

## UNITED STATES AMBASSY MISSION VIENTIANE

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 9, 1971

WOODSON'S COPY

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director *NW Mann*

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for February 1971

Refugee School Program

Military activity in the north has disrupted school programs in Long Tieng and other areas. High Grade pupils in these places are of special concern. It may be necessary to help the Ministry assemble some of these students at locations where they can prepare for and take their final CEP exams. CE personnel are checking the problem.

Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Woodson, and Ministry officials visited Pakxane this month to investigate refugee school programs. Some 700 refugee children are enrolled in school there. Estimates vary, but probably at least the same number are not in school. Because the Borikhanee refugee groups are in process of resettlement there appears to be little action that can be taken at this time to provide more classrooms for refugees for the current school year, or at least until the people are more permanently settled.

Commune Education

An inaugurative ceremony was held early in the month under the auspices of Minister Louam to dedicate the new eight-room building at the Sikhay Groupe Scolaire, in Vientiane. This building is the prototype for ten other self-help school construction projects currently underway in urban areas. The minister is leaving Peking to nearly finished and expects to return to Laos for a dedication ceremony there in April. The minister has requested that the US has requested that the US supply the construction of the

As a follow up to

Inspectors' conference concerning reform of the Sixth Grade CEP final examinations. Three Lao educators have been selected for six months training in Thailand in elementary testing programs. This is an important step needed to meet so urgent educational requirement in Laos. Longer range planning in this area is included in FY 72 proposals for the CEP Project which provide for four year training programs in Testing and Guidance for two participants.

### Teacher Training

AID/W issued a Task Order to the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACE) to cover the recruitment of a higher education advisor to work on contract at the CEP.

Construction of a demonstration school and science laboratories at Pakse 8311 was completed this month. Arrangements have also been made at this school for a self-help project to reconstruct some sidewalks which are needed before the rains start.

Because of insecurity, practice teaching programs this year for senior students in the two year and four year programs at the ENIs will be restricted, for the most part, to locations in urban areas.

### Secondary Education

It is hardly a new development, but the demands from around the country for more secondary schools are becoming increasingly insistent. For example:

Paklay village constructed a four classroom building on its own initiative, now, or less forcing the Ministry to open a college here next October.

Paklay village committee  
Secondary Education  
students authorized

the approval of  
the director of

The PTA of the

111

project to expand the school by adding four new classrooms.

Pressure from the southern provinces will cause the Lao delegation to this year's meeting on the Franco-Lao Cultural Accords to be quite outspoken concerning the French government's plans for constructing a new secondary school in Pakse.

Considerable progress has been made in construction plans for the Fa Ngum schools.

Savannakhet - Bids were received and contract will be awarded soon.

Luang Prabang - Drawings were completed for Phase I and the project went out for bids in early March. SLC action is completed, private land owners has not yet been taken but we have been assured that this matter will be settled by April 1.

Phone Hong - Plans are being made for the final phase of the construction which includes land and water development for agriculture projects. Work is continuing on a self-help project to construct two teachers' cottages. The Ministry has proposed two more of these houses in next year's Plan Cadre budget.

Plans have been made for the 28 students in the Sixth Year of the English Section SSP to observe classes at Fa Ngum Vientiane beginning in April. These students will do their practice teaching at Fa Ngum next year their senior year.

Students and faculty of the Royal School of Agriculture visited the Fa Ngum School. Fa Ngum agriculture students visited Salakham and Hot Dak Keo.

WHY NOT DONG DOK?

An "Outline of American History" has been translated into Lao by project personnel. USIS contributed \$100 to support the work and for the privilege of going to the translation.

The principals of the three (3) District schools are receiving new IFI School vehicles this month.

### Educational Materials

An audit report was received this month on the Educational Materials Production Project, which was terminated in FY 68. A completion report for the project has been prepared in response to a recommendation of the audit.

### General

All project managers prepared budget proposals for FY 72. No major changes are foreseen in project designs, but each project has presented requirements for expanding or improving current activities.

The division was also involved in the Ministry's planning for FY 72 Plan Cadre projects. Mr. Kao Oursama, Director of Planning, presented the Ministry's proposed projects in a well organized manner. The major proposals concern secondary schools and urban groupement complexes.

The following is a partial listing of Ministry officials who have made trips abroad recently to attend various conferences:

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Dr. Souphou   | Tokyo     |
| Mrs. Viengsay | Bangkok   |
| Mr. Khamsay   | Manila    |
| Mr. Kao       | Singapore |
| Mr. Am        | Singapore |
| Mr. Soukhone  | Singapore |
| Mr. Khamphat  | Manila    |
| Mr. Oute      | Manila    |

Minister Louam, Mr. Khamkhing, Mr. Phou, and Dr. Nhegara, along with Fane Rassavong, depart March 6 for Paris to attend the Annual meeting for the Franco-Lao Cultural Accords.

### Other Donors

One official from the Department of Technical Assistance has returned

Australian government scholarship for five months of training in community development work.

500 copies of the Lao reading-for-fun book produced by the American Women's Club were distributed to children in Luang Prabang schools. There, as elsewhere, teachers and children were delighted with the book and asked for more.

EDU: NWGreen: //

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