

Date: November 4, 1971

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, 500
FROM : James A. Colman, Teacher Education Advisor
SUBJECT: Monthly Report for October

James A. Colman

Problems:

Nothing significant

Travel to ENI's

The Pakse ENI school was visited on October 14th and 15th. The Directors of all ENI schools have been changed. The maintenance of the dormitories was disappointing, but the general condition of the rest of the school was acceptable.

The most startling information acquired was that 1,600 students applied for the entrance examination with 160 being enrolled out of this large group. The large number of applicants indicates the desire for education in Southern Laos. The small percentage of the applicants entering Teacher Training indicates the rate the MoE is expanding the primary system.

The Pakse ENI staff have been trying to make curriculum change. In the summers of 1967 and 1969 conferences were held on curriculum change. The Pakse staff is trying to make the curriculum more relevant to the needs of primary teachers. There was one basic problem in Pakse, as in other schools. Teacher Training schools rely on French teachers who teach French, science, math, and social studies. Students have difficulty in passing French and therefore have difficulty with math, science, and social studies. The instructional program observed at Pakse appeared very formal.

A visit was made to Kene Theo ENI school on October 28th. It was interesting to see a Lao student-built school in operation. All instruction, except French language, was conducted in Lao. The material developed for Pa Ngum was in use and liked by the staff. When Lao teachers are operating a school, it appears to be possible to make curriculum and instructional changes.

There was evident that this school had very poor use of Audio-Visual material in the instructional program. This probably was caused from the general lack of educational materials and books. At Kene Theo three hundred students applied to go to school and sixty eight (68) were enrolled.

Progress:

At Dong Dok the new joint maintenance organization under Mr. Onsy is working. There is still much work to be done to improve the operation, but it is the first step in turning over the maintenance operation to the MoE. In the change

of organization, Mr. Onsy will also work with the major maintenance problem of outlying schools. During November trips to Pakse and Luang Prabang will be made to assist these schools in major problems.

All teacher training schools started the new year on October 11th. Some students were still coming in at the end of the month, because of the slow or late notice of acceptance. The total enrollment is not yet known, but all reports from the schools so far indicate the enrollment has increased.

Request has been made and the program office is preparing a PIO/T amendment to extend the AACTE contract from twelve (12) months to twenty-four (24) months. The PIO/T change is being signed in the mission at the end of the month.

EDU/TT:JAColman:bk