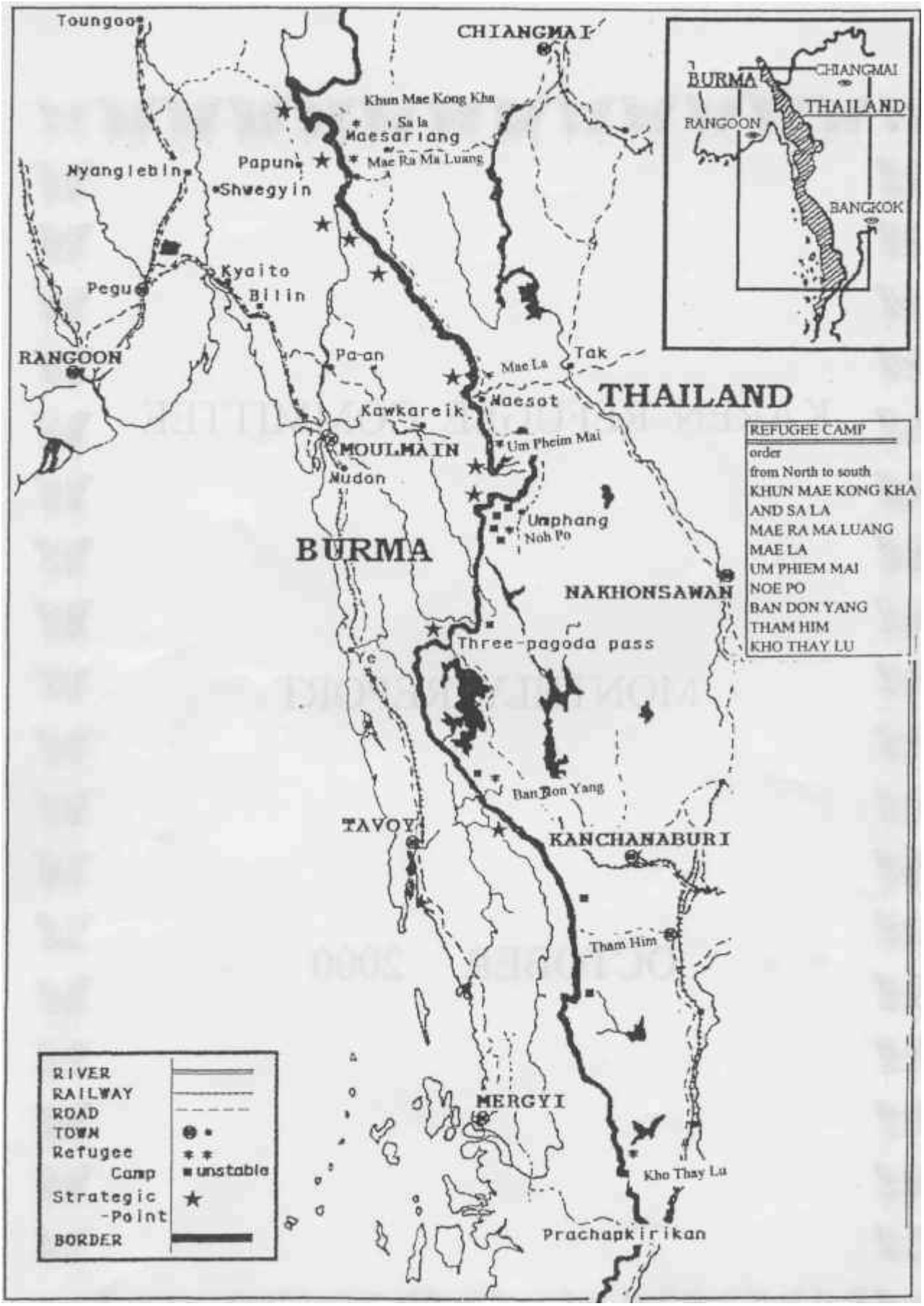
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 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
Um Pheim Mai
MOULMAIN
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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Christopher Columbus discovered America in October 1492, which event was followed by great movements of people from the Old to the New World. In the Americas, October 12th was commemorated as "Columbus Day" with great festivities. But the events would not be joyful occasions for the original Peoples of the Americas.

In Russia the 1917 October Revolution brought Absolute Power to Lenin and the Communist Party and which resulted in the emergence of the Soviet Union as a World Power. The USSR, manifests that power by detonating a 50 Megaton Nuclear Bomb on October 29th 1961. It was recorded as the most powerful man made explosion ever. If used over a populated place, the damage would be most unimaginable.

In China, the October 1911 movement brought the Manchu Dynasty to an end, with Dr. Sun Yat Sen, aspiring to the presidency of the United Provinces of China. Then after the end of World World II, on October 1st 1949, the Communist Peoples Republic of China was formally proclaimed by Chairman Mao Tse Tung, after the Kuomintang Government of General Chang Kai Shek Capitulated and fled to Taiwan. Unto this day there is still great tension between Taiwan and Mainland China, which may intensify and flare up at any movent, threatening World Peace and stability. Together with the Korean, Palestine and Kashmir Issues, it is one of the World's longest unresolved source of conflict.

This month is the 27th Anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, the biggest Arab-Israeli fighting which began on October 6th 1973. This regional conflict is still continuing unto this day , with both the Palestinians and Israelis, claiming Jerusalem as their own. We are seeing clashes and skirmishes. We see the suicide bomb attack by a young Palestinian, which may prove to be an ominous event, with more attacks and retaliations to follow. It can be considered one, long drawn out chapter, in the Middle -East conflict.

Elsewhere, we are seeing many countries facing the onslaught of Natural forces. We hear of severe Rain Storms and Floods in India, Bangla Desh the Philippines and the Mekong Delta Region. Even Rain Storms are affecting large areas in North - West Europe which is quite unusual . At the same time we hear of threats of famine in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, due to severe droughts. The region has seen no rain for many months. With evidence that the Aral Sea is drying up , wider regional affectations are expected.

But, this month we also see developments that can be very positive. We see successful attempts at reconciliation and rapprochement in the Korean Peninsula. We see the fall of Despots like Milosevic of Yugoslavia and General Robert Guie of the Ivory Coast.

In Burma we see some relenting measures by the Military in the release of some aging political prisoners and the Rights Activist, James Mawdsley . The visits of Mr. Razali, Ms. Ogata and the ILO Delegation may have something to do with it. However, we still hear of conflicts and skirmishes in the Border Region with people attempting to cross over to seek refuge, which indication would be that safe repatriation is still a remote possibility.

So, for the Refugees, its looking forward to the Day of change for the better. Having gone through the horrors of Conflict, the terror of Military Repression and the pain of deprivation, it is our fervent hope to see the day of reconciliation and peace and safe return for us becoming a reality. Only then will we be able to stand up on Level ground and say "thank You" to all our benefactors.

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS OCTOBER 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	11,476	11,235	2,062	1,969	4,756	4,407	36,941
	Um Pheim Mai Camp	3,208	5,246	4,967	1,908	1,732	956	1,152	15,961
		9,730	16,722	16,202	3,970	3,701	5,712	5,559	•52,902
NORTH	Mae Ra Ma Luang	1,478	2,904	2,543	552	496	1,121	1,073	8,689
	Khun Mae Kong Kha And Sa La	2,139	4,159	3,837	919	824	1,597	1,493	12,829
		3,617	7,063	6,380	1,471	1,320	2,718	2,566	21,518
S O U T H	Noh Po	1,712	2,758	2,557	1,222	1,126	541	619	8,823
	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	4,504	4,367	2,775	2,689	2,995	3,318	20,648
	Grand Total	**17,554**	**28,289**	**26,949**	**8,216**	**7,710**	**11,425**	**11,443**	**95,068**

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	8,222	21,216	3,532	50,032	6,630	49,318	400,766
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.