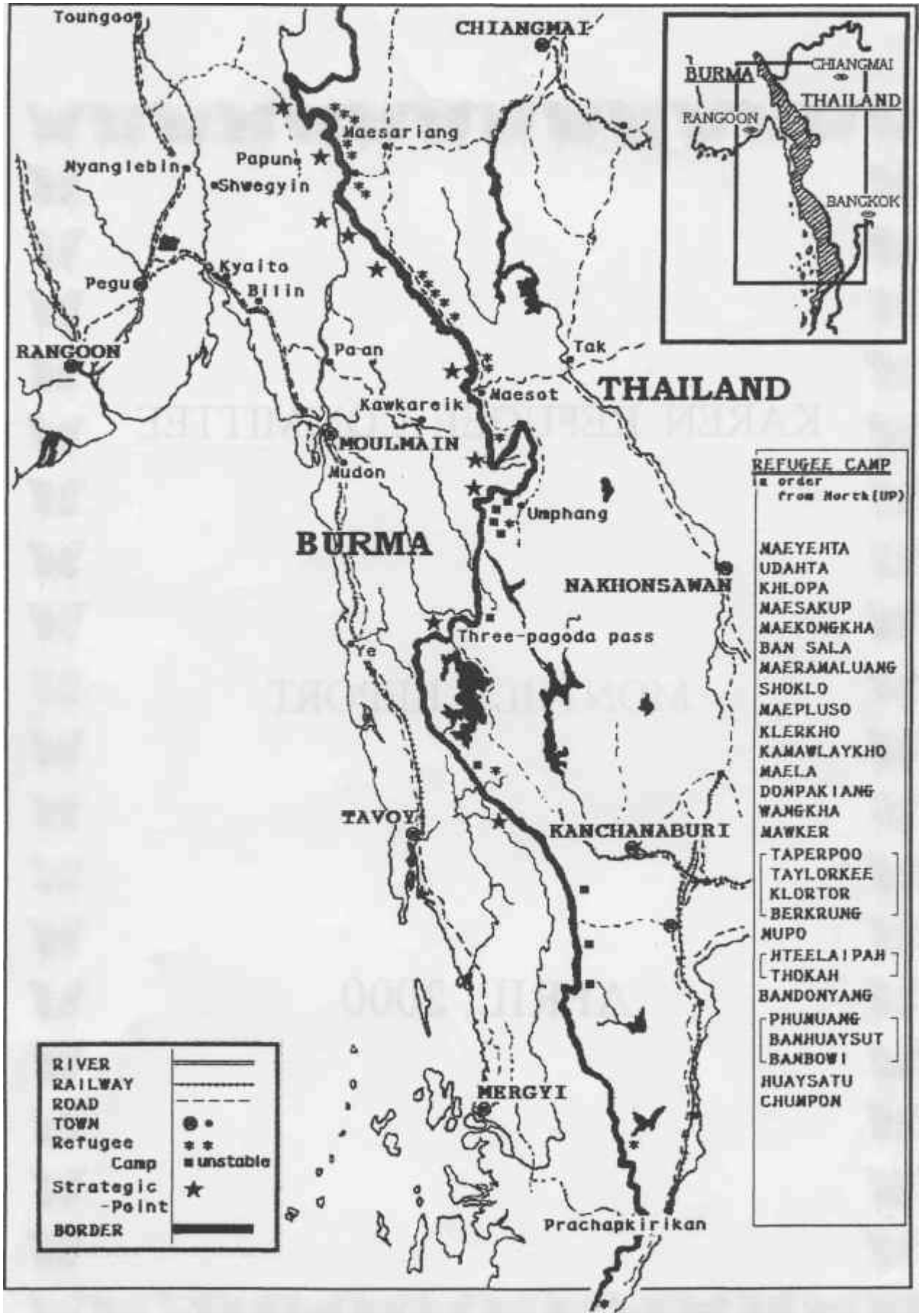
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL, 2000


Toungoo
CHIANGMAI
Maesariang
Papun
Nyanglebin
Shwegyin
Pegu
Kyaito
Bilin
RANGOON
Pa-an
Tak
THAILAND
Kawkareik
Maesot
MOULMAIN
Mudon
Umphang
BURMA
NAKHONSAWAN
Three-pagoda pass
Ye
TAVOY
KANCHANABURI
MERGYI
Prachapkirikan
BURMA
CHIANGMAI
THAILAND
RANGOON
BANGKOK
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
RIVER
RAILWAY
ROAD
TOWN
Refugee Camp
unstable
Strategic -Point
BORDER

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In the Buddhist Calendar, April is the month when the old year gives way to the New Year.

The occasion is celebrated by the Water Festival when people throw water on each other to show friendship and goodwill. There are also merit making to usher in good luck with the New Year. Young boys are novitiated. Old people are showed veneration by being washed or bathed. There is merry making. Many people take time to meditate or make amends to cleanse themselves of past misdeeds.

For the Refugee Buddhist community, it's "Thin Gyan" with limited merry making or water throwing. Many find it beyond their means to have their sons novitiated. Still, the New Year was greeted with much happiness and goodwill. Man it seems is resilient enough to enjoy life even when in peril or in dire need of comfort.

Talking of peril, people need to be reminded that there are worrying signs around the world which ought not to be neglected. The severe cold in Mongolia the recent terrible floods in South East Africa, the severe droughts in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) and West India which killed millions of support animals, that are the mainstay of the people and where millions of people are threatened with famine . There is also the report of the danger posed to crops by a hundred billion locusts in South and East Australia.

As for the Thai / Burma Border Area we see a lot of activation by the Burmese Military, which resulted in displacement of border villages and thousands of displaced people crossing into Thailand to seek temporary refugee . This created a huge burden for the Authorities and concerned people. There is also the problem of Narcotic Drugs trafficking and usage which is of alarming proportions

In Burma itself there is yet another move by the Military to restore its image. Beginning this month, salaries of workers is rumored to be raised by five -fold, which is quite unprecedented, anywhere. But the fact is that people are rather skeptical of the ways, the economy is being handled, as most have had experience with the "Burmese Way to socialism" Economy. Already, there are signs that another spiral of inflation is beginning. For the common people, its just another case of "Phin Ma Naing, Peh Gyi Hin Sar" which would mean initiating what one cannot contain. And still, the SPDC is alienating itself by arresting 40 opposition NLD members and this was done during Thin Gyan , the time of Goodwill. Some people really enjoy playing the Bad- guy role.

On a happier note, this April 28th is the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Thailand's beloved King and Queen. We, together with all Refugees join in happiness to wish Their Majesties, Long Life and Happy Anniversaries for many years to come.

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS APRIL 2000.

	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	5,825	10,770	10,315	1,885	1,824	4,113	3,798	33,223
	Um Pheim Mai Camp	3,103	5,205	4,946	1,399	1,283	1,370	1,505	15,708
		8,938	15,975	15,261	3,284	3,107	5,483	5,303	48,931
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,446	2,738	2,394	555	501	954	969	8,164
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1,983	3,801	3,529	857	731	1,420	1,414	11,752
		3,429	6,539	5,923	1,412	1,232	2,374	2,383	19,916
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,677	2,737	2,554	1,128	1,049	'572	605	8,645
	Ban Don Yang	417	558	605	142	129	306	271	2,011
	Tham Him	1,654	2,339	2,381	1,037	1,017	680	745	8,199
	Kho Thay Lu	*66*	62	82	8	5	54	63	274
		3,814	5,696	5,622	2,315	2,200	1,612	1,684	19,129
	Grand Total	16,181	28,210	26,806	7,011	6,539	9,469	9,370	87,976

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.
B.B.C							
COERR							

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 supported with remuneration for KRC members and workers.