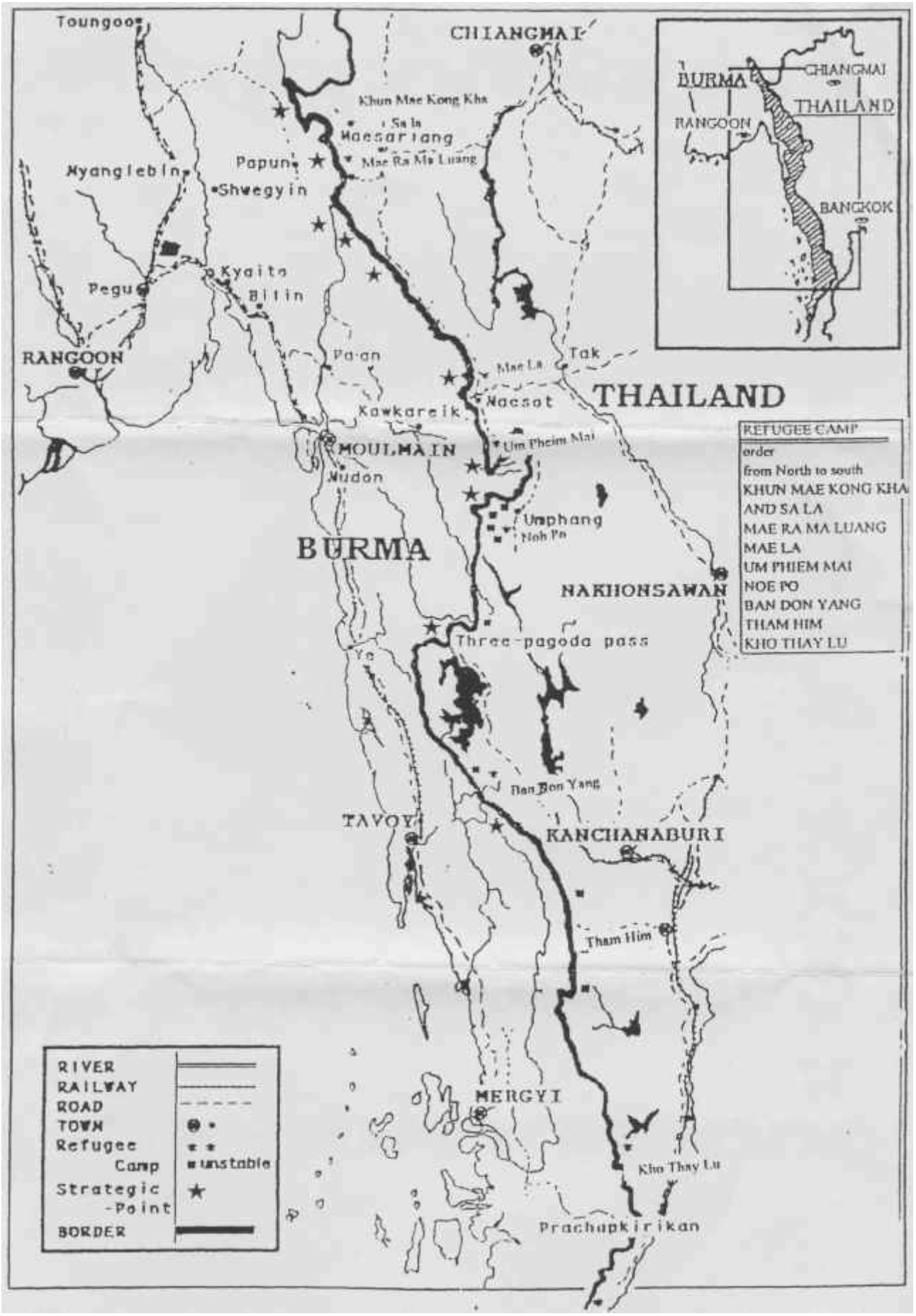
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2001


Toungoo
CHIANGMAI
Khun Mae Kong Kha
Sa la
Maesariang
Mae Ra Ma Luang
Papun
Myanglebin
Shwegyin
Kyaito
Pegu
Bilin
RANGOON
Pa-an
Mae La
Tak
THAILAND
Maesot
Kawkareik
MOULMAIN
Um Phiem Mai
Mudon
Umphang
Noh Po
BURMA
NAKHONSAWAN
Three-pagoda pass
Ye
Ban Don Yang
TAVOY
KANCHANABURI
Tham Him
MERGYI
Kho Thay Lu
Prachupkirikan
BURMA
CHIANGMAI
THAILAND
RANGOON
BANGKOK
REFUGEE CAMP
order
from North to south
KHUN MAE KONG KHA
AND SA LA
MAE RA MA LUANG
MAE LA
UM PHIEM MAI
NOE PO
BAN DON YANG
THAM HIM
KHO THAY LU
RIVER
RAILWAY
ROAD
TOWN
Refugee Camp
unstable
Strategic -Point
BORDER

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE
JANUARY, 2001

With January 2001, we have entered the new Era, the Twenty-first century, or as some would like to call it, the "Third Millennium". This New Century is barely one month old, when we are seeing change occurring world-wide.

We are seeing changes in the leadership in many countries. We see change in the leadership of the United State of America, where George W.Bush was elected as the 43rd President, through the slimmest of margin. Also, we are seeing changes in the leadership in Thailand, in the Philippines, and in Congo Kinshasa. In the Philippines, it's Peoples' Power that brought down President Joseph Estrada. He must have considered love of money and multiple women, Presidential Prerogatives. Joseph Estrada didn't learn from Marcos. By contrast, the exit of President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Cargo was through spilling of Blood. He was gunned down by his own bodyguard, which shows that there is always the threat to life, even from those who are trusted.

Another change that we will be seeing more and more is the change in world weather patterns. All evidences are that for many reasons, chiefly because of environmental destructions and unwise use of resources, the world is getting Warmer. World wide temperature is expected to rise by as much as 1.4 to 5.8 Celsius in the coming years. Sea level is expected to rise from 9 to 88 centimeters, posing great threats to low lying Cities and Coastal Regions.

Also, we will be seeing more changes brought on by Forces of Nature. Already, in this new Century, we have witnessed changes brought on by two destructive Earth-quakes, one in Central America, and another in Gujarat, India. Deaths and injuries are in the multiple of thousands. However, worldwide help is being generated on a scale very seldem seen, coming even from Pakistan, India's arch enemy.

India's Prime minister Has said that the country was very ill prepared to meet Natural disasters. It is questionable how much one can be prepared, seeing that Natural Forces are most unpredictable and the scale unfathomable.

In our Burma, there are perceptible movements towards change by the SPDC. It is generating interests not only for all the Peoples of Burma, but also International peoples and Groups as well.

The Military is meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi and the opposition. The Military is conceding, contrary to their previous stance, that HIV/AIDS is now becoming a threat on the National level. The Delegation from E.U has visited Burma and have had talks with the SPDC, Aung San Suu Kyi and the opposition. All this, after visits by U.N. Envoy Mr.Ismail Razali and Prime Minister Mahathir whose efforts can only be lauded and appreciated.

Change for the better in Burma is what all concerned is hoping for, althouglufor the moment the prevailing mood is Cautious Optimism.

For the Refugees in this Border Region, peace and harmony is what we all are hoping for and moves towards reconciliation is what shall always be welcomed. Ours is not a future that can be predicted, although, there can be no argument that we are having safe refuge in Thailand, together with undiminished concern, sympathy and support from many countries, groups and NGOS.

Meantime, in all probability, we'll be hearing more of "Another Election" which began with Dr.Mahathir, who, in his wisdom, feels that sometimes it is necessary to put "Non- interference" aside, where effort is needed to work for the Good of all corcerned.

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JANUARY .2001.

	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE SOT AREA	Mae La Camp	6,411	11,316	11,061	4,217	3,925	2,713	2,492	36,760
	Um Pheim Mai Camp	3,227	5,241	4,966	1,931	1,775	997	1,173	16,083
		9,638	**16,557**	**16,027**	**6,148**	**5,700**	**3,710**	**3,665**	**52,843**
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,490	2,913	2,535	549	504	1,151	1,119	8,771
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	2,160	4,222	3,892	988	889	1,497	1,426	12,914
		3,650	**7,135**	**6,427**	**1,537**	**1,393**	**2,648**	**2,545**	**21,685**
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,688	2,718	2,517	1,206	1,117	563	642	8,763
	Ban Don Yang	741	962	1,075	241	223	514	489	3,504
	Tham Him	1,664	2057	2053	1,403	1,381	668	636	8,198
	Kho Thay Lu	66	62	82	8	5	54	63	274
		4,159	**5,799**	**5,727**	**2,858**	**2,726**	**1,799**	**1,830**	**20,739**
	Grand Total	**17,447**	**29,491**	**28,181**	**10,543**	**9,819**	**8,157**	**8,040**	**95,267**

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	8,286	21,335	3,551	50,237	6,671	50,600	419,149
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 and Aid Groups for their Supports and Services.
BBC- Support in Food and Shelter Material and emergency Relief.
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 Support for Nursery, Orphans and Elderly.
COERR- Rice and Educational Support " for Orphans. Widows and Elderly.
CONSORTIUM- THAILAND.
H.I. Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation 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.
UNHCR- For Registration Process Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation.
BCEL- British commonwealth Ex- services League provide Grants to old WW(II) soldiers in refugee camps.