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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER

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 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 (December, 1994)

New Location of Bee Ree Camp

In the rainy season, some houses of Mon refugees in Bee Ree Camp were destroyed by the flood of Ye Chaung river which situated on its bank. For those refugees, the MNRC needs to resettle them in suitable places in higher plain areas of river bank. Therefore, many houses from Joehaparao old village had to move in the new place called "Dagaw Chaeng", where we ensure the place suitable for rainy season to avoid from the damages of flood.

Last year, when we set up the new camp in Joehaparao village for refugees who were repatriated from Loh Loe Camp, as we have no enough time to monitor, some refugees were residing in the forest but we provide assistances for them. Starting in November, we have arranged to resettle those refugees in new location as a village in Bee Ree refugee camp, to accept the possible assistances from Aid NGOs in coming 1995. Now, the houses are still building in the new location named "Nyi Sar", as a part of Bee Ree Camp. So the Bee Ree Camp is combined by two villages of "Dagaw Chaeng" and "Nyi Sar" which distance is for half hour walk.

At the same time, the villagers from Ye and Thanbyuzayat townships have consistently fled to Bee Ree Camp because of heavy taxation and conscription of slave-labours in local villages of Mon, Karen inhabitants. In the current situation, the SLORC needs a lot of slave-labours to work in the Ye-Tavoy railway construction and the every families of local villagers are responsible to pay for the charges of facilities for the construction, especially hardwood sleepers for the railway. According to the escapees, for one poorest family in the village have to provide at least five hardwood sleepers which costs nearly 1,000 Kyats per one. At the end, the local inhabitants had no longer chances to provide for their survival and decided to flee to refugee camp or to hide in the forests far away from the villages. The houses in the Bee Ree Camp are increasingly built everyday, although the campsite is actually in Burma territory under the control of Mon rebels.

New Arrivals in Prachuab Camp, Needs More Assistances

In the Lower part of Burma, in the Tanasserim Division, the SLORC Authorities are also building the motor-roads by conscripting the local villagers, without any payment. In that areas, the most of local inhabitants are Tavoyan and most of them had abandoned their villages and fled to the Prachuab Camp after conscripting them as slave-labours. According to the escapees, the SLORC builds two parts of motor-road as one is Manthaing-Lenya which connect the Tenasserim and Bokpyin township, and other is the motor road from Tenasserim town to Mergui town. They started the construction in second week of November and we are not sure how long the route they will construct and still collecting the informations.

Anyway, the Tavoyan peoples have consistently escaped from the motor-road constructions and taken refuge in Prachuab Camp. Because of dissatisfaction of Aid NGOs on the camp establishment of Prachuab, the MNRC have accepted only 100 sacks of rice for every month assistance and it is not enough to provide the refugees. For coming year of 1995, we have to re-establish the camp to get possible assistances. We need nearly 200 sacks of rice more to provide the new arrivals and to be enough for old residences. Under the conditions of shortage of assistances for Prachuab Camp, we also prohibited some new arrivals not to take refuge in the camp. We hope they are provided again and take refuge in the camp, if the Aids NGOs provided more assistances. We will invite the Aid NGOs to visit to Prachuab Camp and to make sure to provide some more assistances.

Emergency Relief and Development Program

Except the Payaw Camp, most of Mon refugee camps had already been repatriated to Burma side of the border where no enough safety for them. The SLORC troops attack to refugees appeared in July at Halockhani is an evidence that any camp in Burma territory or in dispute areas is not safe from the attack of Burmese troops. Under the unsafe conditions in the camps, actually, we do not want to allow the new arrivals as we cannot protect them. In this situation, we need to resettle some displaced persons, escaped from the conscripting of slave-labours and high taxation, in possible places of the jungle separately and would like to provide them for temporary assistance more than two months. When the SLORC standstill for the construction processes in rainy season, they can return back to their native villages and can start the works in their farmlands again. This is their way to stop the displaced persons who had suffered a food shortage affected by the SLORC troops, taking refuge in the unsafe camps.

And, we also need to provide some temporary assistance to local inhabitants who are unable to collect any rice because of the relocation process of SLORC troops and who are faced loss of rice because of fighting in the areas concerned. To cut off the supplies reached to rebels, the SLORC troops confiscate the rice from local inhabitants which left in their fields without any payment. For those farmers to stop them fleeing to refugee camp, we need to provide them a temporary assistance for their survivals. Therefore, the temporary assistance for the survival of the displaced persons or local inhabitants who had caused for a food shortage is the emergency cases of providing assistance and it can be described as "Emergency Relief". In these cases, we will analyse who are really needing for the temporary assistance. So we ask to Aid NGOs to provide for those cases of emergency relief.

After most of Mon refugees had been repatriated to Burma territory, we have considered for the development programs for them, to avoid as "Aids Dependents" in longterm periods. We would like to provide them for some development projects like plantation programs to grow some trees to get more incomes and can support to their survival by themselves if the Thai Government did not allow for cross-border assistance in one day. The slash and burnt method of rice plantation in mountainous areas cannot provide for enormous populations in the camps and it can destroy the forests and we concern for the environment. Therefore, we need to provide some development plans for displaced persons in the areas concerned under the responsibility of MNRC.



New Location of Bee Ree Camp: Some new arrivals still arrive to this camp.



The Primary School in the Bee Ree Camp: Need to build another school in next education year.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	Families	Adult		Children		Total	Remark
			M	F	M	F		
1	Bee Ree	236	283	294	425	414	1416	
2	Payaw	515	662	887	731	861	3141	
3	Prachuab	317	381	374	443	527	1725	
4	Halockhani	842	960	1013	1307	1874	5154	
	Total	1910	2286	2568	2906	3676	11436	

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

No	Organization	Rice	Fish Paste	Salt	Chilly	Beam	Remark
		(sack)	(kg)	(kg)	(kg)	(kg)	
1	COERR	100	1250	1000	100		
2	Consortium	1219	3225	2255	-	11760	
	Total	1319	4475	3255	100	11760	

THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS

