

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 3, 1971

TO: Mr. Norman W. Gross, Chief, SDF

FROM: *P. W. Collins*  
 P. W. Collins, C o P, University of Hawaii Contract

SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report, March 1971

Problems

No new problems of significance developed during the month.

Program Progress

National Lao education and the Fa Ngum Comprehensive High School program in particular lost a strong leader, a loyal supporter and a tremendously fine man in the death of "Papa" Blanchard de la Brosse. The funeral services of great dignity drew hundreds of followers, dignitaries and others from all walks of life. Papa Blanchard was Director General of the Ministry of Education during the crucial developmental stages of the Fa Ngum project.

During the process of finding ways to enrich the Fa Ngum curriculum in the fine arts area, Principal Somrak and I approached Mr. Richard Kautz of the Asia Foundation for help. The Foundation will provide funds for the purchase of the necessary instruments for a Lao orchestra. The instruments will cost approximately \$1000. The Ministry has promised a teacher of music for the coming year and the Kohn Korpa project will be revived.

In collaboration with MO/PT a preservice teacher training program was initiated at Fa Ngum for the Thailand participants who are back home in Laos for the Thai summer vacation period. These 11 teachers in training are being oriented to the Fa Ngum plan, conferring with the Lao teachers and their University of Hawaii counterparts on teaching techniques and materials of instruction, developing teaching materials, performing selected practice teaching activities, participating as "sit in" students in selected mathematics, science, and English classes.

Other personnel developments include the initiation of documents to consummate the appointments of four of the five new University of Hawaii Consultation team members. Well qualified candidates for chief of party, agriculture, language arts-social studies, and commerce have been recruited.

The Fa Ngum project was honored during the month by the RLG's designation of Principal Somsak as one of two representatives of Laos to an International Youth Conference held in Delhi, India, March 15-30. Mr. Somsak presented the Fa Ngum Comprehensive School program and other youth opportunities in Laos to the delegates of the 12 countries in attendance.

Another recognition of Fa Ngum's growing stature occurred on the 10th of March the National Teacher Honoring Day. Representatives of the Lycée de Vientiane participated in the ceremony as a learning experience, the Lycée will introduce the tradition in its calendar in 1972. Fa Ngum students were also represented in the parade on Army Day.

The University of Hawaii's graduate course in Educational Psychology is progressing well, especially the case studies.

In preparation for the 1971 Program Review budgets for FY 72-73 and 74 were prepared. As part of the preparation MD/PT collaborated in reviewing participant training needs.

Education Division Chief Norman Green included a visitation to the RLG Material Production Center of the MoE in his monthly staff meeting. The University of Hawaii consultants were included. During the meeting, Director Sang offered to help our project in the production of supplementary teaching materials and of first draft editions of our textbooks on a chapter by chapter basis. On another occasion, USAID/EDU Chief Green prepared a very helpful guide or check list designed to facilitate improvement of textbook publication.

Visitors during the month included Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle, Headmaster and Headmistress of the Indian Mountain Private School, Lakeville, Connecticut. They judged the school to be "excellent". Last month's visitor Robert Cushing, Vice-Chairman of University of Hawaii Board of Regents, saw the Mission's comprehensive report of his observations. The first paragraph states, "The project is succeeding and was praised by everyone I talked to in Laos."

The entire Fa Ngum Phou Khouang student body and faculty took a very successful field trip to Vientiane. Fifty year students were oriented to the five major fields by students and faculty plus observations of the departments. The second year students were oriented to the five major interests in visitation to (1. Commercial) Cacao Bolling Works and Lao General Development Bank; (2. Industrial) Wats; to (3. Electric

Power Plant Training Center and USAID's Human Resources Training Section (3. Agriculture) to Sakdum Rice Research Center and Hot Dak Kao Agriculture Experimental Center.

In overall construction experience was indicated that fixed bookshelves in the classrooms and shelves under the student desks are not beneficial. In future construction the former will be portable and the latter will be eliminated. Both fixed and portable shelving will be provided in the library rooms.

The contract has been let for the construction of Phase 1 at Luang Prabang. AGR/IRR Lathrop has prepared an activity plan to implement the gabion dam he designed to provide water for the school. Upon the request of AG/LP Gauderucci a set of Fa Ngum materials to be used in a series of displays were collected and forwarded to Luang Prabang.

At Fa Ngum Savannakhet AGR/IRR Morgan has completed an activity plan to develop the beaded reservoirs and is currently modifying it to include improvement of the access road. Continuous vigilance has been necessary to bring the contractors' work on the school furniture up to acceptable standards.

AGR/IRR Shimada and Howe developed an activity plan to build a storage reservoir at Fa Ngum Phone Hong. PWD has installed two new generators, which were checked out as functioning well. The Hawaii Team and OICC Architect Ingrid developed building placement and land usage plans for the entire Fa Ngum Luang Prabang complex.

The head of the Agriculture Department, Mr. Sang, U of B Consultant Yamauchi, and Phone Hong teacher, Mr. Sibha, successfully oriented Fa Ngum Phone Hong students on care, maintenance, use and safety precautions of the school tractor. Seed beds at Phone Hong have been prepared and water from the currently being repaired well or the coming monsoon. AGR/IRR Supaxt taught the students how to conduct infiltration tests in the new Phone Hong reservoir area. The Fa Ngum Agriculture staff and Mr. Yamauchi visited the Visitation Farm Training Center and discussed mutual concerns in developing livestock projects for educational purposes with Director Sage. Principal Somsak and Mr. Yamauchi conferred with Mr. Smith, RLG Director of Agriculture Research, about the possibility of using his returning participants as teachers at Fa Ngum. Part-time teaching is a possibility.

Mr. Lak, business manager of Societa State, arranged for a donation of 100 kerosene cans for use at Fa Ngum. A field trip through the 555 tobacco plantation is being worked out. AGR/IRR Brooks and staff assisted Fa Ngum teacher Samsi in the development of a unit of instruction in surveying.

The Commercial Department is developing course descriptions for second cycle offerings. The Lao typing book has been submitted for publication. Department representatives visited the Commercial Department of the Vientiane Technical School.

Director of Secondary Education Phou has referred vocabulary problems of the second year textbook in Home Economics to a special committee of the MoE. The tenth grade home economics majors took a successful field trip to the Orphanage and the Army Hospital.

The 85 Industrial Arts majors took very worthwhile field trips to the 555 Metal Working Industry, the Lao Tobacco Factory, to study mass production and the use of machines in same, and to the new Lao Wood Industries. Scrap steel and machine parts have been obtained from PWD. A bearing was obtained from the local market to repair the table saw. One of the Lao participant trainees collaborated in the reassembling process. Another built a storage cabinet for the tools and accessories. Students in the electric shop repaired several school fluorescent light fixtures as a shop project.

The Mathematics textbook for the second year has been submitted for publishing. The Science Department is developing plans for the Summer Workshop to include teachers from ENIs and colleges.

The Social Studies classes are benefiting from the recent translation of The Outline of American History. It was translated by Mrs. Khamsouk of the Fa Ngum project and reproduced by USIS. The third year manuscripts for Lao Language and Literature have been submitted to the MoE for approval.

A significant meeting, uniting the Social Studies Department of the National College of Education, Vientiane, the heads of the Social Studies Department at the University of Hawaii and University of Hawaii Consultant Steven, was held to discuss the Social Studies programs of the two institutions. Agreements were reached in which the two programs will cooperate.

Consultation sessions were held with the following: by Consulting Yamachi and Secretary of Education, Vientiane, Laos and Hanoi.