



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER, 2006

Karen Refugee Committee

Monthly Report

October, 2006 – Newsletter

This month of October 2006, the United Nations attained the ripe old age of (61) years. The U.N came into being in October of 1945, when the United Nations Charter was signed by the then (51) Member States, upon ratification by the Permanent Members of the Security Council and a majority of other Signatory members. The Purpose of the United Nations being the maintenance of International Peace and Security, to develop friendly relations among “Nations”, to achieve International Cooperation in solving Political, Economic, Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Problems, and in promoting respect for Human Rights and Basic Freedoms. Today, the United Nations membership number (192) Countries and the achievements of its goals can only be disputable. This month, the U.N will be looking for a New Secretary General to replace Mr. Kofi Annan, who will retire by the end of the year. Many names are being put up, but what is clear is that no woman came close to being the Top-Contender for the Post. It surely is a blow to Gender Rights Groups, more so, because we have already had (7) Secretary-Generals, beginning with Mr. Trygve Lie of Norway, and not one of them “Woman”.

This month of October, we remember the Russian Revolution of October 1917, which brought Absolute Power to the Communist Party with Lenin / Stalin at the Helm. The Russian Monarchy was done away with. The Soviet Union emerged as a World Power of (15) Republics, headed by Russia. Then, Soviet hegemony extended over the Borders, encompassing Eastern – Southern European Countries in what was called the “Iron Curtain”. The Soviet Empire stretched from the Atlantic – Adriatic, to the Pacific. Also, not to be forgotten is that the “Iron Curtain” is no more. Later, the Soviet Union also was to disintegrate into (15) Republics. Like Empires of the Past, the Soviet Empire is no more. Still, Russia remains a Super Power, one among the Five Permanent Security Council Members, who are in a Position to run every show.

Then, remembering October of 1956, where there was one related confrontation and conflict in the Soviet Empire. Hungary, at that time was under Communist Rule, a country inside the “Iron Curtain”. In October of 1956, there was dissent demonstrations by the people against Communist Rule and which developed into open revolt. Soviet Forces launched a massive attack with (200,000) Troops and (2500) Tanks which resulted in at least (7000) dead. (200,000) fled the country. Thousands were arrested and executed, including the Ex-Prime Minister Imre Nagy. That was one of the Tremors that led to the Break-down of the Iron-Curtain.

There is also need to remember another conflict of Interests. On October (29) 1956, after persistent raids by “Terrorists”, Israel invaded Egypt’s Sinai, aided briefly by British and French Forces. A U.N cease-fire was arranged – An uneasy Truce prevailed until 1967 when the UN withdrew at Egypt’s demand. Fighting flared up again, resulting in Israel, taking the Gaza Strip, the Sinai to Suez, capturing East Jerusalem, Syria’s Golan Heights

and Jordan's west Bank. The fighting was again halted by the UN arranged cease-fire agreement. Still there were cross border firings and skirmishes. Time was where there appeared the new form of hitting the enemy, "Suicide Bombers" which has become a set feature. Again, only recently, there was the flare-up of fighting in the Israel-Lebanon Border, which then again needs UN Intervention and cease-fire Efforts. The Middle East is still a smoldering Affair.

Then on the 9th of this month there was an event which really was great cause for worry. That was the underground nuclear test conducted by North Korea, which generated great concern around the world, and where some countries feel threatened. Many will feel the need for greater protection. Many will feel the need for Nuclear Capability as a means of Deterrence.

As for Burma, this October, it's just business as usual. There is the on-going National Convention, which however is getting very little attention and interest. The feeling is that, it is just a part of the SLORC/ SPDC Road Map, only with the Set Plan to Perpetuate Tatmadaw control. What cannot be denied is that the Chief Architect of the Road Map is whiling away his days in Prison. Minority Leaders are done away with or side-lined. Many of the Representatives to the National Convention, (1075) in all, are just hand-picked simpletons, who will never go against the "Guidelines". No wonder people on the street are not interested. People are suffering and know they will be suffering for a long time to come.

In contrast, in Thailand we are seeing Good Moves to Right the wrongs. Based on Patriotic Values, Efforts are seen to be helping with harmony, stability and Equal opportunity for all.

This month, there was the meeting between China and ASEAN Ten. At that meeting, some ASEAN members feel it necessary to ask China to "Prod" Burma on towards the Road to Democracy.

There is no doubt that China is in the Best position to help with improvement in Burma. But then vested interests can be more important and beneficial.

Of Society and their Ways - Recently, there was the wedding of one Ma Thanda Shwe to a Tatmadaw Major Zaw Phyo Win. The Bride happened to be the daughter of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing. It was a Grand Event, which was Video – Tape recorded throughout. There was glitter and gold all around. There was wedding Presents and Gifts in Gold and Diamonds. If Gossips are to be believed, Presents in Gold, Gems and Diamonds came to around (50) million US Dollars.

Quite a magnificent Event, considering that (90%) of the country's deprived people are groveling in dirt, finding it hard to get a proper, daily meal.

K.R.C – Camps – Activities – Report.

October – 2006

- ★3.10.2006 K.R.C – Um Phiem Camp Committee meet at K.R.C Office Discussed Reshuffling of Camps Executive Committee; in one case retiring of one Executive member, in another case the resignation (resettlement) of one Executive member.

- ★4.10.2006 Meeting at K.R.C Mae Sa Rieng Branch Office. Attending were UNHCR, TBBC, ZOA, K.R.C, KTWG, KNFEP, SVA, PPAT, DARE, Groups, and Mae La Oo Camps Committee. The meeting was especially focused on looking into and improvement of the needs / support for the Camps Refugee Community as a whole.

- ★12.10.2006 K.R.C members work visit Um Phiem Camp. Filling of Camp Committee Chair. Vice chairman of CC designated as Chairman in place of Chairman who retired. Agreed to by all CC members.

- ★13.10.2006 Report from Mae La Oo Camp, of meeting between the Camp Committee, the CPC and the KSNG. Discussions focused on the Camps Child Population, with regard to their Present Living / Learning conditions and for their Future.

- ★15.10.2006 NCA Donor Group Fact Finding mission and K.R.C Members visit.

- ★16.10.2006 Mae La Refugee Camp. The Group visited Camps Administration office and Met / have discussions with the Camps Leaders. They visited the Hospitals, the K.W.O, Women Group and work Places, Vocational Training Centres like the computer, Mechanic, Agriculture Training Centres. There was also the meeting with the K.R.C Executive Members to discuss matters related to NCA Support Budget for the coming year

- ★17.10.2006 Meeting TBBC, K.R.C Camps Committees. Discussed were Camp's Administrative structures, Number of work staff, Gender Breakdown in work / Staff, C.M.P Structure, Job descriptions. There was also discussion of more Women Participation in Administration, work / Staff and especially in the Support Distribution Sectors.

- ★20.10.2006 Meeting in Mae La Oo Camp between, the Camp Committee, the Section Leaders and NSC Authorities. Discussed were co-operation measures, to improve the Roads inside the Camp together with measures to help with registration of Transport Vehicles, like collect / listing of Cars and Motor cycles in Numbers, Types together with the pictures.

- ★26.10.2006 K.R.C office Mae Sot Meeting between T.B.B.C, K.R.C, Mae La Camp Committee, KWO, and K.Y.O Representatives. Discussed matters related to (5000) New Arrivals in Camp who are not registered and who are not on the T.B.B.C feeding List.

- ★27.10.2006 K.R.C members work visit to Um Phiem Camp. Discussed matters related to 400 New Arrivals in the Camp.

★28.10.2006 Um Phiem Refugee Camp. Meeting Between K.R.C Camps Committee, including Section Leaders and Security Responsible personnel. Discussed were matters related to Camp Administrative Structures, and Tasks, communications, Relations, Relief, Support Assistance. There was discussions on the Roles of NGOs in Camps, relative to Aims, objectives, Support works and activities. There was also discussions on Rules, Regulations, Restrictions on Refugee Camps, matters related to New Arrivals in Camps. The initiation of the CMP (Camps Management Program) in all the Camps by TBBC and K.R.C was also widely discussed.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS OCTOBER, 2006.

| MAE SOT AREA | CAMP | No. of families | Over - 12 Yrs | | 6 - 12 Yrs | | Under 5 Yrs | | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| | Mae La | 9,679 | 16,811 | 16,120 | 5,162 | 4,635 | 3,590 | 3,591 | 49,909 |
| | Um Pheim Mai | 3,734 | 7,052 | 6,768 | 1,921 | 1,760 | 1,562 | 1,362 | 20,425 |
| | Total | 13,413 | 23,863 | 22,888 | 7,083 | 6,395 | 5,152 | 4,953 | 70,334 |
| NORTH | Mae Ra Moe | 2,572 | 5,114 | 4,805 | 1,618 | 1,509 | 1,086 | 1,108 | 15,240 |
| | Mae La Oo | 2,750 | 5,512 | 5,037 | 1,712 | 1,543 | 1,145 | 1,104 | 16,053 |
| | Total | 5,322 | 10,626 | 9,842 | 3,330 | 3,052 | 2,231 | 2,212 | 31,293 |
| SOUTH | Noh Poe | 3,715 | 4,882 | 4,559 | 1,422 | 1,391 | 899 | 860 | 14,013 |
| | Ban Dong Yang | 996 | 1,485 | 1,571 | 371 | 356 | 368 | 336 | 4,487 |
| | Htam Him | 1,678 | 2,737 | 2,819 | 931 | 948 | 713 | 638 | 8,786 |
| | Total | 6,389 | 9,104 | 8,949 | 2,724 | 2,695 | 1,980 | 1,834 | 27,286 |
| | Grand Total | 25,124 | 43,593 | 41,679 | 13,137 | 12,142 | 9,363 | 8,999 | 128,913 |

We shall always be grateful to the Thai people and Government for their sympathy and understanding in allowing us safe refuge.

We are also indebted to the NGOs for their Supports and Services.

TBBC – Support in Food and Shelter Material. **TBBC** is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps.

MSF – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AM I – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

ARC – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

M. I (Malteser International) formerly MHD – Support in Medical and Health facilities.

ZOA (ABW aid) – Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

World Education / Consortium – Support in World Educational facilities, Teachers' Training and Education for Deaf / Mute / Blinds.

TOPS – Support in Educational facilities.

ICS – Asia – Support in Educational facilities and school buildings.

COERR – Rice and Educational support. **EVI** – To be involved with Extremely Vulnerable people.

H.I – Support for Refugee Handicaps with Prosthesis and rehabilitation and also year – end sporting events for Handicaps.

NCA – (Norway Church Aid) has been providing **KRC** with administrative & organizational Support.

It has also supported with remuneration for **KRC** members and workers.

UNHCR – For Registration Process Protection and Ultimate Safe Repatriation.

SMRU – Support with Malaria Control, Prevention and Treatment.

SVA – To support with Libraries in the camps.

PPAT – Parenthood Planning Association Thailand – Supporting with Family Planning and Preventive/ Education in Refugee Camps.

Address: P.O Box- 5, Mae Sot, Tak-63110, Thailand. ☎: (055) Intl: +66 55 532 947.

E- Mail: krc.academic@gmail.com.

Fax : (055) Intl +66 55 546 869

Mobile: +66 78 498 250