

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

November 5, 1970

TO : Mr. Norman W. Green, Chief, EDU

FROM : *DWane Callias*
DWane Callias, Chief of Party, U of H Contract

SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - October 1970

Problems:

1. The need for additional teachers of English in the Fa Ngum schools is currently urgent and the need next year will be critical. Messrs. Hagiwara and Yoshimoto are teaching all the English in their respective schools as an emergency measure. IVS is now providing three teachers at Fa Ngum Vientiane. Since 85-90% of the students are choosing English as their foreign language, eight full time English teachers will be needed in 1970-71. Participants in training will not be returning before three to four years hence.

See comments in division chief's report.

NWG

2. The 220 volt system at the Lao-French Technical School necessitates the acquisition of a transformer to accommodate the Fa Ngum 110 volt audio-visual equipment.

Mr. Dane is taking action to obtain the required transformer.

NWG

Program Progress:

The major event of the month was the opening of the three Fa Ngum schools at Vientiane, Phoue Hong, and Savannakhet with 760 students, three principals, one vice principal, 47 teachers, nine office workers, five custodians, and one driver-generator operator. Unique among the teachers is former IVS Walt Haney who is the first American to be employed by the RLG Ministry of Education. Mr. Haney is teaching first year mathematics in the Lao language. Hawaii Team Consultants

Stevens and Yamauchi at Savannakhet and Zane and Wong at Phone Hong assisted in the opening of the respective schools during the first week of school. On October 14, the schools introduced their first formal initiation ceremony for incoming students.

In some instances there was considerable delay in teacher arrival at their respective schools. The MoE attributes it to inter-Ministry personnel processing. In an effort to avoid the same situation from developing next year, discussions will be held with the USAID Public Administration Development Project manager. All teachers are in place but a replacement for a teacher recalled from Phone Hong after school started to accept a scholarship to France has not been made at this writing. Principal Phone is filling the job until the new teacher arrives from France in the middle of November.

Working contacts with the Lao faculty have been genuinely increased over previous years. Mr. Somsak, principal at Fa Ngum Vientiane, has included professional conferences as a definite part of each teacher's schedule. During one hour of each week the principal, the department head and the appropriate U of H consultant plan together. During another hour each department head, his faculty and the appropriate U of H consultant work on teaching and subject matter concerns. A weekly lesson plan format has been developed and activated.

Regarding textbook production, the second year General Business text has been delivered by the publisher and the second year Social Studies and Lao Language and first year Home Economics texts are in the bid-printing stage.

The morale of the Fa Ngum students continues to remain high. Their maintenance and care of the buildings, grounds and equipment, is still commendable. They hand cut the heavy summer's growth from the athletic fields. Some of the commercial students have attained the skills necessary to cut the stencils and assemble the Lao supplementary instructional materials. It will be remembered that one student has for some time typed final copy for our Lao textbooks.

As part of the national secondary education transitional plan, the Sam Thong students have started studying Mechanical Drawing and Home Economics in the Lao language. The Fa Ngum IVS teachers are also

teaching them English. U of H Consultant Stevens continues to work with the Sam Thong students through Director Max Lesage. He has shown a series of Friday night movies and helped them develop a garden.

As approved in the 1970 program review, transportation vehicles for each of the Fa Ngum schools were ordered during the month.

At Fa Ngum Phone Hong the well problem listed in last month's report is almost resolved by PW. On Saturday, the 17th, a pre-final inspection of the three buildings of Phase II was made by PW's Lowell and Meyers, OIGC Dava, and U of H Consultants Hagiwara and Collins. Agriculture, Home Economics, and Science classes were moved into the new Science Building. In addition to the Hawaii Team consultation services described in the above paragraph on the opening of the schools, Consultant Zane returned for a second week to work with his teacher on teaching and materials problems and in setting up the shop. He also inspected, delivered furniture, and corrected minor new building interior constructions. Consultant Tsutsui worked with her counterpart on the orientation and the Lao typing course. In addition to working with the agriculture teacher Consultant Yamauchi secured the professional advice of AGR irrigation specialist William Shimasaki. During their trip to the Phone Hong site they made preliminary plans for the irrigation system of the school farm. The agriculture classes are planting and fencing a garden area. Director Phone has set up a 1,000 Kips textbook deposit plan to insure better care and return of textbooks.

At Fa Ngum Savannakhet adaptations continue to be made to accommodate the school in its borrowed setting. Since no land is available for agriculture the students will develop vegetable garden plots at their homes. The physical education classes will be held at the city's stadium and sports center. U of H Consultant Wong returned to Savannakhet for follow up work after his visit the first week of school. Consultant Tsutsui observed the commercial education program at the Lao French Technical School and explored the possibility of having one of the advanced students of the school teach the Fa Ngum eight week orientation course May-June 1971.

MoE Acting Director of Secondary Education Khamsay Soukhavong, Chief EDU Green, U of H Consultant Yamauchi and I reviewed the proffered building sites for the Fa Ngum Luang Prabang. AC/LP Canterucci, CEA

Bligh Des Brisay made the arrangements with Prefect, General Bounkhong Phackhith and officials of the land office. One site was selected that has good potential. Director Charles Mann and Deputy Director James Chandler are in agreement and have approved continued negotiation for the site.

Personnel development: Mr. Phone Khoxayo, Director of Fa Ngum Phone Hong has been appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of the new RELC Journal, "A Journal of English Language Teachers in South east Asia". The first edition came off the press during October. Mr. Bounli, new driver and generator operator at Phone Hong, is in training in Vientiane on aspects of his new job. A new social studies teacher, Mr. Bou, has been added to the Fa Ngum faculty to relieve Mrs. Sornak who will become the full time librarian. I attended the Salakham Rice Experiment Station open house.

Visitors to the schools during the month included:

Dr. William M. Williams, Chief EDU/W. Dr. Williams commented favorably on the buildings, their maintenance, the program and added that, "the spirit of and relationship between students and teachers were of special quality."

Mr. Kheuang Noinaly, new Administrative Assistant EDU/Savannakhet

Mrs. Mary Miller, Chief, C&R. "I am amazed at the remarkable accomplishment in a little over three years."

Mr. Kenneth Wagner, Chief, AUD, and Auditor Norman Bull. "A very enlightening and satisfying visit."

A group of National Police Academy officers.

During Ambassador Godley's inspection of the work area of the Compound the Ambassador and Director Mann brought the published Fa Ngum textbooks to the attention of Ambassador John McSweeney and Mr. John Moore. Ambassador McSweeney summarized by stating, "The Fa Ngum project is one of the most exciting of this Mission."

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