



BBC

ကမ္ဘာတစ်ဟောင်းပြင် ဒေသခံသားချင်းမန်

MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY

1997

The Five Points of the Aim of Mon National Relief Committee

- 1. Resettlement of the refugees who become homeless due to the oppression of Rangoon military regime.**
- 2. To help the welfare of the refugees who become jobless due to 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 Mon National Relief Committee

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Phra Wongsā Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Shwe Thein | - Vice Chairman |
| 3. Nai Kasauh Mon | - Acting Secretary |
| 4. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 5. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 6. Phra Tay Jae | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon National Relief Committee (May, 1997)

Lack of Time for Transportation of Supplies

After a rapid needs assessment survey was conducted by MNRC, BBC and MSF before the end of 1996, it confirmed to provide main supplies to Mon refugees who are remaining in the border area but on Burmese side, after they were faced spontaneous repatriation. Since their native homes are not safe enough to return because of human rights situation they have to stay in border area. They also could not accept possible chance to reconstruct their life and create self-reliance like in their native homes.

Starting before the end of 1996, the MNRC has arranged transporting supplies to those refugees and at the same time, encouraged them to create self-reliance of them. But the Tavoy camp's refugees could not receive enough safety to plan for rice plantation in their area and aids agencies agreed to provide them more supplies than other camps' refugees. The transportation of supplies to these camps had been smooth up to the mid of April, 1997.

Normally, from April up to the end of May, the MNRC has responsibility to send all stock-piling supplies that refugees need for survival in duration from May up to December. The donor organization, BBC, provided all supplies in time and the Thailand's MOI permission also came to district office in time according to time-frame proposal summit of BBC. The MNRC has to arrange the trucks, labourers and refugees for smooth transportation of those supplies like every dry season.

While the MNRC tried to send all supplies before rainy season accordingly to date and amount defined in MOI's serial permissions, the transportation process was prohibited by the order that came from Ninth Army of Thai Army in third week of April. Without mentioning any reason, all arranged transportation was stopped when the time was the most possible for trucks to travel to the camps. Except to Halockhani camp, the supply transportations to other camps such as Tavoy and Bee Ree were stopped.

By mentioning the instructed order of Ninth Army, the MNRC and BBC (Sangkhlaburi office) were informed by the Sangkhlaburi District Office that all supplies to Bee Ree and Tavoy were not allowed to send into camps. Since then, the transportation of supply was stopped for three weeks and we had to store it in MNRC's rice warehouse of Sangkhlaburi. The MNRC faced that problem unexpectedly and informed the situation to concerned organizations to discuss with Ninth Army to follow and agree with MOI permission. But all attempt was fail and the situation was very hopeless for the refugees to receive rice and other foods.

Even though the MNRC and BBC accepted the MOI permission with humanitarian consideration provided by Thai government, the opposite idea was occurred by the army. The valuable time of dry season was become waste and

Division ordered to go into the camp. Along together with them, about 40 porters were also arrested to carry ammunition and other supplies of the troops.

Soon after they reached to campsite, they created check-points and collected tax from everyone who crossed into the camp and passed border point. As the campsite was situated on the border line, many traders and Thai citizens are also travelling and crossing the border and they could get chance to collect tax for those travellers.

According to Burmese troops, they came to campsite to check the border line with Thai authorities and on May 11, the Thai military officials also came and met with Burmese troops. They discussed about the border area and did not reach any agreement in defining border line. Although they completed discussion, the Burmese troops continued taking base for more days and refused to leave from Halockhani. Their second reason was to launch military offensives to KNU troops and they had to take base in Halockhani as a strategic position.

Because of the intrusion, many organization concerned for the safety of refugees and the refugees were also blocked by the troops inside camp and they were in fear of maltreatment. When the troops were in the camp, they also tried to collect theches and bamboo to build the bases and asked some foods from the villagers. Soon after taking base of Burmese troops, the NMSP leaders sent message to SLORC commanders in Moulmein to withdraw their troops and strongly complained to SLORC's broken promise. Then, on May 15, the Burmese troops moved out from Halockhani after they accepted from higher commanders of Moulmein.

The refugees in Tavoy area also feel unsafe as the area have been remained as temporary troop location zone of NMSP. The Burmese troops take base close to campsite and could reach to the camp within 3-4 hours. Because of unsafe situation of the campsite, many families of refugees also moved into Bee Ree camp and some also fled into Thailand illegally. According to NMSP-SLORC ceasefire agreement, the troops must have to leave area and if no more Mon troops there, the situation for refugees became very unsafe.

Similarly, about 900 Mon refugees of the most southern camp, Prachuab, fled into Thai territory on April 27, after the houses in camps were burnt down by Burmese Army. On that day, the Burmese Army occupied Chaung Chi area and drove out several hundred refugees to Thai territory and some displaced inside Burmese territory. When they reached in Thai soil, they were allowed only for temporary refuge and Thai authorities including Ninth Army, tried to force them to return back to Sangkhlaburi district area and to resettle in Halockhani camp or others. The refugees refused to return to Sangkhlaburi and at the same time, they were also barred to return to their homes in Chaung Chi.

Those refugees have been cared by border police for more than one month. On May 25, when the Burmese Army turned back its offensives to Chaung Chi area with many thousands troops to pressure armed force Mon Army Mergui District (MAMD), all campsites were re-occupied by Burmese troops and the refugees felt they were hopeless and no place to take refuge. As a result, the MAMD troops also surrendered to Burmese Army and the Burmese troops are still taken base in Chung Chi area. Starting by the end of May, MAMD, Thai and Burmese authorities have discussed and planned to push those refugees to Chaung Chi area back and will refuse to allow those refugees to take refuge in Thai territory. Soon or after they may

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be forced to return back to unsafe campsite where the Burmese Army is still taking base.

Among several campsite of Mon refugees, only Bee Ree camp is remained more stable than others. While the campsites are in unstable situation with new troop settlements of Burmese Army, the refugees lose chance reconstruct their life and community reconstruction programs are also become uncertain. On behalf of Mon refugees, the MNRC would like to request international community to review on the situation of Mon refugees and give a helping hand for the safety of them.

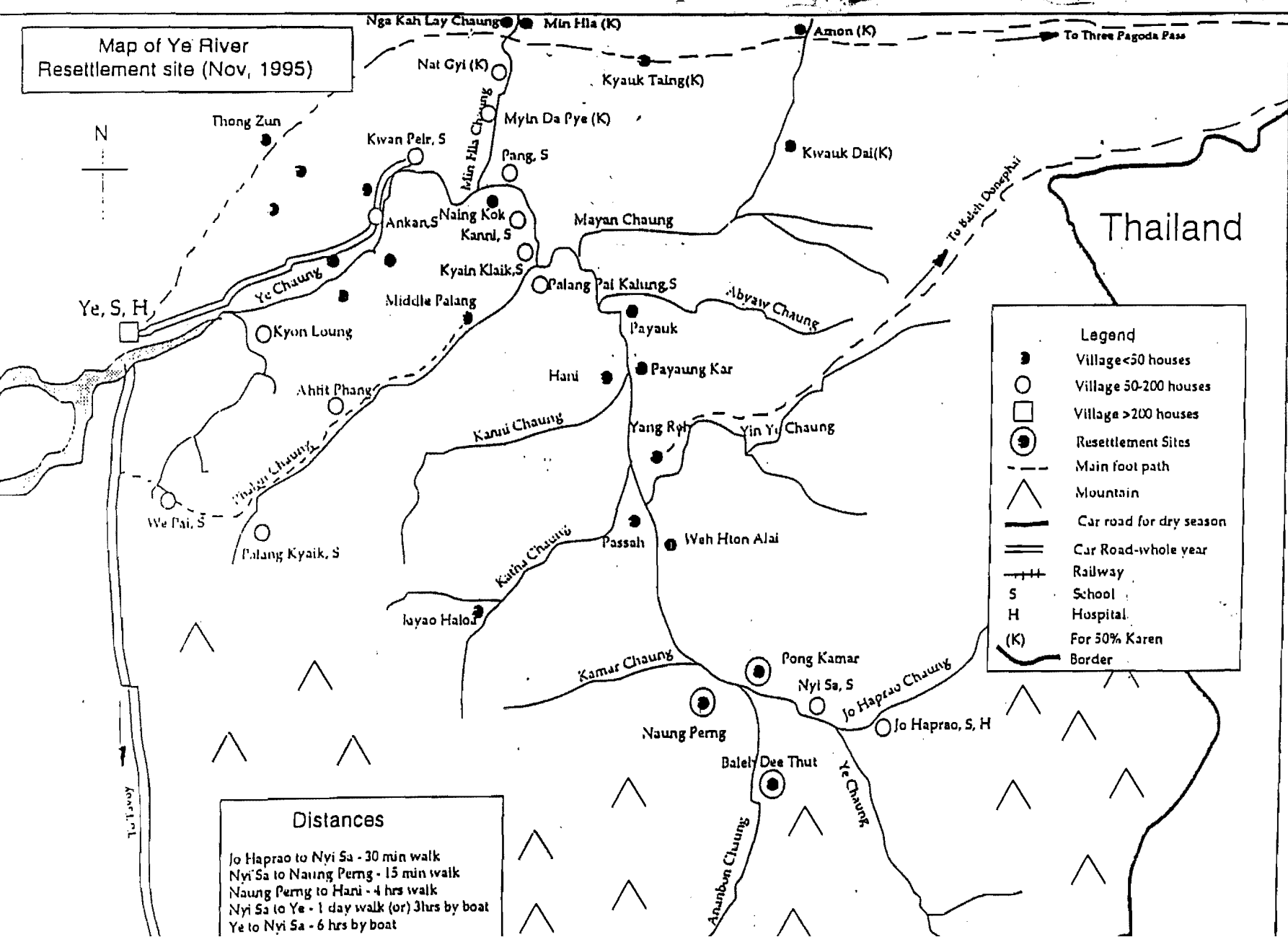
**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE FOUR CAMP ARE FOLLOW
(May, 1997)**

No	Camp	Family	Adult		Children		Total
			M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	415	486	543	688	772	2489
2	Tavoy	685	878	1087	989	1144	4098
3	Prachuab	491	452	558	702	771	2483
4	Halockhari	1011	1324	1376	1686	1733	6119
	Total	2602	3140	3564	4065	4420	15189

**THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(May, 1997)**

No	Organization	Rice (Sack)	Fish Paste (Kg)	Salt (Kg)	Bean (Kg)	Remark
1	COERR	250	1688	1125		
2	Consortium	3000	15250	8000	-	
	Total	3250	26938	9125		

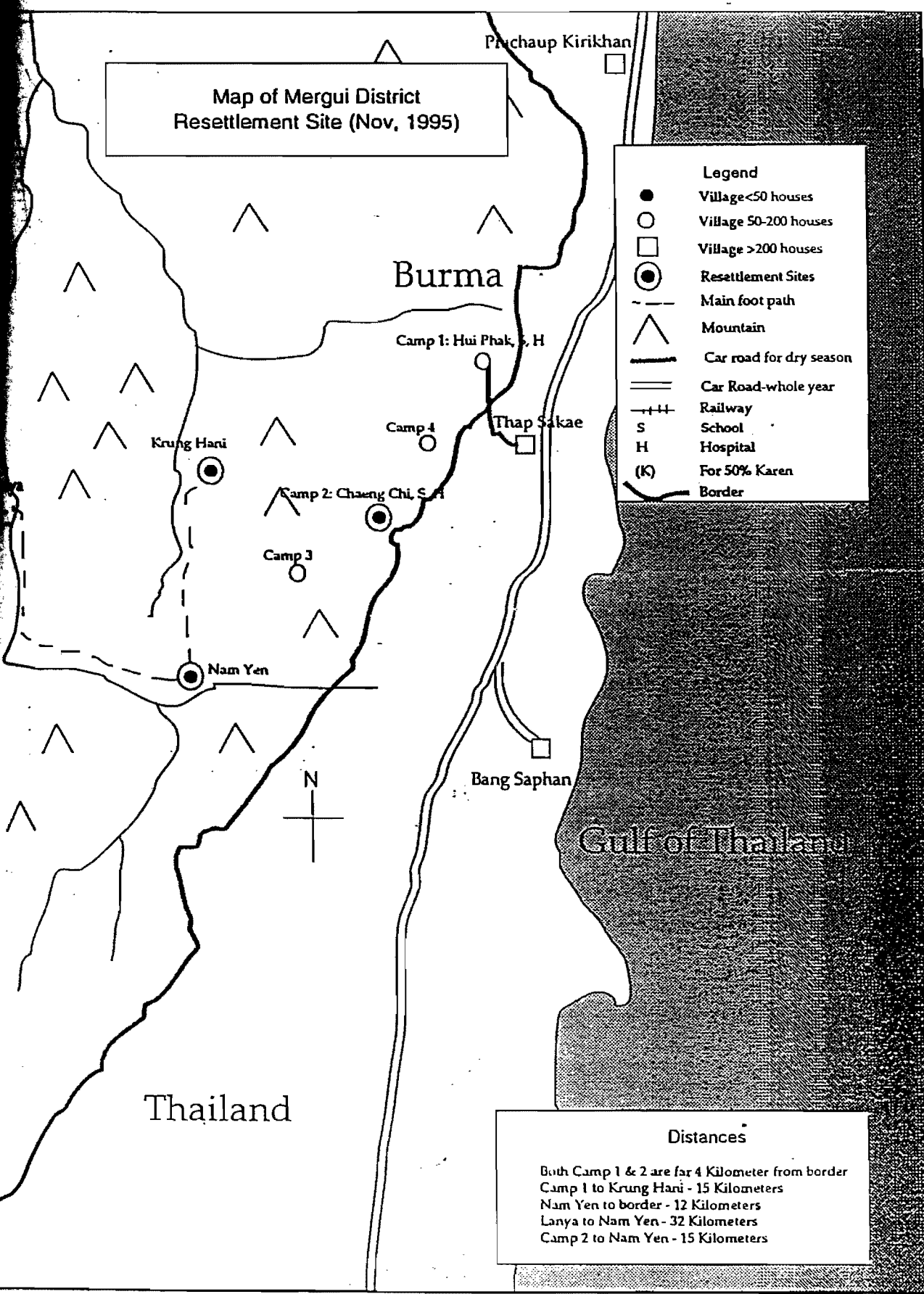
Map of Ye River Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



Map of Mergui District Resettlement Site (Nov, 1995)

Legend

- Village <50 houses
- Village 50-200 houses
- Village >200 houses
- ⊙ Resettlement Sites
- - - Main foot path
- △ Mountain
- Car road for dry season
- == Car Road-whole year
- +++ Railway
- S School
- H Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen
- Border



Distances

- Both Camp 1 & 2 are far 4 Kilometer from border
- Camp 1 to Krung Hani - 15 Kilometers
- Nam Yen to border - 12 Kilometers
- Lanya to Nam Yen - 32 Kilometers
- Camp 2 to Nam Yen - 15 Kilometers

Map of Tavoy District Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)

