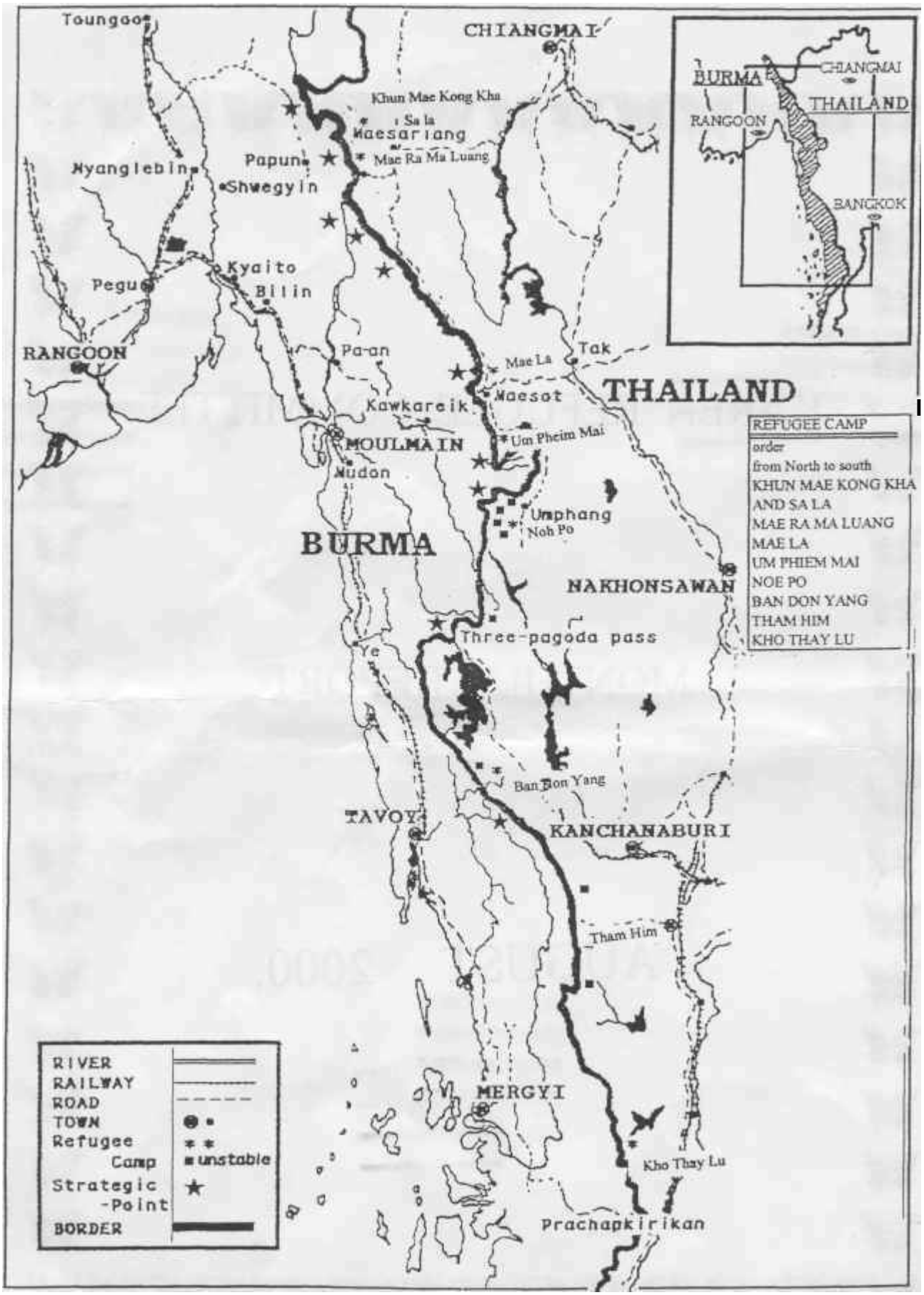
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 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
Ban Don Yang
TAVOY
KANCHANABURI
Tham Him
MERGYI
Kho Thay Lu
Prachapkirikan
RIVER
RAILWAY
ROAD
TOWN
Refugee Camp
unstable
Strategic -Point
BORDER
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

KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT.
AUGUST, 2000

With August , we have come round again to the Month, remarkable for destructive explosions, man made or otherwise. There was the Volcanic explosion of Mount Vesuvius on August 24th in AD-79 - which buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum under fiery rock, ash and Lava . killing thousands. There was the Massive eruption of Mount Krakatao in the East Indies (Indonesia) on August 26-28 in year 1883, which killed an estimated 36,000 people. This was the most powerful Volcanic eruption on record.

The earthquake at Aleppo, Syria on August 9th 1138, claimed the lives of 230,000 people. On August 15th 1950, a huge earthquake affected 30,000 square miles in Assam, India, where 30,000 people are believed to be killed . As recently as August 17th 1999, a strong earthquake devastated Northwest Turkey, killing 15,000 and left over 200,000 people homeless.

This month, we are hearing of a series of devastating wind storms, rain-floods, droughts and big forest fires affecting different parts of the world on a more wider and intensive scale. There was also a passing note that scientists aboard a Russian Icebreaker, happened to discover a one kilometer-wide ice free patch of water at the North Pole. This led them to believe that the ice Cap over the top of the world has melted, for the first time in 50 million Years. Together with the report that the Antarctic Icesheet has become thinner, it could mean only that Global warming has become a reality. The harmful effect of this " Warming" is still a matter of conjecture.

As for man made explosions, most memorable would be the dropping of two atomic - Bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 near the end of World War two. Death and destruction was on a scale, never before witnessed. Man had come to possess the ultimate weapon of destruction.

For us people from Burma, most unforgettable would be the explosion of sentiment in 8-8- 88, the Four Eights Agitation of the Common People , against the repressive One Party Rule. This was brutally suppressed by the SLORC Military Junta. On the 12th Anniversary of the incident, we are still seeing the Junta, very much in Power and in no mood to accept change for the better. Around the world, this month, we are hearing of incidents vying for Big Media Attention. The Russian Nuclear submarine KURSK, the burning of the Moscow, TV Tower, the crash of the Concorde and Gulf airplanes, the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis.

But, for us, its the stand-off on the outskirts of Rangoon between the Lady and the Generals. It is strange to see, that the Mighty Military is very much in fear of a frail, outspoken Champion of Democracy, whose only fault was to speak out for the good of the People and the country. The stand off, which began as a minor incident, has now become an International Issue with many Nations and Groups castigating the SPDC for its inhuman action. Meanwhile, this month, moves are being made to put once powerful Despots on Trial- man like Suharto, Pinochet and Ta Mok. It is comical to see these people squirming in their seats when it is their turn to get the Treatment. And they are demanding pity from the People , whom they once mistreated.

Elsewhere, a thousand Religious Leaders are gathering at the U.N in New York for the World Millennium Peace Conference. But most noticeable will be the absence of the Dalai Lama , whose exclusion will be questioned by many around the world.

On a happier note, though, this month, Thailand celebrates the 68th Birthday of their beloved Queen. Together with the people of Thailand, we wish Her Majesty, a very Happy Birthday, and for many Happier Birthdays to come .

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 AUGUST 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	5,956	10,794	10,401	1,921	1,856	4,323	3,996	34,327
	Um Pheim Mai Camp	3,085	5,124	4,863	1,391	1,273	1,395	1,541	15,587
		9041	15,918	15,264	3,312	3,129	5,718	5,537	49,914
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,474	2,909	2,547	563	501	1,108	1,046	8,674
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	2,135	4,150	3,828	924	827	1,573	1,469	12,771
		3,609	7,059	6,375	1,487	1,328	2,681	2,515	21,445
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,705	2,768	2,568	1,233	1,129	519	596	8,813
	Ban Don Yang	714	928	1,047	235	217	489	469	3,385
	Tham Him	1,694	727	656	1,304	1,335	1,892	2,154	8,068
	Kho Thay Lu	*66*	62	82	8	5	54	63	274
		4,179	4,485	4,353	2,780	2,686	2,954	3,282	20,540
	Grand Total	16,829	27,462	25,992	7,579	7,143	11,353	11,334	91,899

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	7,358	19,952	3,306	49,680	6,117	46,159	340,366
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.
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.
UNHCR- For Registration Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation.