

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 5 1971

TO : (Lorance W. Green, Chief, Education Division)  
FROM : Dan Cox, Teacher Education Advisor  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report, March 1971

Problems

1. A water stoppage at the Dong Dok campus forced the officials to cancel classes for one week. This stoppage was caused by lightning knocking out two transformers on 9 March. Repairs were made and water was restored. Classes resumed on 15 March.

Students of the ESP over-acted to a low water pressure situation by striking from classes on 30 March. They returned to their classes the next day and the ESP Director appointed the Surveillance General to investigate and to identify the leadership. If this can be done, the Director will impose punitive action.

The recurring water problem at Dong Dok emphasizes the need for better planning and better engineering. The inconvenience and irritation caused by this water system has exhausted the patience of several persons.

2. The efficiency of this office has been considerably reduced and will continue to be so until a secretary can be found. We have done without for more than a month now and nothing appears on the horizon. A fear exists that this slot will remain vacant for a few months and

### Problems (continued)

the mission will decide to abolish it. As was done in the case of Mr. Wang, a former office employee.

### Progress

1. This report period saw the student teaching course get into full swing at nine of the teacher training schools. The preliminary portion of the course, "observation and limited participation" was completed and three months of student teaching was begun. The only location where security has caused changes to be made in the original student teaching plans is at Luang Prabang.
  2. Final planning was done for the two workshops that were scheduled for Luang Prabang from April 4-16. However, at this time it appears that the workshops will have to be postponed and transferred to a more secure center.
  3. Three participants returned from three years of agriculture training in Thailand. One will replace Mr. Lao at the ENI Vientiane one to the Agriculture program at the Savannalibot ENI and the third has been transferred to secondary education.
  4. Mr. Boungisong, Assistant Director of the English Section, departed for three months of training at the University of Philippines. The seminar is for teacher educators and is sponsored annually by UNESCO.
- Dr. Ven, Director of ZSE, attended a three-day conference at Penang for a SEAMEQ Mathematics and Science Conference
5. Final inspection was made this month on the demonstration school and the science building at the Pakse ENI. In this connection, the school authorities requested the assistance of experienced science teachers to help with setting up the science laboratories. The project is planning to send an IVS volunteer to Pakse for this purpose shortly after Lao

New Year. Hopefully, this volunteer will also study the science curriculum and make recommendations about other science apparatus and equipment that is needed.

6. Construction:

- A. Work is on schedule for the reconstruction of a chain link fence at the Dang Dok campus and is 75% completed.
- B. Construction of the two dormitories and two sets of classrooms at Dang Dok is also on schedule at 29% completed.
- C. Construction of the three story multi purpose building at the Wang Phabang ENI is now 7% complete.

7. Contract No. AID/ce 89 (2V5)

The mission received audit reports on the two former contracts 1116 and 1756, and began work on cancelling the various recommendations.

A progress report on the Dang Dok school term work plan was due March 11 but has not yet arrived in the project office.

Volunt or quarterly reports are now due. These reports will wrap up the contract activities for the third quarter of the fiscal year.

8. Contract AID/ce Task Order No. 4 (ACTS)

No new developments.

9. The CEA/South reported that the instructional programs are progressing satisfactorily at both the Svaysekkhet and Pakse ENIs. His report cited a number of priority 'housekeeping' items and plans for the summer work program at each school also.

10. CEA/North reported that the Laing Prabang EMI along with other schools were closed because of continuing agency harassment.

11. The Maintenance Advisor's report, which is attached, reflects the thought that has gone into a plan to improve the water system at the Dong Dak campus. This plan has generated positive responses from members of the FWD Division.

The new MoS maintenance counterpart has brought with him to the job a great deal of enthusiasm, feeling for field workers and energy.

Other major maintenance efforts for the month can be read from the Maintenance Advisor's report.