

December 4, 1973

TO : Dr. Robert Martin, Chief-of-Party, Hawaii Team

(signed in draft)

FROM : Dorothy Helele, Home Economics Advisor

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for November 1973

Activities/Accomplishments

1. The Fourth Year Home Economics Textbook was finally completed and submitted to Mr. Nulabe. Dr. Khamleck of USAID/PH assisted in revising Chapter 9.

2. For perhaps the first time since Fa Ngum/Vientiane was opened, qualified and/or experienced teachers are heading the home economics departments in each of the Fa Ngum Schools. Trained home economists with A.A. degrees are at Phone Hong and Savannakhet, a B.A. at Luang Prabang, and an A.A. at Vientiane. Classes at Pakse are taught by a 10th grade graduate with a year of teaching experience. Educational level of home economics teachers by schools is as follows:

Vientiane	:	MA - 1,	High School - 1,	10th Grade - 2
Phone Hong	:	AA - 1,	10th Grade - 3,	
Savannakhet	:	AA - 1,	10th Grade - 1.	
Luang Prabang	:	BA - 1,	10th Grade - 1.	
Pakse	:		10th Grade - 1.	

As can be seen, there is no shortage of home economics teachers this year, but a few more high school graduates would be preferable to so many 10th Grade graduates. This situation should be remedied in a year or two when participants now in training in Thailand will return, and when Fa Ngum second cycle graduates might be utilized as teachers.

3. Field trips to Fa Ngum schools were made as follows:

Phone Hong	- Nov. 19-20
Savannakhet	- Nov. 26-29
Pakse	- Nov. 29-30

Separate field trip reports are filed.

4. Enrollment in home economics has lagged behind the other practical arts areas in all of the Fa Ngum schools. Why this is so (except for the fewer number of girls) has been a concern of the home economics teachers as well, and in November a simple questionnaire was distributed to all second year students in Fa Ngum/Vientiane asking them to give reasons why they had or had not yet completed - but a preliminary review of the results shows the following reasons to be most often given for not choosing home economics (in descending order of frequency):

- Home economics is a subject for girls
- A lack of money to purchase materials
- Do not like the subject

- It is too easy
- Am not skillful at it
- It is difficult to get a job in this field
- Parents do not like this subject.

A complete summary of findings will be submitted later. It would be good if this survey could be done in the other schools as well.

5. Consultations with Mrs. Theothong have centered on:
 - a) Revision of home economics course outline. This has been submitted to Curriculum Committee.
 - b) Planning for in-service training workshop on nutrition for summer 1974.
 - c) Recommendations for work experience (probably second trimester) for the 4th home economics 7th year students at:
 - RLG Agriculture Home Economics Extension
 - That Khao Orphanage
 - Dietary Kitchen at Vientiane Hospital
 - Teaching 1st year Home Economics at Fa Ngum/Vientiane
 - d) A problem regarding supervision of the Lao House. Five students (the seventh year students plus one of the 5th year) have lived in the house the past 2 months without a teacher living in to provide constant supervision. In the original planning for the House and in last spring's residence living, the teacher played a vital part in the overall program. The teacher is to provide guidance and supervision in all facets of daily living and in order to do this it would seem she must live in the house. This problem remains largely unsolved for this trimester, but must be resolved before the 4th year students begin to occupy the house in early 1974.
6. Meetings with all home economics teachers are held every Monday.

Other Donors (Cooperative Activities)

1. Mrs. Theothong Bouryavong leaves December 8 for Kuala Lumpur to attend a 2-week seminar on the use of radio in family planning education. The seminar is sponsored by UNESCO.
2. The two Nutrition related charts which were compiled by the Nutrition committee of Laos are being printed. The American Women's Club has agreed to finance the printing. A meeting of the Nutrition Strategies Committees was held November 7. A projection was made of the number of people trained in nutrition that Laos will need.

Observations

During my field trip to Savannakhet, much discussion centered on "what happens to the Fa Ngum first and/or second cycle graduates?" Mr. Hongthong is very interested in this question. Through written statements and in personal interviews with each 4th year home economics student, it was found that all expect to get a job after the 4th year (if they can't go on to 5th year) - but they have no idea of what job. Does or should Fa Ngum have any obligation to find jobs for its graduates? Is Fa Ngum to be training for specific jobs?

Other - I returned from home leave on November 2.