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MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY

2000

The Five Points of the Aim of Mon Relief and Development Committee

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1. To provide temporary settlement to the refugees in Thailand-Burma border areas who become homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes.
2. To help the welfares of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with foods, shelter and possible protection.
3. To coordinate with local Mon people in developing the grassroots community in the fields of health, education, literacy, agriculture and other rural development projects.
4. To empower the local community for the participation of decision making processes for their own lives and communities.
4. To struggle for the human rights.

The Organization of Mon Relief and Development Committee

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Phra Wongsā Pala | - Chairman |
| 2. Nai Kasauh Mon | - General Secretary |
| 3. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 4. Nai Aung Mon | - Member |
| 5. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 6. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 7. Nai Glae | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (January, 2000)

SPDC's Military Offensives and New Arrivals to Refugee Resettlement Site

Since the beginning of October, the Burmese Army's some thousands troops from LID No. 33 and NID No. 88 arrived into Mon State and Karen State and took some civilian porters to carry ammunitions and food supplies in front-lines. (LID – Light Infantry Battalion, and there are about 10 battalions in one military division.) And, the battalions under these military divisions have continuously launched the military offensives against KNU and other ethnic rebels in Karen State, some parts of Mon State and many parts of Tenasserim Division.

As the previous years, the Burmese Army has planned to launch the military offensives in every dry season and this year dry season, from October to May, the SPDC planned to occupy more border points that controlled by ethnic rebels for many years. On the other hand, the SPDC also angered for the seize of Burmese Embassy in Bangkok in the beginning of October, and has tried to make a reprisal against the rebel group who accepted the escaped Burmese students.

Thus, SPDC ordered not only the military battalions in southern part of Burma, under the command of Southeast Region Military Command and Coastal Region Military Command, it also brought many thousands troops from Upper Burma and Arakan State, to launch the offensives. The offensives this year is quite similar to 1997 offensives and SPDC troops' treatment to the villagers in the Black Area (free fire zone) is also terrible, inhumane and brutal like 1997.

As most parts of Mon State is recognized as white or brown areas, the Burmese Army has not make much offensives but took some civilians from many townships in Mon State. Before the Burmese Army's LID No. 33 and LID No. 88's troops arrived to Mon State, the Southeast Region Military Command had ordered to its local battalions that base in many townships in Mon State, to take at least two civilians from each Mon village. Even some small Mon village with 100 households had to provide about two civilian porters. Some villages had to provide about 5 porters.

The local military battalions had to make ready for the required unpaid porters to carry ammunitions and food supplies along with the troops from two military LIDs. The local military gathered the required number of porters, and when the battalions from the two LIDs arrived to Mon State, they also provided the provided porters for them.

Similarly to Mon State, the local military battalions also requested in some parts of Karen State, in where the SPDC has firm control. For examples, the Mon villages in Pa-an and Kawkareik townships of Karen State also had to provide at least two porters from each village.

Since the beginning of October, some battalions for these two military divisions had arrived to Mon State, took some porters and started launching offensives in Karen State against KNU and other rebel groups. In mid-October, there were more troops from the two divisions arrived to Mon State with military trucks. The battalions from both LID No. 33 and LID No. 88 came with over 50 military trucks to Mon State and took about 500 porters along with them.

The troops from the two military divisions also used the different routes in launching offensives. LID No. 33 troops have used the route from Thanbyuzayat to Three Pagoda Pass motor-road in launching offensives while LID No. 88 troops have used the route from Mudon

to Kya Inn Seikyi town in Karen State. After those troops reached into Black Area, they separated their forces and tried to occupy the KNU and other rebels' bases.

In this offensives, many Mon and Karen villagers stayed in Black Area, were arrested in various places such as in village, in the farms and on the roads, were used as civilian porters again. Thus, the Burmese troops used many hundreds or some thousands of civilian porters totally to carry their ammunitions and food supplies or otherwise to use those porters as minesweepers or human-shields. The porters were forced to walk for many hours, from 12 hours to 16 hours, in a day and they also received only insufficient foods for daily meals. Normally, those porters were fed with the remaining foods and many of them received only one meal per day. Some when those porters could not walk or were sick, the soldiers also beat them or left them behind or killed them. The porters who failed from attempt to escape were always killed in the battlefields.

Similarly, the villagers in the battlefields or in the Black Area were always accused as rebel-supporters or sympathizers and the villages were always accused as rebel bases. The villagers in these areas were always asked for the activities of KNU or other rebel troops and if they could not give satisfaction answers to Burmese soldiers, they were severely tortured until die. Sometimes, village leaders or religious leaders were also accused as supporters and they were also inhumanely tortured by soldiers.

As evidence, when LID No. 88's battalion LIB No. 120 moved into east part of Zami river area and entered into Kyone-sein village tract, the battalion tortured and killed many Karen villagers from about five villagers with accusation of rebel-supporters. When the battalion troops led by Lt. Col. Maung Maung Oo, the soldiers arrested five men from the village and tortured them with accusation of rebel-supporters. The soldiers inhumanely tortured those five villagers by asking them about the activities of KNU. At then end, after they could not receive satisfaction answers from the villagers, they also killed three villagers among five. Similarly, when the troops went into Kyone-sein village, they also killed another three villagers after tortured. In this village alone, the soldiers arrested about 10 villagers and killed three villagers among them. Two married women from this village were also raped by the group of soldiers and they were severely tortured nearly die. When the troops could not get enough men to be porters from these villages, the soldiers also arrested women to be porters to carry ammunitions and food supplies. Some women were also raped during the porter service.

Because of systematic persecution against the non-Burman ethnic villagers and maltreatment to the civilians in areas along Thanbyuzayat motor road and in east side of Zami river (of Kya Inn Seikyi township area), the villagers are displaced and hiding in the forests or jungles. Some of them also fled to Thailand border and entered into some Karen refugee camp set up in Thailand. However, many of them left in their own areas as internally displaced persons.

And, about 1000-2000 Mon and Karen villagers from Kya Inn Seikyi township area also fled and took refuge in NMSP (New Mon State Party) control area. From mid-November, 1999, until the end of January 2000, there are about 600 villagers from 144 families have arrived into a Mon refugee resettlement area, Halockhani.

In Halockhani resettlement area, MNRC or the current MRDC established four sections to settle the returnees from Thailand's camps after NMSP agreed for a ceasefire with SLORC, the new arrivals who fled from the native villages to escape various types of persecution, and immigrants from Thailand. For the Karen villagers, there is a Karen section, Hteewadoe, in the resettlement area and the section population has been increased after Burmese Army 1997's military offensives.

The new arrivals in the previous months are mostly Karen villagers and they are about 65% of the total 600 new arrivals population. Most of them have built their houses and settled in Hteewadoe section where they can get help from other Karen villagers. The remaining about 35% of the new arrivals are Mon villagers and they fled from their villages

for the same persecution committed by the Burmese Army while they were in their native villages. Most Mon villagers have built their houses and settled in a Mon section, Baleh Donephai, of the resettlement area.

Similarly, other villagers also fled into villagers under the control of NMSP, but not the resettlement area. We estimated there are over 1000 population more arrived into NMSP controlled villagers and have taken refuge in there. There are over 5 villages under NMSP administration in Three Pagoda Pass area alone, those villagers fled and took refuge in these villages.

For the new arrivals or new internal refugees in resettlement area, we urgently need extra foods and some clothing from them. In comparing with other families in the resettlement area, the new arrivals have faced more difficulties for survival. Some people are also sick in this border area where is known as malaria zone and the whether is quite cold for them.

Therefore, we would to request the humanitarian donor agencies to provide 100 of foods for those new arrivals for some months and to give them some blankets to protect from the worst weather.

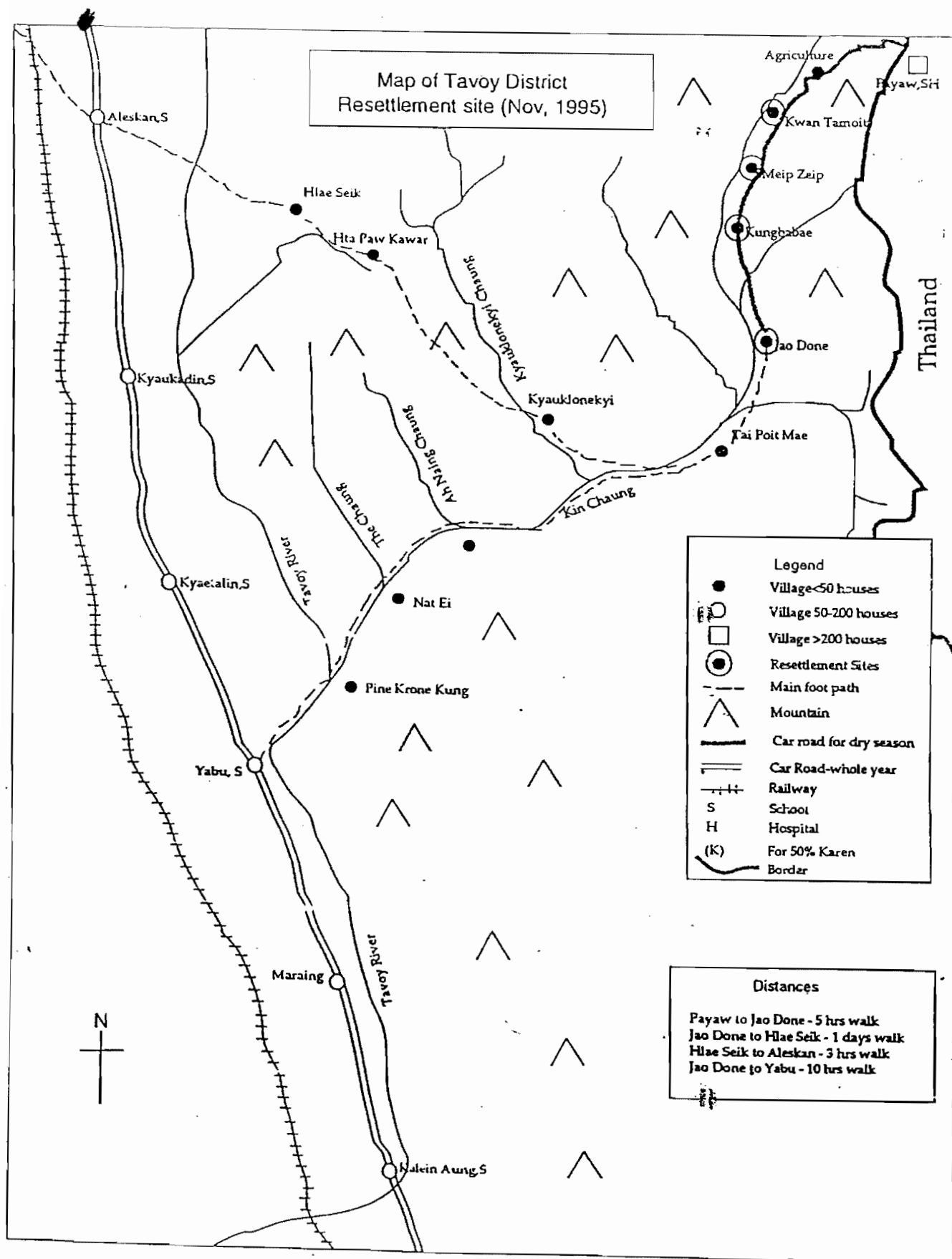
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE CAMPS
(January, 2000)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	538	995	1100	283	313	171	178	3040
2	Tavoy	542	980	956	295	288	174	204	2897
3	Halockhani	1560	2318	2334	882	896	525	553	7508
	TOTAL	2640	4293	4390	1460	1497	870	935	13445

Note: There are 589 new arrivals totally. This population includes 505 adults over 5 and 84 children 5 years.

THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(January, 2000)

No	Organization	Rice (Sack)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Sadine (tins)	Remark
1	COERR	120	360	240	3000	
2	BBC	1000	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	1120	360	240	3000	



Map of Ye River Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)

