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MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER

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

(October, 1997)

The increase of population, livelihood and agriculture of the refugees

The displaced persons, the refugees and the sudden increases of new arrivals to the border areas opposite of Sangkhlaburi district, Kanchanaburi Province, make a consideration that the current crop production in the area will not support the whole refugee population and they may have to ask the humanitarian assistance from the international aid agencies.

After the Mon refugees were spontaneously repatriated at the beginning of 1996, the MNRC and NMSP (New Mon State Party) have tried to settle the Mon displaced persons along the border area and encourage them for a creation of self-reliance or support themselves for survival.

Farmland was distributed to each family accordingly to initial plan, but the plain land space in the whole area was very narrow and all refugees could not get land. And because of the security reason, some refugees could not go further outside of the area. In the surrounding area, there have been threats by the activities of SLORC troops and the fighting between the KNU and SLORC troops. This make the refugees to lose chance to expand their agricultural works.

Last dry season, the refugees from the Tavoy area could not move far outside of their campsite because of SLORC troops' activities. Some refugees who attempted to clear lands to grow rice outside of the camp were arrested by the SLORC troops and fined 500 Kyat for their clearing lands or forced the villagers to register and gave 500 Kyat to the soldiers to accept permission to work in their farmland. Because of the security reason, some refugees had to abandon their farms and stopped farming activities.

The Halockhani refugee camp is situated on the borderline and if the refugees would like to make farm they may have to go further inside or along the way from their camp to Ye river. Sometimes, this road is used by the SLORC troops for the military purpose and the fighting between the KNU and SLORC troops happened very often in this area in the dry season. Comparing with the lands in the area, there is much population in the camp and every family does not get farmland. Some refugees who have farmlands far from the camp had to abandon their activities and stop growing rice.

The refugees in Bee Ree camp have more chance to make farms. This area is situating far inside area and the SLORC troops will not easily reach to the camp and they have more safe situation to continue their farming activities. All former refugee farmers have worked to grow rice and hopefully, their rice production will support them for some percents of the total need of the whole population.

But according to farmers, the whether condition could also drop the rice production. There was hard rain when the rice plants were started to grow in July and August. The over rain-water make flood at the slope of the hills and in some farms, the land collapses were happened and the farmers lost the plants. After the heavy rain, there was a drought situation in September and the rice plants could not get enough water and lose to produce good quality crops. In some places, the rice-farms are close to the streams and when the water level rose up, some rice plants were destroyed by the flood.

Some refugees from Halockhani camp abandoned the farms and lost the chance to grow rice because of security reason. We hope the rice production in Halockhani area will support only 25% of the total need of all refugees. The Tavoy refugees lost chance to grow rice, the rice produc-

tion in the area will support only 10% of the total need of the refugees. Some refugees in Bee Ree camp lost their crops because of the flood along the rivers and streams and the rice production in the area can support about 30% of the total need of the refugees.

At the same time, thousands of Karen new arrivals have reached to Halockhani refugee camp in previous months. At the beginning of dry season, the SLORC troops tried to launch to the offensives against the KNU/KNLA and the forced relocation of the Karen and Mon villagers are currently happened in rural areas.

Forced Relocation and The Refugee Influx

In Kya-Inn-Seikyi township, about 13 Mon and Karen villages were forcibly ordered and moved by the local SLORC troops from LIB No. 355 and No. 356 in the mid of October. The troops from these battalions are actively launched patrol along the Zami river and in the third week of September, a commander from LIB No. 355, Col. Zaw Lin Htun, called a meeting with over 20 villages' headmen and asked them to move the villagers to SLORC controlled villages. The deadline for the relocation is October 15.

The new resettlement sites are set up in surrounding area of Taung Bauk, Wai Thar Lee and Hti Pauk Khlo villages, which are mainly under control of SLORC troops. The SLORC's IB No. 32 has permanent base in Taung Bauk village and these resettlement sites are not so far from their base. To resettle the new comers, the troops confiscated many acres of rubber plantation and rice-fields without any payment. Since before the end of September, the villagers were constantly forced to move into new sites. The families who would not like to stay in the new site are become displaced persons or some fled to the border refugee camps.

The Mon villages under the forced relocation program are: (1) Lake Pyort, (2) Ka Lort Tort Chaung, and (3) Thar Shay. The Karen villages are: (1) Hti Pho Hut, (2) Kyaik Young, (3) Ah Kyar, (4) Hti Par Lay, (5) Hti Par Htaw, (6) Ye Le, (7) Thar Yar Gone, (8) Chi Laung Chi, (9) Taung Gale, and (10) Shwe Maung Sakan.

The forced relocation order was issued by LIB No. 535 in the third week of September and the following forced relocation processes are implemented by LIB No. 356 again. Because of this forced relocation, about 10,000 Karen and Mon villagers are displaced and homeless. They abandoned their houses, belongings, gardens, livestock, rice-fields, and fruit and other plantations.

The forced relocation has continued. At the beginning of October, the SLORC troops base in Three-Pagoda-Pass, IB No. 62, tried to build truck road from Three-Pagoda-Pass to Thanbyuzayat. But there are some Karen guerrillas along the way and the villages on it are accused as rebel-bases. Thus, two columns of LIB No. 355 ordered about 7 villages, with mixed population of Mon and Karen, to move into Three-Pagoda-Pass area. Then, the troops brought bulldozers to build the road and at the same time they also forced the villagers to move from their villages.

The relocated villages are: (1) Apa Lon, (2) Ah Ka Laing, (3) Mae Zar Lee, (4) Lay Pho, (5) Lone Si, (6) Tha Pyu and (7) Zin Phare. About 630 households of 3, 500 villagers have been homeless and displaced. Some agreed to move and stay in Three-Pagoda-Pass area while many of them moved into Mon villages under control of the New Mon State Party. Some moved into border refugee camps.

When the SLORC troops operated to move the villagers from their native place, they also restricted the movement of the villagers. Since the order came out, the villagers were not allowed

to go outside of their villages. In the harvest time, the villagers were not allowed to reap their ripe rice crops. If the villagers went outside, they must need permission letter from village headmen or a military commander. If the soldiers met someone without permission, he must be severely beaten by soldiers.

Because of the movement restriction, the villagers lost their crops and met food-shortage problem when they moved from their villages to the new sites or fled to another areas. In some village, the villagers were allowed to reap their crops but the soldiers forced them to send all of it to the military outposts. They will use these supplies in launching offensives against the KNU/KNLA.

In the new resettlement sites, the villagers are not provided with shelters and foods by SLORC. And the troops always launch patrol around the relocated villages and checked the left villagers. If they met someone in the village, he must be accused as rebels and killed by them.

This mis-treatment forced many hundreds of villagers to flee to the border area and take refuge in refugee camp. The Halockhani camp's population have suddenly increased in October with Karen fleeings from Kya-Inn-Seikyi township and villages on Three-Pagoda-Pass-Thanbyuzayat motor road. Most refugees who reached to the camp left nothing and they are hunger for foods. Under this circumstance, they seriously ask the assistance from international aid agencies.

POPULATION CHANGES IN REFUGEE CAMPS

BEE REE CAMP

The population has increased in this camp with refugees who moved from the TAVOY CAMP because of the security reason. At the beginning of 1997, this camp has over 2000 population and at the moment the population increased nearly to 2800.

TAVOY CAMP

This camp is situating in NMSP's temporary ceasefire zone. It means the SLORC could take this area anytime and the NMSP must have to withdraw their troops from the area. Without protection of the NMSP, the refugees in the area must not get enough protection. Some refugees are in fear of the arrivals of SLORC troops and decided to move to other camps or migrate into Thailand. The number of the population in this camp slowly dropped down. Since before the end of 1996, over 1000 population left from this camp. At the moment, it has over 2400 population.

HALOCKHANI CAMP

The MNRC has a separate section especially for Karen refugees in this camp. Thousands of Karen refugees have arrived to this section since the SLORC launched offensives against KNU/KNLA at the beginning of 1997. Initially, the section has only about 500 population and now it reached over 3000. Because of the recent forced relocation of the Karen and Mon villagers in Kya-Inn-Seikyi township and along the Three-Pagoda-Pass-Thanbyuzayat motor road, one thousand of Karen villagers poured into this section again. The other three section have about 4150 population including some Tavoyan families. Thus, there is over 7000 population in Halockhani refugee camp in its four sections. The Karen refugees are continuously fleeing their homes and their section is in unsafe situation. The MNRC would like to request the international community to provide protection to these war fleeings and escapees of human rights abuses. They must be settled in a safe place inside Thai territory.

**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE CAMPS
(October, 1997)**

No	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 yrs		5-12 yrs		Under 5yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1.	Bee Ree	488	919	999	249	276	159	174	2776
2.	Tavoy	443	837	818	253	222	156	124	2410
3.	Halockhani	1317	2492	2603	679	748	421	437	7380
	TOTAL	2248	4248	4420	1181	1246	736	735	12566

**THE MATERIAL RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(September, 1997)**

No	Organization	Rice (sack)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Sardine (box)	Remark
1	COERR	120	362.5	240	30	
2	Consortium	-	-	-	-	
	Total	120	362.5	240	30	

Map of Tavoy District Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)

Agriculture
Payaw, St.

Kwan Tamoit

Meip Zeip

Kunghabae

Jao Done

Tai Poit Mae

Thailand

Hlae Seik

Hta Paw Kwar

Sunee / Kyaukse
Kyauklonekyi

Kyauklonekyi

At Nang Chaung

Kin Chaung

The Chaung

Tavoy River

Kyaealain, S

Nat Ei

Pine Krone Kung

Yabu, S

Maraing

Tavoy River

Halein Aung, S

Legend

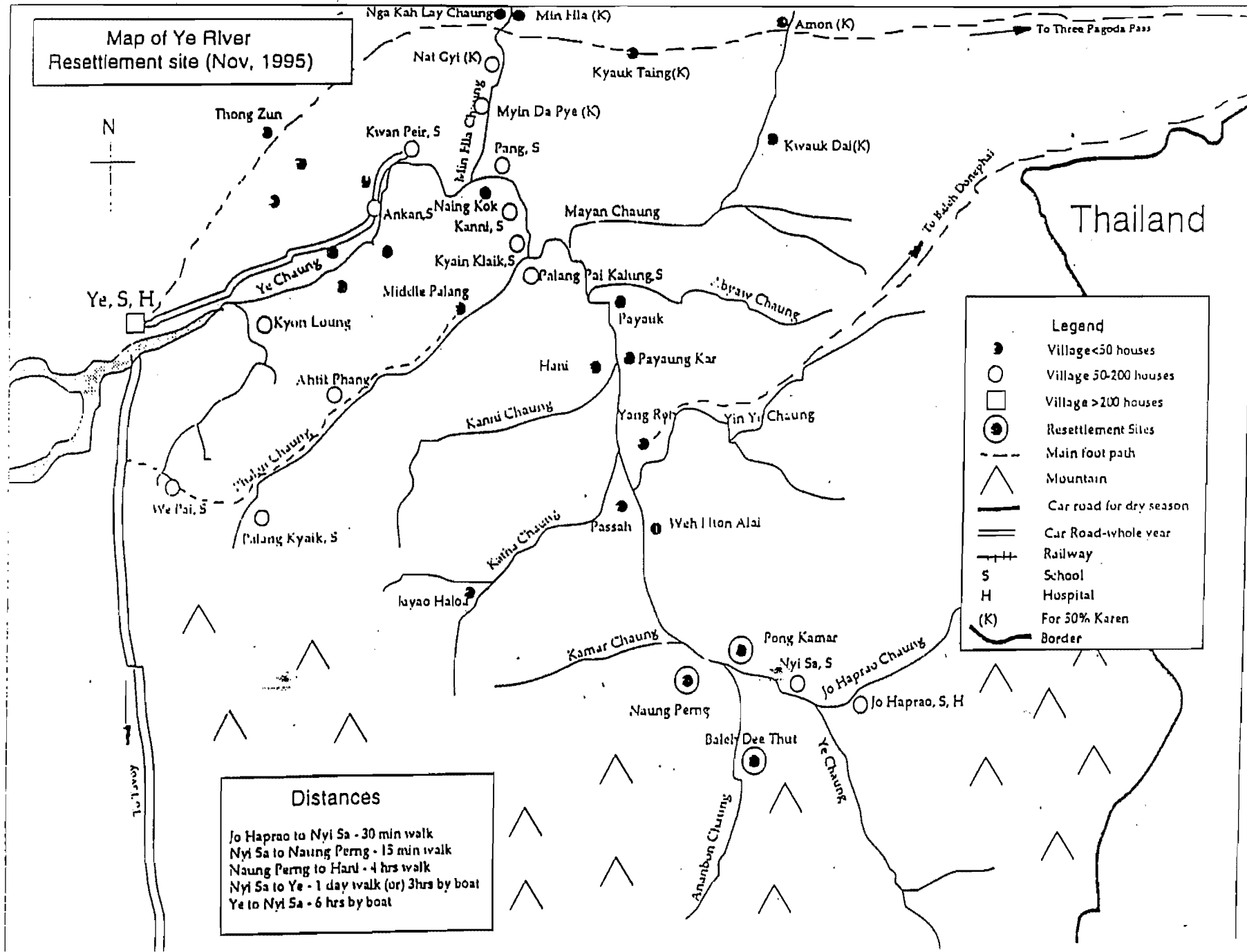
- Village < 50 houses
- Village 50-200 houses
- Village > 200 houses
- ⊙ Resettlement Sites
- - - Main foot path
- △ Mountain
- Car road for dry season
- == Car Road-whole year
- +++ Railway
- S School
- H Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen
- Border

Distances

Payaw to Jao Done - 5 hrs walk
Jao Done to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk
Hlae Seik to Aleskan - 3 hrs walk
Jao Done to Yabu - 10 hrs walk

N

Map of Ye River
Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



Thailand

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
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- Border

Distances

Jo Haprao to Nyi Sa - 30 min walk
 Nyi Sa to Naung Perng - 15 min walk
 Naung Perng to Hani - 4 hrs walk
 Nyi Sa to Ye - 1 day walk (or) 3hrs by boat
 Ye to Nyi Sa - 6 hrs by boat

Map of Moulmein District Resettlement site (Sep, 1995)

Distances

Three Pagoda Pass to Chaung Zone - 3 hrs walk
 Baleh Donephal to Pongkatag - 6 hrs walk
 Halockhani to Baleh Donephal - 1 hr walk
 Baleh Donephal to Chedell - 8 hrs walk

Legend

- Village < 50 houses
- Village 50-200 houses
- Village > 200 houses
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