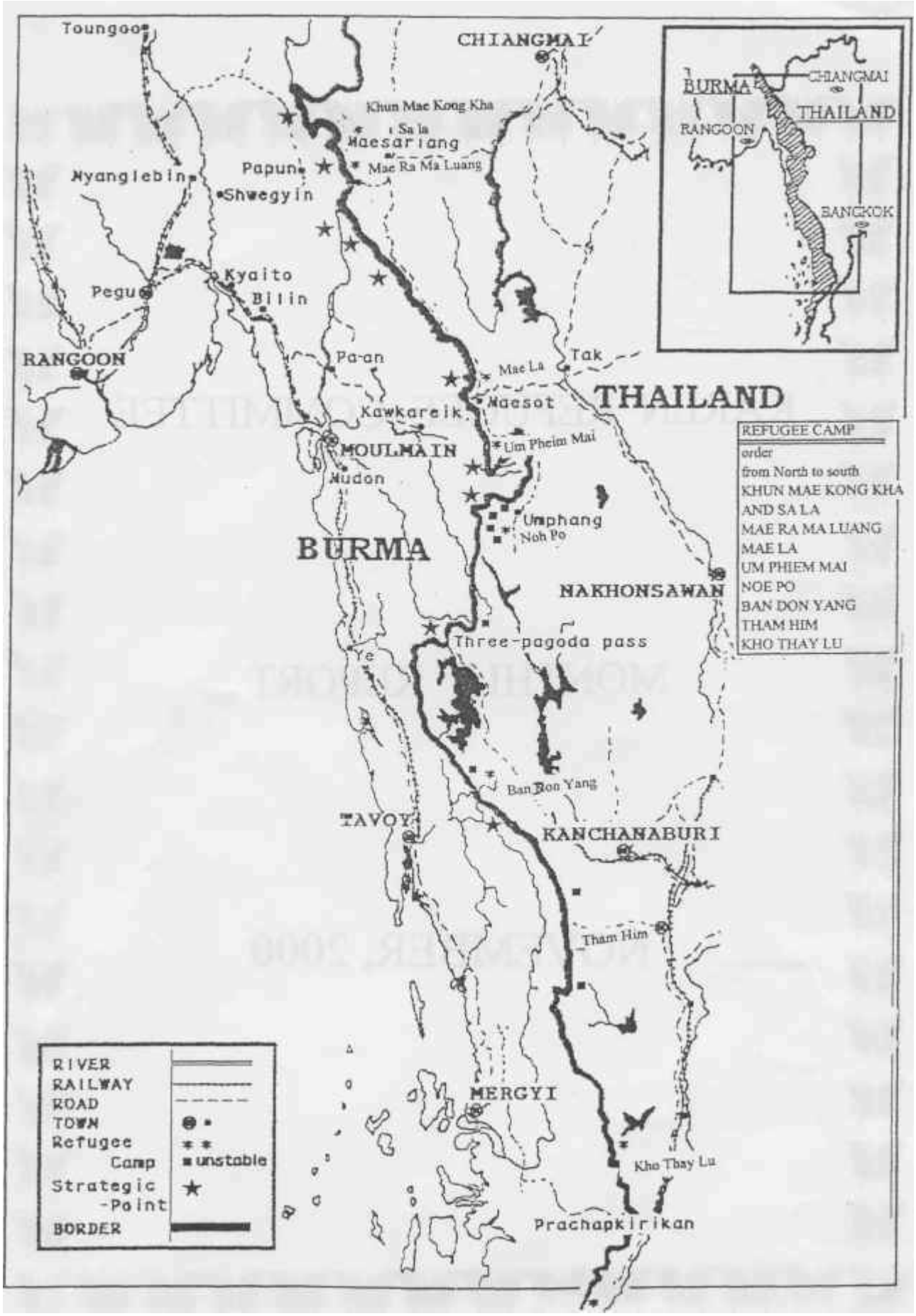
KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER, 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

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Few will remember what happened in Germany on the 9th of November 1938. That was "Kristallnacht" - Night of Broken Glass the beginning of anti-Semitic riots and destruction of Jewish Institutions in Germany and Austria. Jews were sent to concentration camps, Jewish children expelled from schools, followed by expropriation of Jewish property and business.

That was the beginning of Holocaust, the term describing the NAZI annihilation of 6 million Jews. Along with them, another 9 to 10 million people including Gypsies, Poles, Ukrainians, Belorussians, homosexuals and the disabled were exterminated. That was what happened when absolute Power was vested in the hands of a group of people, or for that matter a single individual, Adolf Hitler.

60 years have passed by and we are still seeing a repeat of what had happened. Individuals and Groups, vying for absolute Power, people trying to exterminate each other. We see no end to conflicts in the Middle East, in Africa and in Europe and Asia. We see ill-will and contentions in the name of Race, Religion or simply for control of people, land and resources.

In Burma, its the conflict between the Military and the Ethnic opposition, which has been going on for more than half a century with no end yet in sight. This on-going process of contention, simply because of want of equality is not only ruining the country but affecting neighbouring countries as well. Problems related to displacements, asylum seekers, migration of people together with problems related to Drugs and Diseases. Most disturbing is reports that many young people are willing to sell themselves, just to have the opportunity to work in another country.

Now we hear of reports saying the ILO's Governing Body has decided to go ahead with sanctions against Burma for its abusive labour practices, where forced workers including prisoners are treated as beasts of burden. Most probably it will be the straw that breaks the camel's back. The SPDC had justified these abuses with flowering phrases like "Washing away sins with Sweat." However, most "Porters" paid back in more than sweat as many never made it back to their homes. What people see now is that the Junta is embracing ASEAN for support and legitimacy, which brings to mind the Burmese saying "Ngar ta goung jount, ta Hlay lone poke" which would mean "because of one fish, the whole boat rots."

Reports around the world is not much encouraging either. We hear of impending famines in Afghanistan. North Korea, Angola and elsewhere, because of disruptions, weather induced or otherwise. Reports that HIV/AIDS infection around the world has reached 36.1 million is causing alarm Recent rain-floods from West Europe to Australia, to South-East Asia are indications that man has more than enough on his hands to deal with other than fighting amongst themselves.

For refugees along this Thai-Burma Border, the talk of the moment is "going back home." The SPDC is sending out signals of willingness to accept refugees back. But this is being laced with conditions like "to come back the way they go out" and "need of proof of citizenship", which are sure to make matters more complicated.

Meanwhile, Brother is suing only Sister for ownership of legacy which, to all appearance seem most inappropriate and unnecessary. But it is not an isolated happening. Similar contentious malice are seen increasingly around the country. It is a measure of the country's deterioration that family values have become less precious and are in danger of being lost altogether.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS NOVEMBER. 2000.

	CAMP	No.of families	Over 12 YRS		9-12 YRS		Under 8 YRS		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE SOT AREA	Um Phiem	3,238	5,246	4,983	1,914	1,738	987	1,183	16,069
	Mae La	6,552	11,476	11,235	2,062	1,968	4,776	4,424	36,977
		9,760	16,740	16,218	3,976	3,706	5,763	5,607	53,046
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	519	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	1,710	2,751	2,551	1,219	1,125	551	628	8,825
	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
		4,202	4,497	4,361	2,772	2,688	3,005	3,327	20,650
	Grand Total	**17,579**	**28,300**	**26,959**	**8,219**	**7,714**	**11,486**	**11,500**	**95,214**

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	8,265	21,286	3,541	53,261	6,653	49,503	418,259
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. Support for Orphans Windows and Ederly.
H.I. Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation and also year-and sporting events for Handicaps.
Consortium - Support in Educational facilities.
NCA (Norwegian Church Aid) has been providing KRC with administrative & Organizational Support. It has also made commitment to support with remuneration for KRC members and workers.
SCAW (Sleeping Children Around the World) a Canadian support Group provided 2500 Bed - Kits for the children of Um Pheium Camp.
A Singapore support Group provided clothing for Refiigees at Mae La and Um Pheium camps.