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ပစ္စည်းကုန်ပစ္စည်းများဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးရန်

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**MONTHLY REPORT**

JANUARY

**2003**

# **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, 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. Nai Wongsala Pala | - Chairman          |
| 2. Nai Chann Ai      | - Vice-Chairman     |
| 3. Nai Kasau 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. Nai Jon Dae       | - Member            |

# **Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (January 2003)**

## **Population increases in Halockhani resettlement site**

Since December 2002, the security conditions in and around Halockhani resettlement site has become better again after many HRP members and their families returned to NMSP. Now the Halockhani residents could move outside of their resettlement area and then they are able to operate their livelihood.

In nearly the whole year of 2002, there was a serious military conflict between troops of NMSP and HRP. Before the end of 2001, the Burmese Army also burnt down some houses in Htee-wa-doe, a Karen people section in the site after they suspected the residents were providing shelters and foods to HRP soldiers. Since then, the situation has been unstable.

The conflict started between NMSP and HRP, when NMSP warned HRP to not enter into refugee resettlement site to ask for food and other assistance. When the both sides have tension, the Mon patriotic also tried to negotiate among the two groups. However, no concrete agreement was reached.

In the third week of May 2002, when large number of troops of HRP tried to overrun a NMSP military outpost near the Halockhani resettlement site, the conflict between the two groups have escalated. Both sides would not like to listen any comments or advice from other Mon organizations.

Following the conflict, land-mines around the resettlement sites were planted to protect their own bases and it created more dangerous situation to the residents in Halockhani. Because of fighting and serious land-mine problems, nearly 2000 people from the site moved to another places, especially into Three Pagoda Pass area.

Land-mines created a serious problem to the residents who works outside of the resettlement sites for paddy cultivation, finding bamboo-shoots, gathering broom grasses and hunting. Their livelihoods were seriously disturbed and the people could not move anywhere to have income. As they received the limited food assistance, some families also faced food-shortage problems.

In October 2002, a group of HRP troops assassinated a NMSP leader and his soldiers. Then many HRP soldiers who disagreed with this assassination returned to NMSP voluntarily. Together with soldiers and some of their families also returned and took refuge in Halockhani resettlement again and they agreed to stay there as 'civilians'. Most of them returned in November and December 2002.

When there is no more fighting in and the surrounding area of Halockhani resettlement, the residents could stay in the campsite safely and could also move in the surrounding area. However some land-mines still remain in some areas and therefore they could not move easily as they liked.

Anyhow the conditions have been gradually better and more and more families have returned to Halockhani site for resettlement. Especially, the Karen families who moved deep into Kya-inn-seikyi Township of Karen State and the Mon families who moved into Three Pagoda Pass area have gradually arrived in Halockhani resettlement site.

## **Human rights violations in Ye Township**

There have been some different situations between northern part and southern part of Ye Township area. Most villagers from southern part of Township were suffered from abuses and violations committed by Burmese soldiers because they were suspected as the rebel-supporters. But the villagers from northern part of Township fled from the villages

because of massive use of forced labour and no better livelihood after many thousands acres of lands were confiscated.

After 10 battalions of Burmese Army under the command of MOMC No. 19 deployed troops in the northern part of Township area, the villagers from the villages nearby to those military bases are forced to build the military barracks, to clear grounds, to do daily works for them and sometime they were forced to do battalions' business. All battalions were instructed to create 'self-reliance' program and so they normally used the civilians to contribute their labour in various projects. (*MOMC is Burmese Army's Military Operational Management Command*)

In November 2002, LIB No. 586 adopted a plan of 'brick production' and forced the villagers from various villages to provide them with some woods, which need to use in burning blocks of clay to receive hard bricks. About five villages in northern part of Ye Township were forced to provide 15 oxen-carts of woods from each village and then they have to send them to designated place in the military base. Thus, the villagers had to collect woods in the forests and provided to army.

According to the villagers from the northern part of Township, they had to work for army or authorities for several days in army bases or sometimes in other places. They have to work for those authorities and army at least 10 days or sometimes over 15 days within one month. The works such as clearing the bushes along motor road and along Kanbauk-Myaingkalay gas pipeline are always forced by army or authorities. As the authorities or army are afraid of being accused they are using forced labour, sometimes, they also used the villagers as unpaid labourers at nighttime.

Accordingly to a woman from Son-htit-tar village, Ye Township, who worked in the pipeline said that the whole villagers were forced to start working from 2:00 p.m. in the evening time until 2:00 a.m. It was 4 hours in daytime and 8 hours at nighttime to complete their work-duty. On the next day, they forced villagers from Kyone-paw village and let them work in the same evening and nighttime.

Burmese Army also launched military offensives in northeastern part of Township against KNLA and sometimes, they also arrested many villagers or farmers to be porters to carry their ammunitions and food supplies. In most cases, when they started offensives, they ordered to village headmen to provide them some villagers to carry their supplies. They were unpaid porters for Burmese Army.

If compared with the civilians in the northern part of Township area, the Mon civilians in the southern part of Township area have been suffered more from the abuses and violations committed by members of Burmese Army. The villagers are always suspected as rebel-supporters and they were always inhumanely. The more fighting between Mon splinter groups and Burmese Army, the villagers in the area would be suffered more. Some family members were killed and as those families were afraid of being killed, and so they fled from their villages. Some villagers were threatened by the Burmese soldiers to be killed and therefore they fled from the villages. Some villagers were severely tortured by soldiers during their interrogation.

Most villages in the area were always suspected as rebel bases by the Burmese Army, the soldiers also shot into these villages when they came and approached to those villages. That violations make great fear to villagers and therefore, the villagers also left from the villages.

On November 16, a joint force of Burmese Army (SPDC's armed force) shot into a Mon village, Khaw-za, in the southern part of Ye Township and three Mon villagers seriously injured. A joint force of Burmese Army consisted of LIB No. 273, LIB No. 282 and LIB No. 267, which mostly from Yebyu and Tavoy Township area (*Tenasserim Division*) and Lt. Col. Myint Oo led and it had about 100 soldiers. On that day about 4:00 p.m., they arrived near village and shot into village with motor shells with a suspicion that that village must keep Mon rebel soldiers in the village. However, the shells hit to three Mon villagers: Nai Dot, Male, 43 years; Nai Shwe Hman, Male, 67 years; and Mi Kun

Prae, Female, 55 years. All three patients were brought to Ye Town hospital on the same day to have medical treatment in the hospital.

Besides shooting into villages, the villages are always used as human-shields by Burmese Army's soldiers to protect shooting from the rebel soldiers. On November 11, 2002, when the troops of Burmese Army from IB No. 31 launched the military offensives against the Mon rebels, they arrested 30 women from Khaw-zar village and brought along with them. The soldiers used them as human-shields.

On the other hand, whenever they met the farmers in farms, they always suspected them as rebel-supporters and so those farmers were regularly tortured and beaten. On November 28, 2002, when the soldiers from LIB No, 273 moved along the seacoast in the southern part of Ye Township, they met Nai Tun Lay, 29 years old farmer, and interrogated him about the activities of Mon rebels. When he could not answer their questions well the soldiers stabbed with knief into his tight. He go serious injuries and was brought to Ye hospital.

These instances are how the soldiers of Burmese Army threatened the local Mon people, who are always suspected as rebel-supporters, to escape from their native villages. Most fear families abandoned their native villages because of the systematic persecution of Burmese Army.

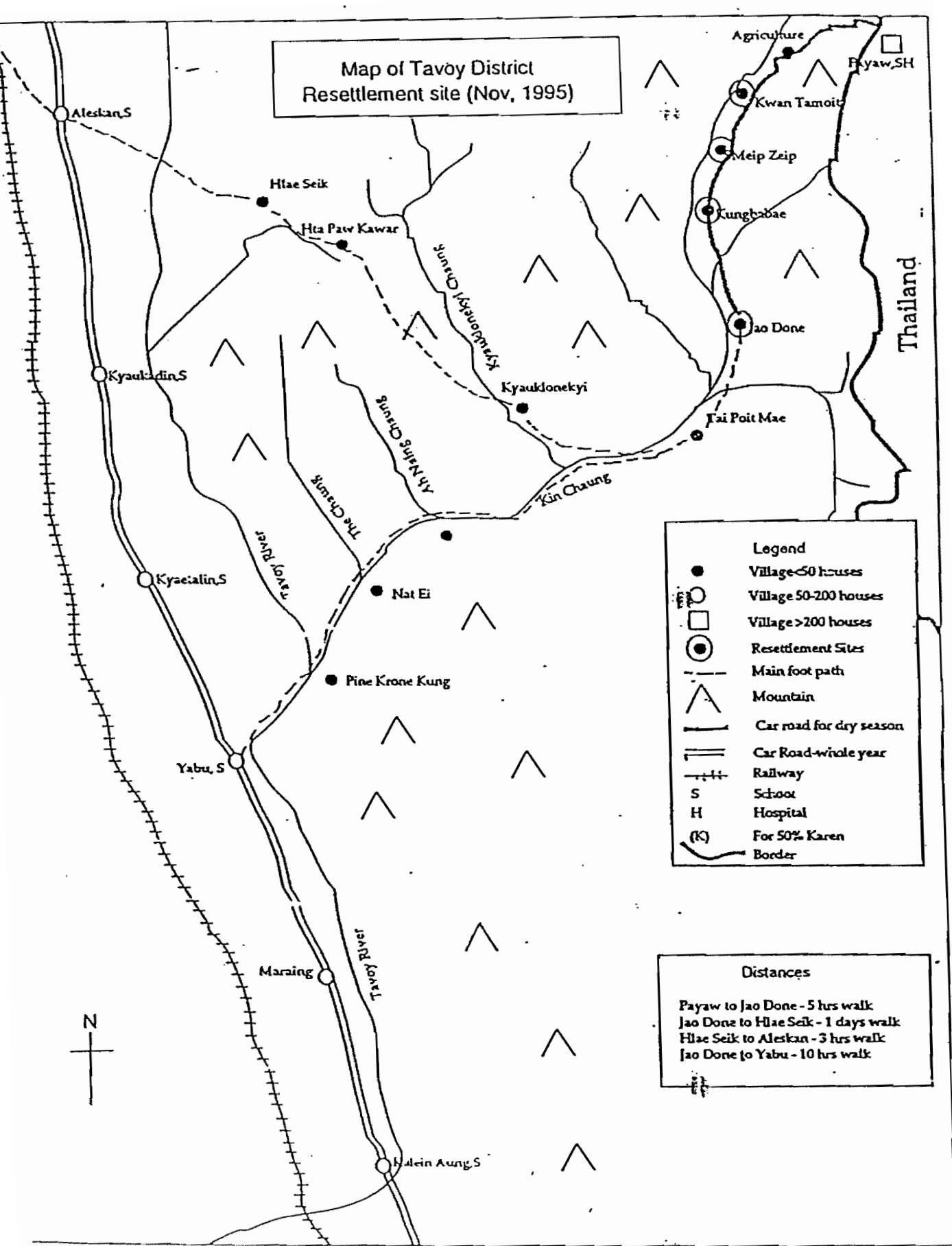
**THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES**  
(January, 2003)

No.	Camp	Number of Family	Over 12 years		5-12 years		Under 5 years		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Bee Ree	668	1196	1300	409	415	168	197	3685
2	Tavoy	620	1045	1042	398	396	189	191	3261
3	Halockhani	821	1453	1511	379	389	248	276	4256
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2189</b>	<b>3694</b>	<b>3853</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>11202</b>

**THE MATERIALS RECEIVED**  
**BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
(January, 2003)

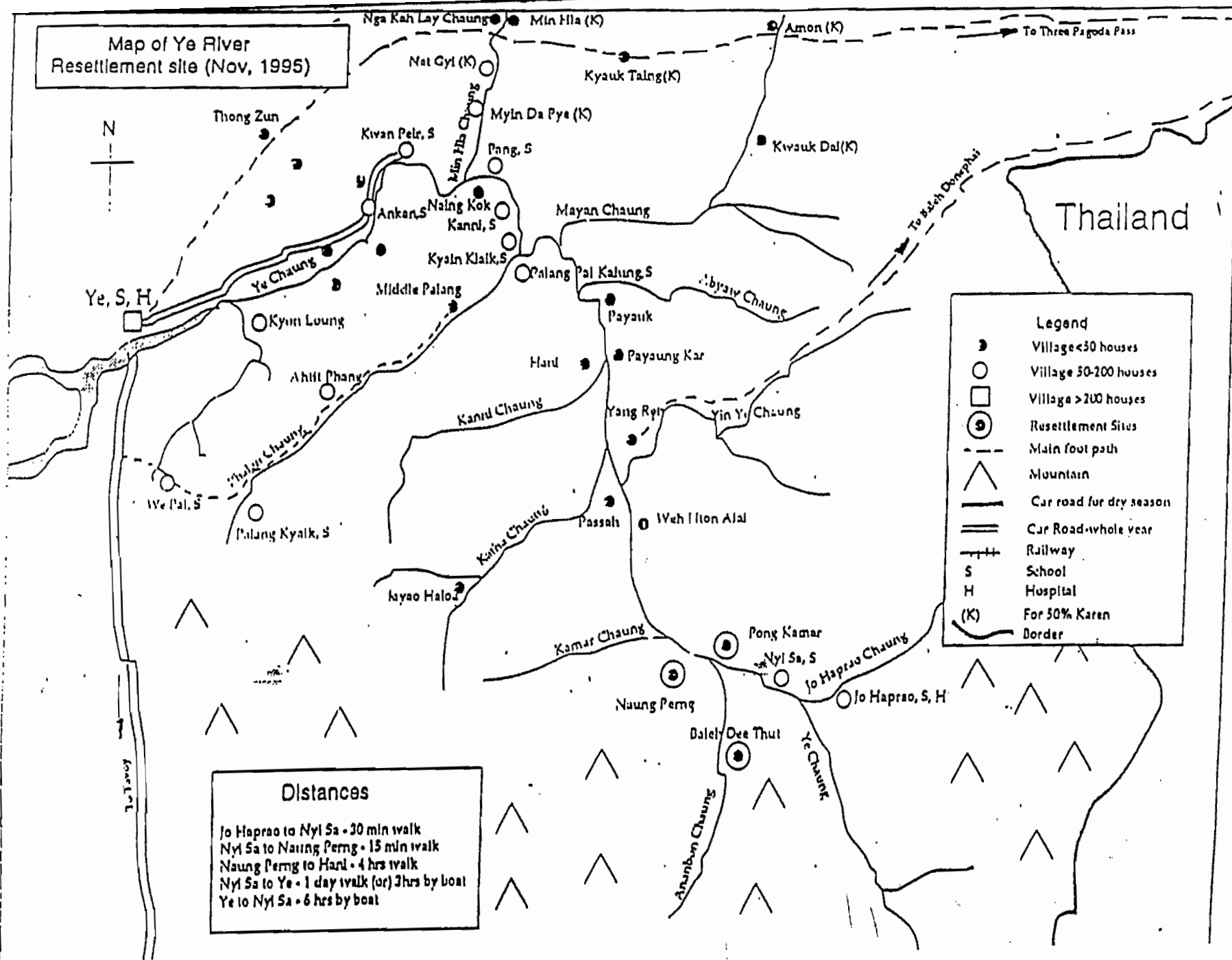
No	Organization	Rice (Bag/ 50 kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
1.	BBC	4000	-	-	-	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	

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





Map of Ye River  
Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



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

## Distances

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

