

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 4, 1970

TO : Mr. Norman Green, Chief, EDU

FROM : *Dwaine Collins*
Dwaine Collins, CoP, U of B Contract

SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report, November 1970

Problems.

Multiple factor delays in the development of the physical plants of the new Fa Ngum schools is of continuing concern. These are frustrating but not critical at this stage because the Lao have demonstrated unusual capabilities at innovation and "make do". All factor delay items are slowly being resolved.

The two delays of major concern are the determination of the school's boundaries at Phone Hong and the acquisition of additional land at Luang Prabang. Both problems appear close to being resolved.

NW/G

Program Progress:

The Fa Ngum Comprehensive High School Project was honored by being given a substantial area of the RLG Ministry of Education's Thai-Luang Fair exhibit. The display was developed and executed by the Fa Ngum Vientiane faculty upon request from the Ministry. The exhibit featured the Lao textbooks developed by the teachers, artifacts made by students and a functional picture display demonstrating that Fa Ngum graduates will have multiple opportunities: work opportunities because of their specialized skills or advanced educational pursuit in technical or university institutions, locally or in English, French or Thai speaking countries. Fa Ngum students manned the display 10 hours each day and reported widespread interest in the project. Ambassador Godley reported that Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma expressed genuine satisfaction with the display and the project.

Curriculum development during the month included the writing of brief course outlines for the third and fourth year social studies and initiation

of revision of the first and second years. English course outlines were also revised for improvement and to provide correlation with the recently developed national committee materials. The commercial department is putting a great deal of effort into the final phases of the nation's first comprehensive Lao typing book. In agriculture the four, two week interval, sweet corn crop and vegetable plots look very good. The young chicks and quail are doing well. The quail started laying at 41 days; two batches of their eggs are in the incubator; the incubation period is 16 days. The department is developing a proposal for an eight day professional workshop to be held during the trimester break, December 21 through 31. Some of the departments of the Fa Ngum schools are using the weekly lesson plan sheets, the format of which was described last month. The Lao teachers in the industrial arts department have demonstrated good capability in setting up special shops such as electricity, metal and wood work.

The audit of the Fa Ngum project by the Audit General's office continued during the month.

USAID/W's project manager's training conference has been proffered the Fa Ngum Project as one of two to be used as media for the demonstration of the application of a new project manager's handbook. The conference began in Bangkok, November 30. A team of four specialists will make the demonstration in Vientiane, December 10-15.

Another government agency is developing a movie on the life of Fa Ngum student emphasizing his social, economic and ideological development.

A construction timetable for Fa Ngum Savannakhet lists December 15 as the target date for completion of the AGR/IRR topographical survey; January 15, 1971 for submission of bids; contractor on the site by March 15; and on October 1 two one-story classroom buildings and sanitary facility ready for usage. Consultation on methods of teaching and administrative procedures was proffered during the month at Savannakhet by U of B Consultants Collins, Stevens, Wong, and Yamauchi. Consultation and technical services in the development of the agriculture unit of the new school were provided by AGR Engineer Owen Brown and colleagues.

Director Phone of Fa Ngum Phone Hong is coordinating MoE and USAID/EDU efforts to establish boundary lines for the school site and to set a date for the movement of the groupe scolaire students from the building on the site to their newly constructed self-help building adjoining the Fa Ngum property. Solutions to both concerns appear to be imminent. Final inspection of Phase II of the Fa Ngum Phone Hong was realized during the month. USAID/EDU Chief Green U of H Consultant Zane, OICC's Lt. Corcoran, Mr. Datu, and an electrical engineer constituted the inspection team. Mr. Norman Ball, AUD, accompanied the team as part of his audit work. On Monday following the final inspection the school held a community ceremony for the official opening of the new auditorium. The new generators for the school have been checked and serviced by Harold Daveler's PWR group and are now ready for installation. The trainee operator is continuing his training in Vientiane; he will return to Phone Hong when the generators are in place. The RLG has installed telephones in the Director's home and in his school office. The students have held their student government elections and the agriculture department has tenced, installed bone bibbs and prepared the soil for planting vegetables. Mr. Sornakaki, AGR/IRR, and his colleagues are making a topographical survey for the development of the agriculture complex. All students became participants in a vitamin consumption program sponsored by PHH. During the month consultation on teaching, use of curriculum materials, and administrative procedures was provided by U of H Consultants Collins, Stevens, Tsutsui, Wong, Yanouchi, and Zane.

The development of the fourth Fa Ngum school at Luang Prabang continued to receive attention. OICC's Lt. Corcoran, Architect Charles Ingold, and I checked the site for building placement. I also conferred with Mr. Sed, Director of Lycee de Luang Prabang. Subject to the National Director of Secondary Education's approval he offered three classrooms and an office building in the Lycee should the Fa Ngum buildings not be completed by October 1, 1971. AGR/IRR Lathrop and colleagues completed a topographical survey of the site area. Boundary lines have not been determined at this writing.

The Director of the College at Pakxane has requested materials for a self-help four-classroom building. The Director of Secondary Education is studying the feasibility of coordinating this activity with Fa Ngumizing the school by adding a prevocational agriculture offerings.

Personnel development during November included extending the training in Thailand of one home economics teacher and two industrial arts teachers who had performed so well in their subprofessional academic training that they show potential for collegiate training. In two years they would be eligible for the Bachelors Degree. Three teachers in training in mathematics were unsuccessful in their academic major at Chulalongkorn University. Two of them have been transferred to the Bangkok Commercial College to become trained as much needed commercial teachers; the third withdraw from the program. Upon the request of seven Fa Ngum teachers I shall offer a graduate course in Educational Psychology, "Problems of School Adjustment" through the Graduate School of the University of Hawaii. The course is scheduled for the second semester. Texts and reference materials have been ordered. I had the privilege of attending three days of the Southeast Asia Independent School Conference in Bangkok where the ultra modern Mill Valley and Temple City High School of California were featured. Socially, the U of H Team attended the wedding of two Fa Ngum faculty members, Masova Soumi and Savong. Lao counterparts and Fa Ngum IVS teachers were guests of Team members for Thanksgiving dinner, and Mrs. Collins and I were privileged to be guests at the Royal Lao Annual That Luang Ball at the Palace. We feel honored to have been among those personally greeted by the gracious King and Queen.