

October 5, 1970

To : Ben W. J. Younger, Executive Director

From : Myron G. Thomas, Maintenance Director



Subject : Monthly Report, September, 1970

Problems:

Termites. The termites have a fantastic appetite for Government furnished plywood. We seemed to have them in check, by constant spraying of Dieldrane, in the new science laboratory but they surfaced in the language laboratory and have damaged the insulation on the wiring of the language units. Whether they can be kept in check by constant spraying without getting into their nests under the concrete slabs only time will tell.

Progress:

Mr. Casey Kemp, EKI has arrived to assist in the maintenance program at Km-9. Together with Mr. Kemp, twenty seven replacement drawers eaten by termites have been made for the Science Laboratory. More work is still required on built-in cabinets in this building.

The last two weeks of the month spent filling orders for equipment and supplies for the field teacher training schools. Many requests from the field were late in being made and some were lost at the Ministry of Education. These requests should be made out at the end of the school year giving TF the chance to process them and ship the goods. Maybe things will be better next year.

Thanks are in order to the inventory group from USAID Supply Management Branch, Supply Warehouse section for the inventory of the Km-9 warehouse which was completed during this month. Due to shortage of clerical help at the warehouse the inventory was not yet been typed up. When the inventory cards are put in the proper PIV sequence they will be brought into the TF office for typing.

As a result of the inventory several thousand dollars worth of spareparts and other items have been turned back into the USAID supply system. During the present month it is hoped to turn in even more items.

On the 25th of September Mr. Noumay and Mr. Khantoum completed their training course with the USAID Maintenance Section and Mr. Phyraphong completed his training course with the RO at the Phone Kheng English Language School. They have returned to K-9 to use their newly acquired skills.

Activity Proposals for School Furniture for the new Demonstration schools at the ENI, Pakse and the ENI Savannakhet were approved on 23 September and will soon go out for bids, as was an activity plan for 180 classroom armchairs for the ESP at K-9.

A "Field Day" was held by IVS group on the 30th of September. All the IVS/Edu group turned to and cleaned up all the closets and hallways of the IVS apartments, cleaned up the yards and mowed the grass. A \$1,000 improvement. At the completion of the work a hamburger barbecue was held. One effect of this was that the Lao teachers and functionaries have requested the loan of the lawnmower and are cleaning up their own yards.

The student summer work program was completed. In general their work was satisfactory. This year we had double the students working but I am afraid that we did not get double the output. The smaller group last year was much easier to supervise and manage and thus the quality of painting and cleaning was much better in previous years.

With school beginning the first week in October the usual confusion existed in the final weeks of vacation. The usual frantic moving of beds and chairs from building to building took place and in many cases the coolies worked "overtime" to get things ready.

The NMA training school personnel have not yet returned to complete the grading work at the school but they have promised to be back within a week or so now that the rains seemed to have stopped.

The rest of the Ban Feun furniture has been delivered by the contractor and inspection and receiving reports prepared so the contractor can be paid.

On 10 September the writer and his counterpart Mr. Done went to Savannakhet with OICC personnel to inspect the Phase I construction. One dormitory, and the arts and crafts shop were inspected and except for a few minor faults the work was excellent. The writer returned to VTE the same day and Mr. Done stayed on to complete an inventory of school furniture and office equipment.

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