

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 10, 1972

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director *NW Green*
FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division
SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for December, 1971

Refugee Schools

Military activity in Xieng Khouang area has disrupted school programs for some 3,000 children at Long Tieng and other locations. As has been done in previous years, special temporary classes are being established for Sixth Grade students to enable them to continue in school in preparation for the CEP and secondary school entrance examinations in June.

Community Education

Planning is well advanced for the annual Primary School Inspector's Conference which will be held this year in Sayaboury, February 8-18.

Mr. Khamphao Phonekeo departed for France on December 22 to take up his new assignment as Cultural Affairs Officer. He has been replaced as Director of Primary and Adult Education by his deputy, Mr. Bounthong.

Work has started on urban groupe scolaire construction in Savannakhet, Luang Prabang, and other locations under the FY 72 program. Unfortunately, Development Budget support for each of the nine new projects has been reduced from 3.5 to 3.0 million kip. Community self help input is being raised accordingly.

Two prior year projects, the Phone Pheng Groupe Scolaire in Vang Vieng and the Nong Boua Thong Groupe Scolaire in Vientiane, were dedicated during the month.

Teacher Training

Mr. Colman and Mr. Phansy Abhay, Deputy Director of Teacher Training,

visited Pakse ENI to investigate maintenance problems reported by the AC and others. OICC is now working on a design for improving the sewage system and the new school director, Mr. Ouatt, is continuing to implement many improvements in routine maintenance. We feel he now has control of the situation.

Attention is being given to the science program at the ENIs, largely through the initiative of IVSer Steve Bunck. A Lao translation of a laboratory guide is almost completed and visits have been made to the larger ENIs to consult with the science teachers. At Savannakhet, where there is no science laboratory, a study is being made to determine the most practical means of establishing adequate science facilities.

Work is proceeding well on clearing out excess items at Dong Dok. Eight-eight line items have been turned in to SMB from the warehouse, two vehicles have been disposed of, and some more farm equipment is being transferred to ORA.

We are hoping for early Program Office action on two Teacher Training commodity requests. One is for pipe and shafting for the Dong Dok water system which are urgently needed because some kind of corrosive action is damaging the present pipe. (The main water pump stopped, again, because of a hole in the pipe column. The back-up water system again proved its worth.) The other request is for \$600 for transportation costs for 565 drums of asphalt from excess property. The asphalt will be used by TP to surface the dusty roads at Dong Dok.

Secondary Education

Recommendations concerning two areas of the Fa Ngum curriculum are being given consideration. In Home Economics, the addition of a Lao kitchen to the food preparation instruction area is under study. In Industrial Arts, a possible requirement for additional instructional equipment and classroom space is being evaluated.

Status of construction:

Phone Hong	Final phase of construction is on schedule.
Luang Prabang	Phase II planning almost completed. Additional funding (\$70,000) will be required.
Savannakhet	Construction still behind schedule but the school moved from borrowed quarters at the Technical School to the new campus during the latter part of December.
Pakse	Site survey complete. Construction funds not yet obligated.

General

Much of the latter part of the month was spent completing PERs, PARs for Teacher Training and Secondary Education, and contract evaluation reports. The division is also continuing with its internal evaluation which is progressing satisfactorily. All project managers have written proposals for program improvements, touching on a wide variety of educational concerns. We expect to have the evaluation completed for presentation prior to the spring Program Review.

A small but extremely useful warehouse for paper and textbooks has been completed at the Ministry's Materials Production Center. This was a self-help project for which USAID provided commodity support.

26 more military personnel completed training for literacy work with FAR. A total of about 100 soldiers have been given this training.

Other Donors

An unspecified number of scholarships were offered to Lao students to do undergraduate and graduate studies in Thailand under the sponsorship of the Thai National Commission for UNESCO.

The American Women's Club is currently financing the re-printing of

10,000 copies of Lao Fables, a supplementary reading book used in Grades 4, 5, and 6.

The French Cultural Mission assisted the Ministry in organizing two brief in-service training programs for Lao secondary teachers. One course was in the teaching of French and the other was concerned with New Math.

Personnel

Miss Lee Engler returned from home leave last month and resumed her work with curriculum, materials, and training for the Community Education project.

Mr. Shozun Yamauchi, University of Hawaii advisor assigned to the Fa Ngum Luang Prabang School, left for home leave with his return to post scheduled in February.

Mr. Souvanh Sombounkhanh has been assigned as EDU Administrative Assistant in Luang Prabang.

Reporting Units

Teacher Training
Community Education
Secondary Education

EDU:NWGreen:ei

DIST: OD/DD-2, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/PE, AD/RA, Each AC,
EPM-2, HRDD, AGR, PHD, PSD, PWD, OICC, SMB 2, IVS,
EDU18, Laos Desk, EA/TECH/EDU, C&R 2