

LAO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
Vientiane

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 11, 1972

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Saly Chittavoravong
Mr. Larry Woodson
Mr. Frank Manley
Mr. Norman Green
Mrs. Judy Rantala

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. James B. Chandler
Mrs. Viengsay S. Luangkhat
Tiao Panya Souvanna Phouma
Mr. Chansamone Voravong
Mr. Dayton Maxwell
Dr. Khamkeo Souvannavong
Dr. Somphou Oudomvilay

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. John Reid
Mr. Somsanith Khamvongsa
Mrs. Elizabeth Woods
Mr. Roy Dupuy

STAFF ABSENT

Mrs. Penelope Khounta

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:50 by President Saly Chittavoravong.
2. A quorum was not present.
3. The 16 November board meeting minutes were not read. It was agreed to proceed with reports on the proposed agenda.
4. Reports:

- a. Activities: Mr. Somsanith reported that the LAA monthly activities calendar for January would be distributed to members on time. The calendar is now being printed by Lao Photo Press rather than at USAID.

The Apollo exhibit display has been running for a week and attendance at the two film showings on 6 and 7 December was poor.

The LAA Girls' basketball team lost to the Teachers' Association on 8 December at the National Stadium by nine points.

He said that the 9 December monthly dance has been registered with the Chantaboury Police Station, and that five police officers were assigned to police the dance for security reasons. There were no problems and LAA did not have to pay the police. The gross income from the dance was 75,000 kip. The band cost 30,000

and installation of special lighting 3,500 kip. Mr. Reid said that the use of special outside lights for security did not make much change in dance attendance.

Mr. Somsenith said that Mr. Soumleung, the Director of the School of Fine Arts has requested that his art exhibit be extended for two more days to December 18. He said that this might not be possible since someone else has reserved the auditorium.

Later in December Music USA will be presented. This USIS exhibit was first shown at the That Luang Fair. It includes recordings of classical, jazz, pop, and folk music. On 22 December Mr. Irving L. Sablosky, well-known expert on music, who is the American Cultural Affairs Officer in Bangkok, will present a lecture on jazz.

Mr. Somsenith said that the Christmas tea dance for members and students would be from 1500 - 1900 hours 23 December. Admission is 200 kip for members and 400 kip for non members.

- b. Courses: Mr. Dupuy, acting Director of Courses, reported that for the past month classes have been running smoothly with no problems. Lao classes started on 7 December, the tuition for 30 class hours is 6,000 kip. Stencils had been borrowed from IVS for a lesson plan book.

He said the teaching quality this term was very good. Mr. Woodson asked how often teachers were observed. Mr. Dupuy said that new teachers were observed at least twice a term.

- c. Music Programs: Mr. Reid reported that he had been in touch with the Chienyang pianist, Mr. Bruce Gaston, regarding a possible concert at LAA. Mr. Reid said he felt we were risking a small turn out for the concert. He said he will keep the board members informed and let them know what develops.

There was a great deal of discussion as to what type of a musical presentation would be of interest to both Lao and Americans to draw a large audience. Some suggestions were an evening of Lao music presented either by the School of Fine Arts or other local groups, and a concert pianist (it was noted that a chamber music group organized by Mr. Ramsey, would be giving a performance elsewhere in January). Whether or not to

change collection as well as... Mr. Reid said that, if USIA pays for a... it might not be necessary or desirable to... admission. He said that admission might be by application or an effort might be made by... to get a good turn out for a... day.

Mr. Reid said the October and November financial reports were in the members' folders and in the future there would be a monthly report. He said some months would show a surplus due to... periods.

Mr. Manley said he will like to see the monthly financial statements and the projected budget. Mr. Reid said Sena, the accountant, is working a report which compares actual and projected expenditures.

Mr. Reid said the members will find a report on Pakse in their folders. It will need to be set up for discussion today as a question is... He feels it is fairly serious but... situation. Roy Ingray will visit... to give tests, observe, and make recommendations.

Mr. Reid reported on his visit to Luang Prabang. He attended the annual meeting of Luang Prabang members. A total of 35 members were present, about 25 Lao and 10 Americans. The meeting was very well organized. Lao and American ladies served refreshments and the members were invited to look at the renovation. Mr. Reid urged the board members to take a look at the center if and when they are in Luang Prabang. He reported that Mr. De... said that Dick Forier has done an excellent job.

Mr. Reid said he has written to two insurance companies before he went to... for estimates on liability insurance for LAA. He has a response from Manley Enterprises, it says that it will cost \$200,00 to insure LAA/Vientiane and \$150,00 for LAA/Luang Prabang. The principal agent in Bangkok needs more information which he will give him.

Mr. Reid told the board that Somphanh, Sene's wife, has been hired to handle procurement, purchasing, and other matters. He says she is working very well.

Mr. Reid reported that the cost of re-doing termite infested ceilings in the classrooms is 70,000 kip for each room. Dolor... recommended doing nothing now as each ceiling would deteriorate gradually and new ceilings could be put in place by room.

... been done about the canal... Mr. Reid said that it was checked up in front of the Chinese shop next to LAA. He said to install a concrete cover over the canal would cost a couple of hundred dollars.

Mr. Reid said he had heard from a reliable source that the American Agency had granted for \$1300 to support advanced classes that had been approved.

Mr. Manley quoted a Myanmar Mao Literacy class which he noted had been mentioned in the minutes of the November meeting of the Lung Prabang committee. Mr. Reid said he had not noted this but would check it out with Dick Porter.

5. a. Public Works Survey: Mr. Reid said that significant progress had been made in getting compensation for the carryall. A formal claim has been sent from the Department of Public Works to the Ministry of Finance and it will take a few months before any action is taken. Mr. Reid will consult with Frank Manley to determine what to follow up on necessary.

b. Legal Actions: Mr. Reid said that he had been summoned by the court. He appeared with LAA's attorney, Mr. Ducrot, who submitted LAA's documents and it took only a few minutes to present the claim. The judge was not present and the claim was submitted to the president of the court. Mr. Manley remarked that, in a case of an issue employee who embezzled 300,000 kip the court ruled that his property could be confiscated. He said this might be a favorable precedent for our case.

c. Election 1973: Mr. Green reported that the election committee had received the ballot. A letter has been drafted and the ballots will go out 17 December. He said there are 23 Lao and 13 American names on the ballot. The annual meeting will be 27 January. The agenda and other matters for the meeting still must be worked out.

Mr. Reid noted that at last year's annual meeting students arrived after the 8:30 classes and it was very disturbing as they interrupted Mr. Chansane when he was giving the financial report. He suggested that the meeting be scheduled so students can be seated before the meeting begins.

at meeting he held on 2/10/66... the meeting begin at 8:00 AM... out of classes a little... also suggested that... the Ambassador's office... number of people had to leave early... function.

1. 1966 Budget - Mr. Reid said that we have a 1966 budget... now is the time to start preparing our budget.

Mr. Reid said... think the account is as far as it goes... checking against the budget.

He said... \$30,000 to air condition the auditorium. Mr. Ingold, the architect who designed the building, had told him the auditorium... be air conditioned. Mr. Reid said... Ingold had originally said that... possible future air conditioning... Mr. Ingold might have to... made to the 1966 budget.

Mr. Reid said... of air conditioning... issued in USIS, and that there was... USIS that the auditorium should be... .

Mr. Reid asked... represent LAA in the court case... President Saly's term of office... Mr. Reid said he would... Mr. Ducret and find out what... should be. A possible solution... new board re-appoint Saly... appoint someone else.

Next board meeting in January.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Langevin

William C. Langevin
Billing Secretary