

BBC



ကမ္ဘာတိုက်ပြန်လှူဒါန်းသည့်

MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER

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 Wongsā Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Shwe Thein | - Vice-Chairman |
| 3. Nai Pho Sein | - Member |
| 4. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 5. Nai Kasauh Mon | - Member |
| 6. Nai Banya Leir | - Member |
| 7. Phra Nonda Pala | - Member |

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

Escapees from the Railway Construction

In the second week of October, the new flow of Mon local inhabitants from Ye Township, MonState have arrived to Halockhani Camp to escape from slave-labours of SLORC's development infrastructure project of railway construction. According to the new arrivals, the troops of SLORC have now restarted the 110 miles Ye-Tavoy railway construction which was brought to a standstill in the rainy season since June of this year. Last year dry season, This railway route was constructed by many local inhabitants of Mon, Karen and Tovoyan who were forced to work in the constructing sites as slave-labour.

According to one man among the arrivals, he explained that before he escaped from his villages, the SLORC troops came into his villages and gathered the list of households and populations, the numbers of bullock-carts in the villages, and informed the villages about the construction for this dry season, they need not only manual labours of villagers but also the all bullock-carts in the villages for construction. When they left from their village, he said, the soldiers had already conscripted some villagers from other parts of his villages and started the works. As they had experienced last year, they cannot endure the same tremendous hardship and decided to flee to the border refugee camps.

This Ye-Tavoy construction was well-known for its using a lot of slave-labours by conscripting the local inhabitants like the railway construction when the Japanese ruled Burma in second World War. According the reliable information sources, in the construction sites, many peoples had died for the horrendous health conditions and accidents of earth collapse and tools crashes. As slave-labours, the peoples were not paid any payment for the manual labours, and they brought their own foods from their houses and there is no compensation for the confiscation of farmlands of the villages.

Especially, the SLORC's local battalions are responsible to provide the labours needed in the construction sites. Through the village headmen, by anyway, they will enslave villagers in turns of rotation duties by means of conscripting one person from one house. The treatment of the soldiers also inhumane and appalling cruelty. This is the reason why the new flow of refugee came into existence.

Although in view of MNRC, the Halockhani refugee camp was situated in border disputed area of Thailand and Burma, it is believable not safe for refugees, it is a possible position to accept who escape from the persecution of Burmese soliders. Also, in the PaYaw Mon refugee camp and the Tavoy districts of NMSP controlled areas, some local inhabitants also arrived as we heard.

We hope some peoples will steadily arrive to our refugees in coming next months and we will offer them the possible protection and assistances for their survival. Even we talking about the protection of refugees, we are not sure for the protection of them, as we had experienced of the Burmese troops's attack on our refugee camp in recent July.

The Investigation of UN and US officials

On 5th October, the representative of UNHCR, Bangkok Branch, visited to Halockhani after he got permission from the Thai Government. He spent his time nearly two hours and asked many questions to the refugees in the camp including the teachers and medics. When he met them he asked the questions concerning the safety of the camp. As we accompanied with him and we realized that most of refugees told him likely the similar their own opinions as they were staying in the camp in fear of another attack by Burmese troops. Then the camp leaders also explained him about the rumour about the Burmese officers would come to the camp for discussions with them and they were too afraid to meet with them. He also met with some porters or hostages with Burmese troops at the incident 21st July. Most of them explained the brutal atrocities of Burmese soldiers.

On 13th October, the officials from US Embassy also visited to the camp for investigation of the safety of refugees. They met with camp leaders, health workers, education workers and refugees in the camp asked some question concerning the safety of them. Most of refugees explained they were still afraid staying in the camp for the attack of the Burmese troops. He also advised the camp leaders not to provide the Mon troops with their foods and not to allow them staying in the camp with arms or come with uniforms. The camp leaders agreed with his advices and admitted that they did not support or allow any soldiers staying in the camp or come with uniforms but they did not know any soldier who come to the camp like ordinary villager and bought some necessities. They said they were unable to know not only Mon, Karen soldiers and but also even some Burmese spies came with ordinary clothes to the camp.

We are very glad to know the explanation of UNHCR representative in a celebration of UNHCR in Bangkok that the Thailand is changing its attitude toward Burmese ethnic refugees in a move which promises more safety for them. We hoped the UNHCR and other diplomatic communities tried for more assurances for the safety of Mon refugees after they were forcibly repatriated back. As a result, as the representative of UNHCR claimed the Thai authorities made their stance softening against those ethnic refugees.

We express thankfulness to the world community by showing mercy and sympathies to our peoples who have faced the trouble time of terrible conditions. It is a positive stance of Thai authorities for collaboration with UNHCR and for their acceptance the advices of diplomatic communities for the protection ethnic refugees along their border with Burma.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	House Hold	Adult		Children		Total Remark
			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 'FOUR 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
(October, 1994)

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
1	Remained from September	—	5731	—	—	
2	COERR	100	1250	1000	100	
3	Consortium	600	2600	1400		
	Total	700	9581	2400	100	

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

Subject	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Remark
Received from the various refugee relief organization	700	9531	2400	100	
Distributed to the four refugee camps in October	1777	3794	5692	3794	
Balance Remained	—	5787	—	—	

THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS

