

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 27 1971

TO Hunter Fitzgerald, CEA/National

FROM Larry Woodson, CEA/Refugees

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for February 1971

Problems:

The deteriorating military situation in Long Tieng brought school construction to a standstill. No reported loss of construction materials to date.

CEA/National can take no action

The Primary School Inspector for Xieng Khouang province yesterday reported the closing of several schools in the province due to enemy activity including the groupe scolaires in Long Tieng City. Current figures for this area showing reduction in number of students attending class not available. No reported damage to existing schools or loss of furniture.

CEA/National can take no action

Teachers in the Xieng Khouang province are concerned about the 6th grade students who are falling behind in their academic studies and the longer that they are out of class the more difficult it will be for them to pass the CEP examination given at the end of the school year.

CEA/National and CEA/Refugees will schedule meeting with PS/XK to discuss.

Problems (continued)

The problems were further complicated with the Primary School Inspector on sick leave due to Malaria and the Assistant PSI out of the country attending a training program.

CEA/National can take no action

Project Progress

Plans were drafted for permanent refugee classrooms for refugee reserve areas four and six, Vientiane Plain. These plans will serve as a guideline for later activity plans for the TA/Vientiane area and the V. Lai Nong Co. reserve areas. Construction is not expected to commence before July 1st at the earliest, however, it will be necessary to start cutting lumber and to stockpile sand and gravel to permit construction during the rainy season.

Proposed distribution lists were prepared for the Ministry of Education for the math, geography, and reading books that are currently being printed for the refugee students. Two distributions were recommended - one immediately upon receiving the books from the printer and the second in August prior to the opening of school. The proposals were by province and were based upon current statistics and projected enrollment according to national figures.

This advisor accompanied the CEA/National and Ministry of Education officials to Paksane to observe the education program there and to discuss plans for refugee school construction. Per CEA/National's trip report, "the PSI's records showed 1,241 families with 6,419 people. The PSI has approximately 700 children from refugee camps enrolled in school and stated there are about 900 not in school. The CDA/Paksane said he would survey this again because of prior experience is true here. There are probably 900 not in school."

¹⁰Currently they are in the process of resettling groups of refugees in smaller clusters of fifty families each and according to the PSI and CDA it would not be practical to build temporary schools near their sites. The plan is to move the people, get them settled, and then build self help schools.¹⁰

Requests were received this week for assistance in providing education facilities for refugee children on the outskirts of the city of Vientiane. Mr. Khamphong is making a survey trying to determine where the students are, the number, and the scope of the program. When this information is available, discussions will be scheduled to determine possible solutions.

Recent refugee education statistics were received from the USA/Luang Prabang and the CEA/Pakse and are incorporated in the statistical statistics.

Attachments:

EDU/CE (Woods) 10/1

