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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER

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 (November, 1994)

Slave-labours flee to Pa Yaw Camp

By starting from the second week of October up to now, there are over 30 local villagers of nearly 200 population have consistently escaped from the slave-labours of SLORC's Ye-Tavoy Construction and fled to Pa Yaw Mon refugee camp. As slave-labours, the people who are conscripted in the construction are not paid any payment for their manual labours and bring foods from their home. Because of the tremendous conditions, at the end, they cannot survive in their native places and decide to flee to refugee camps or hide in the jungles. At the same time, they are treated by the soldiers by the ways of inhumane and appalling cruelty. Most of those escapees are local Mon, Karen inhabitants from the villages of Ye Township of Mon State and Yebyu Township of Tanasserim Division. The villages are situated along the railway construction sites which connect the Mon State and Tanasserim Division.

Of the new comers escaped to Pa Yaw Camp, some are prisoners were detained in the SLORC's labour control centers and conscripted as slave-labours in the construction sites. Those estimated 1,000 prisoners were brought by the SLORC's troops from several parts of Burma and detained them in five labour control centers of respectively (1) Koe Mine (2) Hangam, (3) Kalort, (4) Kort Hlaing in Ye Township and (5) Paukpingwin in Yebyu Township. According to escaped prisoners, they were required to work in the construction for 10 hours per day without providing enough foods for them. And, they were severely treated by the SLORC soldiers, if they could not complete their daily work adopted by soldiers. Because of hardships and food shortages, many prisoners have been suffered from diarrhoea and dysentery.

Although the SLORC proposed to the UN Human Rights Commission's rapporteur for the payment of labours of those villagers, actually they were not paid any payment up to now. Besides, they are still bringing the foods from their houses and in some cases, the foods are also changed by the bad foods of SLORC soldiers. Therefore, for MNRC and relief agencies, it need to help those new comers for suitable shelters and assistances.

Mon Refugees in Pa Yaw Camp, Remaining under the Threat of Forced Relocation

After the three rounds of New Mon State Party (NMSP) and SLORC cease-fire talks, it was ended in a deadlock, with the two sides unable to resolve the controversial issue of control over military zones and establishments. Since the second round of NMSP-SLORC cease-fire talks, it was in slow progress and unable to reach an agreement and some certain Thai authorities have announced and told the refugees at Pa Yaw Camp, they must be repatriated to a new site of the border inside Burma. After the NMSP decide for the third round of cease-fire talk and the MNRC appeal to Thai authorities not to relocate on the eve of rainy season, it was delay for the time of repatriation until dry season.

After the NMSP announced its suspension for the cease-fire negotiations, the refugees in Pa Yaw have worried for the relocation in Burma. On 26 August, in the press conference held in Ninth Division's base in Kachanaburi of Thai Army, the commander Maj Gen Chalong Chotikakarn said the Mon refugees living at Pa Yaw refugee camp would also be sent back to Burma side once a budget had been allocated. Because such official announcement of Thai authorities, so far the Pa Yaw refugee camp remained under the threat of forced repatriation like Halockhani as in turns.

Under the administration of MNRC, the Pa Yaw refugee camp is the last one which remained in Thai territory which situated about 50 kilometers far from Sangkhlaburi. Even though it is difficult for transportation and travelling from Sangkhlaburi, the site is safe from the attack of Burmese troops, not like Halockhani. It so far situated very suitable for new comers fleeing from the persecution of SLORC troops and hardship of slave-labours in the railway construction worksites

The Visit of National Security Council of Thailand to Halockhani

On 25th November, the General Secretary fo NSC Gen. Charan Kullavanijaya had visit to Halockhani Mon refugee camps looking for the safety of them. In his visit, he also accompanied with some NSC members and officials from Ninth Division including its commander Maj Gen Chalong Chotikakarn. The also visited to the referral in the camp and the primary school, and discussed with camp leaders for the safety of the refugees.

According to the camp leaders, Maj Gen Chalong told to them that the Halockhani refugee camp is safe for the another attack of SLORC troops and not to worry for the safety of the refugees, as they got the promises from SLORC authorities. If the sites of Halockhani Camp is narrow, the refugee can move to the Baleh Donepai and Krone Htaw areas to reside in large plain areas and to get more possible water, he said. He also added by warning the camp leader to make the hill rice-growing by the method of slash and burn to collect more rice it the assistances for them were cut off. But the camp leaders refused to move to those areas as they believed not safe for them to reside.

MNRC believed on the visit of Thai higher authorities, they need to push Mon refugees deeply inside Burma, by showing that area was safe and enough for them to survive, and at the end they want to cut off the assistance. After the all refugees moved deeply inside Burma, the refugee camp was completely abolished and the border is close, and at the same push the refugees to absolutely stay under the control of SLORC troops.



The Visit of General Secretary of National Security Council of Thailand to Halockhani Mon Refugee Camp



One family of new comers escaped to Pa Yaw Camp, from the construction worksites of Ye-Tavoy railway.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	Families	Adult		Children		Total	Remark
			M	F	M	F		
1	Bee Ree	197	210	214	339	340	1103	
2	Payaw	515	662	887	731	861	3141	
3	Prachuab	245	271	282	301	393	1247	
4	Halockhani	842	960	1013	1307	1874	5154	
	Total	1799	2103	2396	2678	3468	10645	

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

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Bean (kg)	Remark
1	COERR	100	1250	1000	100		The bean is provided for Nov, Dec of Halockhani and Dec of Pa Yaw
2	Consortium	600	2000	1400	-	20100	
	Total	700	3250	2400	100	8300	

