

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To : Anthony Cautarrucci, AC/LP
From : Bligh Des Brisay, CEA/North
Subject : Monthly report, March 1971

DATE: April 5, 1971

I Problems

The CEA was evacuated from Luang Prabang as of March 21. Subsequently all schools including the Teacher Training College were closed. The girl students of the latter institution were moved from the dormitory to houses in town, some later returning to their points of origin. Primary schools are being used to house refugees. All government officials including teachers, as well as many USAID employees have been put on 24 hour guard or similar duty.

Refugee statistics reported for Luang Prabang last month are now completely out-of-date. It will be some time before the new situation can be assessed as to educational requirements. In the meantime, it has been reported, however, that the 8,000 refugees now in Pa Chia will stay there permanently. As soon as possible, therefore, the construction of schools in that locale will be discussed with those concerned.

II Community Education

Field Trips:

The CEA/National joined the CEA/North for a field trip in Sayaboury province March 9 - 11. Conferences were held with the AN, the Chan Khoueng and the PST. Schools were observed in and around Sayaboury. The Dry Season Program was reviewed with the CDIA. Refugee sites in the Muong Phiang Nam Tene area were visited with the CDAA and the PST. It was proposed that activity Plans be written for the construction of 6 classrooms in each Nam Phoui and Nam Hie, and 3 classrooms in Nam Yane. Other sites are pending further discussion with the villagers.

The CEA National and his Assistant also accompanied the CEA North on a field trip to Houa Khong province March 20 - April 2. A separate Trip Report has been prepared by the CEA/National. To summarize:

visits with the DRA Advisor. The Military and Rural Affairs leaders were wary of 7 refugee and military dependents sites. In most villages the consensus of opinion seemed to be only temporary schools were needed at present. Captain Kongsook will make a thorough statistical study and present his findings and recommendations to the PSI.

The PSI agreed to present the statistics for all schools to the McE so a more adequate supply of educational materials will be forthcoming. The PSI also proposed a summer workshop for 38 military if funds are available.

Miscellaneous

A new holiday (as the others weren't enough) Teacher Appreciation Day was celebrated on March 10 in all provinces.

The opening ceremony of Phnom Sant Self-Help Urban school scheduled during Fimal is pending.

Teacher Education

The two workshops in Teacher Education scheduled to open April 4 in Luang Prabang will no doubt be postponed or held in another location.

The practice teaching in primary schools in and around Luang Prabang, for which staff and students of the two and four year courses were enthusiastically preparing, has also had to be postponed.

The construction of the 2 story building was proceeding well until slowed down by enemy action around Luang Prabang. Last report showed completion at 75%.

Other

The USA attended the monthly staff meeting in Vientiane on March 17 and found the visit to the Educational Materials Production Center most interesting. The opportunity for field personnel to be kept "en courant" with educational institutions and activities in Vientiane is appreciated.

Having the opportunity to show and discuss projects, plans and problems with the USA/National "on-the-spot" in the provinces is also very worthwhile.