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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE

1994



THE FIVE POINTS OF THE AIM OF THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

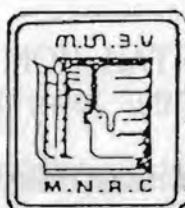
1. Resettlement of the refugees who become homeless due to the oppression of Rangoon military regime.

2. To help for the welfare of the refugees who become jobless due to the oppression of Rangoon military regime.

3. To take care and look after the health of the refugees.

4. To fight against illiteracy for the children in the refugee camps

5. To struggle for human rights.



The Organization of The Mon National Relief Committee

1. Phra Wongsala Pala - Chairman
2. Nai Shwe Thein - Vice-Chairman
3. Nai Siri Mon Chan - Secretary General
4. Nai Pho Sein - Member
5. Nai Chit Nyunt - Member
6. Nai Kasauh Mon - Member
7. Nai Banya Leir - Member
8. Phra Nonda Pala - Member

MONTHLY REPORT OF MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE (June, 1994)

1. THE SITUATIONS IN THE CAMPS

☐ THE SECURITY IN HALOCKHANI CAMP

On June 20, two Burmese soldiers with G4 machine guns from SLORC's Local Infantry Battallion No. 62 came into Halockhani Camp and committed a bloody conflict with Mon refugees. According to the Camp source, those two soldiers came from an outpost of LIB No. 62 which is situated in the place called "Dai Zop", about 4 kilometer from Halockhani Camp. LIB 62 is based in Three Pagoda Pass. When they arrived at the edge of camp about twelve o'clock mid-night, they stopped in front of a house and ordered to the refugee couple who were on the house to meet them on the ground. As the couple suspected those two soldiers were robbers and they decided to fight with their home-made gun used for hunters. At the same time, their neighbours also shot to those two Burmese soldiers with their home-made guns by helping the couple. To counter the fighting from the refugees, those soldiers opened fire into the houses which are in front of their sight. After the fighting lasted about 15 minutes, the Burmese soldiers retreated from the camp and one refugee was seriously wounded in his knee. In the morning time of June 21, the refugees found a dead body of Burmese soldier in the forest nearby.

According to the members of Camp Committee, in recent second week of May, one Lieutenant of Burmese troops from this outpost had already sent a threat letter to camp leader. In the letter, he urged them to contact and meet him as soon as and not to refuse in helping for his troops' necessities. Camp leaders are very afraid to meet him and no reply for the letter. They explained that although they are in fear, they never hoped such terrible incident will occur in the camp. By MNRC, we clearly concluded that the Burmese Army want to use their influence on peoples of this area and give pressure to support their troops. Some refugees believed that it was a plan to punish them seriously because of their behaviour as defiance of Burmese Army official orders as they had experienced and suffered like this in their villages where Burmese troops came regularly.

Although the situation is changed to stability, the scared faces of the refugees are not disappeared. Most refugees who are staying at the edge of the Camp, worried for women and children and moved them in the middle of the Camp, because they think the angry Burmese troops will come and destroy their houses as possible ways. We are now deeply considering for the security of our refugees in future. To avoid such dangerous incidents and bloody clashes, we have never allowed any armed force, even Mon troops, or any political offices to base in our camps. We hoped no trouble for our refugees will occur, because we managed our camps seem stayed as real refugees after we moved from Loh Loe Camp.

When the Thai authorities removed Mon refugees from Loh Loe Camp to Halockhani Camp, they promised us that they will take responsibility of Camp security although it is in Burma soil. Following this promise, they discussed with Burmese authorities regarding the security of Mon refugees and not to make any trouble. We believed the Burmese authorities will give promise to Thai authorities as they wanted the New Mon State Party (NMSP) to join in the cease-fire talk. But we cannot predict how long the Burmese authorities keep their promise and worry the high authorities turn a blind eye for their local troops' brutal actions. It is very hard for us to completely believe the Burmese regime's promise as the example of the May 1990 general elections result.

☐ ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN HALOCKHANI CAMP

During this month, over two thousands illegal economic immigrants of Burma are deported by Thai authorities in Halockhani Camp. Continuously, from Wednesday to Saturday of third week of June, about one thousand of them were deported back. According to these immigrants, they were detained at lease one month and up to four months in Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) of Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Thongpharphoom and Pathomthani jails. Although our Camp Committee had already set up a shelter, it is not enough for all of them to stay and we allowed some of them to stay in the houses especially women, children and unhealthy immigrants. Under the management of Camp Committee, they are provided with enough foods in everyday.

Because of the strict immigration policy of Thai Government, it is too difficult for immigrants who want to cross into Thailand again. Among those immigrant, mostly are Mons and half of them returned to their homes, while some are staying in the camp and some are trying to cross into Thailand again. According to one immigrant, the immigrants who came from the entry of Kanchanaburi Province, are deported back to the border earlier than the immigrants who came from the entries of Mae Sot, Mae Hong Son, Mae Sai. The reason of delay deportation is the trips from Bangkok to that areas are far away and it take a long time to complete one truck or two trucks of immigrants from those entries to be ready for deportation. Later, the immigrants from those entries also pretended and lied to immigration officers as they came from the entry of Kanchanaburi Province.

For the time being, the immigrants who try to cross into Thailand are in difficulties to travel along the motor-road from Sangkhaburi to Kanchanaburi by arrangement of immigrant traffickers because many checkpoints were set up. So, they need to travel by boats and by foot in jungle and along river. In this situation, some immigrants are lost their ways because some traffickers took all of their money and kept away their responsibilities. In the first week of June, MNRC relieved about 20 Mon immigrants who lost their ways for one and half months in the jungle beside the river from Sangkhaburi to Thongpharphoom. Most of them were facing the lack of foods and suffered malaria and beriberi. Proper treatments were given in Halockhani Camp hospital. When the health situations became better, all of them returned back to their home territory of Paung Township which is close to Moulmein.

To keep the orders from higher authorities, the Thai border polices based close to Halockhani Camp have responsibility to strictly bar the deported immigrants from the camp. Now, they do not allow any refugees to buy some commodities in Sangkhaburi, because they suspected all refugees as immigrants. At the same time, they are suspecting that our Camp Committee encouraged the immigrants to cross into Thailand and gave border entry pass. After they did not recognize our border entry pass, most refugees are barred in their checkpoints. Even transferring patients to Kwai River Christian Hospital, troubles were made because they do not want to allow the men who carried the patient at night when impossible to transport by car. Now, we are still finding the way to get good relationship with Thai polices

2. OPINIONS

☐ REPATRIATION PLAN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

On 4 June, one Thai official from 9th Division informed MNRC about illegal immigrants who have been seeking shelters or jobs in Kanchanaburi Province and explained their plan to put those immigrant in safe camps and deport to the Thai-Burma border. Firstly, they urged MNRC to take responsibility for Mon immigrants, numbering ten thousands as in the register of Thai authorities, to relocate them in possible areas of Burma soil. After discussing with Thai authorities in some meetings, MNRC concluded that they need our organization to voluntarily participate as earlier as in repatriation plan of Mon immigrants. If not, they will arrest all immigrants and put them in camps which are under-construction in Thongpharphoom District.

For MNRC, it is very difficult to accept responsibility and to cooperate with Thai authorities in their repatriation plan of illegal immigrants. This plan is related to publicly announcement of National Security Council of Thailand in January of this year. In this announcement, Thailand will be taking tougher measures in dealing with Burmese refugees in Thailand, giving reason that illgal Burmese immigrants may form a major minority group in Thailand in 10 to 15 years and can pose a threat to national security of Thailand. However, we firmly believe an opinion as mentioned in our reports, we cannot solve the problems including refugee and immigrants problems, without genuine peace and proper democratic government in Burma. At the same time, it is too hard to get a safe relocation places in Burma soil where are not related to Burmese troops and far from the threat of them. On other hand, we need a lot of assistance for their survival.

In this process, we do not want to give pressure or organize our peoples who have been illegally seeking shelters and jobs in Kanchanaburi Province, to relocate them in Burma soil. As we are realizing the situations inside Burma and border areas, we know that they do not want to move into Burma. Actually, gross human rights violations which committed in ethnic areas by Burmese troops, produced a lot of immigrants. If we analysed the Burmese politics, we can conclude who have the responsibility for those immigrants.

Some are talking about that if cease-fire agreement between New Mon State Party (NMSP) and SLORC was signed, no more problems for the repatriation plan of all Mon immigrants in Thailand. Do they believe just only cease-fire agreement can stop the source of immigrants? Anyway, nobody can predict the cease-fire talks between NMSP and SLORC is success or not. By MNRC, we want to see the genuine peace for the whole Burma which is the main reason to solve all problems including refugees and immigrants problem, not just only cease-fire agreement. And, we would like really to imagine the safe resettlement of refugees and immigrants, the activities in community developments, releases all the political prisoners and people's free participation in Burmese politics.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	House	Adult		Children		Total Remark
		Hold	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	197	210	214	339	340	1103
2	Payaw	485	624	840	679	821	2964
3	Prachuab	245	271	282	301	393	1247
4	Halockhani	998	1013	1209	1859	1991	6072
	Total	1925	2118	2545	3178	3545	11386

THE CONSUMPTION NEEDED PER MONTH FOR THE THREE REFUGEE CAMPS

No	Camp	Total Number of Refugees	Consumption per month				Remark
			Rice (sack)	Fish Paste	Salt (kg)	chilly (kg)	
1	Bee Ree	1103	172	367	551	367	
2	Payaw	2964	463	988	1482	988	
3	Prachuab	1247	197	415	623	415	
4	Halockhani	6072	948	2024	3036	2024	
	Total	11386	1777	3794	5692	3794	

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(JUNE, 1994)

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
1	Remained from May	4154	12832	7776	—	
2	COERR	100	1250	1000	100	
3	Consortium	1095	3075	1800	—	
	Total	5349	17157	10576	100	

THE BALANCE OF THE MATERIALS RECEIVED AND CONSUMED
IN THE FOUR REFUGEE CAMPS IN JUNE 1994

Subject	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
Received from the various refugee relief organization	5349	17157	10576	100	
Distributed to the four refugee camps in June	1777	3794	5692	3794	
Balance Remained	3572	13363	4884	—	



The Chairman of Mon National Relief Committee asked some questions to illegal Mon immigrants who lost their way crossing into Thailand.



The dead body of Burmese soldier who try to treaten the security of Halockhani Mon Refugee Camp

THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS

