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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

# MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL

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 Wongsā Pala | - Chairman          |
| 2. Nai Shwe Thein   | - Vice - Chairman   |
| 3. Nai Banya Leir   | - Secretary         |
| 4. Nai Kasauh 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 (April, 1995)

### BPP Order for Repatriation of Halockhani New Arrivals

On April 25, the officials of Thai Border Patrol Police ordered to the Halockhani camp leaders to quickly repatriate the refugee families of new arrivals who built their houses along the edge of the camp in Thai territory of the border. Because of the consistent human rights abuses in Mon areas by SLORC troops and hardships for survival, many local inhabitants had to flee to the border refugee camps in recent February and March. As the location of Halockhani is at the edge of Mon State and Karen State, many new arrivals from Kyaikmaraw and Kyarinnseikyi townships have been seeking refuge in this camp.

The Halockhani camp have no enough space for new arrivals to build their huts as the camp situated in the mountainous area and full with houses of the refugees, and it was impossible to build new houses. By understanding with the local BPP officials, in the time when the new arrivals arrived to the camp, they were allowed to build their houses in the site at the edge of camp in Thai territory. However, after they built the houses and already settled their families, they were ordered to move from that site within two weeks.

If they were repatriated, they need to move to Baleh Dunphai area. Baleh Dunphai is one section of Halockhani camp and about four kilometres far from the main camp. Last year in July, the Baleh Dunphai section was attacked by Burmese troops of Local Infantry Battalion No. 62 and the whole Halockhani refugees fled and tried to seek refuge in Thai territory. Now, because of the narrow space in Halockhani main camp, very few families of refugees who have no choice for making shelters are living in Baleh Dunphai section under fear of another attack of Burmese troops.

On April 5, when 200 Burmese troops of Light Infantry Battalion No. 403 retreated back to the headquarters in Tavoy, there was small fighting between Mon troops and Burmese troops occurred near the Baleh Dunphai and many refugees had fled to the main camp because they were afraid another attack and arrest by the Burmese troops like last year July incident. After the Burmese troops moved down to their headquarters and the situation came to stable, the refugees returned back to their former site again. Therefore, it was concluded that that Baleh Dunphai section has no safety for many refugees to reside in the present time.

In this case, the MNRC would like to appeal the Thai authorities through the UNHCR and international aids agencies for the protection of those refugees not to move them and allow them for sheltering up to the end of rainy season. On the eve of rainy season, it will be impossible for them to construct their houses again in the unsafe Baleh Dunphai section. With humanitarian consideration, the Thai authorities should allow them in this rainy season as they had already build or repaired thier houses.



## **The Education Servey in Mon refugee camps**

During last week of April, to implement the education program in refugee camps, initially, an educational servey team formed under the cooperation of the Burmese Border Consortium and MNRC had professionally collected informations on the education level, background, work skills and hopes for future of the Mon refugees from three Mon refugee camps of Payaw, Bee Ree and Halockhani. Although the educational servey work is late becasue of some difficulty for permission from the Thai authourities in previous time, it is very useful for MNRC. In the Mon community, such servey work was never implemented before and, now, this servey could provide detail and complete educational informations of Mon peoples who are in troubles.

In view of MNRC, while the refugees are in the camps of the border, during they are taking refuge, it is needed for some assistances of the reconstruction of communities by the international acceptance. The assistance of reconstruction of communities may provide for those refugees in the re-establishment of their country after Burma attained genuine peace of people participation in political arena and the refugee repatriation process completed. The most important things for the reconstruction of communities are proper education assistances and useful and necessary training courses to be given. The education level of the children must be lifted in schools by using their own language textbooks. Adult education and women education should be supported by the helps of NGOs which ever had experiences in other border camps like Lao and Cambodia before the repatriation program was started. Some certain vocation training courses must be prepared by international organizations concerned community developments of grassroot peoples and in practice, to product some commodities for some incomes after provided trainings.

In the Mon refugees, the most percentages of them are illiteracy and, as first priority, it needs to widely provide them adult literacy program and other training courses will follow later. At presence, the Mon Women Organization based in the camps is implementing the adult literacy with small scale. In future, MNRC hopes it can implement the large scale of adult literacy and other training programs which will be assisted by international NGOs, by cooperating with Mon Women Organization, Mon National Education Committee, Mon National Health Committee and camp leaders.

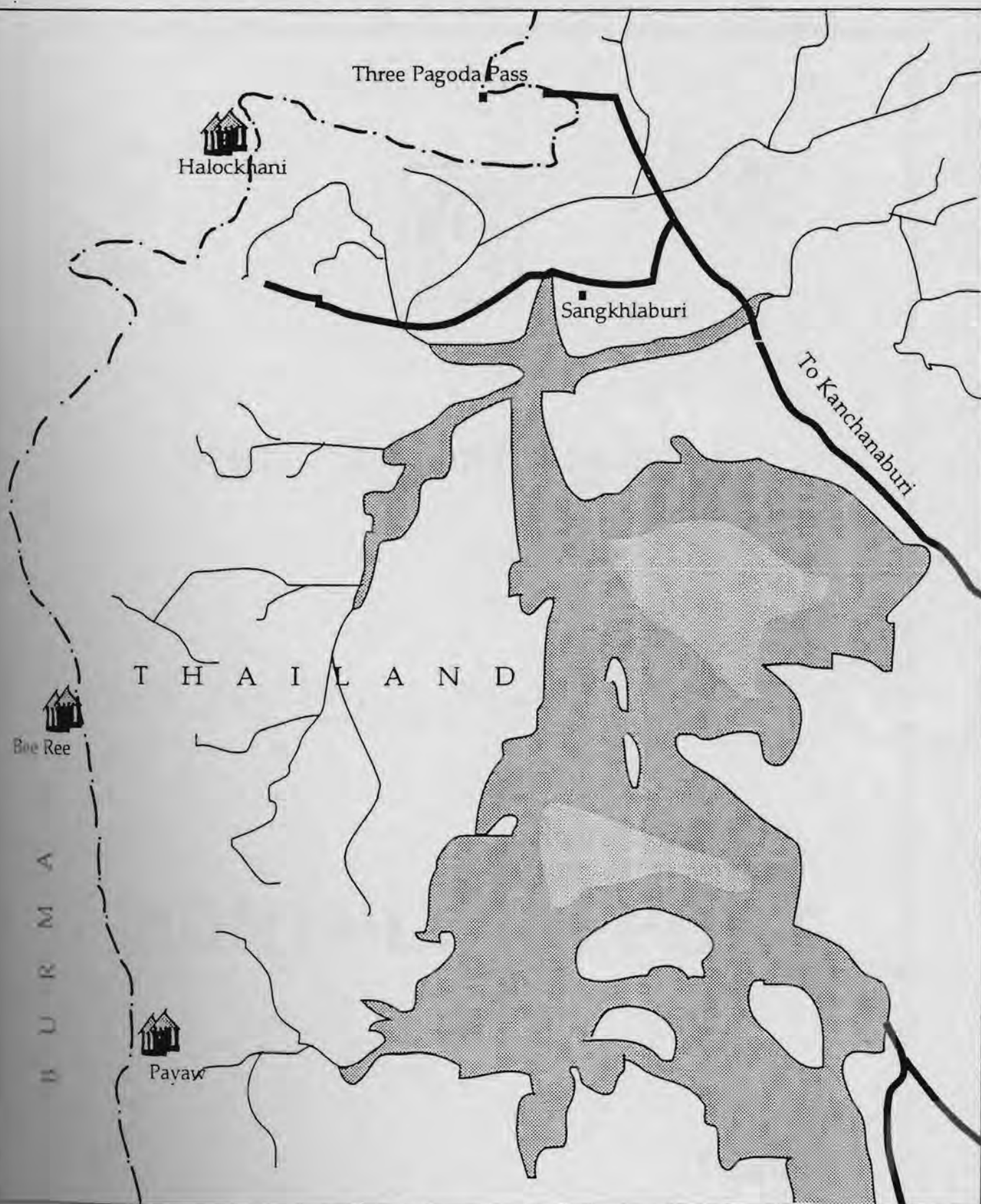
**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE AS FOLLOW  
(April,1995)**

No	Camp	Families	Adult		Children		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	261	302	347	468	480	1597
2	Payaw	645	795	998	930	1108	3565
3	Prachuab	317	381	374	443	527	1725
4	Halockhani	852	968	1037	1325	1889	5219
	Total	2075	2446	2756	3166	3998	12366

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

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg)	Salt (kg)	Chilly (kg)	Beam (kg)	Remark
1	COERR	100	1250	1000	100		
2	Consortium	7897	16920	25600	-	24600	
	Total	7997	18170	26600	100	24600	

# THE LOCATIONS OF MON REFUGEE CAMPS



Scale 1:250 000

Borderline

Motor Road



Dam Area

River



Refugee Camp