in the United States and is assisted by Maha Sila, a traditional scholar from Northeast Thailand."

(The traditional elite of Laos share a common interest in their country's history and customs, at the same time retaining an active interest in politics. For example, during the 1930's Prince Phetsarath evolved a standard Lao orthography. A glance at a recent issue of "France-Asie" devoted to the Kingdom of Laos further documents this close relationship between traditional scholarship and current politics. In addition to the French scholars and administrators listed as contributors, the following prominent Lao politicians are also included as authors:

"Historical Aspects of Laos" by Katay Don Sasorith
"Lao Music" by Prince Souvanna Phouma
"The Laoism Calendar" by Tiao Maha Upahat Phetsarath
"The Custom of the 'Baci'" and "Marriage Rituals" by Thao Nouy Abbay
"Some Practices of Traditional Medicine" by Dr. Oudom Souvannavong
"Literature" by Phouvon Phimmasone

(Certainly these historical folklore interests can be linked to the characteristically mild tone of Lao nationalism.)

BOUAVAN NORAISING

Bouavan Norasing is Director of Justice, a member of the Committee for the Defense of the National Interests, and has studied law in France. His father was a Chao Muong in Phong Savanh in Xieng Khouang.

"Judges are part of the administration and are centrally appointed. Before our independence, an administrator also served as judge. Since independence we have tried to separate these two functions, and have also tried to separate the jobs of judge and prosecutor. But the police continue to make the investigations. Our law is mostly based on the French system, but we have also tried to combine it with Lao custom. There is a Justice of the Peace in each Muong. There are also Courts of Appeal located in Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang, Vientiane, Thakhek and Pakse. There is a Supreme Court for all Laos and a system of Military Courts. In reforming our judicial system we have tried to adopt the principle of having a single judge in the lower courts. Also we have proposed to the Cabinet to have a Council of State to pass on administrative regulations. If all goes well, this Council will be

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installed next year.

"We are also now trying to form a union of government employees. This is necessary to counter the Pathet Lao and to instill in officials a sense of patriotism. At the present time government employees have no outlet for their grievances, and they are currently using the system of anonymous letters, which is not very effective. This union will permit us to advance our professional interest, and we can also contribute to improvements. There is also dissatisfaction in the rates of pay of different services. We want to have equal pay for the same ranks in all of the different government services. We want to be democratic and have allotments for dependents at the same rate for all categories of officials. In the professional sense we want to ameliorate the moral situation, stimulate the officials' conscience, discipline, sense of duty. This will be our first attempt, but these things will come about."

NAKKHALA SOUVANNAVONG

Nakkhala Souvannavong, Director of Sports and Youth was born in Vientiane in 1922, where his father was a Secretary in the French Administration. Closely related to the Souvannavong family previously mentioned, both his brothers have studied in France, one in law and the other in communications.

He began his career in the administration in 1941, spending four years in the office of the French High Commissioner and three years in Luang Prabang working for the Ministry of the Interior. During the mobilization in 1945 he became a Lieutenant and later served as Chao Muong in a district of Vientiane Province. Then he worked in Vientiane in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For the past five years he has been with the Office of Sports and Youth, having taken a special course in the Vietnam School of Physical Education in 1943, spending the year 1955-1956 studying sports techniques, and three months in 1958 in the United States observing youth activities. His civil service rank is that of Chao Khoueng with a speciality in sports.

"We have several kinds of sports activities in Laos, including Scouts and soccer teams. There are about 1,200 Boy Scouts in all Laos and about 100 Girl Scouts. Of the Boy Scouts about 500 are in Vientiane, some 100 in Luang Prabang, 70 in Sam Neua, some 100 in Thakhek and about 200 in Savannakhet. There are an equal number in Pakse, some 60 in Attopeu and less than 100 in Xieng Khouang. There are Girl Scout organizations in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Thakhek, Savannakhet and Pakse. Scouting, however, is something of a luxury in certain parts of the country because the participants must buy their own uniforms. It is inferred that this activity is largely limited to the urban
Scouts are prominent in Vientiane and Luang Prabang on all official occasions and participate in parades in full uniform. They have also been given an opportunity for practical activities: during the summer of 1959, for a few weeks, they aided the regular police in directing traffic. They go on hikes and engage in other activities and have sent representatives to International Jamborees.

"Recently there was a conference attended by about 120 youth monitors. These included officials in the general administration and teachers, with a majority of the latter. (They were housed in tents and barracks near the national stadium and participated in a number of group activities as well as lectures and film showings. An attempt at political indoctrination was made. This conference was said to have been inspired by the CDIN.)

"Our federation of soccer teams, a private association authorized by the government, includes eleven teams in Vientiane. The most important one and champions for two years in the Dara Vieng (Youth of Vientiane). These are young Lao men born in Vientiane. The second team is from the Lyceee Pavie, the third from general staff headquarters of the Army. There are also two police teams, plus Chinese and Vietnamese teams. The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, the Air Force and the Pakistanis have teams as well.

"Although soccer is the most popular sport, there are also twelve basketball teams. This year the police team won the championship of Vientiane."

(There is also a girls' basketball team. The United States Information Service has done much to popularize sports throughout the country by photographing many of the matches in their Lao newsreels and then distributing them throughout the country. Tennis is popular among the elite, and there are courts in Vientiane and some of the provincial towns).

"Our department is thinking of creating a National Youth Organization to contact the mass of the population living in the countryside. We want to get in contact with the true Lao who live in the villages as well as the towns. The youth of Laos in towns is already organized, but we have yet to do much work in the countryside," Nakkhala concluded.

(During 1959, an American physical education expert spent several months in Laos. His activities were under the auspices of the State Exchange Program Department. He is a specialist in track and field sports and gave many demonstrations in provincial capitals as well as in Vientiane. He said, however, that both the interest and the training facilities of the Lao leave much to be desired, and they are not yet ready to participate in international contests.)
The Director of the Lao Bureau of Statistics, Houan Phann Saignasith, was born in 1928 in Luang Prabang and received his primary education in Luang Prabang and Vientiane. His secondary education was obtained at a lycée in Saigon, and advanced education in Paris in the School of Sciences of the Sorbonne and at the Institute of Statistics of the University of Paris. From 1955 to 1956 he was Director of the Department of Social Welfare, and since then has been Director of the Bureau of Statistics. In early 1958 he visited the United States for several months and has been a member of Lao delegations to international conferences, including those in Australia and New Zealand. Like an increasing number of younger Lao officials, he has a fair knowledge of English. His wife is French.

His Bureau is concerned with gathering information on Lao population and economy. To date, this has included a preliminary census of the town of Vientiane and some collection of statistics from officials in the provinces. A branch of the Bureau has been opened in Luang Prabang and is also headed by him.

Perhaps the most detailed survey made so far by his Bureau has been a study of the cost of living and its relation to governmental salaries. Although this study is interesting for its own sake, it also has significance in that it indicates an attitude prevalent among Lao officials: according to the report, despite great increases in the cost of living over the past few years, the salaries of officials have remained fixed. There appears to be considerable resentment of this fact.

Like most officials in the technical ministries, he complained that he had insufficient funds with which to do really effective work. He has received assistance from the United Nations in the form of a French statistical expert who works in his office. Although apparently willing to accept French technical assistance he was resentful that the French had not provided him with any of their statistical files relating to their period of rule.

Thip Thammavong

Thip Thammavong, Director of Information, was born in Vientiane in 1912, the son of a local merchant. He completed the college and studied at the Lycée Pavie, but has not studied abroad. He was first a school teacher, and then successively Director of the Groupe Scolaire
at Pak Sane from 1933 to 1940, Director of the Groupe Scolaire in Khong from 1940 to 1948, Deputy Provincial Primary School Inspector for Vientiane from 1948 to 1949 and Provincial Inspector in Sam Neua from 1949 to 1953. He was named Deputy Director of the Lao Information Service in 1953 and Director in 1957.

In 1958 he spent two months in the United States. He has also traveled in Malaya, Thailand, and Vietnam, and has visited London, Paris, and Tokyo. Thip is married and has eleven children, four of whom are married.

"Our office is under the Ministry of Information, and our principal activity is the publication of a daily news bulletin in French and Lao. It comes out every day except Sundays and holidays. We propagandize government programs from the political, economic and social points of view. Our mobile units go to villages and explain government programs to the people. They also explain to them their rights as citizens. We do public relations work, as you do in the United States. In addition to this news bulletin we also use films, radio and photographs. We distribute the speeches of the Prime Minister in separate publications, and also make posters.

"In each province we have a Bureau of Information which issues a weekly bulletin in Lao to be distributed in the province. These bulletins contain many of the same kinds of information as those issued in Vientiane, but they also deal with local matters. These Bureaus also send us news by radio.

In response to a question, Thip said that they have recently begun a ten minute news broadcast in Meo and are also planning to start one in Kha in the south. He said a problem here is that there is no one Kha language, and they will have to decide which one to use. The Meo broadcaster has a certificate from the groupe scolaire in Xaing Khouang, while the Kha is a soldier. They are also thinking of broadcasting in Lu and Yao but as yet have no candidates for these jobs. The United States Information Service provides his office with considerable technical assistance."
Included here are some of the more prominent military leaders of Laos.
Colonel Oudone is an Army officer who has been in charge of the Civic Action Program. He is Director of the Ministry of Social Welfare and supervises its Rural Aid Program. He has never been in the United States, but has spent several years in France at various times undergoing military training. He is a member of the same family as the Prime Minister, Phou Mangone. His wife is principal of an elementary school and President of the Lao Women's Association. Like many other Lao they have a large family, six children. He claimed he supported thirty people in his household, including his wife's mother and brother and their families. Although Oudone and his wife both work, one wonders how it is possible to maintain such a large household and run two expensive automobiles on his salary, which he said was only 17,000 kips a month. He rather bitterly referred to the fact that some of the "third country nationals" (Thais employed by the United States Government) are paid more.

Although his house is a modest wooden bungalow located next door to the former Vietnamese slaughter house (which was removed to the outskirts of town as a result of protests), both he and his wife each drive a Mercedes-Benz. Yet combined with this luxury, he pointed out that every evening the furniture is cleared out of his living room so his relatives and servants have room to sleep on the floor.

A prominent member of the Committee for the Defense of the National Interest, he is a personable man and makes a very pleasant impression. He appears to be a devoted father. As a matter of fact, in meeting him at his home I had to wait for some time, since each evening when he returns from work he takes all his children for a ride around town, providing an enjoyable excursion for all concerned. Many of his colleagues mentioned him as a person who had been favored by the Americans. He is in his early 40's.

"There was a Pathet Lao victory in the last (1958) election," he said. Almost all their candidates won office. The government functionaries have not sufficiently explained the situation and the activities of the government to the people. Now some of the officials are going through training in Vientiane for this purpose, so they will know what

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In a recent cost of living survey conducted by the Lao Bureau of Statistics, 100 households were selected, with a total of over 700 members. The smallest household had five persons, the largest sixteen, with most having six to eight persons in the household.
the policy is. All the Chao Muongs have to come to Vientiane for a course of several months, while the Nai Bans go to the district center for their training. The lectures are conducted by Civic Action personnel.

"The course for the Chao Muongs, who often spend from ten to fifteen years in one location, is supposed to give them some perspective on the rest of the country. After the course they receive diplomas in a formal ceremony and are then sent for brief periods to different parts of the country in order to gain some idea of the situation and problems in other areas.

"In the beginning, Civic Action was in the field of community development, with teams of ten persons each; now that function has been taken over by the Rural Development Program. Civic Action personnel are instead used in training programs. There are about 240 people in Civic Action, including about twenty-five girls and about fifteen people from tribal groups. Some of them will be sent to a course in Saigon, which will be limited to those who are best qualified. [At the time of the interview, this program appeared to be in the process of being phased out, and consideration was being given to the reassignment of the best Civic Action personnel to other programs.]

"I have proposed to the government, and sent letters to the provincial governors with the suggestions that four representatives from each tribal group be sent to Vientiane to undergo orientation. I do not think they will be able to come at this time because they are in the process of preparing their rice fields, but I feel it will be a good idea to have them come here and receive indoctrination.

"The courses for the Tassengs and Nai Bans in the muongs were given the first time. This is thanks to American aid."

(On this point one American aid official commented that one of the most crucial problems in Laos was to be able to strengthen the government on the district level in order to make it really effective.)

Oudone continued, "When the French left Laos, Communism was very strong. Now we have the job of eliminating it from our system."

When asked about the monks who have refused to cooperate in his Civic Action scheme, he said, "I am not very well informed about the affairs of the monks. However, some of the people in my Ministry are interested in these matters. I am a believing Buddhist rather than a practicing one. Many old people go to the pagoda and say prayers every day, but they really do not understand what it is all about. I have never been a monk. I have had no time for this. The most I have done was to have my head shaved and spend an afternoon in the pagoda on the occasion of my father's death, and also for the death of a cousin. This is our custom."
Commenting on the accusations which have been made to the effect that officials have enriched themselves, Oudone said he did not know exactly what the situation was. "But I do know that many people had to recall their children from France because it now costs them approximately one hundred and fifty dollars a month to support them as students, and since the currency exchange rate has been altered, they are no longer able to do this."

During the civil war Oudone resumed military service and was reported to have been in charge of troops leading attacks north of Vientiane on the Luang Prabang road.
BRIGADIER GENERAL OUAN RATHIKOUN

Ouan Rathikoun was born in 1922 in Luang Prabang and attended the Groupe Scolaire and college there from 1930 to 1938. He began his Army career with enlisted service in the French Colonial Army and attained the rank of Second Lieutenant before transferring to the Lao Army which was formed after independence, having been in the military service since 1941.

In contrast to many Lao officials born in Luang Prabang, he is said to be of humble origin. He and his wife have six children. He is one of the principal members of the Committee for the Defense of the National Interests.

"There have been many changes in Laos," he said, "Now we are pushing the three R's: Revolution, Rice and Roads. Almost all revolutions are good, except those of the Communists, which are bad. Here in Laos there has been a moral revolution. Now the government and the officials are the servants of the people. The time has passed when officials pocketed money instead of helping the people.

"This former democracy in which everyone stole for himself has now been rejected and replaced by directed democracy. Now things are much better. There are now Civic Action teams going out into the countryside and working directly with the local civilian administrations. One of the team members is an expert in agriculture, another in health, a third in education, still another in propaganda techniques. They see what the needs of the people are, then these Army men make requests to headquarters and supplies are sent. This is not like in the old times when papers were made out and it took months if not years, to get anything done."

In response to the question whether Laos would be able to survive without military aid, he said he thought it might be possible in five years, after roads had been built and rice and other supplies could be transported.

When asked about working with the monks he said this was a good thing, and an important one too. "But first, people must have enough to eat before they can give to the pagoda and support the monks. The Pathet Lao have worked closely with the monks, but the government is now making proper counter-propaganda and showing that the Communists were merely exercising tactics, that they have no real belief in religion."

General Ouan was among the early supporters of Colonel Khoum Somsan and Prince Boun Oum during the Civil War.
MAJOR GENERAL SOUNTHONE PATHAMAVONG

The Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Sounthone Pathamavong, was born in Vientiane in 1913. He was educated at local schools and studied at the Lyceé Pavie from 1928 to 1932. From 1933 to 1941 he was a school teacher and from 1942 to 1945 he served as Chao Muong of Muong Xieng, later serving as Provincial Governor from 1947 to 1953, when he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Lao National Army.

Although he had had no previous military experience, his official biography comments that he was noted for his work as an administrator. In many circles, however, he is not very highly regarded and tends to be considered more of a politician than an effective administrator.

COLONEL PHOUWI NOSAVAN

Secretary of State for Defense and Veterans Affairs at the time of this interview, Phouwi Nosavan replaced Sounthone Pathamavong as Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs in the Kou Abhay Government (1960). He was born in 1920 in Savannakhet, and in 1940 received his diploma from the Lyceé Pavie. Since 1950 he has been an officer in the Lao National Army. He was formerly Commander of the Second Military Region.

It was difficult to arrange time to talk with him, since at the time of the interview the Lao Army was reported to be engaged in military action with the North Vietnamese. He appears to have a pleasing personality and speaks in a rather dynamic and convincing fashion. He said he originally began his career with the police but later switched to the Army at the time of the Vietminh War. He has had some training in France.

In response to a question, he said most of the officers are from the towns because of the inferior schools of the villages. "The sons of farmers do not get an equal chance. Currently there is not enough room at the Lyceé, with two or three times as many candidates as there are vacancies." [Despite these statements, there does appear to be some mobility in the Army, which is recruited from all sections of the country. The writer spoke briefly with a few pilots, trained in France, who are among the first pilots in the incipient Lao Air Force; in two cases they were sons of farmers in the vicinity of Vientiane].

Phouwi continued, "I do not believe the North Vietnamese will start a war with Laos, since they have many internal problems of their own. There are also many deserters who are coming into Laos. We then send them on to South Vietnam.

"The Lao Army is now going into social work on a large scale, and soon we will have Teams of Six Army men in each Tasseng. There is a Colonel in charge of this project, and we also have one who deals with psychological warfare problems."
"The principle problem of Laos is one of internal security. I feel that the Army is about the right size now.

"As to participation of tribal peoples in the government--in the Army we have a number of lower-ranking Kha officers and there are also a few Meo. There are a large number of local tribal people in the defense forces." (This is a very significant point, since many of the Pathet Lao battalions operating in the north contain considerable Khmu and Meo).

Phoumi did not seem to have many illusions about the tribal problem faced by the Lao government. He said the Chinese as well as the North Vietnamese were having similar problems with minority peoples near the border. He again stressed the importance of social service and village aid for the population at large.

With regard to talk of competition between the Army and the police, he said he was in favor of having one unit for internal security under the Army, with the police concerned only with municipal affairs. (The police officials, however, were not in agreement with this program.)

Subsequently, Phoumi assumed leadership of the so-called right wing government under the titular leadership of Prince Boun Oum. Originally based in Savannakhet this group defeated Captain Kongle in Vientiane and assumed power there. The government of Prince Souvanna Phouma, which had resulted from Kongle's coup against the Tiao Somsenith government, then fled to Cambodia.

Colonel Kot Venevongso

Colonel Kot assistant Chief of Staff for Psychological Warfare, appears to be in his mid-thirties and was born in Pakse. He said, "My father was a very respected man, better than [some] officials. He was among the first to learn to drive a car and was a chauffeur for the French Administrator. He had no title, but the Chao Muongs and the Chao Khoueng respected him. I came from a class which was not rich but honorable." He is married to a cousin of Prince Boun Oum; he and his wife, daughter of a councilor to the King, have seven children.

In 1945 he was a sargeant in the French Army fighting the Japanese. In 1950 he spent a year in France, studying at St. Cyr, the French Military Academy, and later spent two years as military attache in the Philippines and Vietnam. He has also served as Director of Veterans Affairs having spent a total of sixteen years in military service. His younger brother, a Major in the Army, studied in the United States.

"By the end of this year (1959) there are to be six hundred teams of six persons each, operating one team to a Tasseng," Kot said. "There are already one hundred teams in the First Military Region. There is a problem, however, of cooperation between the civilian and military
officials. Formerly the Chao Khouengs received materials for rural development, but it did not reach the people. It is much better to distribute material directly through the military. Civilian authorities rarely go to the villages; it is only the military who actually get there.

"One problem we have to face is the different conditions and diverse needs in various parts of our country. In one place the people want newspapers and books, and in another they need teachers. The teams of six for rural development work consists of: a chief, who is also in charge of propaganda; an assistant who is a specialist in auto-defense; a health expert who distributes some medicines such as quinine; a teacher for the children; one man who knows about the construction of roads and houses; and finally, an agriculturist to teach the people how to grow rice, corn and vegetables. These are all regular Army soldiers.

"The training of the team varies from fifteen days to three months and in some cases as much as six months. In response to the requests they pass on from the villagers, they are provided with roofing, nails, tools and salt. In some cases the villagers also ask for rice. Our work is easier in some areas, for instance in Xieng Khuan where the population knows the Vietminh, under whose control it has lived for a while. In areas such as Vientiane Province, the people have not become personally acquainted with the Communist rule.

"Communist propaganda in Laos declares that aid is given only to the towns and that nothing reaches the villages. We need the Teams of Six to fight this idea. We have promised the people aid. The Communists live among the people and make propaganda. We must counter this. I think it would help us if we got more films in Thai from the United States Information Service, so that we can show them to the people.

"Mr. Keo Vipakhon of the rural development division of the Social Welfare Ministry has no personnel and no funds. He cannot do anything. Our Civic Action teams have been much more effective, remaining in the Muongs. The tools sent out by the government's rural development program remain in the store-rooms of the provincial capital, and from time to time the villagers come in and ask for them. But it is different with the military where the materials go directly to the local commander and sub-commanders and then to the Tassengs through the Teams of Six.

"In each military region we have about twenty men who have specialized in anti-Communist propaganda. Further, here in Vientiane in our Military Information Service we have a special section for press and radio.

"The first problem when we go to work in the Tassengs is civic instruction, teaching the population to read and write. We must also explain to the people about the government and its organization."
"Among the tribal peoples in the mountains, when a man is sick the others gather around him and do no work in the HaJ (slash-and-burn fields). We come in and give medicine. We also give them salt when it is needed. This is the way we fight the Communists."

VI

LAO STUDYING ABROAD

Excerpts from applications for foreign scholarships

Reports by Lao teachers who studied in the United States

APPLICANTS FOR FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

The following brief essays were written in English, a language which the applicants have studied for two or three years. They have been edited to a certain extent for the sake of anonymity, but an attempt has been made to preserve their feelings. Although the applicants obviously cannot express themselves as freely in English as they would in their own language, and these short essays are written in the hope of soliciting a grant, still they do indicate something of the values, outlook and background of the individuals concerned. Important also is the way they reflect the objectives the applicants seek from advanced training abroad. In a sense, these applicants represent an emerging young Lao elite. Almost all of those who receive training abroad come back to occupy responsible positions in the central government in Vientiane. Very few are willing to serve in the provinces.

Applicant A: Male, age twenty-five; unmarried; school teacher in Vientiane since 1955; born in small town near Vientiane.

From 1948 to 1954 I studied in the elementary school. I made good progress in my studies. In 1954 I would like to have continued my studies in the college but was only able to study there for one year. We worked in French.

In 1955 I became a teacher. I did not work at teaching school but have been employed in the teachers' training school. I was able to study in this school for six months and I found the work very interesting. In May, 1956, the director of this school sent me to work in the Ministry of Education in Vientiane.

Three months ago I began to study English with teachers under the Colombo Plan and with a lady at the Lao-American Association. I am now able to speak a little better than last year. In 1959 fifteen scholarships were offered to Lao students to attend a nine-months course in general administration at a University in Great Britain. I am interested in your country.

The military has its own foreign training program and is not included here.
in this course and would like to go there. My friends who have been there have told me that it is a very beautiful country.

I want to see and to know the civilization of other countries, how they organize their country. I know it will be very helpful for me, and I hope to serve my country by using this experience when I return.

Applicant B: Male, age twenty-seven; married; primary school graduate; since 1959 Secretary in the Office of the Procurator General.

I was born in 1933 in a village in the Province of Savannakhet. I studied in the elementary school at Savannakhet from 1947 to 1950, and then had two years of study at the college. In 1952 I studied law at the School of General Administration in Vientiane, and I have a certificate from this course. Formerly I worked in the office of the Council of Ministers and then was sent by the government to work in the Ministry of Religious Affairs as the chief accountant. I was in that Ministry for two years. Beginning in 1959 I was sent to the Ministry of Justice and have continued working there.

I have studied English since 1956. My first teacher was Mr. X, sent by the international aid plan. When he left for his country, I went to study English with two new Colombo-Plan teachers. Besides English, I have studied French for about six years. At present I am rather good in French.

I am willing to go to your country because I would like to learn about medical and sanitary matters and similar problems that exist in the Kingdom of Laos. As I have had some practice in English I am sure that I shall be able to understand many things I will meet in your country. I hope that when I return, what I have seen and understood will be very useful to my country.

Applicant C: Male; age twenty-seven; employed by the National Police.

(Better educated than most Lao officials, he went to live with his parents in Bangkok and married a Thai girl. He has recently had difficulty in keeping his position because a close relative is a Pathet Lao Deputy. He also felt embittered because he said that many of his associates in the National Police have gained large sums through graft while he has tried to be honest, and has had difficulty supporting his family on his salary. Recently he has had to borrow from some of his Thai friends. He studied at the primary school in Pakse from 1940 to 47, and then at Assumption College in Bangkok from 1948 to 1953, attaining the equivalent of a high school diploma. From 1954 to 1958 studied at the Police Academy in Bangkok and received a diploma upon completion of this course; since 1956 has been a Lieutenant in the Lao National Police at Vientiane.)
I was born in 1933 in Pakse in the Kingdom of Laos. At the age of six I entered the primary school where I studied Lao and French for eight years. After the Second World War, my family and I migrated to Thailand. At that time I was sixteen years old. Then I went to study at Assumption College in Bangkok and learned French and a little English. After finishing my high school education in 1953, I was a teacher at Assumption College for one year, and then went on to study at the Thai Police Academy with the help of the Lao Police Department. After four years of training, I was successful in the last examination, and returned to Laos, my own country, in 1958.

During the first six months I worked in the foreign registration section of the metropolitan Police. After that I was sent to the traffic Police, and until now, I have worked as chief of the section in charge of investigation, collecting information. My other special work consisted of teaching methods of investigation to the metropolitan Police.

I want to study and train in your country so as to make better progress in my English and to learn some useful Police subjects.

Applicant D: Female; unmarried.

My parents sent me to study in Bangkok when I was eight years old. I did well and skipped the third grade so it only took me five years in elementary school. When I finished there I went on to high school, which was located in the same building. I then received my diploma. After finishing high school, I went to work for my uncle in his private school for about ten months. Then I dropped out when my mother sent a telegram from Vientiane asking me to come back. I stayed in Vientiane with my parents for five months and returned to Bangkok to learn English at a special language school where I studied for six months and then received a certificate. When I returned to Laos I went to work as a teacher in a private school. Then I left and went to work for the government.

Applicant E: Male; age twenty-seven; works as a secretary in the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of National Economy; studied in the primary school from 1943 to 1949 and received a certificate; attended the Lycee from 1950 to 1954.

I am presently working at the Department of Foreign Trade, where I have been employed for four years. My work is to check on import licenses, and matters dealing with the National Bank, the commercial banks, USOM/Laos and ICA/Washington. With regard to my work, I think it is very important and interesting to me, as I often converse and write in English. I wish to point out, however, that I am specially interested in local and foreign trade in my country and all over the world. I therefore wish to go to study in your country and pursue courses in General Administration and International Commerce. My studies should profit my country and nation.
Applicant F: Male; unmarried; employed by the Department of Foreign trade in the Ministry of the National Economy; studied in the primary school in Xieng Khouang from 1937 to 1948; from 1948 to 1952 studied at the Lycee Pavie in Vientiane and from 1952 to 1956 in the School of Administration in Phnom Penh, from which he received a diploma.

I have been employed by the Ministry of the National Economy since December, 1956. My job at the Ministry is concerned with external and internal commerce. I have been appointed chief of the office of commerce and have held this office for more than two years. My particular work is to check the prices of invoices dealing with what businessmen import and sell in Laos. The prices are checked to see if they conform to those given by foreign traders. I also check all licenses submitted to my office before they are sent to the National Bank. In 1959, I began a new job. This concerns industries; I try to encourage the people of Laos to build more factories and set up different local industries. I feel that I am able to work in the field of external and internal commerce, so I am most interested in learning more about economics and general administration and studying in the United Kingdom. I hope that I will be able to inspire my fellow countrymen to work better in order to solve our problems.

Applicant G: Male; unmarried; age twenty-one; attended primary school in Vientiane and the Lycee Pavie where he received a diploma; employed as a secretary in the Statistical Services of Laos.

My name is Khamphey X. I live in Vientiane. I have a brother, Pheng X, a doctor. My sister is in business in town with two other sisters. I have studied in the primary school, secondary school, and high school in this capital city. I studied at the Faculty of Medicine in Cambodia for two years. After that I went to study in Hong Kong at the Institute of Business Administration. In 1955 I came back and got a job in the statistical office in Vientiane. I can speak five foreign languages. I can read and write French, English and Siamese, and also speak Japanese and Vietnamese.

Applicant H: Male; age twenty-six; unmarried; employed in the Ministry of the National Economy in the Foreign Trade Department in Vientiane; from 1940 to 1948 attended primary school in Luang Prabang; from 1948 to 1954 attended the Lycee in Vientiane; from 1954 to 1957 attended the School of Administration in Phnom Penh. (He bears the title Tiao and is related to the royal family of Luang Prabang).

Upon completion of my degree in Phnom Penh, I returned to Laos to work in the Ministry of National Economy, in the Department of Foreign Trade, and have been employed there since 1957, when I was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While in the Department of Foreign