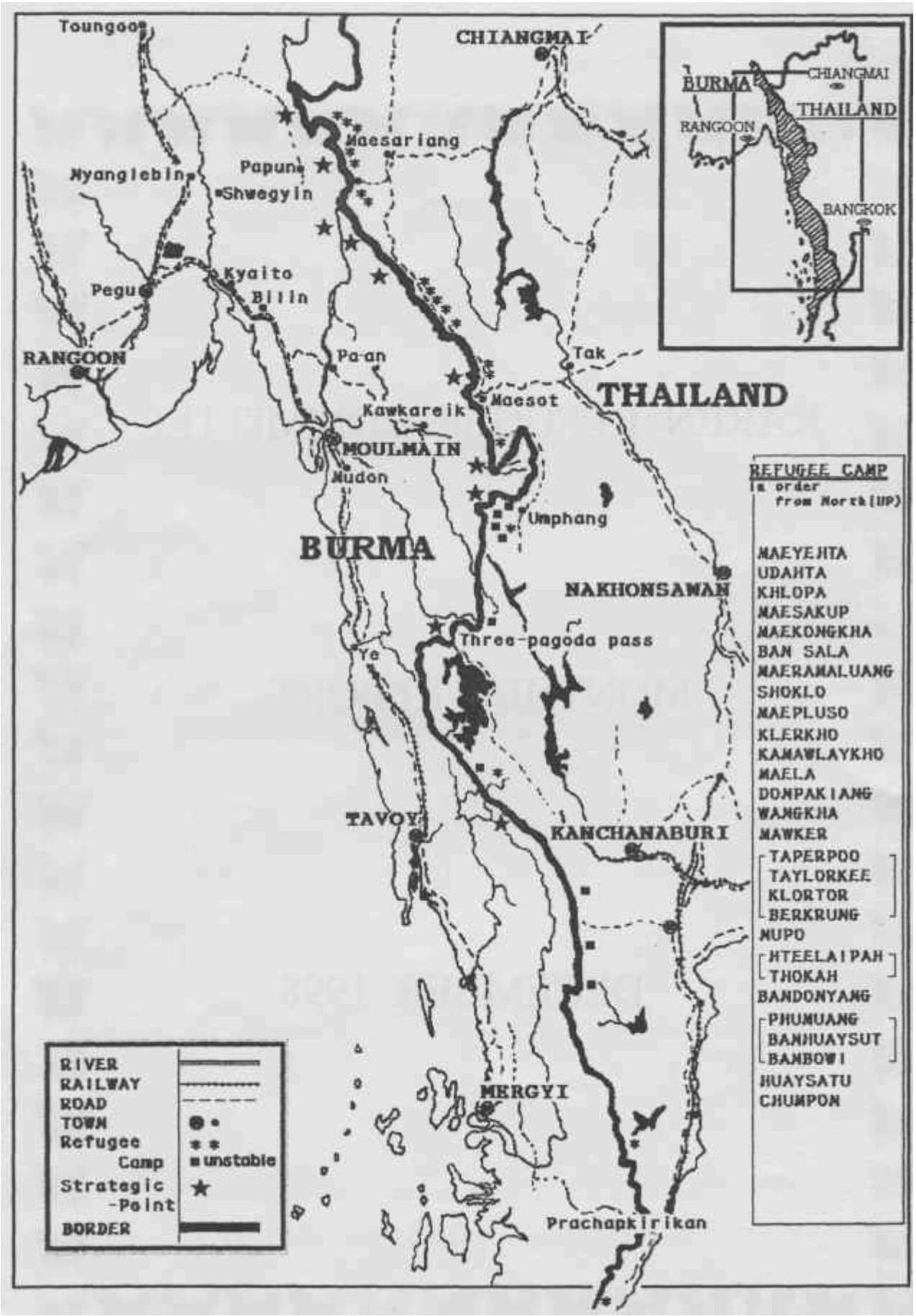
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1998


Toungoo
CHIANGMAI
Maesariang
Papun
Nyanglebin
Shwegyin
Kyaito
Pegu
Bilin
RANGOON
Pa-an
Tak
THAILAND
Maesot
Kawkareik
MOULMAIN
Mudon
Umphang
BURMA
NAKHONSAWAN
Three-pagoda pass
Ye
TAVOY
KANCHANABURI
MERGYI
Prachapkirikan
BURMA
CHIANGMAI
THAILAND
RANGOON
BANGKOK
RIVER
RAILWAY
ROAD
TOWN
Refugee Camp
unstable
Strategic -Point
BORDER
REFUGEE CAMP
in order from North (UP)
MAEYEHTA
UDAHTA
KHLOPA
MAESAKUP
MAEKONGKHA
BAN SALA
MAERAMALUANG
SHOKLO
MAEPLUSO
KLERKHO
KAMAWLAYKHO
MAELA
DONPAKIANG
WANGKHA
MAWKER
TAPERPOO
TAYLORKEE
KLORTOR
BERKRUNG
MUPO
HTEELAIPAH
THOKAH
BANDONYANG
PHUMUANG
BANHUAYSUT
BANBOWI
HUAYSATU
CHUMPON

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December is the month of Peace and Goodwill. It is the Time to look back and reflect on what good was being achieved.

This December also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Adoption by the then 58 United Nations Member Countries, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But to all indications, the year 1998 would not end with Peace & Goodwill for many people.

In fact the Year began will ill-will and Malice. There were bombings of Embassies and retaliatory strikes. There was parallel detonation of Nuclear devices by states citing security and self protection. There were actions by states, whereby Human Rights and dignity were put to neglect.

There are also other developments like attempts by states to procure weapons of Mass Destruction and counter actions to contain these measures: There was the decision to put new International Ballistic Missiles on combat Duty.

For the Refugees, the year began with attacks and burning of Sanctuary camps with blatant disregard for Human life. These acts were followed by consistent threats to camps which brought to bear severe stress and fear on the Refugee Population. Talks of relocating these vulnerable Camps to a more secure place is still in need of materializing.

Elsewhere, the relocation process of Refugees from Bangladesh to Burma is being stalled only after one month of resumption. In Burma with the open season, repressive measures together with wide scale forced labour is still going on unabated.

Yet, their is still room for optimism, as the UNHCR will be getting involved with the role of providing "Protection" for the Refugees. There is talk of relocating vulnerable Camps to a more secure place. Around the world, there are heartening developments like the Exits of men like Mobutu, Abacha and Suharto. There were efforts to bring to Justice, violaters of Human Rights.

Another encouraging development was when on the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, delegates from more than one hundred countries cheered the vote in Rome, to set up a permanent International Court to try War Crimes and Genocide.

Summing up, we have every reason to thank the people and the Government of Thailand, in this Season of Good will, for their patience, sympathy and understanding . Gratitude is also especially due to the Non-Governmental Organizations, Aid Groups and Individuals, who spared no effort to help see to our needs, material or otherwise.

So with Year's end, we wish Peace, Goodwill & Prosperity to all for the coming New Year.

Karen Refugee Committee.
Mae Sot.

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS DECEMBER 1998.

	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE SOT AREA	Wang Kha (Huay Ka Lok)	1,622	2,955	2,732	439	432	954	939	8451
	Mae La Student	5,084	10,805	9,869	1,875	1,698	3,728	3,395	31,370 310
	Maw Ker	1,391	3,000	2,611	394	361	1,078	1,035	8,479
		8,097	16,760	15,212	2,708	2,491	5,760	5,369	48,610
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,213	2,561	2,089	573	523	784	738	7,268
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1,680	3,703	3,161	1,184	1,022	677	601	10,348
		2,893	6,264	5,250	1,757	1,545	1,461	1,339	17,616
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,587	3,030	2,489	752	696	925	925	8,817
	Ban Don Yang	350	465	499	272	234	102	88	1,660
	Tham Him	1,672	2,335	2,373	1,037	1,017	737	789	8,297
	Kho Thay Lu	70	77	85	22	16	36	44	280
		3,679	5,907	5,446	2,083	1,963	1,800	1,855	19,054
	Grand Total	14,669	28,931	25,908	6,548	5,999	9,021	8,563	84,970

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

FROM	Rice 100 kg sacks	Salt Kgs.	F-Paste 15 Kg tins.	Yellow Bean Kgs.	Oil Liters bottles	Chilies Kgs.	Blanket Pcs.	Net Pcs.	Plastic Mat Pcs.	Plastic Sheeting Pcs.	Cooking Pot Pcs.	Cooking Fuel Kgs.
BBC	7,477	19,550	3,269	68,640	46,104	-	25	-	-	-	-	270,240
BBC.(1)	2,705	7,050	669	24,480	16,392	3,510	-	-	-	-	-	96,480
BBC(2)	457	1,200	196	4,200	-	-	130	165	130	160	120	-
COERR	350											

(1) Nu Po Camp for the month of December 98 & January 99.
(2) To Nong Bua in Tha Song Yang district.

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED.

CAMP	ITEMS								
	Rice	Salt	F-Paste	Yellow Bean	Blanket Pcs.	Mosquito Net	Chilies	Cooking Oil	Cooking Fuel
WangKha	1,320	3,350	562	11,760	-	-		7,920	46,350
Mae La	5,147	12,750	2,131	44,760	-	-		30,048	177,000
Maw Ker	1,320	3,400	568	11,940	-	-		8,016	46,890
Noh Poe*	2,705	7,050	669	24,480			3,510	16,392	96,480
KRC/ MSF	20	50	8	180	MSF 25	_		120	-

* Supplies for the months of December 1998 & January 1999.