

AMERICAN AID

to LAOS





Sri Savang Vatthana, King of Laos.



Prince Souvanna Phouma.

"For over ten years, the Royal Lao Government and the United States Government have cooperated in developing the country in order to improve the living of the Lao people.

The development resulted in progress in every field such as education, agriculture, livestock, transportation, communication, and in economic and social stability which can be seen throughout the country. This pamphlet serves as evidence of the cooperation between the Royal Lao Government and the United States and also shows that the Lao people helped the projects described in this pamphlet to succeed because the Lao people will derive benefit from them.

I appeal to you to continue your cooperation for the sake of the security and prosperity of the Kingdom of Laos."

Prince Souvanna Phouma
(Prime Minister)

THE PURPOSE OF AMERICAN AID TO LAOS



His Excellency Leonard Unger

"Dear friends in Laos: In President Lyndon B. Johnson's State of the Union Message to the American Congress and to the American people on January 8, 1964 he said: 'We must strengthen the ability of free nations everywhere to develop their independence and raise their standard of living, and thereby frustrate those who prey on poverty and chaos. To do this, the rich must help the poor -- and we must do our part.' This is the thinking that has guided four American presidents in their support of assistance to developing nations since the close of World War II.

The United States knows from its own history that a nation in the process of shaping its future needs both assistance -- in the form of advice and material support -- and conditions of peace. Since American assistance to Laos began in 1955 a total of more than five hundred million dollars in goods and services have been provided. Much of this was in the form of funds, goods and technical advice needed for financial stability and social and economic development. The remainder represents support to help Laos maintain its freedom and independence.

With the efforts of its own people and the help of its friends, let us hope that tranquillity will return to Laos so that our collective energies can be devoted to building better lives for the Lao people. This book seeks to tell the reader what the United States has done and is presently doing to help Laos achieve these goals.

Leonard Unger

Ambassador of the United States of America to Laos

Some 90 per cent of the people of Laos live in the thousands of villages, large and small, which have grown up in the plains, forests, valleys, mountains, and along the rivers. They are the source of the nation's greatest strength.

The village life is a good life, but it can be changed by forces over which the villagers have little control. Sickness can strike the villager or his family or his livestock. His crops may not prosper because of bad weather, lack of water or weak soil. Insects and pests may attack his harvest. His well may go dry. Aggression may force him to abandon his home and begin life elsewhere. He may not have the education that would help him overcome his troubles.

The other 10 per cent of the people of Laos live in or near major cities. Their way of life and their needs are somewhat different. A village may need a well, but a city requires a water system. A village may need a dispensary, but a city requires a modern hospital.

The American program of assistance to Laos is based on the needs of the people, both in the villages and cities. Working with the Royal Lao Government, it tries to bring these improvements which the people need and are willing, through self-help programs, to strive for. In consultation with village officials, the Royal Lao Government learns which types of projects are best suited for a particular region. Then, in collaboration with Lao officials, American technicians and supplies are brought in to help bring these benefits to the people.

An American aid officer (right) examines rice yield at one of the Experimental Stations in Laos.

In cooperation with the Lao Agriculture Service of the Royal Lao Government, American aid has set up crop stations at Salakham, Tha Ngone, Pakse, and three on the Bolovens Plateau. Nurseries also have been established in Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Sayaboury and on the Bolovens. These stations do research and experimental work to develop deeds or plants which will produce more and better rice, vegetables and other crops. They also distribute information about improved methods of farming.

High quality rice seed produced at the Lao Agriculture station at Salakham over the years is now available in sufficient quantity to make possible a program to increase rice production whereby Laos hopefully will not need to import rice in about five years.

A vegetable production program has been established by the Lao Extension Service, with American assistance, in a number of major cities. This is reducing the need to import vegetables.



Ban Phama Vegetable Garden, Vientiane



Pigs and chickens at this breeding station will be distributed to Lao farmers.



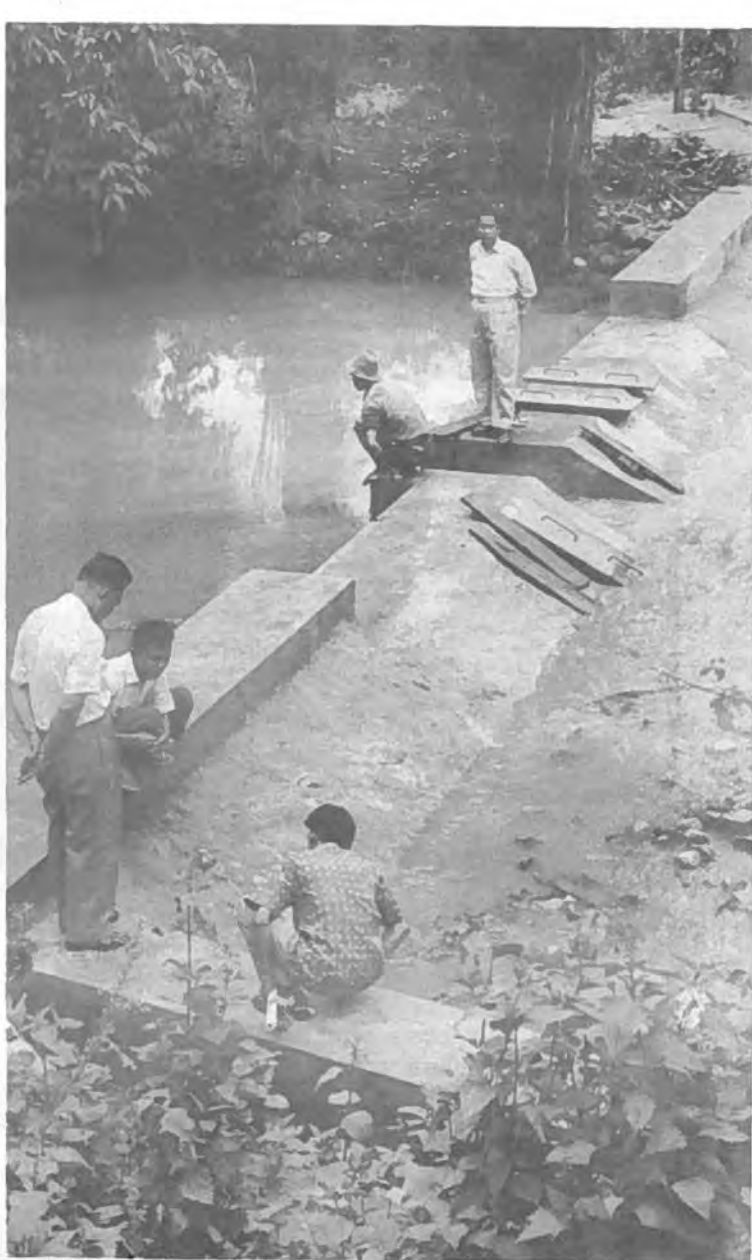
Lack of animal protein in Lao diets is a major cause of poor health. To increase the supply of animal protein, the United States and the Lao Veterinary Service are cooperating to increase livestock and poultry production. Approximately \$15,000 worth of vaccine was imported in 1963 to inoculate animals and poultry against infectious disease. Three breeding farms have been restored. They are being restocked with 15 sows, three boars, 500 pullets, and 600 ducks. During 1964, 720 pigs, 1,000 chickens and 2,500 ducks will be distributed. Ten varieties of forage cuttings have been introduced and are ready for distribution. Incubators for hatching chickens, and refrigerators to store biologics have been imported.

American aid supports the agricultural work of Operation Brotherhood which maintains farms in Sedone, Sayaboury, Paksong and Attopeu, each with piggery pens, duck ponds, and poultry houses. Operation Brotherhood personnel also teach local farmers and school children about better methods of food production. Hundreds of fruit tree seedlings have been distributed.



A dam north of Luang Prabang

The Lao Irrigation Service built 26 dams and water storage distribution facilities in Laos with American aid during (fiscal year) 1962-1963. These dams have brought some 37,500 rais of farmland under irrigation. They also provide protection against flood damage and, in some places, provide the drinking water.



Dams as shown in these pictures can be found throughout the Kingdom of Laos.

Dam at Houie Sing,
Luang Prabang.



OB Hospital, Kengkok

American assistance to the Royal Lao Government's public health program has totaled some \$4,700,000 over the years. Among its accomplishments was a successful yaws eradication program. Operation Brotherhood had American aid in setting up hospital facilities at a number of major cities.



Operation Brotherhood now operates:

A 100-bed hospital in Vientiane
A 50-bed hospital in Paksong
A 25-bed hospital in Sayaboury
A 25-bed hospital in Attoupeu,
and a 25-bed hospital in Kengkok.

Patients are registered for treatment at the OB Hospital, Kengkok.

Operation Brotherhood has also set up 17 self-help clinics in Sedone, Sayaboury and Attopeu provinces, with the help of Lao civic and health authorities, volunteer labor and donated materials from the villagers.

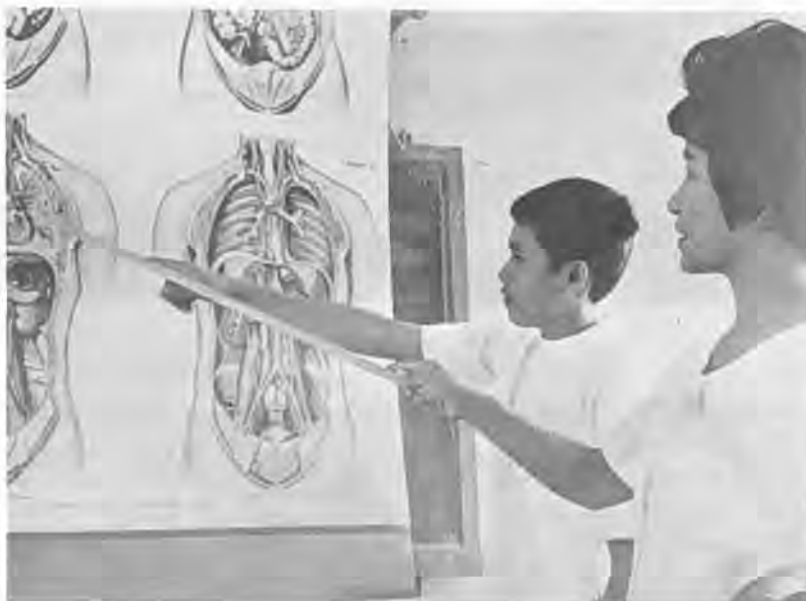
Rural workers trained by Operation Brotherhood staff these dispensaries and give first-aid, deliver babies and help introduce good health practices.

Some 250 Lao have been trained in practical nursing, medic training, training of X-ray lab assistants, dental and laboratory work and equipment maintenance.

During the years 1957-1962, Operation Brotherhood treated a total of 891,634 cases. At the present rate of more than 100,000 patients a year, more than a million cases have been treated by Operation Brotherhood.

American aid is also supporting a village health program in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health. In addition to improving sanitation, maternal and child care, nutrition and basic hygiene, this program currently maintains 100 small dispensaries and 9 bamboo hospitals which care for 250,000 people.

Training at the OB Hospital in Vientiane.



During the past five years, American aid has contributed basic school supplies and textbooks to the Lao Ministry of Education for distribution to elementary schools throughout Laos. (Teacher Training is discussed in the final section "Building for Your Future.")

Up to June 1963, American aid:

Provided materials for the construction by villagers of about 900 village school classrooms and 30 Groupe Scolaire classrooms, in conjunction with the Lao Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

Gave support to the construction of five additional classrooms at Savannakhet Vocational School, and provided \$12,500 in equipment.



One of the school classrooms built with American aid.

Constructed five additional classrooms at Thakhek College.

Gave about \$150,000 worth of school supplies to rural schools.

Sent 30 provincial school administrators to the Philippines for consultation and training.

Sent six assistant primary school in-

spectors and six elementary school principals to observe rural schools in Thailand.

Sent another six elementary school principals to Cambodia for the same purpose.

Sent 29 elementary school teachers from the provinces to Thailand to take special courses.

The key to much of the progress made throughout the Kingdom of Laos has been the various self-help programs which the people in cooperation with the Government have achieved through their own efforts. Sometimes these self-help projects are carried out as purely local endeavors.

More often they require assistance from departments of the provincial and national governments, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Rural Affairs. The record of accomplishments due to self-help programs has been truly impressive. In some instances, outside assistance has been required to

Lao villagers build a bridge -- a typical self-help project supported by the Lao Government and the United States



bring some self-help projects to completion. Some 2,600 of these projects were assisted by the United States during 1959-1962. Among such projects were: 616 schools, 609 hand-dug and drilled wells, 28 roads and trails, 50 community buildings, 35 markets, 35 dispensaries,

27 bridges and drainage projects, 25 dams, 22 irrigation canals, 14 water systems, 8 airfields, 6 floating docks, 5 rice paddy and craft development projects, and 3 warehouses.



The Symbol of the Cluster Program

Several areas in different parts of Laos have been chosen by the Royal Lao Government and the U. S. Government for this new type of development program. Under the program, a group of villages situated close to each other—clusters—agree on their most pressing needs in consultation with the Commission of Rural Affairs. These needs may range from wells, roads and schools, to dispensaries, crop seeds, and technical advice. American aid supplies these cluster areas with materials, and advisors come from the Royal Lao Government as well as American aid.

The cluster program is a clear example of cooperation among villages, an important first step towards unifying the Kingdom of Laos.

In recent months, self-help programs have been made even more effective. Assistance is now being concentrated in places where a number of villages can benefit from a group of interrelated projects rather than single projects in scattered villages.



Artwork on these pages is taken from American made posters promoting the cluster program.

There are at present six development zones in Laos. They are located at Phone Hong, Kengkok, Muong Phieng, Houei Kong, Muong Cao (Borikhane), and La Khone Pheng.

The cluster at Phone Hong, to give an example, contains 9 villages and 4,125 people. Work was begun in the cluster on October 1, 1963. Since that time, the following projects have been undertaken largely through the efforts of the people of the area.

Four drilled wells have been completed, more are in process.

An old dispensary has been completely renovated, and a new dispensary is 80% complete. Two medics are at each dispensary and treat more than 90 patients a day.

A whole new road system has been put in connecting all 9 villages.

A 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -rai demonstration farm has been started and is about 50% planted. The farm demonstrates rainy season vegetable production, fruit tree propagation, and how to develop feed crops for animals. In the future, pens for swine and poultry will be constructed on the farm. Proper housing and feeding methods will be demonstrated and the farm used as a center for distributing livestock to the villagers.

Two village programs are in progress. One teaches the villagers how to grow vegetables in the rainy season. The other teaches villagers how to make water-seal privies.

In the future, the people of Phone Hong plan to finish a market, the dispensary, and two schools. The Royal Lao Government has plans to drill 21 wells.





Transportation for the refugees to their new homes.

Some of these refugees have been resettled in different locales throughout Laos. Such resettlement has required massive assistance both in transporting the refugees to new homes and in providing them with necessities until they can become self-sufficient again.

In addition to providing basic necessities, American aid has:

Established medical centers for the refugees.

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, a massive relief program to help Lao refugees was started in 1961. Its goal has been to bring foodstuffs and other essentials to some 150,000 to 180,000 refugees from Communist aggression from the north of Laos to Thakhek, Saravane, and Attopeu in the south.

Trained medics to manage these centers. Provided materials with which the people built roads, wells and schools.

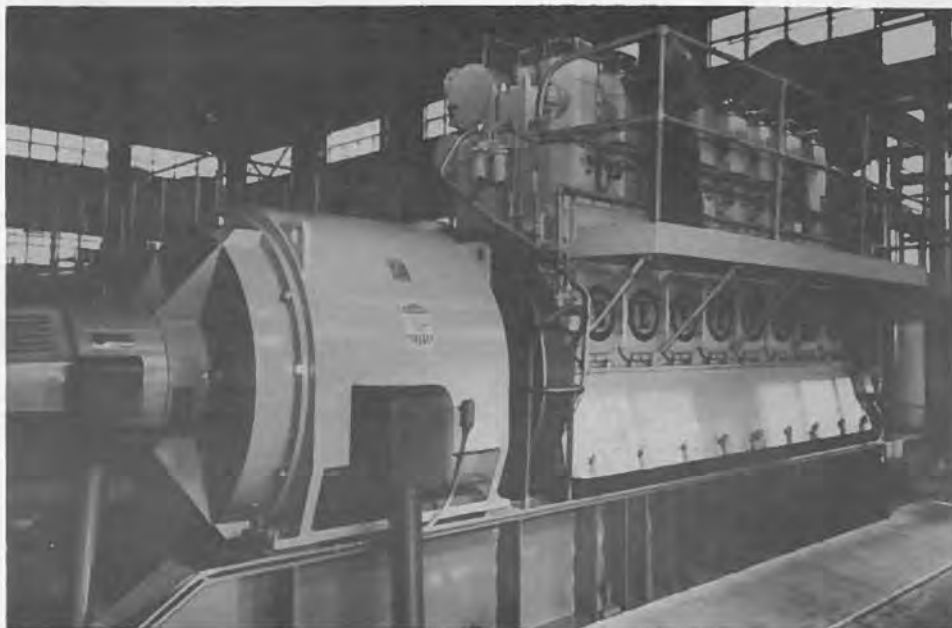
American relief flights have averaged 40 tons of rice a day dropped to refugees. Other supplies flown in include blankets, seeds, livestock, tools, medicine and foodstuffs.

The cost of bringing these supplies to Lao refugees since 1961 has been about \$300,000 a month.



Basic necessities are provided by the United States for the refugees

A generator provided by the United States to the Vientiane Power Plant



To enable the Vientiane Power Plant to provide the entire city with electricity, the United States has provided assistance in the form of engineering and technical supervision and supplies. Aid to the Vientiane Power Plant has totaled more than \$800,000 since 1956.

In cooperation with the Royal Lao Government, US AID built this new market in Vientiane to replace the old one at the same location. The new market has running water, concrete floors, and counters. It was opened in 1963.



UNIFYING YOUR NATION

Self-sufficiency (in Lao, "Enough to eat and enough to use") at the village level is not a goal in itself. It is the foundation on which a nation becomes self-sufficient. But neither the villages nor the cities or the nation can make much progress if they do not assist each other.

Some regions of Laos, because of climate, soil, or special skills of the inhabitants, are able to produce crops and goods that are needed in other parts of Laos. They, in turn, need products and information which are only found in other regions. To move these products and information, both to the markets and to the people, a country needs a system of transportation and communications and people to run them.

American aid has helped in the construction of roads, bridges and airstrips in Laos. It has also supported the Royal Lao Government's efforts to inform its people in the press and on the radio.

(Front, from r to l) Ex-Minister Nhouy Abhay, US AID Director Mann, and Chao Khoueng Bounlieng Chounramany in a ceremonial opening of a bridge at Sithandone Province



Modern road construction equipment received by the Ministry of Public Works

Since 1956, the United States has appropriated \$19,500,000 to assist the Lao Ministry of Public Works to construct and maintain roads and bridges in Laos.

In 1962, American aid:

Constructed 31 bridges

Constructed 37 kilometers of primary road and 35 kilometers of secondary road

In 1963, American aid:

Graded 150 kilometers of road

Surfaced 152 kilometers of road

Installed 41 culverts

Constructed 28 bridges

Provided maintenance throughout the Lao National Road System. In 1964, American aid provided for new construction and general improvement of

450 kilometers of road

47 bridges.



Vientiane-Tha Deua Highway



A bridge at Muong Kong built through cooperation of the Lao Government and US AID



The United States currently is financing the construction of 100 kilometers of highway between two rivers on Route 13, the Nam Cadinh and Nam Hin Boun. When the project is completed in 1965, Laos will have an all-weather road from Vientiane to the Cambodian border. Eventually Route 13 will link Luang Prabang with Saigon.

The King is shown taking part in the earth-breaking ceremony, opening construction of a highway between the rivers Nam Cadinh and Nam Hin Boun at the end of 1963.

American aid has provided on-the-job training for 160 employees of the Roads and Bridges Division of the Ministry of Public Works. At present, it is training about 150 operators and mechanics at PK-7 (Vientiane), the central equipment yard, shops and warehouses of the Roads and Bridges Division of the Ministry of Public Works. PK-7 is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all equipment used by this division in carrying out its work.



The United States has contributed an estimated \$10,000,000 worth of spare parts and machinery and has assisted in putting PK-7 back on an operating basis after work was brought to a stand-still as a result of the nation's internal difficulties a few years back. PK-7 now has a large warehouse with a well-organized parts system and parts bins, a light duty shop, a power house, a main office, an engine rebuilding shop, an electrical shop, a diesel



Inside the workshop of the Ministry of Public Works at PK-7 in Vientiane

The diesel engine repair shop of the Ministry of Public Works



pump shop, a paint shop, a carpenter shop, a machine shop, a welding and sheet metal shop, a service station and wash rack, showers and toilets, a 25,000 gallon water tank, a material storage shed, an equipment storage shed, a carport and cycle shed, guard houses, a salvage warehouse, classrooms, a water system, a drainage system, and electric power lines to all buildings.

American aid supported construction at Vientiane Airport (Wattay), consisting of a concrete runway, taxiways, aircraft aprons, drainage, runway and taxiway lighting, diesel electric power plant, and new utilities for the terminal area. Work is now underway to provide a modern parking area and entrance road.

Materials and facilities for the airport's operations building and to improve the apron were provided at Luang Prabang.

At Khong Island and at Kene Thao, the landing strips were graded and graveled.



Construction of the new runway



H.H. the Prime Minister (right) and the American Ambassador (left) at the ceremony opening the runway of Wattay Airport early 1963

American aid to Wattay Airport alone came to \$2,700,000. Another \$500,000 was spent for the work at Luang Prabang, Khong Island, and Kene Thao.

Specialized training has been given to Lao Civil Aviation personnel. Six were trained in air traffic control and 14 in airport construction.

The United States has also donated transport planes which are now owned and controlled by the Royal Lao Government. American aid continues to pay for the maintenance and operation of these planes.

In addition, the United States Government has contracts with two private firms which provide an additional air capability of about 35 planes to help the Royal Lao Government carry out its many responsibilities. Used primarily for the transport of food, supplies and equipment, these planes also provide necessary passenger service.



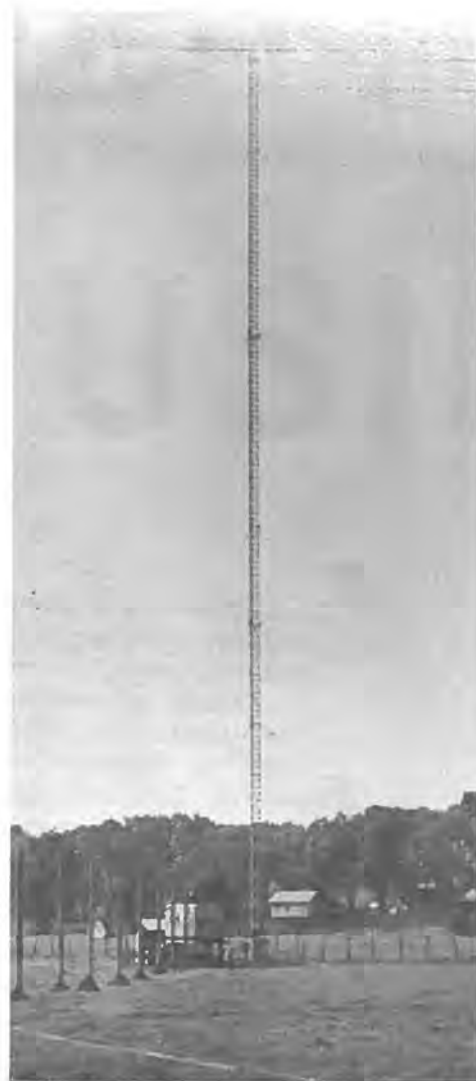
Wattay Airport



Telephone junction room

The United States has been supporting the four Lao National Radio stations in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, and Pakse. This aid has been in the form of supplies and maintenance personnel.

To help the Royal Lao Government communicate with its people, American aid set up the Lao Photo Press at an initial cost of \$430,000. Printing technicians are being trained with U.S. help.



A transmitter antenna in Vientiane

A complete underground cable system capable of serving over 2,000 subscribers was furnished and installed in Vientiane by the United States, in cooperation with the Post Telephone and Telegraph Organization. This was connected to the 800-line system furnished by France.

In Savannakhet, engineering for the complete rebuilding of the telephone system has been completed.

Some 40 employees of the Post Telephone and Telegraph Organization are receiving on-the-job training with American assistance.



Lao Photo Press Printing Plant

PROVIDING SECURITY

A nation's security is based on two things: a strong economy and society, and the physical capacity in trained men and weapons and equipment to protect itself from aggression.

Years of strife have caused great economic problems for Laos. The Royal Lao Government has had no choice but to maintain an army at strengths far above normal needs. As a result, fewer people are available to work in agriculture and industry. The Government's expenses, meanwhile, have gone up. Until recently, Lao businessmen found it difficult to obtain enough foreign exchange to pay for the import of essential goods. Inflation had damaged the value of the kip.

In many and various ways, American aid contributes to the growth of the Lao economy. Some of it is direct and tangible such as the assistance in agriculture and in the building of roads and bridges discussed already, but some of it, just as essential, comes less obviously. During Fiscal Year 1961, 1962, and 1963, total revenues of the Royal Lao Government came to the equivalent of \$98,260,000 in kip. Of this amount, \$22,300,000 came from domestic sources. The balance, \$75,960,000 was furnished through U. S. assistance. Since the formation of the Government of National Union, new measures have been taken to continue and improve the help given the Lao economy. These are the United States Import Program (USIP) and the Lao Government's monetary stabilization program which the United States helps support with other donor countries. At the request of the Royal Lao Government, the United States has also assisted Laos' efforts to protect itself from military aggression.



Following the formation of the Government of National Union, the Prime Minister in October 1962 made a formal request to the United States for support to the Lao Armed Forces. In response to this request, the United States has been providing military supplies and equipment such as petroleum and oil, training ammunition, clothing, and medical and welfare items.

American aid to the Military arm of the Royal Lao Government has been in direct response to the needs of the Government. Thus, when aggression against the Government was accelerated in the spring of 1964, the United States responded to the Royal Lao Government's request and increased both the amounts and type of military assistance.

- As a result, Laos has been receiving
- ... more planes
 - ... more artillery
 - ... more military transport
 - ... and more material for making uniforms.



BUILDING FOR YOUR FUTURE

So far this report has talked mainly about what American aid has done to improve living conditions of the people, to tie the nation together, to provide Laos with economic and military security. Some progress had to be made in each of these areas before Laos could look very far into the future. There has never been any question, however, that the Lao people must control their own future. More than anything else, the quality of

education and professional training of the Lao people will determine what their future is to be.

That is why at the same time the United States has been helping Laos with immediate problems, it has also given massive support to the Lao educational system.

The following tables indicate the progress Laos has made in education since 1956.

American aid in the amount of \$4,188,463 for educational purposes played an important part in this development.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1963</u>		<u>1956</u>	<u>1963</u>
<u>Elementary</u>			<u>Technical Schools</u>		
Schools	1,040	2,232	Schools	2	2
Pupils	66,998	121,053	Students	122	383
Teachers	2,115	3,628	Teachers	10	32
<u>Secondary</u>			<u>Teacher Training Schools</u>		
Schools	6	6	Schools	1	3
Pupils	1,215	3,018	Students	106	1,400
Teachers	35	113	Teachers	7	70





A classroom at the National Education Center at Dong Dok, Vientiane

American training programs have provided hundreds of young Laotians with training in the following fields: agriculture, health, public safety, education, minerals development, road building, customs, community development, and other essential areas. These civil servants were sent abroad under American auspices for varying lengths of time. Countries to which they have been sent are Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan, the United States, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

For 12 years the American Government has conducted a teacher training program under which 49 Lao teachers and education officials spent a minimum of 9 months of study in the United States.

Specialist programs provided study grants in the United States in the fields

of Public Administration, Youth Activities and Communications. Nine Lao specialists received practical training and intensive schooling in these fields.

A Leader Program has so far enabled 19 top ranking Lao officials to spend about three months in the United States. Special programs are prepared for each official so that they can have first-hand observation of latest techniques and developments in their respective fields.

Training of Lao teachers at the National Education Center is now being handled by US AID contract personnel.

The American Mission to Laos also administers several private programs under which Lao students, at both the high school and university level, can do a portion of their studies in the United States.



Dormitories and mess hall area of the National Education Center at Dong Dok, Vientiane



A group of eight Lao students prepare to continue their study abroad.

The Agriculture Extension Service was set up by the Lao Government so that experienced personnel could work with the Lao people and bring to them information on how to improve crops and living conditions. There were, however, few trained personnel to carry out this project at first. Since 1956, some \$206,000 in American aid has brought supplies and technical assistance to the Agriculture Extension Service.

By 1964, the total extension staff numbered 69 trained personnel, of which 58 were assigned to nine provinces. Among the accomplishments of these workers are 32 school gardens and 800 home gardens assisted in Vientiane and Pakse Provinces alone. The Agriculture Extension Service also was responsible for establishing the crop station at Salakham which has produced the rice seed needed to begin the seed multiplication program mentioned earlier in this report.

In looking back at all these programs of training and education, it can be seen that they are necessary to the fulfillment of various projects discussed earlier in this report. The village cluster

program particularly will become increasingly successful as more trained people become involved in it, in education, in health, in agriculture, in community development. The people who were chosen for these special training programs are returning to their country to take up positions of increased responsibility, and are able to pass on their knowledge to fellow-workers and students so that all can work together in building the future of Laos.



The preceding pages have tried to show how the people of Laos through their own efforts and with assistance from their friends, have begun to meet the challenges of modernization. Their progress so far indicates that a successful groundwork has been laid to enable them to realize their ultimate goals of prosperity, independence, unity and neutrality. With this beginning, progress cannot only be sustained but can move ahead still more rapidly.

On behalf of all members of the United States Aid Mission who are working throughout your country, I wish to extend my congratulations to the people of Laos on a job well begun. The close associations your American friends have enjoyed with you will be cherished long after the job is done.

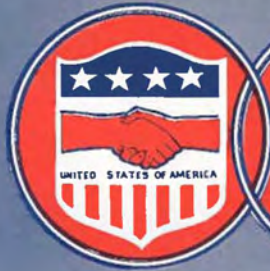
Charles A. Mann
Director
US AID Mission to Laos



Charles A. Mann



COOPERATION



FOR PEACE

AND PROGRESS

ROYAL KINGDOM OF LAOS - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA