

January 4, 1971

TO : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

FROM : Dan Cox,  Education Advisor

SUBJ : Monthly Report, December 1970

Problems:

1. The low water pressure at the Dong Dok campus was annoying, especially in the higher areas where there was no water at all. Prompt and efficient water deliveries by USAID-MTE kept the school in session with business as usual. We researched the situation and feel that the problem is an inefficient pump which we plan to replace this week.
2. The absence of the project's maintenance advisor, Mr. Thomas (medical evacuation to Clark Field) is likely to have a telling effect on the Dong Dok maintenance program. The maintenance picture was further dimmed by the MoE announcing that they were planning to send Mr. Thomas's counterpart to Australia in February to study Community Development.

Progress:

1. The annual conference of the teacher training school directors at the MoE from December 5 - 14 was the month's highlight. Outstanding aspects of the conference was a) the highly professional content of the program, b) the cross section of participants and consultants from other MoE Directorates, and c) the excellent use of the democratic method in establishing policy by open discussion of all those that will be affected by the policy.

A report of the proceedings of the conference is being prepared by the Inspector General's office staff. Major accomplishments of the conference included an evaluation of the "unit method" which is a way of organizing the content of each course. The "unit method" has been tried at the Pakse ENI for a year and this study provided the basis of the discussion. As a result of the Pakse pilot study, the unit method will

be instituted in all four year teacher training schools next school year.

Another significant outcome was the formal adoption of a five point grading scale which all teacher training schools will follow.

The Inspector General is planning to present a report of the conference to the Primary School Inspectors at their Champassak meeting this month.

2. Two workshops are now in the planning stage. They will be conducted concurrently in March at the Luang Prabang NIT. One workshop will attempt to update and revise the rules of the Lao language. The 25 participants will come from elementary, secondary, and teacher training schools. The second workshop will be devoted to Instructional Materials and will be for 20 selected teacher training instructors. Mr. Sang, Director of the Materials Production Center, will conduct this workshop.
3. A non-expendable property inventory has been completed for the nine teacher training schools. The MoE is insisting that better property records be kept at each school location.
4. The teacher training schools observed the end of the first trimester of the year or enjoying a 12 day Christmas New Year holiday.

#### Construction:

- a. Construction began on the building a perimeter cyclone fence for the Dong Dok campus.
- b. The design work was completed for the Luang Prabang NIT three story multipurpose building. His opening is scheduled for the week of January 10.
- c. A contract was let for the construction of two dormitories and 12 classrooms at the Dong Dok campus.

#### Contract No. AID/ea - 89:

This office is eagerly awaiting copies of the volunteers quarterly reports. These reports were due 31 December.

#### Other Donors:

1. Two NIT Directors, Mr. Phansy of Vientiane and Mr. Ouane of Pakse

left this report period to study teacher training school administration for six months in France. Mr. Phao, staff member of the Luang Prabang ENE, also departed for France to study Pedagogy for six months. The Government of France is sponsoring these men.

2. The UNDP began advertising for the five technicians that they will employ to staff the mathematics and science departments of the ESP.

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