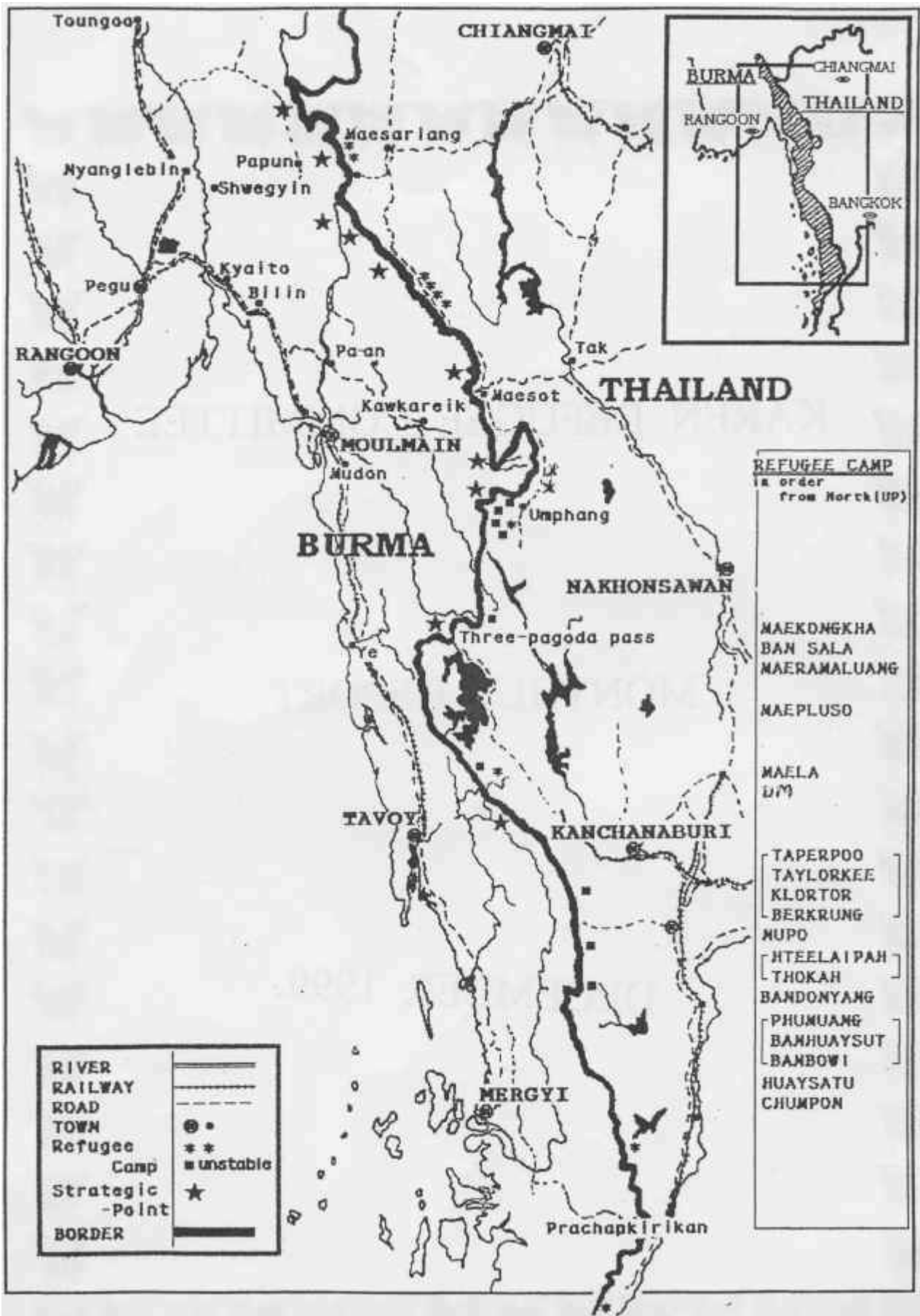




KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1999.



RIVER	
RAILWAY	
ROAD	
TOWN	
Refugee Camp	
Strategic Point	
BORDER	
	unstable

REFUGEE CAMP
in order from North (UP)
MAEKONGKHA
BAN SALA
MAERAMALUANG
MAEPLUSO
MAELA
UM
TAPERPOO
TAYLORKEE
KLORTOR
BERKRUNG
MUPO
HTEELAI PAH
THOKAH
BANDONYANG
PHUMUANG
BANHUAYSUT
BANBOWI
HUAYSATU
CHUMPON

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE.
DECEMBER, 1999.

With December 1999, we have come to the season of Peace and Goodwill. It is also the last month before the world enters the New Millennium, the time when people need to reflect on the past and ask questions about the future which doesn't seem to be very bright.

In the Karen Lands, Church Bells used to toll to usher in Sweet December. But this Year's Sweet December is still marred by bitterness, ill-will and malicious undertakings.

In this season of Goodwill, we are still seeing conflicts of interest amongst people in many parts of the world. We are seeing fighting and killings in Chechenya, Angola, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and elsewhere. There is reciprocal misdeeds on grounds of Ethnicity, Religion and Regional control. In Burma all opposition to the Military Regime are being dubbed "Traitors", which can be likened only to the perpetrator calling out 'Toul'.

Also around the world, we are seeing that Natural disasters are on the increase and which are reported as being the severest on record. Earthquakes, record heats, storm winds, rain floods, mudslides and blizzards in such diverse places as Turkey, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Central America, Venezuela and West Europe. People are killed, injured and unaccounted for in the hundreds of thousands. Destruction and material losses are in the billions of dollars.

On the other hand, reports are that the world's fresh water resources are dwindling, with half of the world's rivers beginning to dry up. At the same time, the world's sea level is rising as a result of Global warming and the melting of Polar Ice sheets. This rising sea level will pose a great threat to low lying Islands and heavily populated coastal cities.

Apart from these dangers, it is time to take stock of the imminent danger from HIV/ AIDS. Reports say that the number of people infected with the Virus worldwide is now 33.6 million. New infection in 1999 alone is 5.6 million. 16 million people have so far been killed by this disease.

This year, the world's population has gone over the six billion mark and there is worry that by the year 2025, there will not be enough water for all the population which is expected to top eight billion. Looking into the future can be rather scary. The more we look, the more we find that we are exposed and helpless and yet there is more to find.

On the positive side, 17 of the world's nations have eliminated their stockpiles of landmines, and 27 countries, including Thailand, are gearing up to eliminate their stores of landmines. Still it's a long way to go as many nations are beefing up their "Defences" and will be opting for pre-emptive strikes in the name of Self-protection and Security.

For us Refugees though, it's another year of restricted Camp life, with as yet no indication of change for the better. But for Security, two refugee camps, Wang Kha and Maw Ker, which are considered vulnerable to cross border attacks, because of their proximity to the border, are now being relocated to a more secure site at Um Phium.

We thank the People and Government of Thailand for granting us safe refuge, the UNHCR for protection, the NGOs and sympathetic Groups and Individuals for supporting us with our needs in Shelter, Food and household needs, Medical/ Health and Educational needs.

To all our Benefactors and Friends, we wish them a Merry Christmas and a most Happy and Prosperous New Millennium.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS DECEMBER. 1999.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of families	Over 12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Um Phiem (Huay Ka Lok)	1718	2968	2815	1021	910	452	634	8800
	Mae La	5807	10747	10283	1878	1820	3950	3679	32875
	Maw Ker	1982	3396	2993	502	476	1355	1275	9997
		9507	17111	16091	3401	3206	5757	5588	51672
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1298	2652	2298	528	483	918	891	7770
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1852	3622	3333	919	846	1162	1150	11032
		3150	6274	5631	1447	1329	2080	2041	18802
S O U T H	Noh Po	1560	2579	2398	1048	1009	525	548	8107
	Ban Don Yang	55	550	600	141	129	312	277	2009
	Tham Him	1654	2339	2381	1037	1017	680	745	8199
	Kho Thay Lu	66	62	82	8	5	54	63	274
		3335	5530	5461	2234	2160	1571	1633	18589
	Grand Total	15992	28915	27183	7082	6695	9408	9262	89063

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

FROM	Rice 100kg sacks	Salt Kilos	Fish- paste 16kg tins	Yellow Bean Kilos	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil 13.75 liter tins	Cooking Fuel Kg.
BBC	7,630	20,550	3,427	51,360	6,424	47,794	356,040
COERR	350						

We shall always be grateful to the Thai People and Government for their sympathy and understanding in allowing us safe refuge.

We are also indebted to the NGOs for their Supports and Services.

BBC- Support in Food and Shelter Material.

MSF- Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AMI -

ARC -

MHD -

ZOA (ABWAid)- Support in Educational facilities.

ICS. (Asia)- Support in Educational facilities.

TOPS - Support in Educational facilities.

COERR- Rice and Educational Support.

H.I.Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitaion and also year-end sporting events for Handicaps.

NCA (Norwegian Church Aid) has been providing KRC with administrative & Organizational Support. It has also made commitment to support with remuneration for KRC members and workers.