

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 3, 1970

TO : Norman W. Green, Chief, EDU
Dwane R. Collins
FROM : Dwane R. Collins, COP - UoFH Contract
SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - August 1970

Problems:

The tractor powered rotary lawnmower, ordered two years ago has not arrived. During the rainy season the students have not been able to "keep up" with the fast growing, rank grass.

The landscaping at Fa Ngum Phone Hong is suffering considerably from the incursions of roaming cattle and buffalo.

A heavy infestation of termites in the stored text books at Fa Ngum Vientiane has been attacked with insecticides.

Program Progress:

Probably the most significant happening of the month was the conclusion of the four week workshop of the 21 directors and teachers of the nation's junior high schools. Summaries written by the participants of their own questionnaire data demonstrated a profound readiness and positive attitude toward the use of the Lao language as the new medium of instruction and the introduction of pre-vocational offerings. Mr. Phou the Director of Secondary Education has elicited the help of the University of Hawaii Consultation Team in "follow through" activities. Verbally I promised the group on behalf of USAID (1) consultation services by individual members of the team, (2) textbooks and supplementary teaching materials, (3) specific transitional development of at least one junior high school to be selected by Mr. Phou, (4) consideration of individual or group requests for further professional training in comprehensive high school work.

Another step in the modernization of the Lao educational scene was the announcement of Director of Elementary Education Khamphao that he is planning to use objective type tests as terminal sixth grade examinations. His interest followed the use of objective type items in the 1970 selection of Fa Ngum students.

A coordinated workshop in the teaching of geography was held during the month by the MoE Divisions of Elementary and Secondary Education. Upon the stimulation of USAID/EDU Chief Green the UoFH Team is developing suggested plans to implement national curricula activities in science, mathematics and social studies. Mr. Green's suggestion followed Minister of Education Leuam's keynote address in which he expressed hope that other national curriculum activities would soon follow.

The textbook publication momentum has run into an illustrations bottleneck. General Business and Lao Language have squeezed through and are now out for bids. The Christian Missionary Alliance has requested an opportunity to purchase copies of the Fa Ngum texts; they were referred to the Ministry of Education. Mr. Phou, Director of Secondary Education is working out a sales plan to meet this and numerous other requests.

UoFH Consultant Yamauchi and Fa Ngum Science teacher, Mr. Savang discussed coordinated mutual training of personnel at Hat Dok Keo Agriculture Station with its Director of Research Oroti and at the Royal Agriculture School with Director Leasure. The Agriculture Department at Fa Ngum received 89 tree seedlings representing seven indigenous species from Mr. Henderson of the Australian Forestry Team.

UoFH Consultant Stevens held preliminary planning sessions for the teaching of English at Fa Ngum Vientiane with the three new IVS teachers.

Joe Rudy multi media specialist of AGR worked out and placed in the USAID display case an effective presentation of Fa Ngum's textbook effort.

At Phone Hong the science and shop buildings are in the final phase of construction. A list of corrections and change orders were submitted to OICC. A storage problem is developing as the school furniture is being delivered and assembled on the site. UoFH Consultant Yoshimoto replaced George Hagiwara while the latter was on annual leave. During the month work-study students planted numerous plumerae, hibiscus, chinese slipper, portulaca and joyweed plants as part of the planned landscaping project. Fa Ngum Vientiane furnished the plants.

At Savannakhet, following a planning visit by the Yoshimotos and myself, UoFH Consultant Yoshimoto and family moved into a spacious and comfortable home. They were proffered many personal kindnesses by AC Stone and staff. Mr. Yoshimoto is coordinating storage, well drilling and school site preparation activities.

Mr. Kim Onn Yap, UoFH graduate student and I are collaborating on a validation study of Fa Ngum's entrance examination. Mr. Yap processed the data in UoFH's Computer Center. A rough draft has been written.

Mr. Sibouei, principal of the evacuated Saravane junior high school conferred with ^{Edwards} EDU Chief Green and me regarding his concerns on the opening of his school in the Chinese School facility. He will keep in touch with Mr. Costantino area USAID/EDU coordinator.

Personnel wise, Mrs. Hazel Hagiwara joined her husband George August 6. The Hagiwaras moved into their new home at Km-6. UoFH Consultant Zane and family returned from a well earned R&R. Consultant Wong did likewise from his home leave. Five future Fa Ngum teachers of English left August seven for four years degree training at the University of Hawaii. They will be located at the Hilo Campus.

Report writing included the consultation team's portions of the sixth semi-annual report, a participant returnees' "success story" report for MO, and a final activity SMS report. ESD Chief Wirtz, EDU Chief Green and I collaborated on writing the FY 74 Secondary Education PAR.

Favorable reactions to the Fa Ngum Vientiane School were shared by the following visitors: Dr. Jerry Carlson, Fulbright appointee in Teacher Training, Reverend Sawyer and Director Boliboun of the Lao Christian School, four AFS returnees, AGR Chief Rasmussen and colleagues Scott, Mitchel, Rudy and Brundage, Reverend and Mrs. Shelton of Thailand, Forestry Technician Zacharczyk and Messrs. Henrierson and McLeod of the Australian Forestry Team, Messrs. Showron and Lyfoung of Hat Dok Keo.

The reactions of two of the visitors merit special reporting: Dr. Carlson wants very much to cooperate with the Fa Ngum staff in teacher training with the placement of his practice teachers at Fa Ngum Vientiane. Mr. Rasmussen stated that Agriculture in Laos must look for much of its future leadership and development in the graduates of the Fa Ngum schools.

EDU/SE:DRCollins:mv