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ရေခဲ

ပစ္စည်းကုန်ပစ္စည်းများဖြန့်ဖြူးမှု ဝန်ဆောင်ခံ

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST

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

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- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Phra Wongsala 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 (MRDC) (August, 2000)

New Arrivals to Mon Refugee Resettlement Camps

Since June and July, 2000, the Burmese Army's local military battalion has been active in some parts of Karen State offensives against KNU and similarly the other army battalion in Yebyu Township also have been active and launched offensives against a Mon splinter armed force. Because of these military activities, some thousands of villagers have been displaced and some hundreds have also arrived to Mon refugee resettlement sites, Halockhani and Tavoy, after escaping from systematic persecution.

I. The Human Rights Situation in Kya Inn Seikyi Township and Refugee Flux to Three Pagoda Pass and Halockhani Areas

In Kya Inn Seikyi township area of Karen State, many thousands of villagers have been displaced since May and June as we have reported in the previous monthly report.

Later in July and August, the Burmese Army's a battalion, LIB No. 703 under the command of LID No. 99 has been continuously active along Zami river which flows from Kya Inn Seikyi town to Three Pagoda Pass area of Thailand-Burma border. During this military battalion's operation, the troops were regularly attacked by KNU troops.

Whenever the Burmese Army battalion was attacked by rebel soldiers, Burmese soldiers always made a revenge against the local villagers in villages where the rebel troops entered and took bases for a while. The villagers or village headmen have been always beaten or tortured, whenever they could not give satisfied answers to Burmese soldiers about the activities of KNU troops.

Most terrible thing was the villagers were always arrested as civilian porters to use in the military operations. From the villages, which were close to army battalion, the army just ordered to village headmen to prepare for ready to provide the set number of porters to the battalion, as soon as they arrived into villages. Later, the conscription of porters is quite regular and the headmen have to provide to many battalions, most headmen failed to manage or provide the set number of porters. So, later when the troops came into village, they just arrested all men including children between 12 to 18 years to be porters to take along with their military operation.

From the villages in the remote area, the Burmese Army's military have not instructed the village headmen in conscription of porters. When the soldiers arrived near a village, they rounded outside village, some soldiers went into village and arrested all men in the village to use them as civilian porters.

During the Burmese Army's use of civilian porters, they have been severely suffered from various types of abuses and hardship in the front-line. During offensives, the soldiers used the civilians for several hours walking with them in the whole day. Many villagers who had experience about porter service said that the soldiers used them for several hours, about 10-14 hours a day walking in the jungles and carrying heavy loads. Sometimes, the porters were also forced to be human-shields and mine-sweepers in the battle fields. Besides these conditions, severe torture, beating, kicking are the normal physical abuses which the porters are suffered during the porter service.

Not only the porters are abused by soldiers, most villagers in the villages are similarly abused by soldiers. Whenever the soldiers arrived into a village, they always asked the headmen and villagers about the activities of rebel troops and if they did not satisfy with

answers from the villagers, the soldiers also beat them. Sometimes, the villagers were also killed by soldiers with suspicion of rebel-supporters. The young villagers who were suspected having contacts with rebels, the village headmen or religious leaders who were suspected supporting the rebels, were also killed after various types of torturing.

At the same time, the soldiers also confiscated some paddy or foods from the villagers and also restricted the movement of villagers to not go to their farms or fruit plantations. If they go and stay in their farms or plantations they could face dangerous situation of being accused as rebel-supporters.

All of these conditions forced the local Mon and Karen villagers in Kya Inn Seikyi township area to abandon their villages and properties and escaped to areas where they expected more safer than their areas. Among many escaped villagers, those who have less properties such as lands and good houses left from the villages earlier and the villagers who have more properties such as better houses, rice-farms, fruit-plantations and others would not like to abandon their properties and left from the villages when they faced various serious conditions.

After they fled from their villages, they could not flee as much as they liked. Along the ways which they used to flee, the Burmese troops have been active and sometimes they also blocked the roads. They could not pass these roads and tried to find another jungle ways or twisted the ways. As the villagers could not estimate how many days they would take to reach a safe places, sometimes, they also faced food-shortage problems on the way. Normally, the villagers were very afraid to rise boats along Zami river because they could face with Burmese soldiers and could face troubles.

Many villagers who are staying along Zami river also fled to Three Pagoda Pass area and took refuge in areas under control of NMSP, (NMSP could control only some part of the whole area) and then fled into Halockhani resettlement site. From June to August 2000, about 100 families from these villages have fled into Three Pagoda Pass area first and then about 20 families also fled to Halocakhani resettlement site.

II. Population Displacement in Yebyu Township area and Refugee Flux to Tavoy Resettlement Site

In February, after the leaders of a Mon armed force, which has been active in Yebyu and Ye Township areas, celebrated Mon National Day celebration in a village that close to Ye-Tavoy motor road, the situation in Yebyu township areas have been unstable and the villagers have been displaced after the Burmese army's local battalions made various types of restriction against the villagers.

Because of the activities of the Mon army, the Burmese Army made more restrictions against the villagers to not support the Mon armed force. The SPDC's military battalions, IB No. 25 and LIB No. 273 have involved in restricting the local villagers to not go and stay in their farms or plantations. On the other hand, the villagers who were in farms or plantations were also beaten and tortured by soldiers with accusation they were rebel-supporters, by offering foods and shelters to rebels.

After the villagers were facing most restriction that relating to receiving foods and regular income, most of them could no longer tolerate such these conditions such as facing food-shortages and daily threats for survival. Then, about 3, 000 villagers left from their villages and displaced in many parts of Ye and Yebyu township area. Over 60 families of villagers arrived to Tavoy resettlement site.

However, the Burmese Army's local military battalions have not decreased their activities and make more restriction to villagers. Since June, the local military battalions, LIB No. 273, IB No. 25 and LIB No. 282 have formed two "Anti-Insurgency forces" in Yapu and

Mintha villages. The local military battalions went to all main villages in the whole township area and formed "village militia force" in many villages.

In Yapu village tract alone, the battalions asked about 28 village headmen to be included in the militia forces. They were equipped with arms, such as AK-47, M-16 and M 79, and forced the village headmen and militia forces to fight against the rebel troops. Furthermore, the villagers in the village tracts have to take responsibility to pay salary to those militiamen with 8, 000 Kyat per head for every month. The villages in Yapu village tract, Yapu, Yapu-ywathit, Aleskan, Kyaukadin, Kwetalin and Law-thaing villagers have to take responsibility for salary payment to militiamen. Thus, one household in a village has to pay at least 1, 000 Kyat to cover these salaries.

Most village headmen in the area would not like to join militia forces, but could not refuse. If they refuse they would be suspected as rebel-supporters and they could be tortured by Burmese soldiers. If they became militiamen, they have more responsibilities, informing about rebel activities, fighting against rebels if they came close their village and makes restriction against the villagers instead of army.

As a result, about 10 headmen families from Yapu village who would not like to join militia forces also escaped from their village in July and took refuge in Tavoy resettlement site. Some another 10 families of close relatives of those headmen also came together with headmen, because they could be mis-treated if they stayed longer in the villager.

Therefore, the population growth and refugee flux is also related to the intensified military activities of Burmese Army and its restriction against the villagers. These new families who arrived to Halockhani or Tavoy resettlement sites, also require foods for survival.

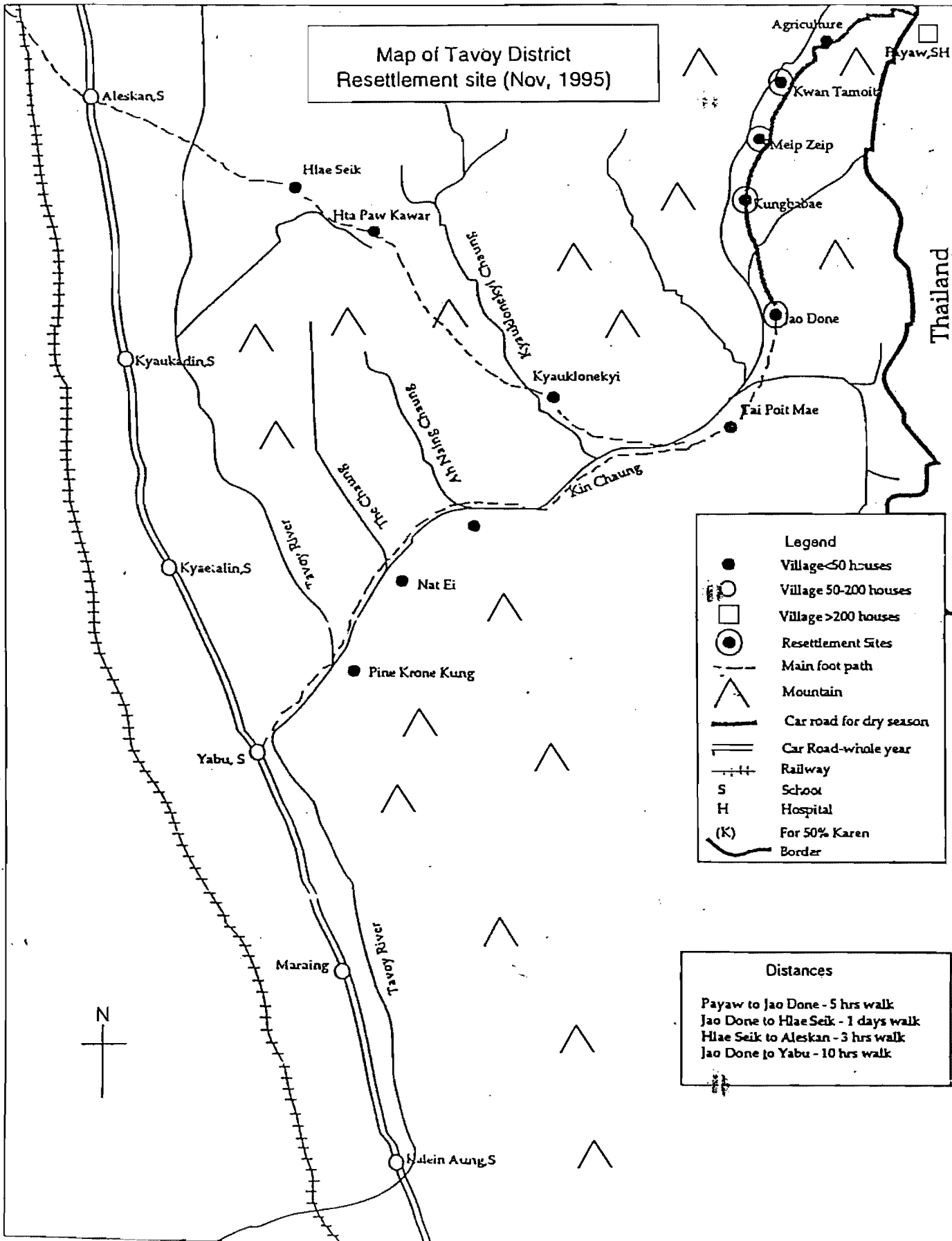
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE CAMPS
(August, 2000)

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

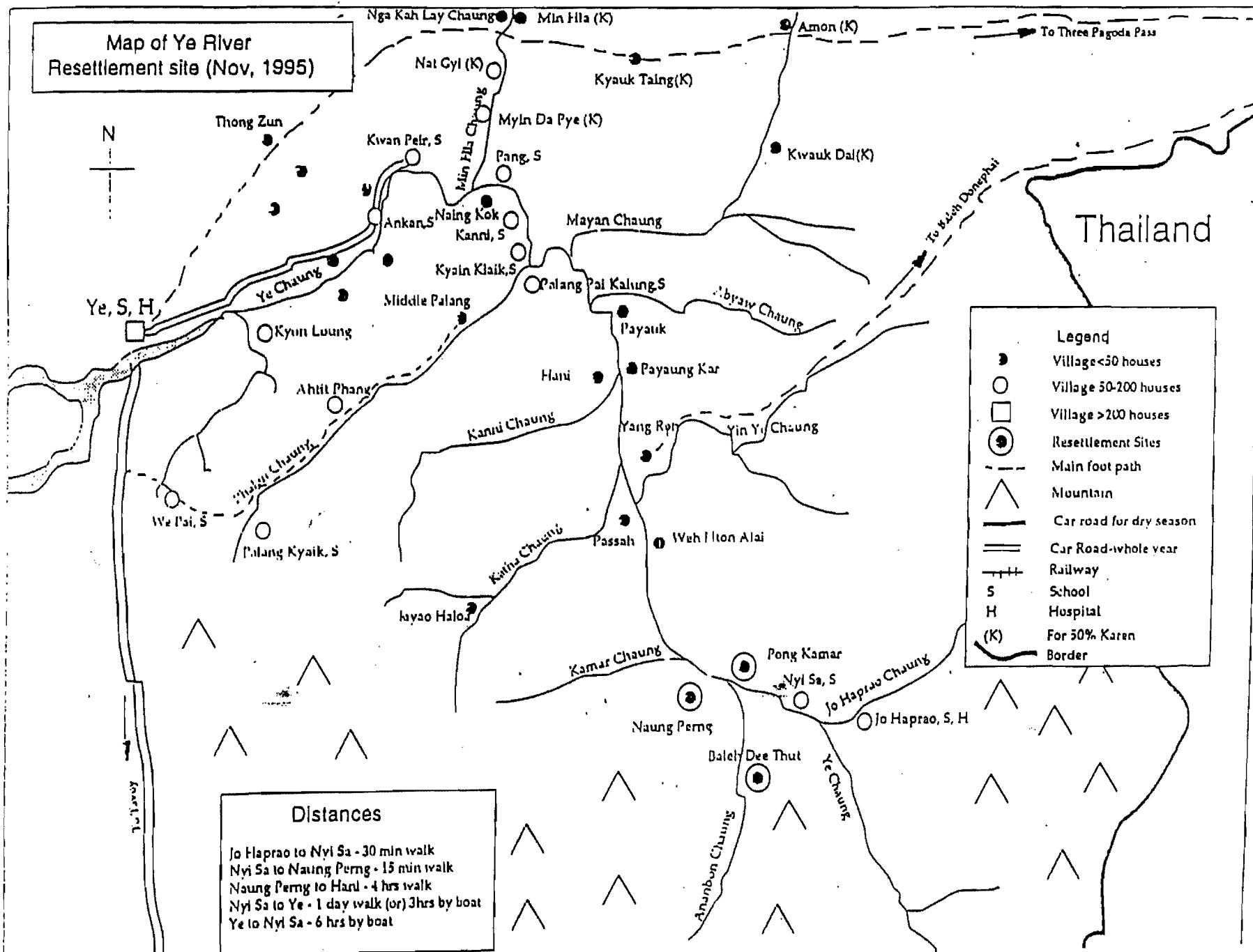
THE MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE MON NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(August, 2000)

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

Map of Tavoy District Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



Map of Ye River
Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



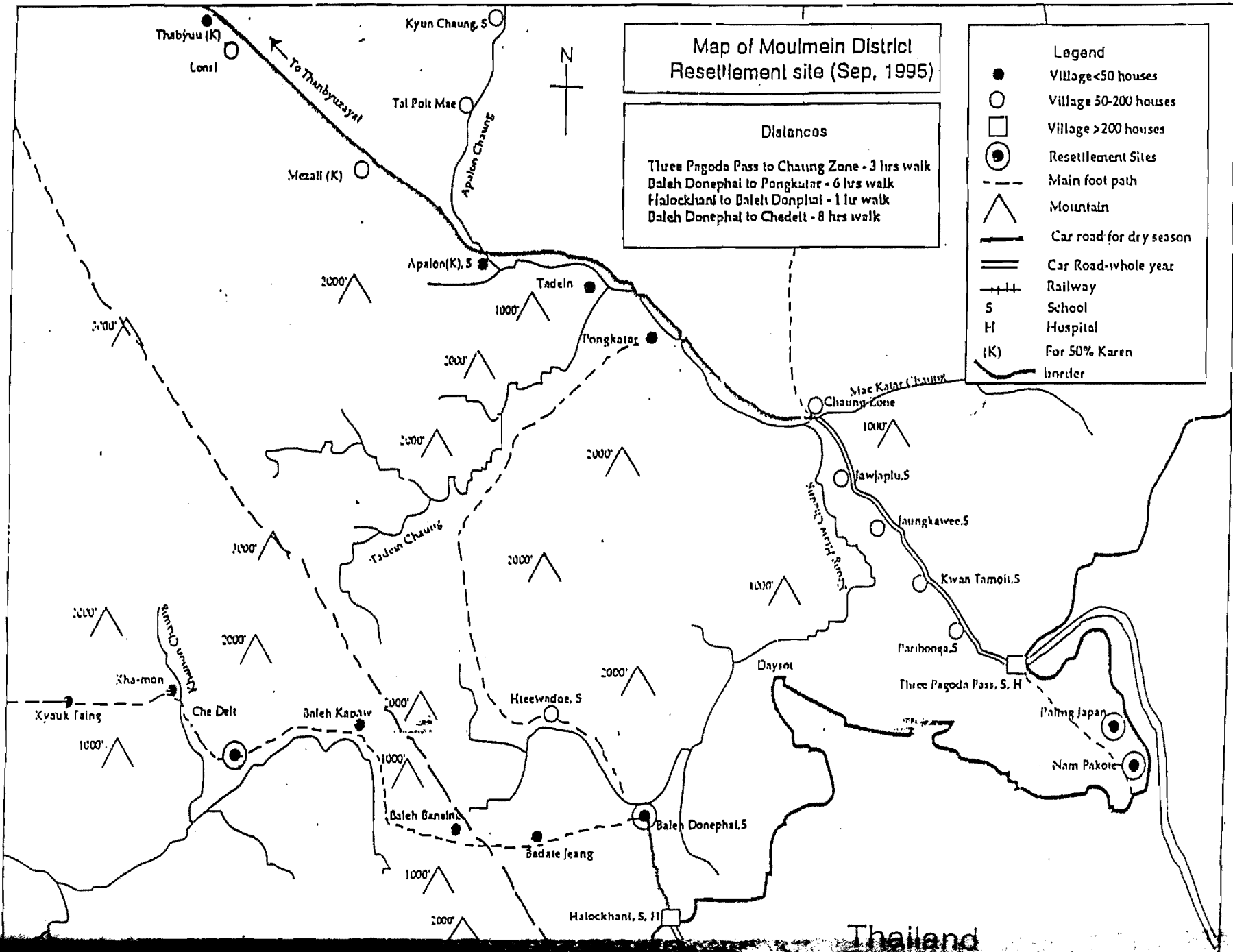
Map of Moulmein District Resettlement site (Sep, 1995)

Distances

Three Pagoda Pass to Chaung Zone - 3 hrs walk
 Daleh Donephal to Pongkatar - 6 hrs walk
 Halockhani to Daleh Donephal - 1 hr walk
 Daleh Donephal to Chedelt - 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