

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 1971

TO: Mr. Norman Green, Chief, EDU
 FROM: *DWane Collins*
 DWane Collins, CoP, University of Hawaii Contract
 SUBJECT: Second Quarterly Report February 1971

Problems

No new problems of significance.

Project Progress

The Fa Ngum Schools were honored during the month of several distinguished visitors. Mr. E. Samuel Dillon, Jr., USAID Congressional Liaison Officer, accompanied by Mr. Loren Hoffman, AD/FO, observed Fa Ngum in considerable detail. In addition to Mr. Dillon's official interest in the project his extensive experience as a farmer and former chairman of the House Education Committee sparked special interests. His concluding statement, "I am impressed with the principals and all of the teachers I met. This is truly a fine school," fell on the happy ears of Lao and Americans alike.

Mr. Mamun Tal, UN Representative to Laos, said after his visitation, "I have seen many student and other youth groups in Laos and nowhere have I seen the hope and excitement of learning that I see in the faces of the Fa Ngum students." Mr. Mamadou, UNESCO specialist in Functional Literacy, stated during his visit, "This is exactly the type of school that Laos or any of the other country needs." Mrs. McLaughlin, VSO official from London, described Fa Ngum as "very impressive." She was accompanied by Mr. Gordon Williams of the British Embassy.

Personnel developments included a conference between Deputy Director James Chandler, EDU Chief Norman Green and me.

We reviewed the Consultation Team changes reported last month and discussed the need for additional consultation in Home Economics and Linguistics. A personnel concern of sadness was brought by the cable informing Hazel Hagiwara that her father had passed away; she was able to arrive home in Honolulu in time for the funeral.

A high level conference at the MoE Director General's office focused attention on the plans the MoE is submitting in the Ministry of the Plan. In attendance were Director General Khamsing, Somsak and his staff and USAID Education Chief Norman Green and his project managers. The MoE planned to submit eleven construction projects in Secondary Education, seven of which are related to USAID assistance. They are: (1) third phase of Fa Ngum Phone Hong, (2) two self help houses for teachers at Phone Hong, (3) college at Khong Sedone, (4) beginning of construction at Fa Ngum Savannabhet, (5) construction of the National Curriculum Center for Secondary Education at Fa Ngum Vientiane, (6) beginning of construction of Fa Ngum Luang Prabang, and (7) development of an agriculture offering at College Pakxane. EDU Chief Green, Principal Somsak at Fa Ngum Vientiane, and U of H Consultant Yamauchi accompanied MoE officials to observe Pakxane's capabilities for the development of the Agriculture unit.

Principal Somsak and Wath accompanied EDU Chief Green and MoE officials on a tour of educational facilities at Paklay and Keng Thao. A new college is opening at Paklay in October 1971 and Keng Thao is the former home of both of our principals.

The project is pleased to learn of an honor accorded it as stated in a letter from USAID/EA/W to Director Charles Mann. It reads in part "We have developed your Secondary Education project into a case study presentation which will be used at all of the missions as a way of demonstrating how to prepare the logical framework."

Mrs. Pinkham, Director of the English Section at the National College of Education, passed on to the project managers by the Indonesian Representative on the Southeast Asia Regional Education Committee for detailed information on the development and status of

the comprehensive high schools in Laos. Copies of the semi-annual reports were forwarded.

At a Southeast Asia Educational Conference in Japan, Dr. Samphou Oudomvilay delivered an address on the Fa Ngum Comprehensive Schools of Laos. He proposed that they be considered seriously as a model for schools throughout Southeast Asia.

In the area of professional education Myrtle Collins, Principal of the American School in Vientiane, gave a presentation of the "Contrast" method of individualizing instruction and to personalized techniques for working with problems of individual children at one of the weekly class sessions of the University of Hawaii graduate course held at Fa Ngum, Vientiane. On another occasion I gave a lecture on the stimulus-conditioning-response theory to Mrs. Blumstein's and Mrs. Ritter's fourth grade groups at the American School. Consultant Stevens showed professional teaching films at Fa Ngum, Vientiane.

Buildings and equipment consultant John Rantala, in addition to the Team is paying good dividends. Commodity recommendations for the new Fa Ngum at Luang Prabang are on schedule, current requisitions are flowing smoothly, new IRI Scouts have been delivered to each of the three principals, fire control units are being established in the schools, new furniture construction is being checked, and many coordinated meetings on building construction and land development of the new schools have been held.

OICC architect Charles Ingold has completed the drawings for Phase I of Fa Ngum Luang Prabang. Several meetings have been held to resolve the electrical service to the school and the final appropriate compensation for private lands which are a part of the school site. Progress is being made but neither has been finalized at the date of this report.

Bids for the construction of the school complex have been submitted and are being studied. Step two of the development, the reservoirs for the agriculture complex is underway. Construction is expected to begin next month. Principal Hong Thong and Coor-

Yoshimoto have marked the trees that they wish to be saved at the school site.

MoE Director of Secondary Education Phou Rasphone has requested USAID assistance for two additional self help teachers cottages at Fa Ngum Phone Hong. The columns, rafters, and roofing are in place in the first cottage of the first two units. The school tractor and implements, the stove and refrigerator have been delivered to the school. Considerable progress has been made on agro cultural land development plans. The installation of the new generators has not been completed.

Mr. Phou has also requested on behalf of the Ministry. On Ngain No. 5. Two major site considerations for the school at this writing are Pakse and Thakhek. CEA Dick Costantino reports that the Than Khong of Sedone requested that it be built at Dene Kalong. The villagers have agreed to give the land and assist in other ways.

Now turning to instruction and curriculum development, we are pleased to report that Miss Maniphan Na Champassak, who recently joined the Commercial staff, is making good progress and is modern in her attitudes and practices of teaching. Among other considerations of the staff in curriculum development is the questioning of the advisability of developing Lao shorthand at this time. Consultant Tetsuen journeyed to Phone Hong to work with General Business teacher Boumal

in Industrial Arts the fourth year students took an excellent field trip to the City Electric Power Plant. Students observed the training center, shop and operation of the generators. Students in the electrical shop are learning the basic circuits and are making buzzers and simple electric motors. Mr. Touane and his students constructed twenty picture frames (from scrap lumber, old packing crates). The frames will be used in the art display of the works of a local Lao artist. Recent staff meetings were concerned with the new program, requisitioning of materials and supplies, shop arrangements, and planning for the coming bazaar. The mechanical drawing text will soon be sent to the printers and final typing of the woodworking book has been completed.

and illustrations are now being made.

The orientation course in Home Economics at Fa Ngum Savannakhet began this quarter with Miss Sangha teaching the class. To continue the rotation of teachers at Fa Ngum Phone Hong, Miss Savarnone has returned to Vientiane and Miss Somsy has succeeded her at Phone Hong. The department is busy preparing articles for sale at the coming bazaar, including the knitting of sweaters.

Illustrations for the eighth grade mathematics textbooks have been completed and final typing has been finished; the proof will be sent to the printers the first week in March. Mr. Khamphou has completed one half of the ninth grade text. Mr. Sisouphan has completed the translation of 3M printed originals and classroom management materials have been made. Plans for the mathematics summer workshop are being developed.

The illustrations are being beautifully drawn for the eighth grade science textbook by the artist in Mr. Ken Ross's CIE department. Mr. Savang has just completed the teaching of a 12 hour science course at Hot Dok Keo Agriculture School. Three Lao science teachers and Consultant Wong visited Science classes at the American School of Vientiane on February 11. Laboratory lay out, visual aids and individualized instruction were observed.

Mr. Somsai, teacher of English at Fa Ngum Phone Hong, has started an English class for all of the teachers at Phone Hong. The class is held after school hours. Consultant Stevens worked with teachers in his three areas of responsibility at Fa Ngum Savannakhet. 122 books were catalogued and cards typed before they were sent to the Fa Ngum Phone Hong library. A similar unit is being prepared for Fa Ngum Savannakhet. Science Research Associates' differentiated level reading kits are being used by the English teachers. IYS Ponschayer has started Saturday volunteer English classes for successful and remedial students participate.

Consultant Stevens met with SDIT Chief Green and Principal Samrak to discuss further the plans for the National Curriculum Tester for

Secondary Education. Mr. Stevens has prepared a draft of the purposes and functions of the Center.

Mr. Kidang has completed the writing of the ninth grade text for the Lao language class. Illustrations are now being drawn. The "Outline of American History" has been translated into Lao and will be mimeographed soon. CSTS has contributed \$100 toward the project and the privilege of using it. The fund will be used to develop other titles. Translated teaching guides for the 8 mm film loops have proven to be very effective.

A meeting of significance was held on February 7 and 8. Whitbread Dr. Carlson, Mr. Boudinong, Mrs. Pinkham of the ESP, Mr. Somsak of Fa Ngum Vientiane, and Canadian Stevens in attendance. Twenty-eight students from the English Section of ICSP will begin their teaching observation program at Fa Ngum Vientiane on April 22. Twenty students will be observing the English, Social Studies areas, eight the math-science areas. They will spend one full day a week for six weeks observing the Fa Ngum program. These same students will return next fall as practice teachers. A program of orientation to the Fa Ngum program and specific departmental work will be worked up by Mr. Somsak.

The Fa Ngum Agriculture Department was host to 30 first year students, four French and five Lao instructors of the Royal School of Agriculture. Students of all four agriculture classes at Fa Ngum Vientiane completed successful field trips to the Salakham Rice Research Center and the Noi Dok Koo Agriculture Experiment Station. The fourth year Farm Mechanics class improved their maintenance expertise by visiting the KM-2 vehicle maintenance shops. The field trip was timed so the students could see their John Deere school tractor receive its 200 hour servicing. The shop foreman also demonstrated daily check procedure. MTB Chief Hudson and shop superintendent made the arrangements for the visit and donated a two cubic meter bin of assorted surplus bolts, nuts, and screws for use in instruction and general shop work in the Fa Ngum's Agriculture Department. Preventive maintenance and driver training materials were also obtained and packaged for distribution to all Fa Ngum schools.

The Agriculture staff has accepted the offer made by Mr. Long, Chief of the RLG Salakham Rice Research Center, to provide technical and material assistance for the next annual experimental rice planting. A modification in last year's plan will be to plant the seedlings prior to the monsoon season, using well water to flood paddies. This plan will test the capability of the well and give the teachers and students more experience in water management.

The second year book of over 500 pages will need to be printed in two volumes. It has received its final typing and the illustrations are nearing completion.

A summary of professional services to the satellite schools shows that Consultants Stevens, Tealson, and Rantala visited Fa Ngum Phnom Hong and Rantala, Zana, Stevens, Wong, and Yamauchi visited Fa Ngum Savannakhet.

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