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ကော်မတီ

မကရင်မဟာအိန္ဒြာဗျဉ်းသူ ငမန်

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY

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** .....

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1. Phra Wongsa Pala</b> | <b>- Chairman</b>          |
| <b>2. Nai Chann Ai</b>     | <b>- Vice-Chairman</b>     |
| <b>3. Nai Kasauh Mon</b>   | <b>- General Secretary</b> |
| <b>4. Nai Dung Htaw</b>    | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>5. Nai Aung Mon</b>     | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>6. Nai Glae</b>         | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>7. Nai Chit Nyunt</b>   | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>8. Nai Tay Jae</b>      | <b>- Member</b>            |
| <b>9. Phra Jon Dae</b>     | <b>- Member</b>            |

# **Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee**

## **(July, 2000)**

### **The Plight of IDPs in Mon Areas and Burma**

Under the rule of military regime, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), both urban and rural civilians have been suffered from various types of human rights violations, such as forced relocations related to development projects or civil war, maltreatment with accusations of rebel-supporters and movement restriction.

Normally, in the urban areas, the government has implemented various development projects and the civilians have been forcibly moved from their lands and houses sometimes without providing enough time to carry all their belongings. In the urban areas, the government has built some roads, established new satellite towns, built bridges and dams, under the SPDC slogan to do development for the whole people in Burma. Additionally, when the military government deployed their military battalions in one area, the local authorities and concerned battalions also confiscated lands from the civilians.

Anyhow, both rural and urban displacements have been created by the government and after displacement, they have offered very little assistance or nothing. These IDPs normally faced different hardship to find jobs and to seek income and most of them rely on the assistance from their families and some of them moved into Thailand, to stay in refugee camp or to find jobs in Thailand.

In some forced relocation, although the government provided a plot of land for each family, the relocated families did not receive other types of assistance. In the new plot of land, they were always in hardship conditions for survival. After 1988 democracy demonstration, SLORC also relocated some civilians in Rangoon and moved them to new resettlement sites or new satellite towns. In the new places, the relocated civilians did not receive electricity, water and foods. Sometimes, those relocated civilians also faced food-shortage problems and have to move to another places again.

In Mon State, the government authorities also relocated civilians when they implemented some development projects. When Mon State LORC authorities planned to build Ataran Bridge, to cross Salween river, about 66 families were moved from Kywe-gyan-gone ward of Moulmein city before the end of 1997. These civilians were moved to outside of Moulmein and resettled them on the road from Moulmein to Kyaikmayaw town without assistance. Normally, those civilians were mostly day-labourers who worked in Moulmein and it was more easily to get work. In the new site, those civilians could not afford to get work and the authorities did not distribute any land for them for farming or even growing vegetables. Nearly half of families re-sold their small plots of lands to other and moved into city again and seek assistance from their friends or their relatives.

Similarly, in 1990, when SLORC planned to deploy navy forces in Moulmein, over 3000 civilian families from Mupon city ward were ordered to move from that place and created a resettlement site in the paddy-fields, east of Moulmein. The lands for new resettlement site were also confiscated by SLORC and Burmese Army, without compensations. The authorities also did not provide any help to the relocated civilians. In the new site, the civilians faced various types of difficulties to get jobs and income. In the satellite town, the authorities created schools and monasteries for the community. During the land plot distribution conducted by the authorities, the army commanders and government officials took some plots near main roads. Such corruption by authorities always happened whenever the military government established a new satellite town in any part of Burma.

Whenever land contribution is make for the relocated civilians in new satellite town, the distribution officials always have to give some plots of land to government officials and military commanders with promotion colonels and higher. However, those military officers

and higher authorities have not stayed in the new plots of lands and re-sold it to other people when they received better price. This was another reason why the relocated civilians received limited area of lands.

The large scale land confiscation for development projects also destroyed the community practices and it has also created the population displacement in the community. Like other areas, SLORC/SPDC also has built roads, dams and water canals in Mon State and the lands owned by village civilians have been confiscated by the government without compensations.

As an instance, when military government planned to build a small Win-pha-nowe dam in southern part of Mudon township, the authorities confiscated about 2000 acres of rubber plantations from mainly three villages near the dam. Now, the dam is under construction and after it completed there may be more land confiscation could happen. In this case, because of land confiscation, although the villagers were not immediately moved or relocated, these villagers lost their practices as traditionally tree-growing farmers. After they lost their lands, similarly they lost jobs and incomes, and thus it threatened their survival. So, many villagers have to change their works and while many young men left from villages, went to other areas and sought jobs for income. Many of them also migrated into Thailand to seek better job and income, and send money back to their families in the villages.

In the rural areas, where the armed conflicts have not ceased between the government and rebel troops, the forced relocation or dislocation, and the population displacements have regularly happened. While the huge population displacements are occurring in Shan State and Karen State, the similar population displacement also happens in Mon areas.

Although New Mon State Party (NMSP) agreed ceasefire with the current military government, SPDC, the remaining armed group such as, KNU and one Mon armed group have also revolted against the government and have waged fighting. Because of this armed conflict, the rural Mon and Karen ethnic civilians have been constantly accused as rebel-supporters or sympathizers. As a result, the ethnic villages have been relocated after the rebel troops took bases in their villages or asked foods from them. Additionally, other types of human rights violations related to that accusation creates fear among the village community members and then, the villagers have gradually moved from their villages and sought haven in other areas. If one villager was killed in a village with suspicion of rebel-supporters, that villager families and relatives must move from villages, or if some villagers were tortured by soldiers, the villagers similarly moved to other areas to avoid from further mis-treatments. This is called a forced dislocation by military inducement.

Sometimes, the SPDC battalions and troops ordered the villagers to move from their villages immediately without setting deadline, while sometimes they gave short period to move from the villages.

In 1997, when LIB No. 355 and No. 356 ordered villagers from about 13 Mon and Karen villages in Kya Inn Seikyi Township of Karen State, to move into three resettlement villages under their firm control, they gave time for two weeks to gather all their belongings and moved to the resettlement sites. Although sometimes, the government troops instructed the new resettlement site, sometimes did not say anything where they should stay. In the resettlement sites, the soldiers just gave a plot of land and no other assistance was offered to the villagers.

Normally, many villagers in the resettlement sites, did not have work and income and sometimes, they also faced food-shortage problems and worst health conditions due to lack of pure water and new surrounding conditions. Otherwise, they were not allowed by soldiers to seek works outside of the resettlement sites. Thus, many villagers attempted to escape from the resettlement sites.

Sometimes, the soldiers did not instruct the villagers where they must have to move and stay. No resettlement was planned and the relocation was spontaneous. The villagers themselves have to decide where they should move and settle.

As an instance, in May 2000, when LIB No. 273 ordered Paukpingwin villagers in Yebyu Township of Tenasserim Division to move from their village within one week, the villagers were not instructed where they must have to move and be resettled. So, the villagers have moved to many villages to resettle. Some of them moved into NMSP control areas while many of them moved into SPDC control areas to avoid from the accusation of rebel-supporters.

According to ethnic relief organizations that directly worked with Internally Displaced Persons, estimated 1 million ethnic and Burman population have been displaced during the course of intensive conflict from 1988 until now. After it seized from democracy demonstrators in 1988, SLORC intensified its military offensives and aimed to control all borders, where have been controlled by ethnic armed oppositions since the civil war broke out in Burma.

As a result of these military offensives launched by SLORC/SPDC every year, the number of IDPs in Burma has been grown up. On the other hand, no international organization could get access to IDPs to officially assist them with necessary emergency relief and protection. IDPs are facing various type difficulties, hardship and fear. The military regime, the creator of displacement of its own citizens does not changed its attitude and still violate the rights of IDPs as a whole.

So, we would like to request international community to set up a procedure to officially protect and provide assistance to IDPs who are facing most terrible conditions in Burma. At the same time, international pressure or participation is quite important to stop the regime to not create internally displacement and to offer international organizations to monitor IDPs and to get access to them.

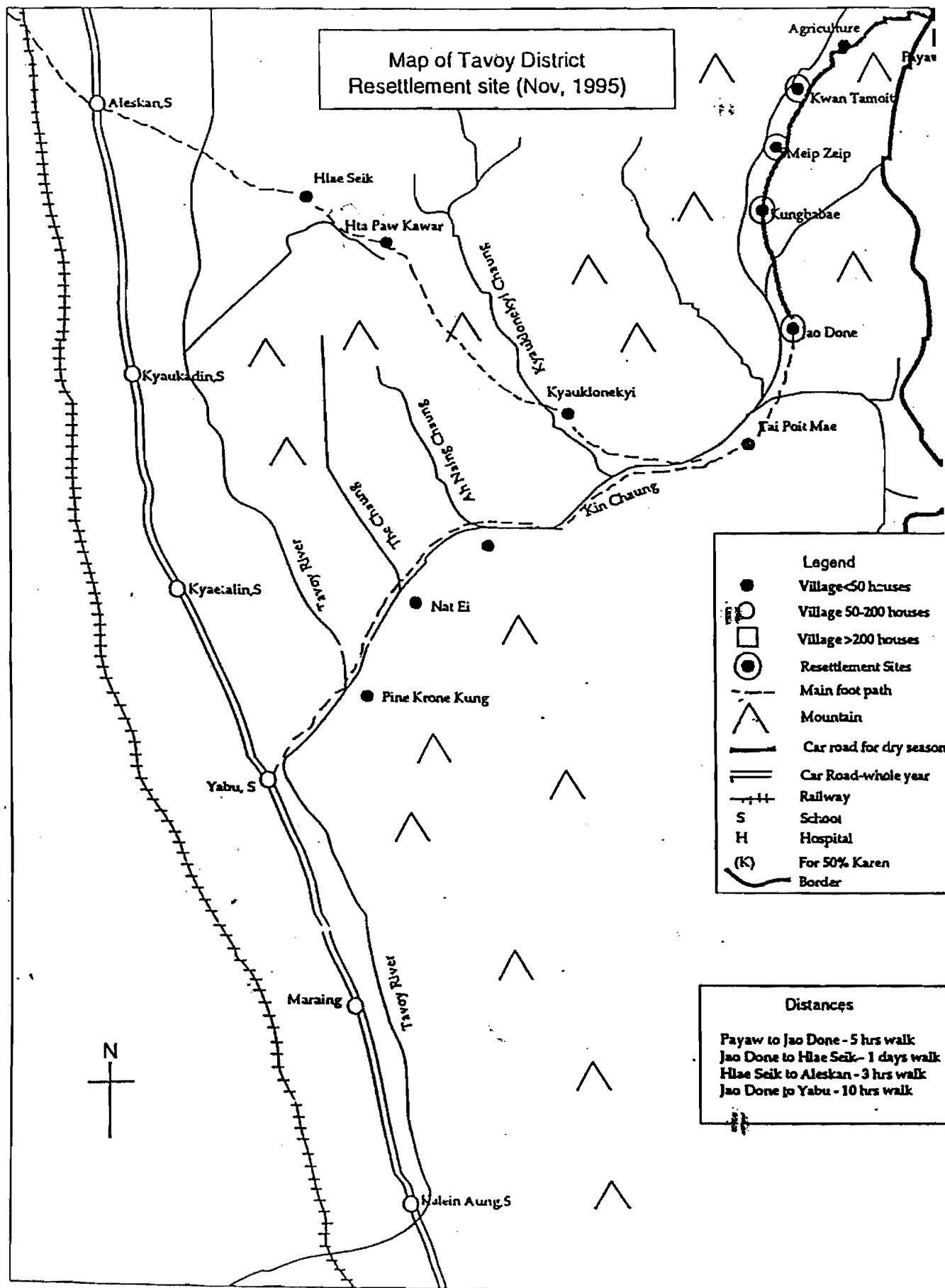
**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE CAMPS**  
(July, 2000)

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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2824</b>	<b>4569</b>	<b>4680</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>1652</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>14434</b>

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

No	Organization	Rice (Sack)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
1	COERR	120	360	240	1000	
2	BBC	-	-	-	-	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1000</b>	

# Map of Tavoy District Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



## Legend

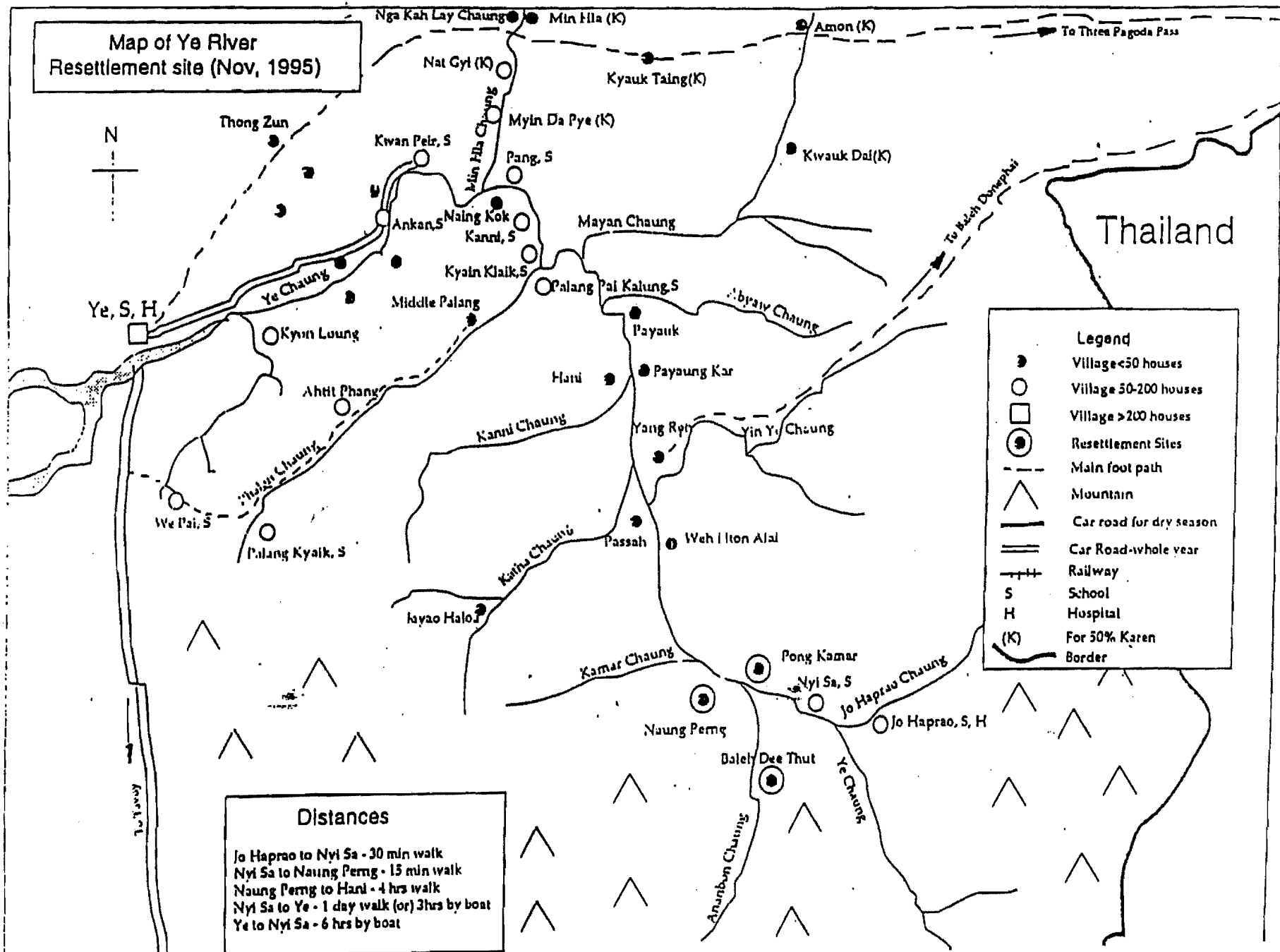
- Village <50 houses
- Village 50-200 houses
- Village >200 houses
- ⊙ Resettlement Sites
- - - Main foot path
- △ Mountain
- Car road for dry season
- ≡ Car Road-whole year
- +++ Railway
- S School
- H Hospital
- (K) For 50% Karen
- Border

## Distances

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



# Map of Ye River Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



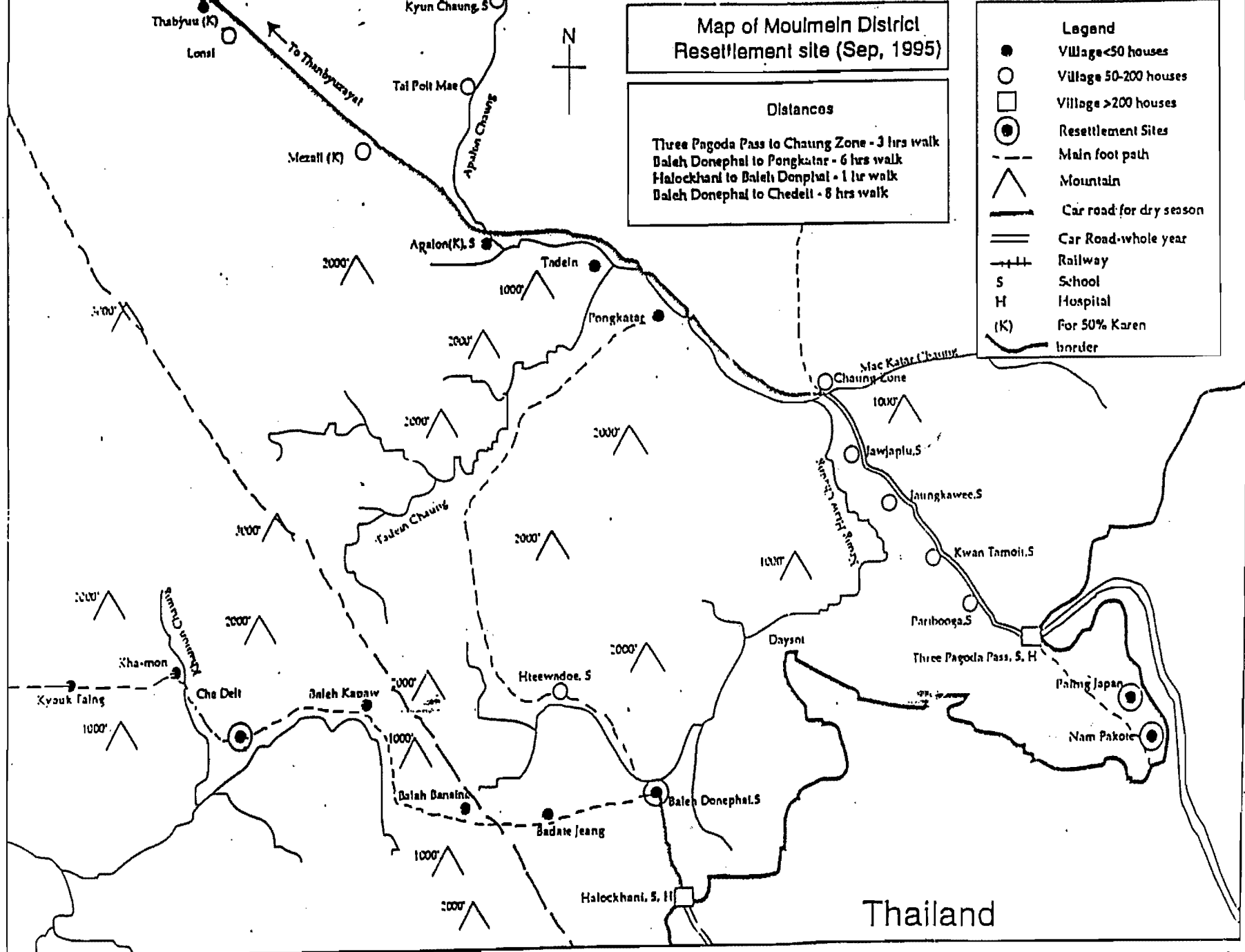
# Map of Moulmein District Resettlement site (Sep, 1995)

## Distances

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

## 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



Thailand