

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

October 15, 1970

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

NW Green

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for September 1970

Refugee School Programs

The Sam Thong Teacher Training School has been well relocated at the former demonstration school at Dong Dok, which provides self-contained living, dining, and school facilities.

The Sam Thong College is also well taken care of at the Fa Ngum School in Vientiane. Better kitchen facilities are needed but otherwise the dormitories, toilets, and bathroom for the students should be quite adequate. The former director of the Khong Island College, M. Lesage, has been named as director of the Sam Thong College.

The Saravane College will be located in Pakse this year and will make use of classrooms in the Pakse Chinese School. The Attopeu College will continue to operate at the Pakse ENI.

Enrollment figures for refugee elementary schools on the Vientiane Plain are higher than expected. Because of continued refugee resettlement during the summer months, there are now about 4500 children of school age in the refugee villages, instead of 2600 as counted last April. Furthermore, a higher percentage of the school-age children are actually attending school than is normal for Laos. As stated in Hunter Fitzgerald's report for Community Education, an Activity Plan is being prepared to cover new requirements for materials, furniture, and additional classrooms.

The Ministry has provided for the assignment for an additional 100 CREC teachers for refugee schools. Their appointment was delayed until the National Budget was approved, but now teacher shortages reported in some areas during September may be remedied. CREC teachers incidentally, have had a salary increase -- from K1500 per month to K3000 per month.

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Action has been taken to use the vacant agricultural school at Veun Kham for the refugee school program. The Mittasone Society has provided 55 sets of tables and benches for this school.

CEA/National Fitzgerald is working with CEAs Woodson, DesBrisay, and Costantino to improve EDU reporting procedures regarding refugee school programs and problems.

Secondary Education and Teacher Training

The attached reports for the Secondary Education and Teacher Training projects describe preparations that were made for the opening of their new school year in early October. The establishment this year of the Savannakhet Fa Ngum School and the Khong Sedone College raises the total number of secondary level schools operated by the Ministry of Education to 35, as follows:

<u>Type of School</u>	<u>Number</u>
Lycees	4
Fa Ngum Comprehensive Schools	3
Colleges	13
Normal Schools (ENIs)	4
Accelerated Teacher Training Schools	4
Technical Schools	3
Home Economics Schools	1
Craft Schools	3
<u>Total</u>	<u>35*</u>

*Does not include ESP, IRDA, the Medical School, or the Buddhist Institute, which are considered institutions of higher education.

Some notes concerning particular schools, aside from the refugee school situations mentioned above:

- As stated in DWane Collins's report, Phase II construction at Fa Ngum Phone Hong is nearing completion and we should be ready at this point to give OICC the specifications for the final phase, which includes agricultural buildings and farm land, fencing, roads, athletic fields, etc. However, the layout for these facilities depends on a final determination of the precise school boundaries. This is not a major affair but so far the local officials have not been able to get together

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to resolve the details. The matter is fully understood by Mr. Phone, the new school principal, and it is hoped that he can get a resolution to the problem within the next month. If not, we will have to bring the matter to the attention of higher level officials.

- The Khong Sedone College opened in one classroom borrowed from the groupe scolaire. Plans for the construction of a school building with some support from USAID, are still under consideration.
- The Ban Houei Sai College moved out of the groupe scolaire and into the new building constructed by the RLG.
- Construction work at the Savannakhet ENI is nearly completed. This school is actually entering its third year of operation and has already graduated its first group of primary teachers from the two-year program. However, it will be another year before the enrollment reaches its full level and it will take two years before qualified graduates from the four-year program are available from this school to help alleviate teacher shortages in the Savannakhet area.

Teacher Training and Secondary Schools are beginning to make innovations in scheduling practices and class size and are moving towards a promotion policy based on course credits instead of basing student advancement completely on end-of-year examinations. These innovations, and the curriculum development activities underway or proposed for all levels of education, are giving a great deal of stimulation to the whole educational system.

The return of Mr. Boualieng Phoummasavanh from participant training in the U. S. deserves special comment. He has come back with a Master's degree from Southern Illinois and has also completed all of his work for a Ph. D except his thesis. He plans to carry out his doctoral research, which will be concerned with the secondary education program in Laos, while assigned as deputy to Mrs. Pinkham at the English Section, ESP.

Laos is now represented on the steering committee for the Regional Center for Education in Science and Mathematics (RECSAM) in Penang. Mr. Khamphet Syhanath, new Director of Technical Education, is the representative. A total of ten participants from Laos recently attended courses at the Penang center.

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Community Education

Hunter Fitzgerald returned from home leave this month and resumed his duties as project manager for Community Education.

Khamphao Phonekeo, Director of Primary and Adult Education, is in Hawaii on a three-month USAID-sponsored training program. We have been trying for some time to give Mr. Khamphao a chance to take a close look at the organization and practices of another educational system. We are expecting profitable results from this training.

Work is proceeding with the plans and program to train curriculum specialists and classroom supervisors for elementary education.

The CE project is presently sponsoring the construction of eight urban self-help schools. Activity Plans for three more schools for FY 71 have been prepared. Most of these projects are included in the Plan Cadre.

EDU:NWGreen:ei

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