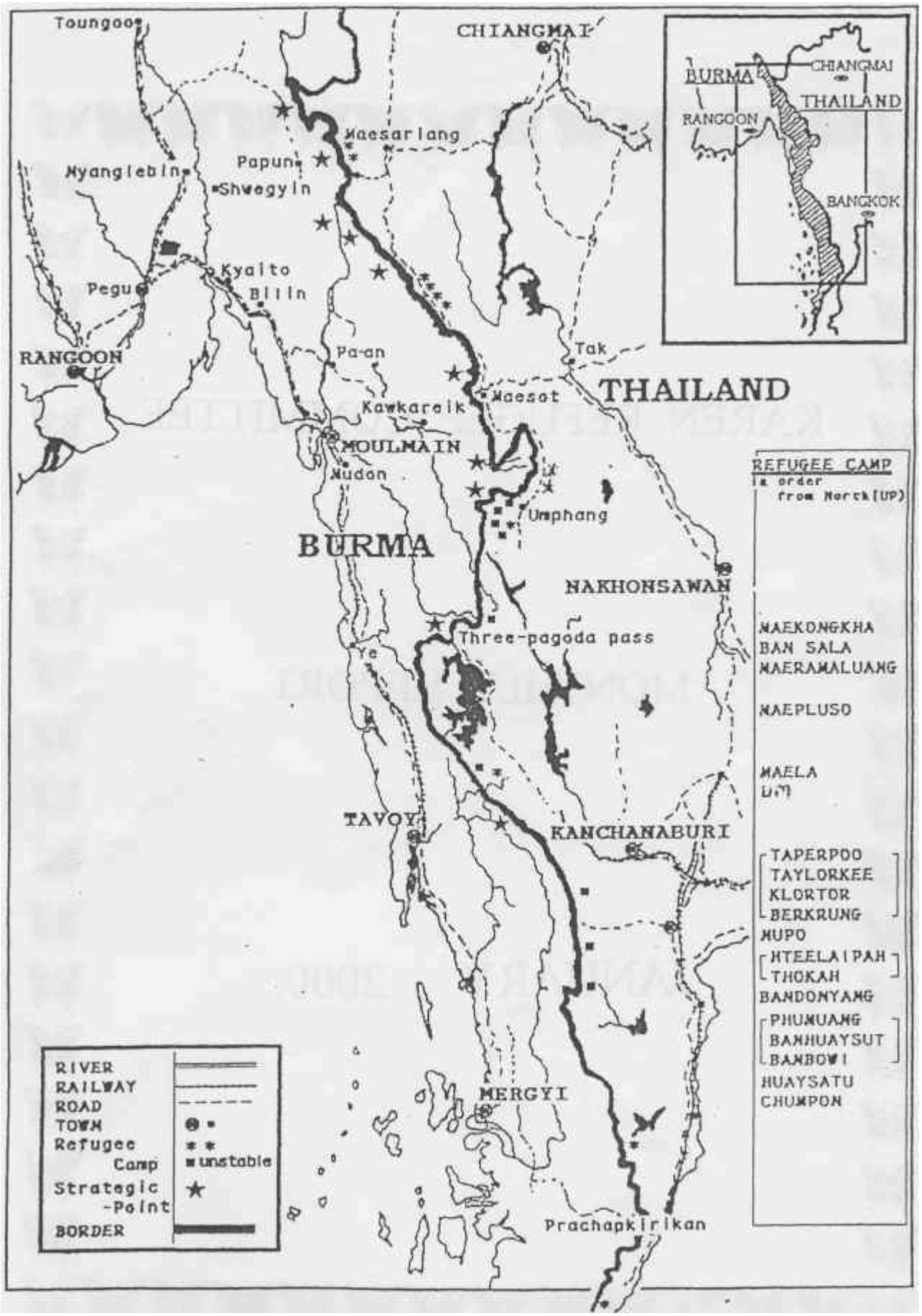
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2000.


Toungoo
CHIANGMAI
BURMA
CHIANGMAI
THAILAND
RANGOON
BANGKOK
Maesarlang
Papun
Myanglebin
Shwegyin
Kyaito
Pegu
Bilin
RANGOON
Pa-an
Tak
THAILAND
Maesot
Kawkareik
MOULMAIN
Mudan
Umphang
BURMA
NAKHONSAWAN
Three-pagoda pass
Ye
TAVOY
KANCHANABURI
MERGYI
Prachapkirikan
RIVER
RAILWAY
ROAD
TOWN
Refugee Camp
unstable
Strategic -Point
BORDER
REFUGEE CAMP
in order from North (UP)
MAEKONGKHA
BAN SALA
MAERAMALUANG
MAEPLUSO
MAELA
UM
TAPERPOO
TAYLORKEE
KLORTOR
BERKRUNG
MUPO
HTEELAIPAH
THOKAH
BANDONYANG
PHUMUANG
BANHUAYSUT
BANBOWI
HUAYSATU
CHUMPON

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE.
JANUARY 2000.

With January of 2000 AD we have entered the last year of the 20th Century, which many of us have been expecting with some trepidation. The year 1999 had been a bad year, as well as being a good one, with numerous setbacks, but with many advances in terms of technological achievements.

For us Karen Refugees, it is the passing of one more year of refugee life, getting older by one year, and yet knowing nothing about the immediate future.

Now, there's change in the K.N.U . Leadership, and with that there is expectation of change for the better for the Karen Community. But, indeed, change, if it ever were to come, need come from within the country, for the root cause is with the long, drawn-out stalemate inside of Burma. With the Military in Burma, firmly committed to holding on to power, imposing their will on the people , with little likelihood of" sharing ", it seems unlikely that we may see change in the foreseeable future. Even unto this day, we are seeing streams of displaced people from inside the border, trying to cross over to seek refuge or to find escape from the miserable life inside Burma. It is shocking to learn that basic food, as such provided by the N.G. Os for refugees in camps is much better than what the ordinary hard working people in Burma can hope to procure.

Lately, we have seen expressions of grievances, borne out of frustration and desperation, in ways that can only be called contentious . There was the siege of the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok, which fortunately ended without bloodshed. Then there was the occupation and taking of hostages at the hospital in Ratchaburi, which ultimately ended in violence and deaths. Resorting to arms and endangering innocent lives is not the right way, nor the only way for addressing problems. Condoning violence may tend to lead to further violence, which rational must have forced authoritative action. Sad to say, the end result of the episode at Ratchaburi, was the needless loss of young lives, which otherwise channeled could well benefit the community as a whole.

Now, as we stand on the verge of the 21st Century, there are more than enough of problems to address, if we earthlings are to survive at all. Reports around the world are not much encouraging. The world's population has gone over the Six Billion mark, with one Billion living in abject poverty. Another two billion more people will be added in the next twenty five years adding to the already existing woes. The world's forests are depleting and her natural resources dwindling. Even life giving water, once thought to be inexhaustible will become a scarce commodity. There will be great climatic changes and natural disasters to cope with. At the same time the scourge of AIDS and yet other diseases will be threatening mankind. And men will still be killing each other for "possession".

With that kind of scenario, we will be entering the New Millennium. It is time to ponder and reflect. However, Man, with his inherent survival instincts, may still find ways to overcome.

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS JANUARY 2000.

	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE SOT AREA	Um Phiem (Zone A)	1694	2936	2791	995	894	447	629	8692
	Um Phiem (Zone B)	1415	2151	2071	348	362	1016	904	6852
	Mae La	5835	10780	13023	1885	1825	4002	3712	35745
NORTH		8944	15867	17885	3228	3081	5465	5245	51289
	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1307	2675	2325	529	485	933	917	7864
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1892	3663	3391	881	776	1276	1267	11254
		3199	6338	5716	1410	1261	2209	2184	19118
SOUTH	Noh Po	1605	2645	2474	1097	1027	549	577	8369
	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
		3380	5596	5537	2283	2178	1595	1662	18851
	Grand Total	15523	27801	29138	6921	6520	9269	9091	89258

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

FROM	Rice 100kg sacks	Salt Kilos	F- paste 16 kg tins	Yellow Bean Kilos	BL	Mat	Mosquite Net Pcs	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil 13.75 liter tins	Cooking Fuel Kg.
B B C	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 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.