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MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER

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 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 (December 2000)

MRDC's Programs for 2001

In the situation while many thousands of Mon returnees could not return homes and many displaced populations have poured into the Mon refugee resettlement areas, Mon Relief and Development Committee, which has mainly provided assistance for those war victims for several years (before as Mon National Relief Committee, MNRC), we still have to continue this important work.

Although many places in world have peace and stability after some minority people are guaranteed for rights to self-determination, like East Timor, and democratization in some countries, like Yugoslavia, there have been still no chance in Burma, the military rule have created lots of suffering to both ethnic minority peoples in many parts of the country and the people in the whole country including majority Burman. The military have prohibited all rights that the people have to exercise and have deepened war against the ethnic minorities. The instances are, the current military regime, SPDC (State Peace and Development Council) still refused to transfer State power to people elected representatives of 1990 elections; and the regular offensives against Karen armed force KNU and other ethnic armed forces.

When SPDC is waging war against ethnic armed forces in border areas, the ethnic people in rural areas have been greatly suffered from various types inhuman or degrading treatments by troops of Burmese Army. Because of systematic persecution against the ethnic people, the massive population displacements in many parts of Burma have occurred and this becomes as an international problem.

MNRC/MRDC, as a local organization for relief and community development of both displaced and rural communities who have been constantly suffered from war and abuses, still have responsibilities for the protection of the people in southern part of Burma. Although the Mons have different situation with other ethnic people because of NMSP-SPDC ceasefire agreement and Mon displaced persons are in Burmese territory, however they still do not have a stable and normal life.

Therefore, for year 2001, the MRDC adopts three programs of its activities and these are: (1) relief program in refugee resettlement sites; (2) relief program for IDPs and (3) community development program. For realization of these programs, the details of each program are as below:

(1) Relief Program in Refugee Resettlement Sites

Under the care of MRDC, there are three Mon refugees resettlement sites and these were established since 1996, after NMSP, an armed force of ethnic Mon people, entered into ceasefire agreement with SLORC. At the beginning of (spontaneous) repatriation of three refugees into three sites, there are only 10, 000 population in three resettlement sites: (1) Halockhani; (2) Bee Ree; and (3) Tavoy sites. However, after after SLORC's 1997 big offensives against KNU to pressure it for ceasefire talks, some thousands of Karen refugees arrived and took refuge in the resettlement sites.

Later because of worst human rights conditions in most rural Mon areas, many Mon people have come and taken refuge in these resettlement sites. The Mon people have been

suffered from the constant conscription of forced labour in Ye-Tavoy railway construction and other project under the name of border area development program. Since 1998, because of one Mon armed group, which has been active and operated military activities in Ye and Yebyu townships area of southern part of Burma, more and more population displacement have been occurred in these area and many families have moved into resettlement sites.

At the moment there have been over 14, 000 population in these resettlement sites, MRDC still needs to provide for these people, because they are unable to support themselves. After these people were settled in the sites, MNRC encouraged them to create self-reliance, by finding farming lands and seeking other works.

Every year, MRDC conducts assessment survey, makes a report and shows to donor organizations to consider for food assistance to Mon returnees in these sites. MRDC also collaborated with donor organizations in providing food assistance including sending in supplies to respective site and organizing for food distribution. It also has to deal with local Thai authorities to complete the process of sending in supplies.

In 2001, MRDC remains this program for relief assistance to returnees in the resettlement sites. MRDC has staff to arrange for sending in supplies to the resettlement sites and conduct supply distribution to all families in these sites.

(2) Relief Program for IDPs

Since before NMSP-SLORC ceasefire in 1995, there were many thousands of Mon displaced persons in NMSP territory and some in Thailand, but not in the refugee camps. After ceasefire, MNRC has taken responsibility in resettling the displaced persons outside of resettlement sites. Separating from the refugee resettlement sites, some IDPs villages were established to settle these IDPs in NMSP control areas. Depending on agriculture and conditions in surrounding of these villages, MRDC also has helped some short term food assistance to these people.

MNRC, itself, since before ceasefire, was trained to help IDPs who had faced food-shortage problems during war situation between the military regime and the ethnic opposition armed forces, KNU, NMSP and MDUF. Because of fighting, the local ethnic civilians in the rural Black Area had been always accused as rebel-supporters or sympathizers, and they were mis-treated by soldiers. Following the mistreatments, such as killing, torturing, rape and other abuses, the villagers have to leave from their homes and displaced in several areas. After MNRC trained its workers, it also adopted a program as Emergency Relief and Development Program (ERDP) and helped these victims to get food assistance from MNRC. During war situation was tense, the ERDP team which was formed with MNRC members, local community leaders, has provided food assistance to the victims. After NMSP agreed for ceasefire with SLORC, ERDP plan was changed and it could help only IDPs who fled into NMSP control area or to the above mentioned IDPs villages.

In 2000, it changed a tactics and adopted a program especially for IDPs, and named the program as "Relief Program for IDPs", and so ERDP was no longer exiting. Otherwise, it also adopted for community development as a separate program and changed the organization name from MNRC to "Mon Relief and Development Committee".

(3) Community Development Program

In March, 1999, by coordinating with one NGO based in Chaing Mai of Thailand, MNRC also organized a group of relief workers, health workers, education workers and youth

leaders and trained them to conduct for community development program. They had about 5 rounds of training and practically worked with local community for their own development. These workers went into community and collect data from it to coordinate with local villagers to actively work for the development of their own community.

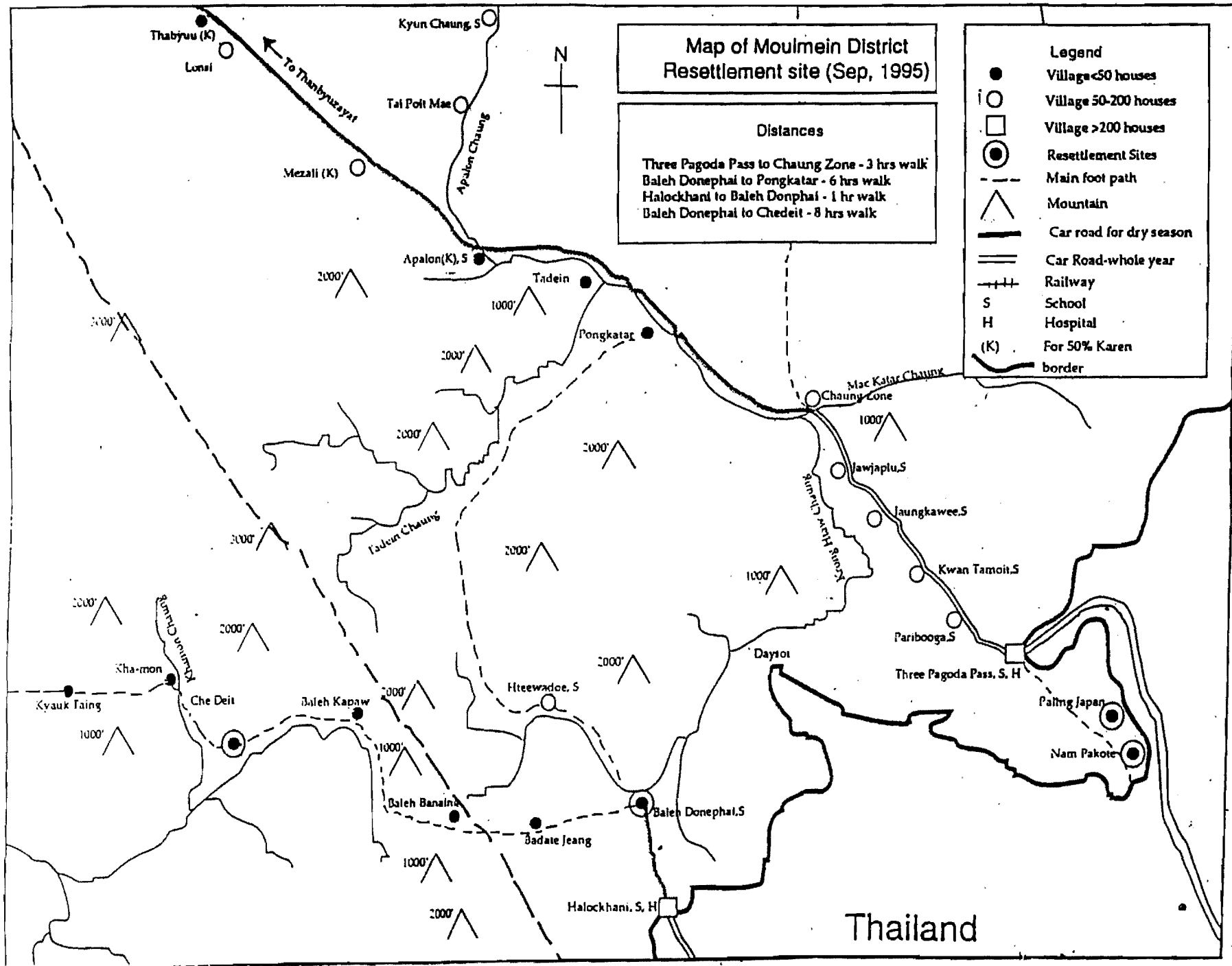
In the whole Year 2000, MRDC could implement various community development projects such as building village bridges, schools, library and others, which the local villagers had strong desires to work. Development workers called meeting with villagers by approaching to local community leaders, discussed the issues that their villagers required and formed village owned development committee and let the villagers organize their own works. These are brief activities MRDC development works and it keeps this important activity in Year 2001. It also extends some community development works in the refugee resettlement sites, and encourages the returnees in sites to participate in this community development program.

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

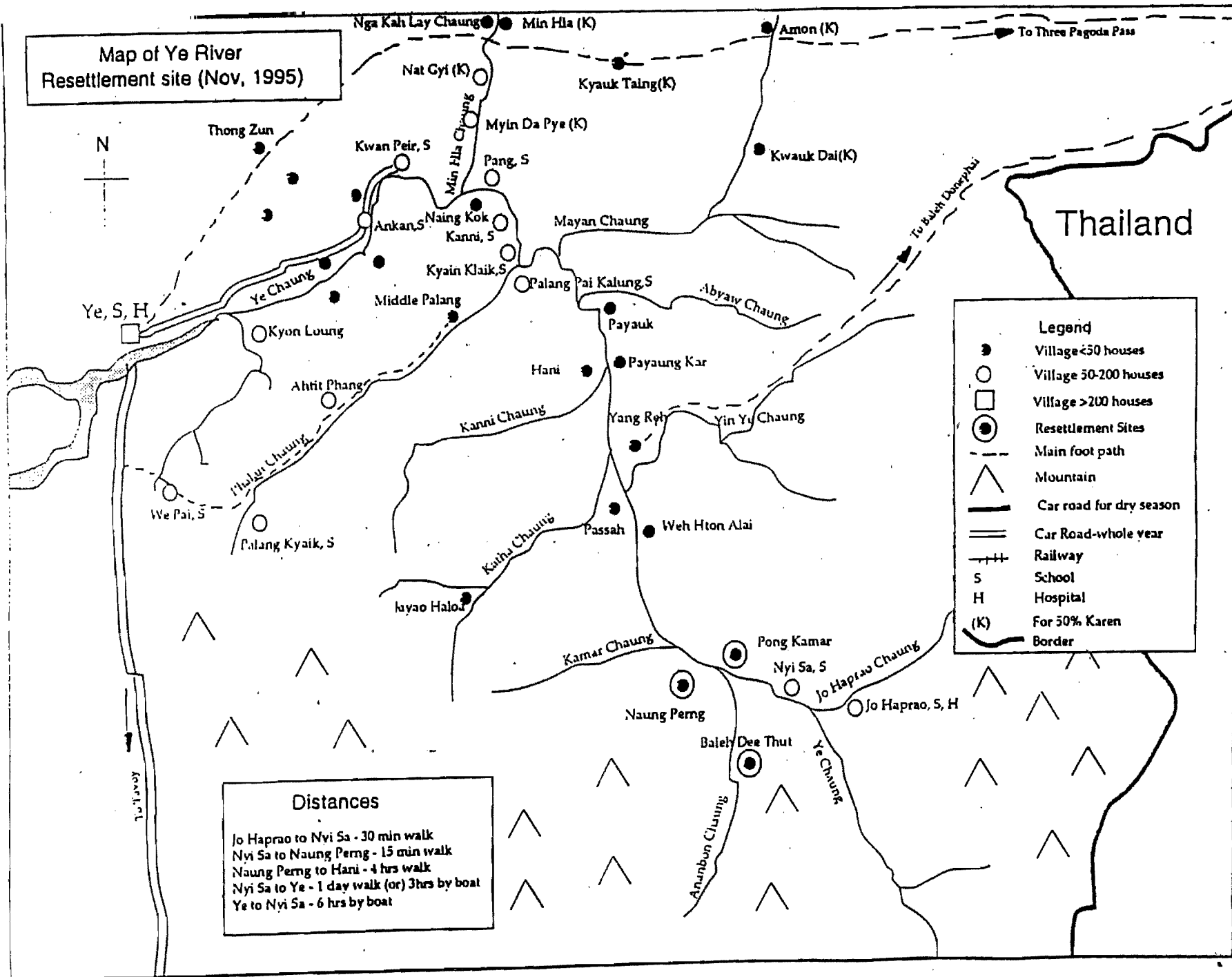
| No. | Camp | Number of Family | Over 12 years | | 5-12 years | | Under 5 years | | Total |
|-----|--------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| | | | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| 1 | Bee Ree | 625 | 1139 | 1240 | 390 | 396 | 156 | 163 | 3484 |
| 2 | Tavoy | 639 | 1069 | 1073 | 427 | 414 | 203 | 192 | 3378 |
| 3 | Halockhani | 1521 | 2388 | 2384 | 986 | 944 | 477 | 491 | 7670 |
| | TOTAL | 2785 | 4596 | 4697 | 1803 | 1754 | 836 | 846 | 14532 |

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

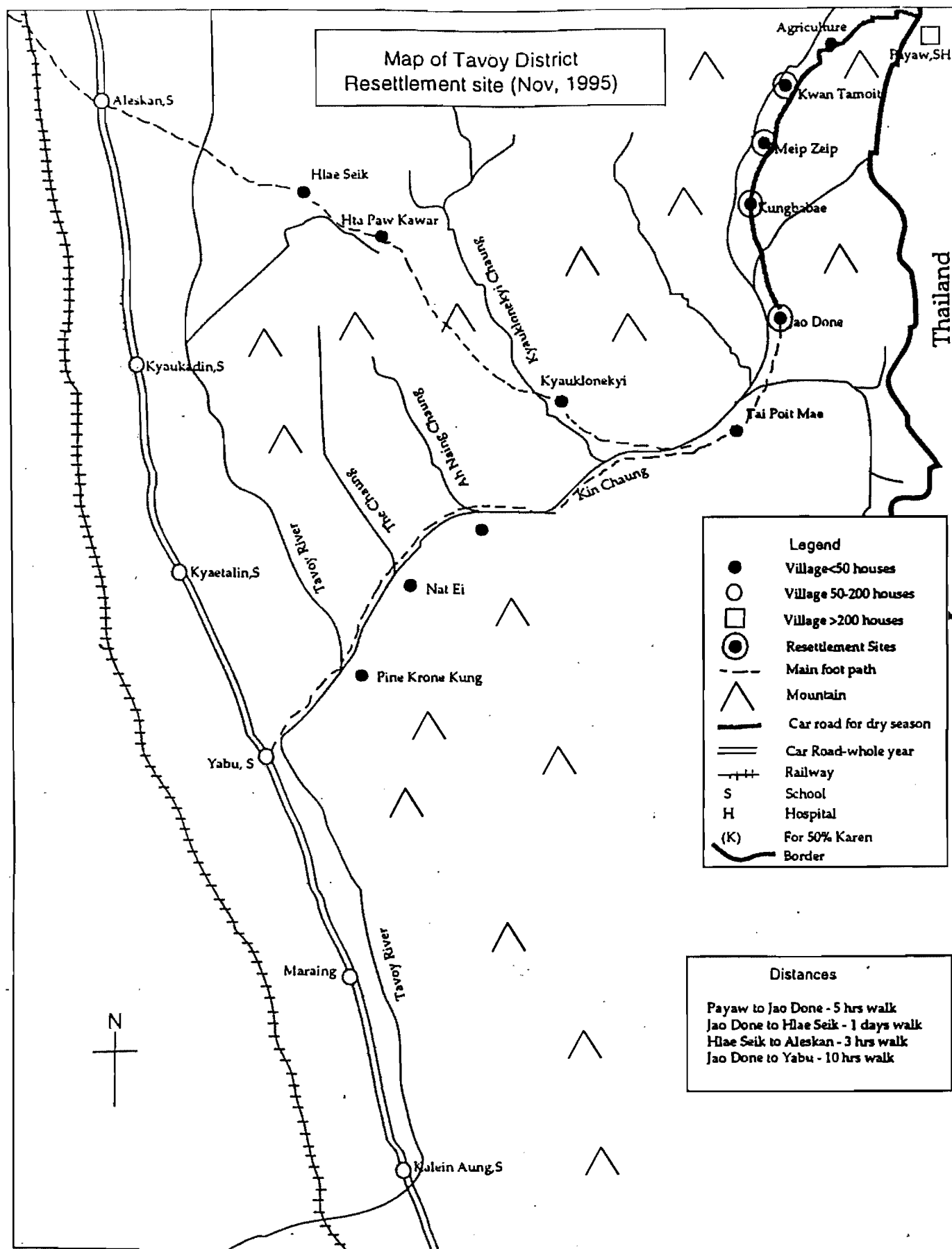
| No | Organization | Rice (Sack) | Fish Paste (kg.) | Salt (kg.) | Bean (Kg.) | Remark |
|----|--------------|-------------|------------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| 1 | COERR | 120 | 360 | 240 | 1000 | |
| 2 | BBC | - | - | - | - | |
| | TOTAL | 120 | 360 | 240 | 1000 | |



Map of Ye River Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



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