

TO : Norman W. Jones, Chief, Educational Division

FROM : Don Don Phommachakr, Educational Advisor

SUBJ : Monthly Report, February 1977

Problems

None

Progress

1. Mrs. Pichan Sammaluang, a returned participant and Coordinator of the ESP English Section, directed the second "Learning to Service Seminar on Problems of English Language Teaching" from January 5-7. The Seminar participants included speakers on English in the Teacher Training Schools, Secondary Schools, Technical Institute, and the USA School. A group of 20 ESP teachers and one student (Class 6 A) was a special seminar participant.

All participants and observers agreed that the seminar was successful not only at identifying some of the problems of teaching English in Laos but also at presenting effective proposals for solving some of the problems.

- 2. A project participant, Mr. Noupit Sengsouyrya returned from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. He has been temporarily assigned to Secondary Education.
- 3. Dr. Somphou, the RVE Teacher Training counterpart, spent two days with Mr. Boun Nuang, Director of EML. Among the discussion items was the planning for the two Teacher Training Workshops which will be held concurrently at the EML in March. Dr. Somphou was accompanied by Mr. Don Phommachakr, the projects' RVE maintenance counterparts.
- 4. Effort continued to be exerted to cancel out the recommendations of the project audit of Report No. B-435 71 39. At the present time, the MoE is translating the English of non-expendable property inventories into Lao before sending copies of the inventories to the various schools for review and verification. Efforts were also expended on returning to USAID unused project property and over-stocked warehouse items. The mission feels optimistic that all of the recommendations in the audit have been met.

5. The monthly report on the Pakse ENI indicates that the operation of the ENI is going quite well there in the absence of the Director, Mr. Gudone, who is studying in France. The CIA's comments on the school gardens and the fish pond are most encouraging and in keeping with the objectives of the 1962 Education Reform Act.
6. The project manager visited the Vang Viang ENI for the first time this school year. The new director, Mr. Phao Sayasouk has the school compound very clean and seems to be well organized with his instructional program. However, he complains about the need for an improved water system. The project manager has discussed this problem with both Mr. Kidd and Mr. Young. Both feel that the complaint is justified. FY 72 plans will provide for an improved water system for the school.
7. The contractor is 90% complete with the construction of the Demonstration School and the Science Laboratory for the Pakse ENI. The final inspection of these facilities should be in mid February. The construction contract for the ESP is on schedule with a 10% completion and the contractor for the Multi-Story building at ENI is making the necessary preparations to begin the construction.
8. Dr. Somphou is making preparations to represent the MoE at the Seminar for Primary and Secondary Science Teaching at Tokyo, February 11-28. The seminar will be jointly sponsored by UNESCO and the National (Japanese) Institute for Research.
9. Public officials at Keng Thao turned over the self-help ENI school to MoE officials at a formal ceremony January 30.

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Quarterly reports from most of the volunteers were received during this report period. The reports covered the first trimester of the 1970-71 school year. The overwhelming majority of the reports indicated particular success and satisfaction. The Contract Representatives observations fully support the high degree of success reflected in these reports. However, the Contract Representatives observations do not bear out the glowing and optimistic report of the IVS Farm Advisor.

Other Donors

Local lumber dealers responded to a request of the ESP Student Union Representatives by providing lumber valued at K 100,000 for the construction of benches to be built and placed in the auditorium.

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