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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

# MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY

1995

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

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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**

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Phra Wongsala Pala | - Chairman          |
| 2. Nai Shwe Thein     | - Vice - Chairman   |
| 3. Nai Banya Leir     | - Secretary         |
| 4. Nai Kasau Mon      | - Joint - Secretary |
| 5. Nai Chit Nyunt     | - Member            |
| 6. Nai Pho Sein       | - Member            |
| 7. Phra Nonda Pala    | - Member            |

## MONTHLY REPORT OF MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE (January, 1995)

### SLORC Created the Refugee Problems in Karen State

The recent attack of Manerplaw by the SLORC troops was although described as using force to oust the Karen armed opposition and other democratic alliance from their Headquarters, many thousands of Karen innocent civilians became more sufferer in this operation. The revolutionary soldiers were even hard in the fightings, as they had their own weapon in their hands, it is not so difficult for them to protect from losing their lives. But for the civilians who have no arms had to flee with their children and belongings were considerably hard in trying to take refuge in Thai territory.

The capture of Karen bases is disappointed for the ethnic community along the border because it is actually a setback to reach the national reconciliation of Burma. At the same time, a creation of refugees along the Thai border is likely became a heavy responsibility for Thai Government and international community. In this case, it is very clear to know the role of SLORC that they have broken their promises to the international community after they have claimed to solve the many internal problems of Burma by means of negotiations. The declaration of SLORC for the unity of nationalities of Burma, to halt the military actions to KNU, after the failed offensive last two year dry-season is seen as effectively wasted. It also made its opponents who had already set up the cease-fire negotiation to be disappointed.

In the meantime, the military actions actually cannot bring the of KNU to be soften and to quickly negotiate to SLORC for cease-fire as SLORC hoped, it only has consistently brought the border problems. The KNU have already claimed they will continuously fight for the rights of self-determination and federal system of Burma, with their democratic alliances. The international community, including the US Government and Australia Government, have condemned the SLORC for its military actions and treatment on civilians.

When will the civil war in Burma come to an end? According to the SLORC, they claimed the *Tatmataw* have duties to clean the KNU dust after they overrun the KNU. It is meant, as priority, they want to make "ethnic cleansing" by their forces without considering for the political settlement by peaceful negotiation. At the same time, any ethnic opposition do not want to abandon the armed struggle which prolonged over forty five year. It is very clear that the SLORC also rejected the policy of *Constructive Engagement* of ASEAN governments as the SLORC used violence means to its own people. As conclusion, the "ethnic cleansing" policy of SLORC cannot bring peace in Burma.

### Appeal for the Hospitality of Thailand

After the new refugees number at least 12,000 fled into Thai territory, Thai Foreign Minister Taksin Shinawatra has correctly pledged temporary shelter and safety for the Karen in Thailand. According to sources, Thai military and border polices are also helping them for the safe position and provide assistances for their survivals. This is a positive sign for refugees of temporary stay in Thailand. Following the sympathetic treatment of Thai Government, as it policy, the refugees



must return back to Burma in one day when the fighting is stopped.

In the return of those refugees, it will need to be sure for them for their safety. In the return process, the Thai government should invite the UNHCR to inquire the desires of those refugees and to choose the site where the SLORC troops cannot make any disturbance.

We hope the SLORC will set up the strongholds such as military outposts and battalion headquarters in the areas where they overrun. Surely, some areas along the Thai-Burma border are not enough for the safety of those returnees. It is very important for the Thai government and international community to choose for the safe sites for Karen civilians and to provide the emergency assistances as their living stocks were lost in the recent offensive. If the civilians are very close to the outposts of SLORC troops or on the route of military activities, for surely, they will be attacked by SLORC troops in future like Halockhani Mon refugee camp.

After the attack of Manerplaw and other bases, we also worry for Mon civilians who are in Burma if the SLORC launched the military offensive in border areas where Mon troops taking bases. We have the same problem like Karen and we hope many Mon civilians will flee into Thailand. Anyway, those fleeing civilians will take a temporary shelters in Thai territory and will return back to their safe places when the SLORC troops retreated back.

We hope in this dry season, if the New Mon State Party did not make any decision for cease-fire talks, the SLORC will launch some offensive to the Mon troops. At that time, many Mon peoples will flee into Thailand and we will appeal the Thai government to offer the temporary shelter for our people.

THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW

No	Camp	Families	Adult		Children		Total	Remark
			M	F	M	F		
1	Bee Ree	251	297	329	451	455	1532	
2	Payaw	515	662	887	731	861	3141	
3	Prachuab	317	381	374	443	527	1725	
4	Halockhani	852	968	1037	1325	1889	5219	
	Total	1935	2308	2627	2950	3732	11617	

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE  
(January, 1995)

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Beam (kg)	Remark
1	COERR	100	1250	1000	100		
2	Consortium	1244	4025	2731	-	12180	
	Total	1344	5275	3731	100	12180	

# THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS

