

December 3, 1973

To : Dr. Robert M. Martin, Chief of Party, UH Team

From : *John W. Rantala*
John W. Rantala, PLO/Industrial Arts Advisor

Subject: Monthly Report for November, 1973

I. REASSIGNMENT:

This is my last monthly report as the Procurement and Logistics Officer for the UH Team. My PLO responsibilities will be taken up on a shared basis by Mr. Tom Liston, Mr. Hunter Fitzgerald, Dr. Robert Martin, UH Team members, and Lao contract personnel of USAID Education. Needless to say, there will be considerable joint and cooperative effort in this activity. The detailed nature of this effort is yet to be spelled out in the plan of reorganizing USAID Education.

I wish to express my appreciation to fellow UH Team members and personnel of OICG, PWD, SMD, TRP, PWR, RPWD, FHWA, MTE, EDU, ASB and the Directors and Bursars of the Fa Ngum Schools. I cannot recall a single problem that I alone could have solved, nor can I recall any crisis when help was not available and very often volunteered. Reflecting briefly on the past three years, I must say we all belong to a remarkable organization.

II. R&R LEAVE:

I will be leaving for R&R leave on December 17, 1973 and returning to duty on January 15, 1974. On my return, I will be working as Industrial Arts Curriculum Advisor, with my desk in the Curriculum Center at Fa Ngum School Vientiane. I look forward to my new assignment.

III. INDUSTRIAL ARTS ADVISING:

I have in the past month made two field trips to Luang Prabang as Industrial Arts Advisor. The situation there is very interesting, for the MOE has assigned an instructor to the Industrial Arts Metals Shop who has no metals training and, to compound the difficulty of the assignment, he is expected to set up the Metals Shop, tools, equipment and instructional program.

Mr. Khamphao Chanthavong has 2 years of participant training at the Thongmahameck Technical Institute in Thailand. He also had 3 years of training at the Uthenthawai Technical School in Thailand. All 5 years of training were in Building Trades; Carpentry, Masonry, Architectural Drawing, etc. None of his training was in metal work.

Although he is wrongly assigned he is trying to do the best he can with the situation and we, the UH Team, are trying to cope with the situation by training him on the job.

Mr. Khamphao, Mr. Heng, Mr. Yamausti and I have discussed the possibility that he could translate into Lao those Thai books in Carpentry and Masonry that he used as his text books during his participant training. These could then be used in the Fa Ngum Building Trades Course. This possibility will be discussed in greater depth at the time of my January 17, 1974 field trip to Luang Prabang. Mr. Khamphao will have the Thai texts and all of his Architectural Drawing work available for evaluation. I am very interested in exploring the possibility of whether Fa Ngum teachers other than those in Vientiane could be used for the writing/translating of Fa Ngum textbooks.

There seemingly is no way to alter Mr. Khamphao's mis-assignment, for Mr. Gurhaussa, the newly returned participant with training in Metals, is not available for assignment to Luang Prabang. Accepting the situation as it is, I have spent 72 clock hours with this trainee helping him set up the general Metals Shop he is presently teaching in. He now has some familiarity with oxyacetylene welding and cutting, electric arc welding, a metal working lathe, a shaper and sheet metal forming machines. We have together built seven pieces of general metal shop equipment. We have unpacked, cleaned, assembled and adjusted the accessories of a metal working lathe and shaper. We have operated both machines in making a typical student project.

I have only had time to briefly instruct this trainee in some of the most essential basic skills that he needed to start the metals program. He has a great deal to learn on his own initiative. The texts, instructional materials and visual aids we are providing under the Fa Ngum program will help him. He needs considerable follow up on their proper use.

IV. PROBLEM AND RECOMMENDATION:

It is very apparent that there is a need to more specifically coordinate training requirements with the teaching job requirements. Participant trainees should be selected and trained for specific teaching assignments in specific Fa Ngum Schools and Colleges. If the College Techniques were willing to cooperate in providing specific I.A. Vocational skills, I believe we could set up an Industrial Arts/Vocational Teacher Training Program within Laos that would better meet the needs of Fa Ngum Schools and the Colleges. If such cooperation is not possible, I would appreciate the opportunity to visit the Industrial Arts Teacher Training institutions of Thailand for the purpose of attempting to better coordinate participant training (training requirements) with teaching job requirements.

No amount of coordination can, however, overcome the misassignment of returned participant trainees, so this, too, needs to be studied.

V. MAINTENANCE

A. Potable Water Line - L.P.

Mr. Bewitz, Mr. Yamauchi and I tested the potable water system of Pa Ngum School Luang Prabang to determine how well it held the city pressure. We were surprised that the Nam Pa Pa pressure at 9:00 a.m. November 2 was 50 lbs! All valves to all buildings were closed and the incoming Nam Pa Pa water was closed off. The pressure dropped to 45 lbs. in 15 minutes. It dropped to 38 lbs in 30 minutes and then remained at approximately 35 lbs. for one hour.

Indications are that while the line cannot hold 50 lbs. of pressure, it does hold an operational level of 35 lbs. Nam Pa Pa water pressures do fluctuate on the basis of varying demand. Our conclusion was that there is some loss of water from the line. It will be necessary to study the water meter readings during times of no deliberate potable water use at the school to determine roughly what the gallon/liter/per hour loss is. It may well be that's the loss is within an acceptable figure. Engineers should make a decision.

B. School Staff Maintenance - L.P.

It is a pleasure to report that Mr. Than, the Bursar, was supervising the replacement of a rusted out section of water piping. He was, in my estimation, doing very well. It was disturbing to note that the galvanized fittings and pipe removed showed extensive corrosion after only 1 year of service. One can predict considerable pipe maintenance activities at Pa Ngum Schools in the very near future.

C. Water Pump - Pa Ngum Vientiane

On returning from L.P. on Friday November 30 I was informed by Mr. Blake & Mr. Crisfield that the submersible pump in well #1 has stopped running.

If the problem is only in the electrical controls the present pump will be restored to service. If the present pump is burned out or mechanically broken, we have two alternatives.

1. We have a new U.S. Excess Property 3/4 HP, 1 PH, 60 cycle, 230 Volt pump. Pa Ngum School power is 50 cycle, however, Mr. Ray Zamora OIGC electrical technician suggests that we attempt to use the 60 cycle pump. It will run slightly hotter and slower than its rated specifications.

2. We have a spare Dempster reciprocating pump that broke down in Savannakhet was repaired by FHWA in Vientiane. If the existing pump cannot be repaired and the U.S. Excess Property pump cannot be used we will procure a 3 HP electric motor from the local market with MRO kip funds and put the Dempster pump into operation.

VI. LOGISTICS:

A. Problem & Recommendation

The consumption of diesel fuel oil at Fa Ngum Phone Hong will have to be reduced through shorter hours of generator operation. It might be necessary for the generator operator to keep a log of the number of hours the generator is operated. Precautions of the past have not reduced consumption. Perhaps a reasonable figure for allowed hours of operation could be established and the supply rationed accordingly.

VII. PROCUREMENT:

A. The instructional equipment for Fa Ngum Pakse and the second cycle Fa Ngum Vientiane has been ordered. Some orders are already being received. Caution has to be exercised in receiving and forwarding the shipments, as some orders are intended to be shared by other Fa Ngum Schools.

B. Two experimental rotary lawnmowers are in process of manufacture for Fa Ngum Luang Prabang. The "French garage" across from the Commissary gate is the manufacturer under the supervision of Mr. Tom Liston. Completion is scheduled for January 2, 1974. Payment and shipment are yet to be arranged by 288 and 147. Priority shipment will have to be requested in order to assure delivery in time to put the mowers in service in preparation for the Fa Ngum L.'s dedication.

C. A request has been made for factory assembly of the Fa Ngum Pakse tractor. It should arrive ready for onward shipment. The plow and other implements will arrive boxed. A decision needs to be made as to whether they be assembled here or shipped boxed to Pakse for assembly.

D. Phase II furniture for Pakse classrooms and shops will be ordered by December 10, 1973. Office furniture for Pakse will be a "grant in aid" from USAID/PRA. Availability and delivery are being discussed but no dates have been established.

E. We are experiencing difficulty with the procurement of Lao and English typewriters for Pakse. The rising costs have made it necessary to reduce the original Purchase Request SE-3080-006, dated March 20, 1972, 45 Lao typewriters to 36. This leaves no spares. The original 40 English typewriters requested on the original Purchase Request SE-3298-001, dated October 25, 1973 had to be reduced to 33. The 45 U.S. Excess Property typewriters procured for Fa Ngum Luang Prabang will provide the additional typewriters needed for Fa Ngum Pakse.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

The Activity Plan for the ground level water storage tank at Fa Ngum ~~VTE~~ has had all the necessary input from the concerned divisions of USAID. The narrative is complete and the draft is being typed in USAID Education. Approval is expected and construction is scheduled to start January 1974.

IX. CONSTRUCTION:

The liason activities of the PIO position that relate to construction have already been taken up by Mr. Tom Liston, National School Maintenance Advisor. He and the SEAs will report the present stage of Fa Ngum construction and any related problems in need of attention.

EDU/SE: JWRantala:sk