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MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY

2003

Aim and Objectives of Mon Relief and Development Committee

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Aim:

Provide temporary shelters, basic needs and development assistance to refugees and the displaced persons who become homeless and helpless situation due to the oppression of Rangoon military regimes in Mon territory along Thailand-Burma border.

Objectives:

1. To help the welfares of the refugees in border areas and IDPs who are displaced inside the country, with foods, shelter and possible protection.
2. To coordinate with local Mon people in developing the grassroots community in the fields of health, education, literacy, agriculture and other rural development projects.
3. 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 Kasau Mon | - General Secretary |
| 3. Nai Dung Htaw | - Member |
| 4. Phra Htaw Son | - Member |
| 5. Nai Glae | - Member |
| 6. Nai Chit Nyunt | - Member |
| 7. Nai Tay Jae | - Member |
| 8. Nai Jon Dae | - Member |
| 9. Nai Chan Done | - Member |

Monthly Report of Mon Relief and Development Committee (May 2003)

More new arrivals to resettlement sites

The fighting and the suspicions of the rebel-supporters, movement restriction, tax extortion, the conscription of forced labour and porters have forced hundreds of the local civilians in Ye Township of Mon State and Yebyu Township of Tenassarim Division to leave their homes without any preparation.

In April and May 2003, about 23 families of new arrivals arrived to Halockhani resettlement site and over 50 population of the displaced persons arrived to Bee Ree resettlement site. There are many hundreds of people have sought into Thailand to escape and at the same time to seek works in various Thailand's industries. The main reasons for the population displacement are both human rights violations and the poverty.

One Mon splinter group, with no political name in their group, have been active in southern part of Ye Township area and various parts of Yebyu Township area. KNU and its army faction, KNLA has also operated their military activities in the northern part of Ye Township and sometimes they also sabotaged SPDC's gas-pipeline, that is connecting from UNOCAL/ TOTAL's Kanbauk gas supply station to cement factory in Myaingkalay village, in Karen State. This pipeline is known as 'Kanbauk-Myaingkalay' gas pipeline and it passes through many Townships' areas in Mon State.

The rebel military activities likely invited more troops of Burmese Army to launch the military operations in Ye and Yebyu Township area. Whenever there is military operations launched by the Burmese Army, there will be more human rights violations against the civilians. The Burmese Army normally accused the local Mon, Karen and Tavoyan ethnic inhabitants in the rural as rebel-supporters or sympathizers.

When the troops of Burmese Army went into the villages, where the ethnic people are living, they are arresting the men in the villages and interrogating them where is the troops of the rebel soldiers. Additionally when the Burmese soldiers arrested the villagers in farms, fruit gardens and forests, they always accused them supporting the rebel soldiers and then they could face torture.

Torturing, using the villagers as guides or bullet shields along the military patrol are the normal violations against the villagers. The villagers who experienced in the middle of gunfire during the fighting always escaped from their villages because they do not want to face such experience second time.

Sometimes, the Burmese soldiers also instructed the local Mon village headmen to provide two men every week to use them as guides when they launched the military patrol. During the military patrol, those men have to walk in advance of the troops and they are too dangerous if there is fighting. Therefore, most villagers would not like to be as 'guides' during the military patrol or military operations.

The troops of Burmese Army also arrested the villagers in the villages or in farms or in forests and used them as porters. They forced those villagers to carry food supplies, ammunitions and other supplies along the road for many days. Most villagers are fed with insufficient food during the patrol.

On the other hand, the Burmese Army also restricted the movement of the civilians. The Burmese Army complained if they arrest one villager without a strong document issued by the village headmen or the military battalions concerned, they must accuse as rebels or rebel-supporters. Therefore, in April and May, the Burmese Army's local battalions in the area issued one type of ID Card which is important than the citizenship. Whenever they traveled into the farms or plantations, they have always to carry that cards including a document from the village headmen concerned. To make these cards and documents issued by the village headmen, the villagers have to pay for. As the village headmen included the

time limit in the documents, the villagers have to renew the documents by payment. If they were arrested without documents or cards, they could be used as porters or could have to pay fine for them.

In most villages, when the troops of Burmese Army went into the village, they also ordered the village headmen concerned to provide them with food and other necessities. When the troops left from the village, then they have to pay for foods. The village headmen needed to collect in the village and then have to pay for these costs for food and other materials taken by soldiers. Additionally they also have to pay for porter fee that the Burmese Army said they needed to hire porters during their military operations.

The villagers who live close to Kanbauk-Myaingkalay gas pipeline also has to take security of gas pipeline. The Burmese Army could not protect the whole length of gas pipeline route and they forced the villagers in the area to guard the pipeline. If the pipeline is sabotaged by the rebel soldiers, the villagers in the area nearby could be punished.

Because of these human rights violations and oppression against the local civilians, many villagers have left from the native villages and fled other areas, especially into NMSP control areas or the Mon refugee resettlement sites, Halockhani and Bee Ree. In their native places, many displaced families owned houses, farms and gardens and other livelihood that made them to be survived. However, when they flee, they have to abandon all their belongings and properties.

From their native villages to reach into these settlement sites, they have to work 5-7 days because they did not use the main road because they were afraid of being re-arrested by the Burmese Army. Most of them used the jungle route in their travel for many days. Some families faced food-shortage problems during their travel to reach safe area.

Besides these two resettlement sites, many hundreds also arrived into MRDC set IDPs villages in Ye and Yebyu Township area which are under the control areas of NMSP. The population displacement is a big problems during the course of civil war in Burma.

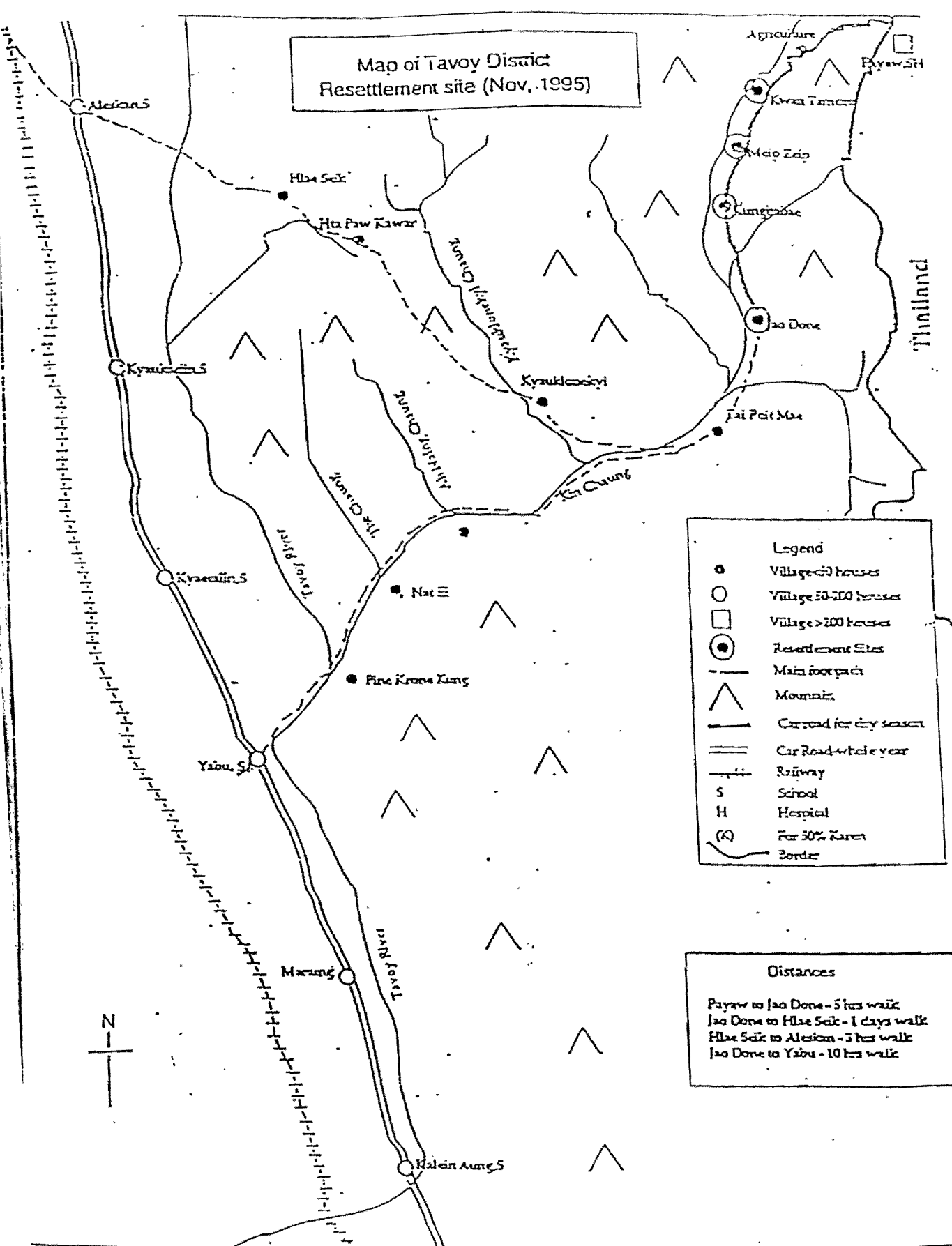
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(May,2003)

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	945	1603	1672	492	507	280	321	4875
	TOTAL	2210	3844	4014	1299	1318	637	709	11821

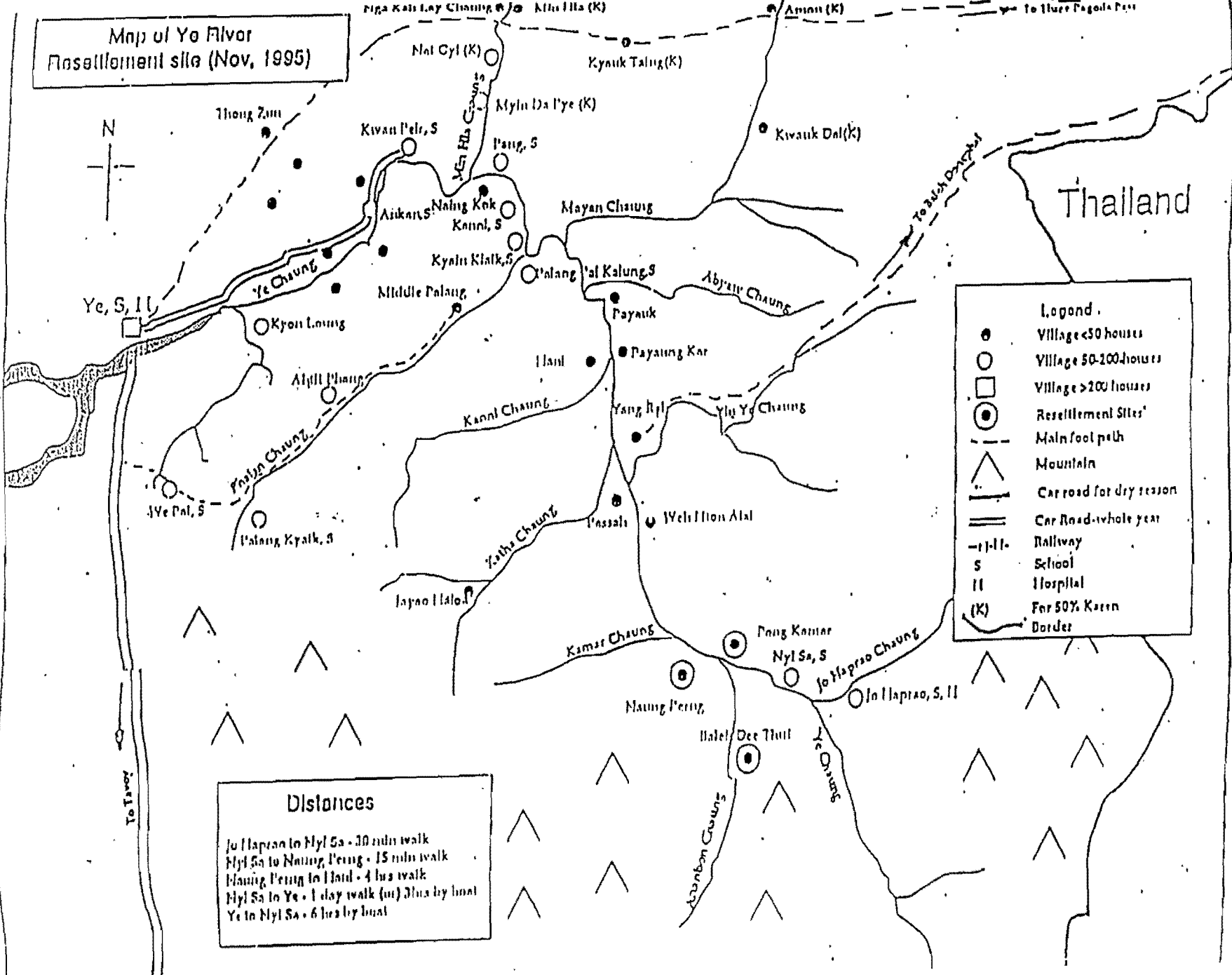
THE MATERIALS RECEIVED
BY THE MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(May, 2003)

No	Organization	Rice (Sack/ 100kg.)	Fish Paste (kg.)	Salt (kg.)	Bean (Kg.)	Remark
		4280	-	-		
	TOTAL	4280	-	-		

Map of Tavoy District
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)



Map of Ye Alvor
Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)



Thailand

- 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

Jo Haprao to Nyl Sa - 30 min walk
 Nyl Sa to Naung Perring - 15 min walk
 Naung Perring to Hail - 4 hrs walk
 Nyl Sa to Ye - 1 day walk (or) 3 hrs by boat
 Ye to Nyl Sa - 6 hrs by boat