

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

October 12, 1971

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division *NWG*

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for September 1971

Refugee School Program

Work continued on the repair and improvement of temporary classrooms for refugees although there has been some difficulty in moving materials to a few villages in the Vientiane area because of flood damage to roads. Plans are being made to construct eleven temporary classrooms at these sites in Borikhan and more temporary rooms will be needed in the Ban Keun area if refugees are moved from Phou Khan Khoum.

Meanwhile, work is being done on permanent classrooms at Ban Thine, Nam Phot, Hat Dous, Long Tieng and other locations. This type of construction will increase after the Dry Season Review. Excellent examples of permanent refugee schools were visited recently in Luang Prabang.

Several activity plans have been prepared to handle shortages of blackboards noted in a number of areas.

Officials of Xieng Khouang Province and General Vong Pao have been talking about moving the Sam Thong ENI and the Sam Thong College from Viakhanh back to the province, possibly to Muang Cha. They also discussed the question of the Ministry.

Continuing Education

A meeting with project personnel (CEAs and PSAs) was held last month to discuss the new long-term training programs. These programs include work in the country, work in the city, and work in the village.

Community Education (Continued)

Planning is also underway for the next annual conference of Primary School Inspectors which will be held in Sayabouly February 8-18, 1972. Two of the 22 PSIs - Mr. Thanh, PSI for Vientiane/South, and Mr. Vanna, PSI for Paklay - will be candidates for the National Assembly. These two particular officials will be especially missed at the conference and will be hard to replace in the elementary school program.

The project will have an even greater loss next December when Mr. Khamphao Phonskro, Director of Elementary Education, leaves for France to take over the position of Cultural Affairs Officer in Paris for at least two years. His replacement has not yet been selected.

Teacher Training

Dr. Sornphou Doudomvilay, Director of Teacher Training, returned from a trip abroad where he attended a UNESCO meeting in Ottawa and visited Lao students in Hawaii, Canada, and France. Dr. Terry Ikara, the Hawaii Team campus coordinator, was with Dr. Sornphou during much of the week he spent in Hawaii.

Since his return to Laos Dr. Sornphou has announced his candidacy for the National Assembly. This action, and other administrative decisions have resulted in the following new roster of personnel for the Teacher Training Department for this year:

Dr. Ven Vach Bounnambath	Director of Teacher Training
Mr. Phany Abbey	Deputy Director Teacher Training
Mr. Chantay Mounson	Director General Education, ESP
Mr. Soukpheng Phasaneouvannh	Director, Educational Section, ESP
Mr. Samlith Khomphach	Director, Atang Prachang ENI
Mr. Thongphet	Director, Savannakhet ENI
Mr. Oust	Director, Pakxe ENI
Mr. Soum Nhoay	Director, Vientiane ENI

### Teacher Training (Continued)

concern and valuable backgrounds of experience to their jobs and we can expect a solid year of growth in the teacher training schools this year, particularly in the areas of curriculum improvement and administrative coordination.

Visits were made recently to the ENIs at Luang Prabang and Savannakhet with Mr. Colman and Dr. Levy. The schools continue to show steady and heartening progress towards developing into strong Lao institutions. All major construction will soon be completed though Savannakhet needs to clear more land for sports and agriculture and Luang Prabang hopes to alter the road that runs through the campus. There is a good possibility that both schools will be connected to city electric power in the near future. Hopefully, support efforts can now be concentrated on such activities as the following:

- Making greater use of Fa Ngum textbooks in the ENIs and improving existing Lao "methods" books;
- Improving programs in the demonstration schools;
- Establishing home economic training (if Lao teachers can be assigned);
- Possibly assigning semi-IVSers to work on curriculum and in-service training for certain areas of the program for all ENIs;
- Strengthening maintenance procedures and improving facilities in the kitchens and washrooms.

### Secondary Education

The Director of Secondary Education, Mr. Phou Rasphone, returned to Laos, "tired but satisfied," after an observation tour of the U.S. under the USIS leadership program.

Visits were made recently to the Fa Ngum Secondary School which is being housed in temporary quarters at the Luang Prabang.

Secondary Education (Continued)

Classrooms schedules for completion by September 15 will probably not be ready until after That Luang holidays.

The Fa Ngum Luang Prabang School will accept its new students in its own buildings on October 11. The Vientiane School will begin the first class in the second cycle and the Phone Hong School will be in the third year of the first cycle.

Water problems continue to plague the Phone Hong School but we believe solutions are being worked out. At present, a hand pump is supplying drinking water and a small reservoir will provide some water for agriculture projects. A new electric driven reciprocating pump should soon be installed and we have requested the drilling of a new back-up well to be used with the hand pump.

A final audit report on the SE project was received. The only recommendation was to deobligate the balance of funds remaining in the PIO/T for the construction of the Fa Ngum Vientiane School.

Personnel

Attached, for general information, is a list of the IVS/Education personnel for this year and their posts of assignment.

Mr. Bounleane Khamvongsouk, Administrative Assistant for Miss DeBriey in Luang Prabang, resigned last month in order to enter the English Section at Dong Dok. A replacement has not yet been found.

Mr. Moun Heng transferred from the Office of the Assistant Director to work with Mr. Woodson in the 12 hours a week program.

Other Events

A full report will be submitted to the Director in the next report.

Other Donors (continued)

school year. Eight of them have been assigned to teach English in the Lycees and one, Dr. Otto Shipla, will be at the English Section, Dong Dok, teaching courses in pedagogy and working with the practice teaching programs.

The Australian and Indian governments have each offered two scholarships for Lao students to do university studies in their respective countries next year.

General

A third group of military personnel completed training as literacy instructors for FAR this month. 70 soldiers have taken this training to date.

A USAID-supported one-week seminar on Lao history was held at the Ministry under the leadership of Khamphao Phoukhou. Various Lao who had studied history in France and other Lao who had taken Buddhist studies in India produced research papers which were discussed by the group. Twenty Lao Social Science teachers from secondary and teacher training schools attended. The research papers, which covered developments in different areas of the country during historical times, are a necessary step before undertaking a revision of the Lao history curriculum in the national school system.

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- Secondary Education
- Community Education

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IVS Assignments in Education for the 1971-72 School Year

1.	Mr. Mike Fields	Assistant Chief of Party for Education
2.	Dr. Jerry Porter	Science English Section, Dong Dok
3.	Mr. Steve Bunch	Science " " "
4.	Mrs. Maurine Bunch	Math " " "
5.	Mr. Richard Burkhardt	Math " " "
6.	Mr. Al Inversin	Science " " "
7.	Mr. Dean Meyers	Social Studies " " "
8.	Mr. John Dunlap	English " " "
9.	Miss Linda Burnbaugh	English " " "
10.	Mr. Doug Gilson	English " " "
11.	Mr. Ray Wolfe	Science " " "
12.	Mr. Bob Wood	Social Studies " " "
13.	Miss Betty Felthousen	Social Studies " " "
14.	Miss Wendy Chamberlin	Social Studies " " "
15.	Mrs. Cherie Mitchell	Home Economics " " "
16.	Mr. Henry Thayer	Agriculture, Dong Dok
17.	Mr. Cornelis Reutz	Maintenance, Dong Dok
18.	Mr. Frank Welsh	Community Development, Laang Prabang ENI
19.	Mr. Gary Alex	Agriculture, Pakxe ENI
20.	Mr. David Brindley	English, Fa Ngum Vientiane
21.	Mr. Tom Tufts	English, Fa Ngum Vientiane
22.	Mr. Jon Pennebaker	English, Fa Ngum Vientiane
23.	Mr. Doran Butts	English, Fa Ngum Vientiane
24.	Miss Mary Lou Gething	English, Fa Ngum Savannakhet
25.	Mr. Bob Gauld	English, Fa Ngum Savannakhet
26.	Mr. Dick Hollner	English, Fa Ngum Laang Prabang
27.	Mr. John Mulligan	English, Savannakhet Technical School
28.	Mr. Robert Brown	English, Vientiane Technical School
29.	Mr. Jim Yoder	English, Vientiane Technical School