

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 6 1971

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division *NW Green*

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for December 1970

Refugee School Program

Larry Woodson extended his work into the Vang Vieng area this month and will soon be spending more time in and around Site 272. He reports the completion of eight more classrooms and furniture for five schools at refugee sites on the Viattiane Plain.

35 classrooms have been constructed this year for Sam Nua (Phone Kay) schools. Activity Plans have been drafted for 17 refugee classrooms in the Vang Vieng area

A CD activity plan for the construction of 12 classrooms in Long Tieng has been approved. The possibility of undertaking the construction of 19 additional classrooms at Long Tieng this year is being discussed with General Vang Pao, at his request.

Contracts were made for reprinting three more textbooks for use in refugee schools.

Community Education

Mr. Fitzgerald reports that taxation problems related to RIG funding for urban self help schools construction projects have been resolved. Work is again in progress at all nine of these projects.

Five candidates have been selected for long term, degree level training in Thailand. These persons will return to Laos to become elementary curriculum specialists in the areas of arithmetic, science, home economics, arts and crafts, and agriculture. The training of curriculum

specialists for elementary education is one of the major objectives in the CE PROP.

A new office and warehouse, located in the Sok Paluang area of Vientiane City, has been completed for the Primary School Inspector of Vientiane/South.

The 13th Annual Primary School Inspectors' Conference will be held in Champassak January 10-21. Five EDU staff will attend a portion of the conference.

### Teacher Training

An important seminar for 22 officials in the Teacher Training program was held this month. Topics of discussion included the new five-point grading system (A, B, C, etc., doing away with coefficients), the organization of the study program into units (which enables a student to receive credit for his strong subjects and make up for his weaknesses without re-taking a whole year of study), the extended practice teaching program, and the balance between academic and practical studies in the training of teachers. See Dan Cox's report for additional information. A final report on the seminar will be forthcoming.

A contract has been let for the construction of two dormitories and 12 classrooms at Dong Dok and work has started on fencing the campus.

Design work was completed for a three-story multipurpose building for the Luang Prabang ENI. Bid opening is scheduled for the week of January 18.

An audit report has been received for the Teacher Training project. A response to the five recommendations is now being prepared. In this regard, it can be reported that an inventory of all non-expendable project property has been completed at all nine teacher training schools.

### Secondary Education

The school boundaries for Fa Ngum Phoue Hong have finally been determined and a topo survey of the school land is now in the hands of

OICC. We hope to receive contractors' bids for the third and final phase of construction by March 1.

We expect to advertise for bids for Savannakhet construction by January 15.

At Luang Prabang, a topo survey is in process, though two plots of private land have not yet been cleared by the government for the school's use.

The concept of the National Curriculum Center for Secondary Schools is being discussed with OICC prior to making architectural drawings.

A ten-day workshop for the agriculture teachers at the three Fa Ngum Schools was held during the vacation period this month. Part of the time was spent at Phoua Hong planning the farm projects there. More training activities of this type are planned for other subject areas in the future.

#### General

Minister Leuan will lead the Lao delegation to the annual conference of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education which will be held in Saigon January 11-15. It is understood that the Lao will offer Vientiane as the site of the next conference.

All three project managers participated in the seminar on Project Management and Evaluation conducted by a team from AID/W. The Secondary Education Project was used as a demonstration for trying out the new FAR form and new evaluation techniques.

#### Other Donors

The Canadian government offered an unspecified number of scholarships for Lao students to study in higher education in Canada for the 1971-72 school year.

The UNDP advertised internationally the positions for five experts to work with the math and science programs at the ESP. The five experts are expected to arrive in Laos prior to October, 1971.

The directors of the ENI/Vientiane and ENI/Pakse and a senior staff member of the ENI/Luang Prabang are all on six-month study program in France sponsored by the French government.

Personnel

Mr. Khamphao Phosakeo, Director of Primary and Adult Education, returned from Hawaii after three months of study and observation of elementary education. He was highly enthusiastic about his training.

Myron Thomas was evacuated to Clark Field for further treatment of his back ailments.

Mr. John Ranzola, Hawaii Team Building and Equipment Specialist, is due to arrive at post January 7.

EDU:NWC:greenai

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