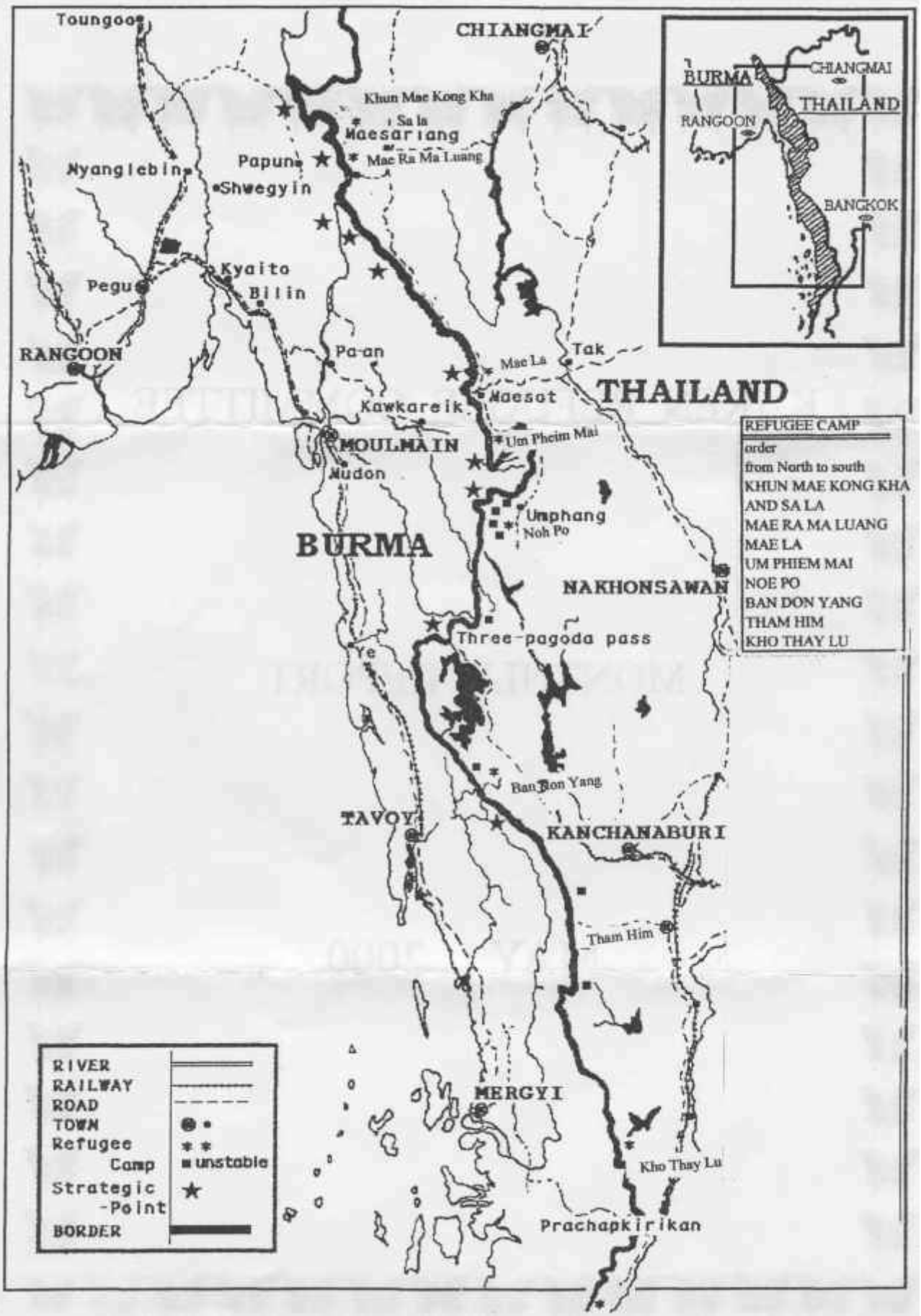
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2000


Toungoo
CHIANGMAI
Khun Mae Kong Kha
Sa la
Maesariang
Mae Ra Ma Luang
Papun
Nyanglebin
Shwegyin
Kyaito
Pegu
Bilin
RANGOON
Pa-an
Mae La
Tak
THAILAND
Maesot
Kawkareik
MOULMAIN
Um Pheim Mai
Mudon
Umphang
Noh Po
BURMA
NAKHONSAWAN
Three-pagoda pass
Ye
Ban Don Yang
TAVOY
KANCHANABURI
Tham Him
MERGYI
Kho Thay Lu
Prachapkirikan
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
MONTHLY REPORT.
MAY, 2000

May 1st is Worker's Day. The Day is being commemorated by worker's around the world to show Solidarity. This year, workers in many countries demonstrated, calling for worker's Rights and Privileges. The ILO, which speaks for workers around the world, is calling for observence of worker's Rights in many countries, where workers are being made to work forcefully. Especially targeted is Burma, where abuse of worker's Rights is interpreted by the Military as Voluntary Labour for the Good of the Nation. Calls to remedy such infringements on workers Rights has fallen on Deaf Ears,

World-wide, worker's plight is increasing, rather than decreasing. We hear of rising unemployment figures in many countries. We hear of people loosing jobs and having difficulty finding new jobs, We hear of farmers without land or without facilities for cultivation. We hear of many people out of jobs due to dissolution of companies and work infra structures. We see many work people involved in contention and fighting, on grounds of Polities, Ethnicity, Religion or land possession. And many people in need of work are involving themselves in Narcoties Drugs production, trafficking and distribution to such an extent that it has become a menace to Humanity itself.

In India, the population of the country topped one Billion in this month of May. Which is a reminder that the world's Population will be increased by Two More Billions in a matter of 2 to 3 decades. This is ample warning as the world is already having trouble coping with needs of its present Six Billion people. The thought of more people having to face scarcity of Resources and intensification of Disease Infections will bring little comfort. On top of that we hear of severe weather affectations such as droughts and floods in differing parts of the world.

In Burma, May 27th is the Day for many people to remember. On that Day in 1990, the opposition NLD won a landslide Election victory, but which the Military Junta failed to recognise and uphold. On the 10th Anniversary of that Election, the illegitimate Military Junta is still holding on to power.

For the Refugees though, the talk of the moment is Repatriation, which is targetted for completion within Three years. But what is paramount is change for the better inside Burma. With the Military still intransigent and in no mood to relinquish Power, it seems that Repatriation, if it were to be accomplished can only be "Forced Repatriation". For all indications are that, the situation inside is still not conducive to peaceful and harmonious co-existence.

However, if hopes can be realised and ways can be found towards achievement of normalcy in Burma, it will be to the benefit of all.

The fall of Mobutu, Suharto and other Despots are signs that will surely influence reflections on the part of people trying to hold on to power that doesn't belong to them.

P.O Box 5, Mae Sot, Tak 63110, Thailand
E-mail win3@loxinfo.co.th
Tel : (055) Intl: + 66 55 532 947.
Fax : (055) Intl: + 66 55 546 869.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS MAY 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	5,964	10,958	10,505	1,925	1862	4220	3,902	33,890
	Um Pheim Mai Camp	3,103	5,202	4,946	1,399	1,283	1,386	1,513	15,729
		9,067	16,160	15,451	3,324	3,145	5,606	5,415	49,619
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,331	2,721	2,365	553	505	974	943	8,061
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	1,983	3,801	3,529	857	731	1,420	1,414	11,752
		3,314	6,522	5,894	1,410	1,236	2,394	2,357	19,813
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,696	2,746	2,582	1,233	1,131	488	556	8,736
	Ban Don Yang	659	895	1024	241	214	491	458	3323
	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
		4,111	6,042	6,069	2,519	2,367	1,713	1,822	20,532
	Grand Total	16,492	28,724	27,414	7,253	6,748	9,713	9,594	89,964

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	7,258	19,600	3,263	49,035	6,126	45,569	337,313
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 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.
HX 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.
UNHCR- For Registration Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation.