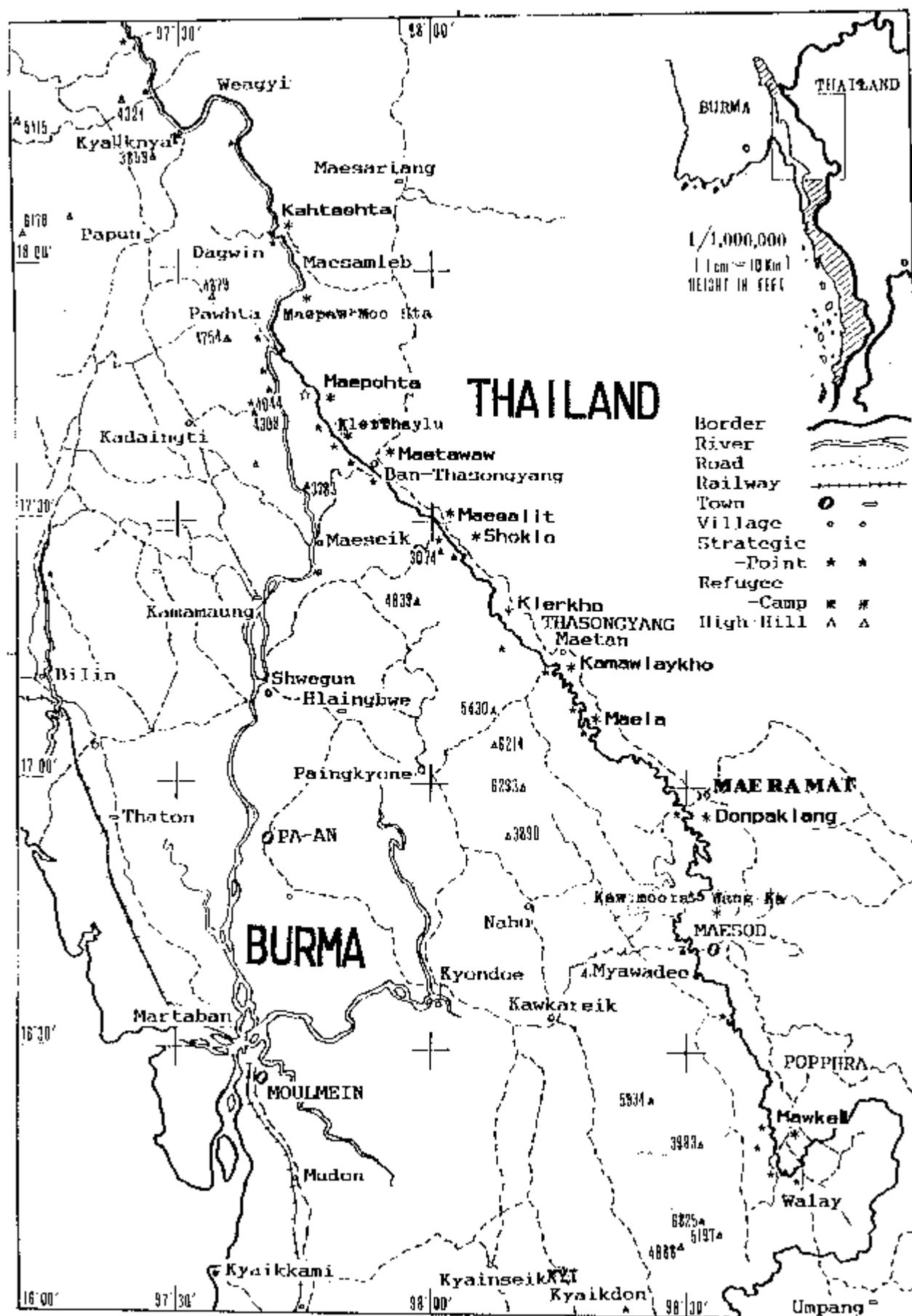




KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1993



KAREN REFUGES COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1993

The weather has become cooler with misty mornings on cloudless days. This signifies the approach of winter and the beginning of a new dry season. The situation along the border remains calm but there is a general feeling of mixed hope and anxiety among the refugee population as they ponder over what the dry season will unveil for them.

Inside Burma, civilians in the rural areas of Papun, Pa-an and Thaton districts are facing with shortage of rice. Rice looting has occurred in the Pla Kyaw village tract of Hlaingbwe township where many villagers are now reported to be eating bamboo shoots and other forest produce as a substitute for rice. Harvest time is still some two months away.

The cost of living has sky rocketed in both the rural and urban areas of Burma and rice now costs more than 50 kyat a pyi. (a standard Burmese measure of rice equivalent to 8 condensed milk tins - approximately 2 kg. weight). Fish and meat has now become too expensive for most common people to add to their daily diet. Chicken is said to cost 200 kyat per viss (16 kg. weight) now. Similarly, the price of every other item of consumer goods has risen exorbitantly.

Speaking of health situation in the camps, malaria is still a medical problem. Apart from this, the change of weather as winter approaches usually has some effect on health and it is expected that more people will go to the camps dispensaries for consultation.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS

| CAMPS | No. of families | Over 12 Yrs. | | 5 - 12 Yrs. | | Under 5 Yrs. | | TOTAL |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|------|--------------|------|-------|
| | | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| WANG KA | 732 | 1133 | 1475 | 458 | 417 | 291 | 264 | 4037 |
| DON PA KIANG | 484 | 912 | 823 | 208 | 273 | 175 | 212 | 2683 |
| MAE LA | 1071 | 1317 | 1864 | 847 | 794 | 261 | 256 | 5339 |
| KAMAW LAY KHIO | 662 | 1127 | 1158 | 373 | 339 | 292 | 204 | 3573 |
| KLER KHO | 528 | 1028 | 992 | 339 | 327 | 229 | 273 | 3188 |
| alio KLO | 1528 | 2461 | 3142 | 1129 | 1052 | 503 | 585 | 0872 |
| MAS SA LIT | 615 | 1087 | 1242 | 423 | 423 | 167 | 175 | 3517 |
| MAE TA WAW | 822 | 1439 | 1660 | 745 | 747 | 362 | 374 | 5327 |
| KLER THAY LU | 163 | 274 | 316 | 83 | 86 | 55 | 50 | 864 |
| MAE PO HTA | 224 | 393 | 419 | 133 | 131 | 44 | 36 | 1156 |
| MAW KER | 846 | 1733 | 1576 | 375 | 307 | 555 | 582 | 5128 |
| MAE PAW MOO HTA | 383 | 763 | 849 | 295 | 266 | 173 | 198 | 2544 |
| KA HTEE HTA | 390 | 557 | 671 | 314 | 329 | 134 | 183 | 2188 |
| | 8448 | 14224 | 16187 | 5002 | 5491 | 3241 | 3471 | 48416 |
| SOUTHERN CAMPS | | | | | | | | |
| PER KLER | 566 | 952 | 1043 | 459 | 409 | 221 | 206 | 3290 |
| PANG SA NOK | 501 | 754 | 768 | 298 | 269 | 191 | 180 | 2460 |
| NAT IN DAUNG | 271 | 375 | 393 | 119 | 127 | 89 | 86 | 1189 |
| TOTAL. | 9786 | 16305 | 18391 | 6678 | 6296 | 3742 | 3943 | 55355 |

RICE RECEIVED FOR THE MONTH

From:

| | | |
|---|------|-------|
| -BURMESE BORDER CONSORTIUM (BBC) | 5917 | sacks |
| -CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REFUGEES (COERR) | 350 | sacks |

OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED

FROM:-

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|
| -BURMESE BORDER CONSORTIUM (BBC) | | |
| Salt | 14520 | kgs. |
| Fish Paste | 2177 | tins |
| Sweaters | 122 | bales |
| Layettes | 234 | cartons |

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED


| CAMP | <u>RICE</u> (100 kg./sack) | <u>SALT</u> (kg.pkt.) | <u>F.PASTE</u> (16 kg./tin) | <u>SWEATER</u> (bales) | <u>LAYETTES</u> (cartons) |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| WANG KA | 620 | 1470 | 214 | 10 | 19 |
| DON PA KIANG | 400 | »970 | 142 | 7 | 13 |
| MAE LA | 800 | 2150 | 272 | 13 | 26 |
| KAMAW LAY KHO | 526 | 1310 | 186 | 9 | 17 |
| KLER KHO | 472 | 1050 | 167 | 0 | 15 |
| SHO KLO | 1355 | 3020 | 463 | 22 | 42 |
| MAE SA LIT | 522 | 1230 | 187 | 9 | 17 |
| MAS TA WAW | 792 | 1590 | 270 | 13 | 26 |
| MAW KER | 780 | 1730 | 276 | 13 | 25 |
| TOTAL: | 6267 | 14520 | 2177 | 121 | 242 |

The Karen Refugee Committee is sincerely grateful to the Thai authorities and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand for their kindness in granting refuge to the Karens and other displaced people from Burma who are in trouble and need. This manifestation of kindness and goodwill will always be remembered by the Karens of Burma.

The Karen Refugee Committee is also sincerely grateful to the many individuals and organisations concerned, for their help and support through the years. Without these help and support, the refugees will not be able to survive.

The refugees dream of peace and the chance to go back to a home that is free from fear and persecution. But the future for them is bleak and uncertain. It is difficult for them to know what lies ahead. We are counting on the continued support of all our friends, sympathisers and well wishers. It is our fervent wish and prayer that, through the sincere and concerted effort of all peace loving people around the world, the Burma problem will be rightfully resolved.

Yours faithfully,



Robert Htwe
Chairman
Karen Refugee Committee