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MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY

2000

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



- 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, agricuture 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 Chann Ai | - Vice-Chairman |
| 3. Nai Kasauh Mon | - General Secretary |
| 4. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 5. Nai Aung Mon | - Member |
| 6. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 7. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 8. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 9. Phra Jon Dae | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee

(May, 2000)

The Completion of Supply Transportation

As the previous years, to help the Mon internal refugees or the repatriated refugees with humanitarian assistance, MRDC has to arrange for the transportation of supplies to reach to the respective refugee resettlement site. The duration of transportation of supplies into these refugee resettlement sites is not the whole year. Only in the dry season (which has interval from October to April), MRDC has chances to send in the supplies to the resettlement sites. However, the exact period for the transportation of supplies is only from November to April.

During the whole rainy season from June to September, due to rainy season, the roads that proceeded to all resettlement sites are destroyed and these are useless. The water level in the streams is also high due to fallen rain water and land collapse also happens along the roads. Thus, the use of truck to travel in these roads is quite impossible during the whole rainy season. Because of these conditions, MRDC had to arrange transportation of supplies during the dry season.

Among many roads that proceeded to the resettlement sites, the only road that proceeded to Halockhani from Thailand could be well used by four-wheels-trucks during rainy season. But it was not allowed for ten-wheels-trucks to run in the rainy season by Thai authorities. The roads that proceeded to the other two resettlement sites, Bee Ree and Tavoy, are useless in the whole rainy season and the refugees in these areas only rely on the boats for their travel in the rainy season.

Although the rainy season ends in September/ October, the trucks that required transporting the supplies could not suddenly use these roads. Even in November, the water level in the streams along these roads is still high and strong, and the trucks could not cross the water in streams. Due to the landslide on the road during the whole rainy season, the road is still narrow and it is dangerous for trucks, because it could be dropped into mountain slopes.

Therefore, from November until January, when the water level is low enough, MRDC has to take responsibility to repair or re-build the roads again. Depending on how much the road collapses, MRDC decides to use manpower or machine. In this 1999-2000 Year, when MRDC planned to rebuild the roads, one old road to Bee Ree was too much ruin and it could be re-built again. If we re-built it with bulldozer, we have to spend a lot of money and so, MRDC decided to build a new road which passes in the lower area and along Ye river to Bee Ree resettlement site. Similarly, the old road that proceeded to Tavoy resettlement site is also ruin and actually this road could be used only three months, from February to April, and so MRDC and NMSP decided to build a new road that could be used about five months. After concrete discussion with NMSP leaders, NMSP also paid for all costs of road building and MRDC took responsibilities in build these two new roads to Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement site.

However, due to difficulties to get permission and to get bulldozer, the road construction has been delayed, and MRDC could complete building of road to Tavoy site in January and then moved the bulldozer to build Bee Ree road. The road construction to Bee Ree finished at the end of February.

Hence, although MRDC arranged sending in supplies to Halockhani before the end of December 1999, we could manage sending in supplies to Tavoy resettlement site only at the beginning of February. And, we could send in the supplies to Bee Ree resettlement site only before the end of February.

For the whole nearly three months, we could use the road to Tavoy resettlement site and had used four-wheels-trucks and sent in all supplies into there. As the road is narrow and could not hire ten-wheels-trucks, MRDC could use only four-wheels-trucks for the transportation. All transportation process of supplies to this resettlement site completed in the first week of May. When MRDC arranged for the transportation of supplies to Bee Ree resettlement, it could hire both ten-wheels-trucks and four-

wheels-trucks. Although MRDC could get only two and a half months time to send in all supplies, the transportation of supplies to this site completed earlier than to Tavoy site. In comparing with the previous year, the rain also came earlier in this year and after Songkaram festival (new year of Burma), the rain already came and MRDC also faced some difficulties in managing sending in supplies. On the half way to Bee Ree and Tavoy resettlement site, it also has to build temporary rice-stores and kept there for a while. Then, it organized the trucks and continued sending in supplies when it had opportunities. At the end, all transportation of supplies is smoothly finished and no any rice sack was wet because of the rain.

Since the road to Halockhani could be used until the end of June, MRDC remained some amount of rice sacks to be sent to Halockhani. So, it will send all stock-piling supplies to Halockhani in early June and all transportation would be finished in June. These supplies are 50% of assistance for Mon and other ethnic refugees who reside in the resettlement site. As the food supplies from the donor agencies lessen down, it makes MRDC to be early completed the transportation of supplies to the respective resettlement camps.

Forced Relocation of Paukpingwin Village and Population Displacement

Following the activities of a Mon armed group in many part of Ye and Yebyu Township areas, outside of NMSP control area, the Mon villagers in these areas have been constantly suffered from the suspicion of SPDC troops as rebel-supporters. These rebel troops also went around into Mon villages to get foods and fund from the villagers. Whenever the rebel soldiers went into a village, the villagers in it were accused as rebel-supporters and the headmen were always severely beaten. During late 1997 and early 1998, some villagers near the seacoast of Ye and Yebyu Township area were also arbitrary executed by SPDC soldiers with suspicion that they were rebel-supporters. Since then, the population displacement has happened in these areas and the villagers had to flee from one place to another to avoid mis-treatment committed by SPDC soldiers.

Because of the previous participation of rebel leaders and their officers in a celebration of Mon National Day, which was held in Paukpingwin village, Yebyu Township, the population displacement has occurred again (some stories of displacement were already described in MRDC's April 2000 Monthly Report). During that month, most SPDC troops that took bases near Paukpingwin village were withdrawn and sent to frontlines in SPDC's offensives against KNU and God's Army. By taking that situation as a good opportunity, the Mon armed group leaders secretly negotiated with local village headmen and arranged for a Mon National Day celebration in Paukpingwin village, where the SPDC troops have firm control in the previous months. On February 20, when the rebel leaders attended the ceremony and SPDC troops delayed to stop and later when they heard about that, they angered to all village headmen, who attended the ceremony.

Therefore, the headmen and the villagers from many Mon villages who attended the ceremony were accused as rebel-supporters and some of them were arrested and tortured. Then, the troops from LIB No. 273 and IB No. 25 also blocked many villages and did not allow villagers to go to their farms. If someone was in the farm or in the plantation, he was accused as rebel-supporter and must be severely tortured. Due to this mis-treatment, the population displacement has happened since March.

Additionally, the SPDC troops also angered to headmen and villagers of Paukmpingwin village for their acceptance of Mon National Day and allowed the participation of rebel leaders. Thus, LIB No. 273 commander Lt. Col. Htin Kyaw went to this village on May 17 and ordered all villagers to move out from their village within one week and he did not instruct where they must settle. He just ordered that after one week he would like to see anyone in this village. This is the punishment to villagers.

So, over 1, 000 population of Paukpingwin villagers has been displaced since the order from LIB No. 273 was ordered and nobody dared appealed to commander. The commander also accused the villagers that they are supporting the robber group (according to SPDC troops' term) and gave them foods, money and helped arranging for them to participate in the Mon National Day ceremony.

Due to this order, the villagers suddenly moved from their villages to another villages. Very little number of villagers moved into their plantations, because even in the plantations, they were not safe. If they were arrested in the plantations they could be accused as rebel-supporters again and faced mis-treatment.

Many villagers decided to move into SPDC control areas. The villagers moved into Kalort, Koe-mile, Ye town in Ye Township area and to Aleskan and Yapu village of Yebyu Township area. Some of them also moved to Hlae-seik village, where MRDC and NMSP resettled an IDPs village. Normally, when the villagers moved to other areas, they had to abandon their houses, gardens, plantations, livestock, farms and other belongings. They could bring only some of their clothes and pots along with them.

By combining with the previous population displacement, this is a serious and enormous displacement in Yebyu Township area in the dry season of 2000. In April, according our estimation, due to abuses related movement restriction and tortures with accusation of rebel-supporters, about 3, 000- 5, 000 population has been displaced and now it added with another 1, 000 population. The SPDC is the main creator of the population displacement and forced them to leave from their native homes. And, the IDPs do not receive protection in the new places and less opportunity to get jobs for regular income.

Normally, those IDPs have to stay with their relatives in villages or towns in government control areas or in NMSP control areas. Some IDPs in NMSP decided to stay on in the areas they are staying now and tried to make slash and burnt paddy plantation as much as they can. But the IDPs in the SPDC control areas might have to seek jobs, as day labourers to get income and feed their families. Anyhow all IDPs in every areas must face various difficulties for survival.

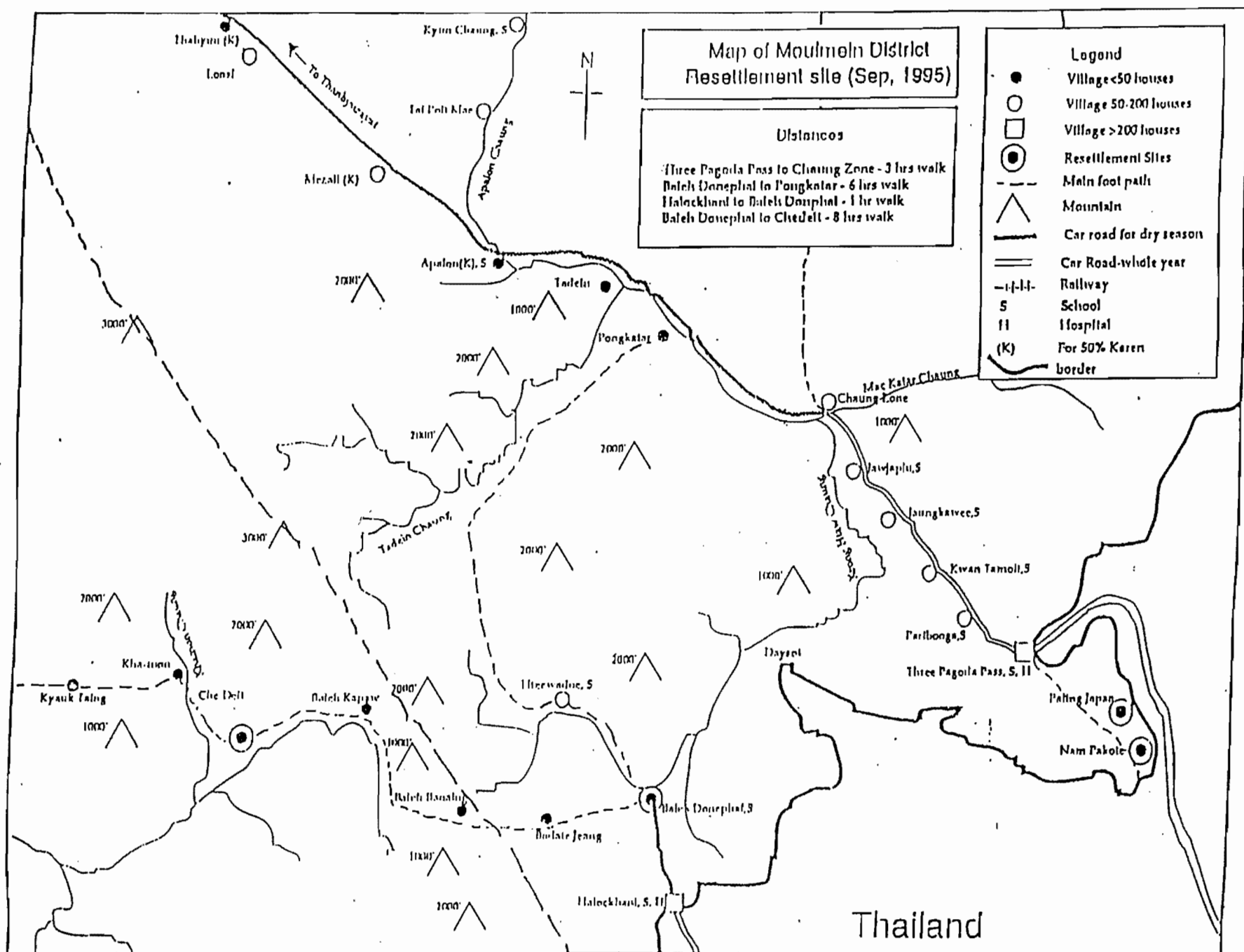
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE CAMPS
(May, 2000)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	611	1090	1209	344	382	193	204	3422
2	Tavoy	640	1125	1113	368	368	204	242	3420
3	Halockhani	1573	2354	2358	888	902	532	558	7592
	TOTAL	2824	4569	4680	1600	1652	929	1004	14434

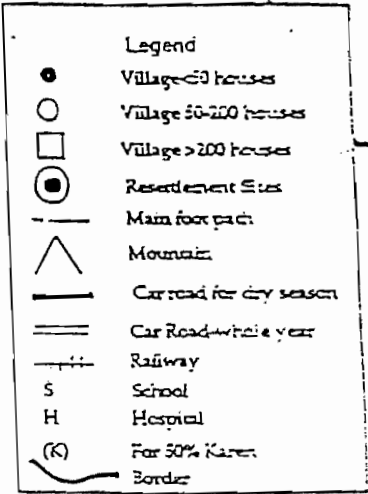
Note: There are about 382 new arrivals in Bee Ree resettlement site and 523 new arrivals in Tavoy resettlement site who arrived during March and April.

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

No	Organization	Rice (Sack)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Sadine (tins)	Remark
1	COERR	120	360	240	3000	
2	BBC	1762	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	1882	360	240	3000	



Map of Tavoy District
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)



Distances

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

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Jao Done to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk
Hlae Seik to Aleson - 3 hrs walk
Jao Done to Yaibu - 10 hrs walk

Map of Ye Flver
Rosellfont site (Nov. 1995)

