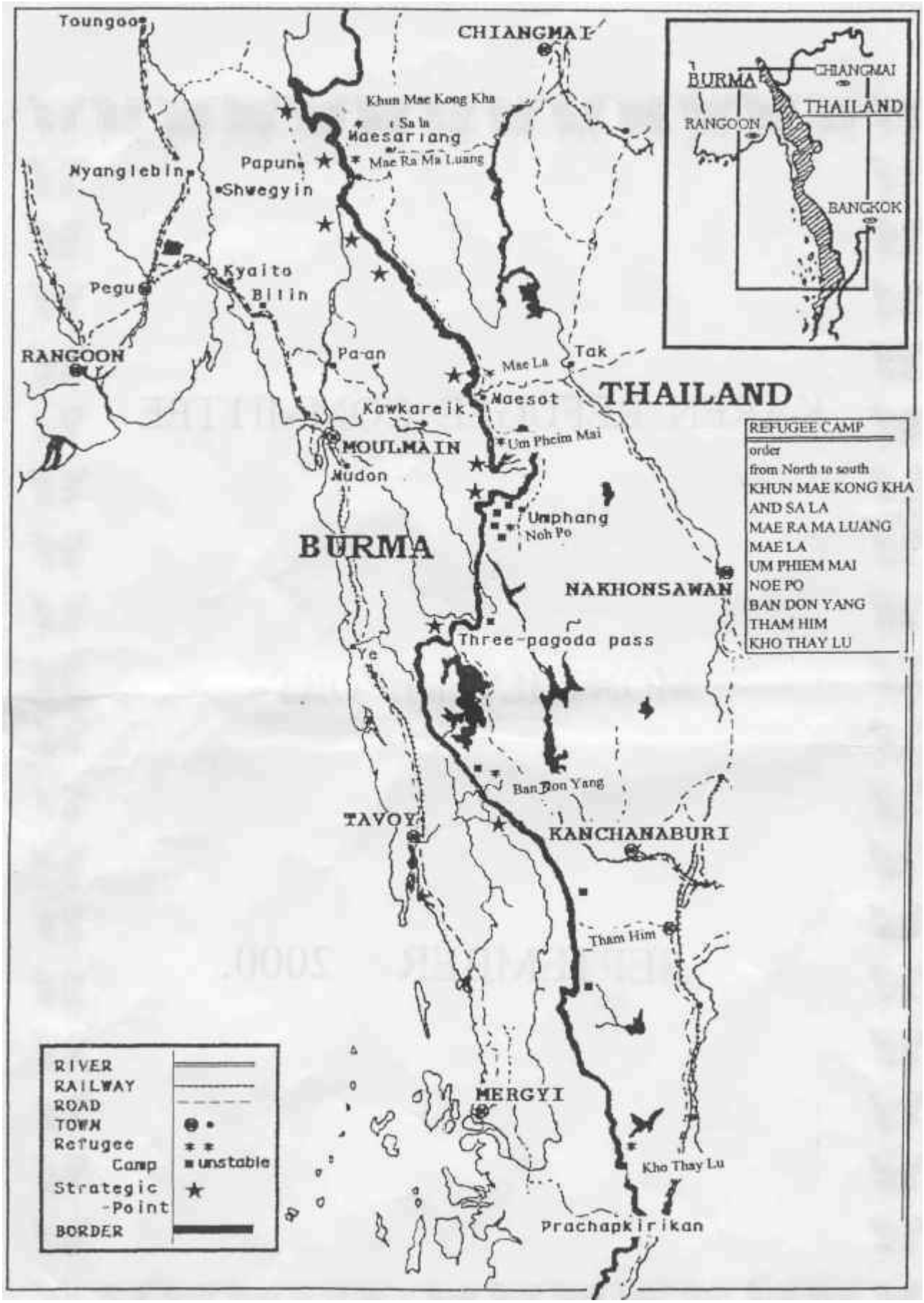
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 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 Phcim 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

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In September of 1812 , Napoleon, with his Grande Armee of 453000 men launched the Big Military offensive, to crush Russia, once and for all. Moscow was captured. But the "Scorched Earth" Policy adopted by the Russians and the onset of winter Forced Napoleon to withdrew. Much of the Grande Armee was lost. It was the beginning of the end for Napoleon.
In September 1939, Hitler made the move to attack and occupy Poland. That made Britain and France to declare War on Germany, ushering in World War II . The result was destruction, death and suffering on a scale never before encountered. Also in September 1942, the German Army launched the great offensive in the attempt to subjugate Russia. The combined efforts of the Russian People and "Mother Winter" put a stop to that attempt. That was the beginning of the end for Hitler . Hitler didn't learn from Napoleon.

In Burma, this September, its the continuation of another stand-off between Daw Aung San Su Kyi and the Military at Da La. They were forcibly taken back to Rangoon and placed virtually under House arrest. World Leaders, including the UN secretary General, President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair deplored and objected to the handling of the affair by the SPDC. The SPDC relented and removed restriction on the NLD: Not long afterwards the NLD Leadership, challenged the SPDC again by attempting to go to Mandalay. This attempt met with the same forced sending back and placing under House Arrest.

This September 18th is the 12th Anniversary of the SLORC military takeover following the Four Eights Agitation, which was most memorable for the exhortation by Ne Win, that when the Army shoots, it shoots straight. The Army did shoot straight, resulting in thousands of Civilian deaths, including school children.

The Military, which had taken over power, promised to "Return to Barracks" after a free and fair election. Elections, which was held in May of 1990 resulted in the people showing their dislike of the Military by voting overwhelmingly for the NLD , led by Daw Aung San Su Kyi . The Military simply reneged on their promise and refused to recognise the Election Results, holding onto illegal power unto this day. For them, breaking promises is nothing to be shameful about.

Around the World, we are still seeing a lot of threats to Peace and Stability, from Man, Nature or otherwise. There is still contentious activations in Indonesia, Timor, the Philippines, the Middle East, West Africa. A City has also become the focus of contention . Then there is the world-wide menace of Disease and Narcotic Drugs . There is the rising oil price resulting from Man's over dependence on the resource that is surely exhaustible. And still we are hearing of great devastations by Rain/Floods in India, Bangla Desh, Cambodia, and Vietnam , which are sure to be followed by lunger and diseases, adding to World-Wide instability. Of late, reports say that over 20 million people are being affected by this Flood, said to be the worst in decades.

This September is also the month of the 27th Olympic Games. The First Olympic Game recorded was held in Greece in 776. B.C. But the Modern Olympic Games, which was started in 1896 in Athens, was the result of the devotion of a Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. This Years' Olympics in Sydney, Australia was being participated by 199 Nations where North and South Korea took part as one team. Sad to say, Burma, once, an athletic power in South East Asia, can send only seven athletes, reflecting the sorrowful state of the country, whose athletes have little hope of achieving whatsoever.

As for the Refugees, along this Thai Burma Border Region, its still facing the uncertainly of the future, pending change for the better. Yet, to all appearances, conditions are far from being conducive to "Safe Return".

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS SEPTEMBER 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	6,522	11,480	11,236	2,062	1,969	4,711	4,376	36,870
	Um Pheim Mai Camp	3,208	5,246	4,967	1,908	1,732	956	1,152	15,961
		9,730	16,725	16,203	3,970	3,701	5,667	5,528	52,831
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,475	2,912	2,547	562	499	1,112	1,057	8,689
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	2,136	4,152	3,830	920	824	1,582	1,479	12,787
		3,611	7,064	6,377	1,482	1,323	2,694	2,536	21,476
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,712	2,782	2,574	1,224	1,128	526	608	8,842
	Ban Don Yang	735	957	1,072	241	223	508	482	3,483
	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
		4,207	4,528	4,384	2,777	2,691	2,980	3,307	20,667
	Grand Total	17,548	28,317	26,964	8,229	7,715	11,341	11,371	94,974

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.
BBC	7,715	19,842	3,308	48,790	6,202	46,408	376,335
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 (ABW Aid)- 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. \