to that of the Primary School Department.

The proposed first step uses a figure of 3000 kip per student per year for total budget. 1000 kip to be allocated to each practical arts department based on the total number of students enrolled in the departments. 1000 kip to be allocated to the administrative budget for (1) materials used in the academic courses common to all students, (2) office and administration materials, and (3) furniture and building maintenance materials.

Common Use items will comprise at least 80% of the budget, using Lao Form 203. Up to 20% will be by reimbursement, using Lao Form 288. School directors will be asked to submit status reports at the end of each trimester period.

It is hoped that eventually there will be one overall Ministry of Education supply warehouse to care for all elementary, secondary, teacher training, and technical school needs.

4. Area Reports of Individual Schools

Vientiane school reports a total of 487 students in grades 7 through 11. No serious teacher problems exist. English Section Dong Dok students will be practicing teaching during the first trimester. Eight students in science and math and 20 students in English and social studies areas.

Phone Hong school report of 317 students was incomplete. An unauthorized section of about 80 students are studying at the school in an effort to pass next year's entrance examination, which they failed this year. Tuition charges are being made and school facilities, equipment and supplies are being used. English teacher problem has been partially solved but IVS teachers are needed next year when grades 7-10 will all be moved at this school site.

Hawaii team advisor at Phone Hong, Ah Chong Zang, was hospitalized on October 16 for hypertension and has not been able to return to his duty station. Other team members have gone in his place, as they will during his home leave, November 14 to January 14.

Savannakhet school is on a double shift using three classrooms at the Technical School for their 313 students. Teacher problems are mostly related to late hiring and unwillingness to arrive at school in time for the October 11 opening.

Luang Prabang school opened on schedule on October 11. Late arrival of teacher curtailed classes during October, but six teachers are now carrying on the full schedule of classes with 95 students. A Fa Ngum display was set up at the That Luang Festival in Luang Prabang.

Hawaii team advisor at Luang Prabang Shozen Yamachi will be going on home leave from December 11 through February 11. Plans are now in progress for other team members to aid RLG director Wath during this period.

Pakse school site has been selected and was finalized at a meeting held in Pakse on October 15th at the Chao Khouang's office. The site includes 7 1/2 hectares (15 acres) bounded on one side by the Mekong river, on another side by the Pakse City filtering plan (under construction) and has an access road which will be improved. A 100 KW transformer is adjacent to the site and electrical poles are in place with wires carrying current to the duplex apartments being used for Lycées teacher housing at the present. USAID/PWD has been asked to survey the land prior to total site development plans being drawn. Chao Khouang Si lo lo Na Champassak agreed that anytime after October 25 would be satisfactory for the survey and his survey chief, Mr. Vang Simuang, would be on hand to assist.