

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 3, 1971

TO : Mr Norman Green, Chief, EDU
DWane Collins
FROM : DWane Collins, CoP, U of H Contract
SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - January 1971

Problems

No significant problems not reported previously.

Program Development

So many important developments took place during January that it is difficult to select "highlights". To start the list the Fa Ngum project warmly thanks the American Women's Club of Laos for its fourth year of financial and moral support. The 1971 scholarship and school aid grant for the three schools is \$3,000.

Next on the list of developments was the initiation of the first university graduate credit course in the history of Laos. Through an arrangement with the Continuation Studies Division of the University of Hawaii I am teaching a three credit course in Educational Psychology. Five qualified members of the Fa Ngum faculty are enrolled. It is quite possible that the offerings will be expanded next fall with enrollment offered to the community at large.

Of special interest in project development was the visit of Mr Robert Cushing, Vice Chairman of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and Dr. Tetsuo Ihara, Director of Foreign Contracts. During their visit several formal and informal contacts were made with MoE officials the Embassy, the USAID Director's office, the Division of Education, the Program Office, and Participant Training. The main discussions were centered around the development of the second cycle in the Fa Ngum Schools and the proposed National Curriculum Center for Secondary Education which will be housed in a new unit to be built at Fa Ngum Vientiane. In response to the MoE's request, the University will replace

Team members, whose terms of service are ending, with University curriculum specialists. Consideration was also given to the addition of consultation in home economics and linguistics. Two returning team members, who have been stationed in Vientiane, will be assigned beginning July to field schools to implement a policy of providing fully oriented consultants for field stations. The visitors made first hand observations of all three schools and judged all of them to be "very good schools". They also visited the new site at Luang Prabang. While at Savannakhet AC Stone arranged conferences with Chao Khaeng Sisouphan.

Among the many delightful social and tour events the guests enjoyed were a dinner at the Director's home, a bacì at the home of the Fa Ngum Vientiane principal's home, luncheon at the home of the AC's home in Savannakhet and at the USIS Cultural Affairs Officer's home, dinner at Team members' homes, and visitation to the market, wats and agriculture research stations. A large reception was held at Fa Ngum Vientiane. Included on the menu were boiled quail eggs, roast chicken and boiled sweet corn from the school farm.

Another event (on January 7) of major importance to the project was the arrival of Buildings and Equipment Specialist John Rantala and his wife Judy. John's professional education in Trade, Industrial and Technical Education and extensive experience both in the United States and foreign service (4 1/2 years in Pakistan) will provide extremely helpful skills at this stage of our development. They are permanently housed in a comfortable home in K-6. John has undergone an intensive orientation program and he and Judy have begun formal study of the Lao language. Since John serves all of the Fa Ngum Schools he and his office manager, Kongkham Keophichit, are offices in the main USAID administration building.

The three principals of the Fa Ngum Schools began the development of policy statements for the National Fa Ngum Comprehensive High School Program as part of their graduate studies at the University of Hawaii during the summer of 1970. They continued these developments in a series of conferences beginning with a three-day work conference in Phone Hong during the vacation period in December. This was followed by meetings with MoE officials, USAID/EDU and the U of H Team. On Saturday, January 30, a summit meeting was called at the MoE by

Director General Khamking Souvanlasy, Director of Secondary Education Phou Rasphone, assisted by the three Fa Ngum principals, presented their recommendations. In addition to these officials, all members of the MoE Department of Secondary Education, MoE officials of the Department of Planning and Research, the Director of Vocational Education, and the University of Hawaii Consultation Team were in attendance. An agenda was determined for the development of the second cycle curricula, the issuance of an arrete providing for the offering of the second cycle and the adoption of policy statements for promotion of students from the first to the second cycle. Details will be reported as soon as final acceptance or modifications by the Ministry of Education have been made. One of the recommendations of special interest suggests a marked deviation from the long established practice of promoting students from one echelon of the school system to a higher one solely on the basis of special examinations. The proposal includes the automatic promotion from the first to the second cycle of students who attain an academic average of 2.8 (on a five point scale in which an A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, and F=0).

A series of conferences with OICC, AGR Irrigation, the MoE, USAID/EDU, and the Deputy Director established the following building target dates: contractors will begin construction on Phase III, Phone Hong, June 15; Stage I at Savannakhet, March 15; Luang Prabang, April 20, and the Curriculum Center at Fa Ngum Vientiane, September 15. However, the date at Luang Prabang is contingent upon the clearance of titles to private lands included in the site and the Curriculum Center development must be phased with the availability of Lao curricula specialists.

U of H Consultant Hagiwara at Phone Hong is happy to receive relief for the heavy English teaching schedule by MoE's assignment of Mr Somsai who recently returned from studying in New Zealand. Lack of water and continued inability to use audio-visual machines continue to plague the instructional program. The contract has been let for installation of the new generators which should solve these problems. The foundations for the teachers' cottages were started: Principal Phone's father-in-law of Luang Prabang and his coolies donated the labor. AGR Irrigation completed the boundary survey; Fa Ngum students cut the brush for the engineers; encroachments by some bordering farmers caused some

difficulties. Phone Hong typewriters, tape recorder, amplifying unit, and 8 mm filmstrip projector have been repaired.

At Savannakhet, U of H Consultants Yoshimoto, Zane, and Rantala accompanied Principal Hong Thong to inspect one of the contractor's work in constructing school furniture. The inferior work makes acceptance of the furniture improbable; the matter is being studied by SMB and U of H Consultants. Material requirements for the extension of the electric line to the school site from Savannakhet City Power have been submitted to Mr. Daveler, PWR, and U of H Consultant John Rantala. They were prepared by the Director of City Power and Executive Officer Savannakhet Joe Tucker. Polyethylene curtains have been made to facilitate film projection in classes. Professional films ordered from the Hawaii Education Association were shown to the staff at U of H Consultant Yoshimoto's home. Color wheel charts and a mock up clock face were constructed for classroom use. The latter was constructed by the shop teacher in the Lao-French Technical School.

The Chao Khoueng at Luang Prabang has forwarded letters and instructions to the Ministry of Education requesting funds and documents for the acquisition of the small parcels of private land which are a part of the school site.

During the month U of H Consultants Yamauchi, Rantala, Teutsui, and Wong serviced the Phone Hong School; Zane and Rantala helped out at Savannakhet.

Numerous developments were made in instruction and curriculum. In agriculture Mr. Bang has been designated unofficially as Department Head and relieved of teaching duties in order to devote more time to the training of his teachers and curriculum development. He and Consultant Yamauchi prepared the Phone Hong teacher and students for the reception of the school tractor and equipment. Plant production at Fa Ngum Vientiane has emphasized diversification, scheduled planting, efficient irrigation and marketing. The quail and chicken projects are going very well as are the farm mechanics, farm management and farm accounting activities. Ag students have installed additional faucets to assist the student body in watering of campus plants and trees. MTB fabricated and installed jeep trailer hitches and safety chains on the draw bars of the tractors.

Miss Manipahn Na Champassak returned to Laos after completing her degree at Southern Illinois University under MD/PT sponsorship. She has assumed duties as teacher of commercial subjects at Fa Ngum. Forty-seven students purchased their own abacuses for home practice

Consultants Stevens and Hagiwara and English teachers Ford Tufts, Pennebaker, and Somsak attended the second national conference on the teaching of English held at Lao America Association. Consultant Yoshimoto chose to teach his students at Savannakhet and was not able to attend. During the conference the question of admission to the English section at the National College of Education came up. Messrs Stevens and Ford representing the interests of Fa Ngum students suggested that the practice of requiring the BEPC (Brevet d'etudes Premier Cycle which is given in French is discriminatory. The MoE is developing a special consideration for Fa Ngum students. The standing curriculum committee was extended and expanded. Its charge is to (1) evaluate and revise the first year syllabus, (2) continue work on second, third and fourth year syllabi, and (3) write general objectives of the English program in Laos and specific objectives for each year of study. Messrs Steven and Pennebaker were assigned to the group on task one (1).

Under the direction of Principal Somsak the teachers of Lao language and social studies are developing course objectives, both general and specific in collaboration with Consultant Stevens. Discussion of the objectives have led to consideration of activity oriented classrooms. There are also beginnings of the use of stories and articles in social studies. It is hoped that these activities will take on interdisciplinary aspects on a schoolwide basis

In science weekly meetings of Consultant Wong and the Lao teachers have resulted in better organization of science equipment, improvement in the continuity of cycle one offerings and revision of the fourth year curriculum. The increased effective use of audio-visual aids has also been implemented. The use of local products in experiments is on the increase. Consultant Wong and teacher Sevang have met with Hat Dok Keo officials to discuss the latter's teaching of science there. Dr Somphou, MoE Inspector General, conferred with Principal Somsak and Consultant Wong on the teaching of science.

In mathematics Department Chairmao Sisouphan is translating 3M visual aids to be made into transparencies with Lao titles and script. The first

year curriculum is being studied and revised; the third year has been written and is under discussion; the second year textbook is typed and awaits a few more illustrations before submission for printing.

The home economic teachers have completed an inventory of equipment and translating same into Lao. They are also developing a yearly budget for expendable items.

Teachers meetings in industrial arts were centered on improved teaching techniques, control of supplies and equipment, lesson plans assignment and operation sheets. Students are demonstrating growth in knowledge and skills in woodwork, sheet metal, and electricity. The orientation cycle is scheduled for Savannakhet for the current eight week period. Mr. Douang, the instructor, has had experience both in Vientiane and Phone Hong.

Miscellaneous

January items of interest include the volunteering of over 100 Fa Ngum students to help clear the landscaping grounds of Wat Phra Keo. The group were guests of the Garden Club of the American Women's Club under the direction of Mrs. Donald Mitchell.

Second, a colorful brochure, written in Lao, English, and French, and describing the Fa Ngum schools was printed by CM. It will be used as a public relations medium.

Lastly, Douang Panya, former CDA at Phone Hong, left for four years study at the University of Hawaii. His education is being financed in part by former CDAA Loring Waggoner.

Visitors at the Fa Ngum schools during January included Mrs. Herbert Woolley and her Mother, Mrs. Titworth. Both have a special interest in education and judged the Vientiane school to be a remarkable achievement. Geography Professors Roland Fuchs and John Sweet of the University of Hawaii were impressed with the curriculum and textbook developmental procedures. They viewed them as being sound and exciting. Their visit was a follow up of MoE's Director of Elementary

and Adult Education Khampao's studies at the University last fall.

Visitors at Fa Ngum Savannakhet included Mr. Whitbred, British Embassy consultant on the teaching of English at the National College of Education, and his Lao counterpart Mr. Bounlieng. They observed classes and discussed the teaching of English at our Savannakhet School.

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