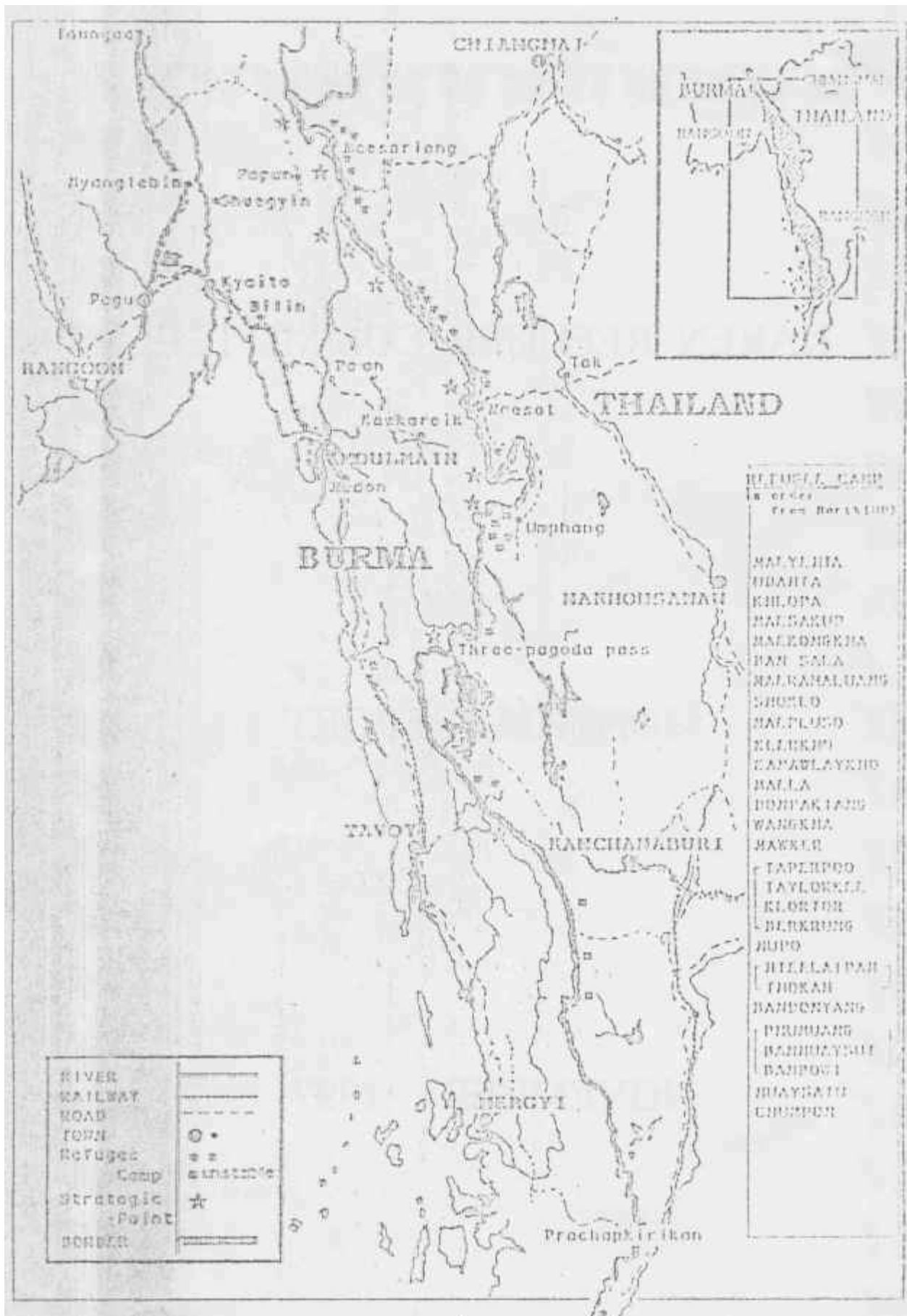


KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1997



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November, the beginning of winter, ushers in the cold weather which would affect a lot of people who are without the benefit of protective facilities, proper clothing, blanket or shelter.

That would only be one of the miseries faced by the newly Displaced People who are being evicted from their beloved homes and villages, and who are still trying to find safe refuge far from their native place

The matter concerning the Displaced People seeking shelter in Umphang District and the incident that had taken on prominence, beginning the first week of November, 1997, left many people worried.

With that mind, the KRC feels very much concerned with the plight of these Displaced People who had run away to hide in the forest, fearing to come out into the open.

To begin with, Displaced People who had taken shelter near Kwee Ler Taw, a little over a thousand, were being relocated by the authorities to a site on the border. Almost all Displaced People spoke out against being relocated to a site, which for them was very much insecure. There were untoward incidents in which some Displaced People were injured and many escaping to stay in hiding in the forest, and only a few hundred were accounted for at the new relocation site. The relocation process did not go smoothly as planned by the authorities. Now the authorities have abandoned its original relocation plan and are trying to find Displaced People who have gone into hiding to accommodate them in safe camp. Food and material support from the NGOs will be made available for them. The KRC has learnt that 40 Displaced People were sent to Noh Poe camp for medical treatment.

But the fact remains that most Displaced People hiding in the forest are afraid to come out into the open; It is for these people that the KRC is most concerned. Added to the lack of food and shelter, the cold weather could spell disaster for the Displaced People, especially those vulnerable.

Also in the South, in Kanchanaburi District, Displaced People from inside Burma, numbering about six hundred have crossed into Thailand and reached Bo Wee area, to seek safe refuge. The flight of these people is still not known.

On the brighter side, ICS. Asia help fund the reconstruction school buildings at Mae La camp. Reconstruction works have finished for which we feel much gratified and indebted.

The Karen Refugee Committee would like to appeal to the Thai people and the Royal Thai Government to extend sympathy and compassion for these people in distress, and to allow them temporary refuge until the time of safe repatriation.

Our gratitude and appreciation goes out to all the NGOs and Aid Organization who had more than their share in lending support for the people who are in misery and in great distress,

May God bless all of you.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Htwe', is enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Robert Htwe
Chairman

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of families	Over 12 YRS		5- 12 YRS		Under 5 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1680	3173	3109	721	758	569	625	8955
	Mae La	4278	8878	7958	3310	2517	1624	1396	25683
	Sho Klo (Mae Song)	1040	2113	2070	953	925	375	370	6806
	Maw Ker	1373	3081	2859	788	779	754	632	8893
		8371	17245	15996	5772	4979	3322	3023	50337
N O R T H	Mae Ra Ma Luang	797	1619	1490	630	488	365	348	4940
	Khun Mae Kong Kha	553	897	1006	399	402	272	302	3278
	Sa La	441	928	816	332	335	122	106	2639
	Mae Sa Kup	415	800	801	292	259	121	176	2449
	Khlo Pa	442	839	823	319	275	199	216	2671
	U Da Hta	562	1261	1076	355	305	246	263	3506
	Mae Ye Hta	297	635	533	259	203	85	80	1795
		3507	6979	6545	2586	2267	1410	1491	21278
S O U T H	Noh Po	1778	3309	2744	1020	954	847	830	9704
	Ban Don Yang	317	348	389	271	234	129	117	1488
	Tham Him	1604	1981	2223	865	843	799	829	7540
	Hti Yo Ki	204	264	291	106	73	93	101	928
	Kho Thay Lu	70	77	85	22	16	36	44	280
		3973	5979	5732	2284	2120	1904	1921	19940
	Grand Total	15851	30203	28273	10642	9366	6636	6435	91555

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH

FROM	ITEMS						
	RICE sacks	SALT kgs	F.PASTE tins	M.Nets pcs	Blankets pcs	Pressed Sawdust bundle	Plastic sheeting pcs
B B C	7715	16,900	3185	350	5700	*25294	300
COERR	350	-	-	-	-	-	-

* 3 bundles /family

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED

CAMP	RICE sacks	SALT kgs	F.PASTE tins	M.Nets pcs	Blankets pcs	Pressed Sawdust bundle	Plastic sheeting pcs
Wang Ka	1402	3400	563	-	-	5062	-
Mae La	4127	8600	1621	-	-	12970	-
Sho Klo	1122	2150	441	-	-	3130	-
Maw Ker	1394	2750	560	50	120	4132	-
Noh Poe	-	-	-	300	5400	-	300
KRC/MSF	20	-	-	-	180	-	-
Total	8065	16900	3185	350	5700	25294	300