



ကမ္ဘာတိုက် ဟံင်ပြောဒီနီက
ကိုဝံ
ပရေရင်မောဒါဒ်ပြင်ညးသူ ငမန်

MON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 (August 2003)

Militarization, Movement Restriction and Population Displacement in Southern Burma

Since early June, the SPDC and Burmese Army have alerted its local military battalions and District, Township authorities that there would be an anti-government demonstration in cities and towns. The regime ordered the respective District, Township, village authorities and the local military battalions to form anti-strike force with USDA (Union Solidarity and Development Association) members, firemen from fire brigades and government servants.

Therefore, they forced the USDA members, firemen and government servants to attend the basic military training schools in most Townships in Mon State and Tenasserim Division. After attending two weeks or one-month military training school, they are formed in-group and the regime alerted them to be ready to prevent anti-government or pro-democracy demonstration.

Later on, with an objective to force more civilians to cooperate with the army, the regime registered all names of the men between 18 and 50 years old in the village and forced them to attend the training schools.

This time the regime propagandized that there would be foreign invasion to Burma and every citizen has responsibility to protect the country. In July and August, the authorities and local military battalions have forced thousands of civilians to attend two weeks short-term military training schools.

After the basic military training school, the authorities also formed them as 'State Defense Force' to support the Burmese Army. They have been asked on a rotation basis to help the Burmese Army in terms of providing logistics, helping battalion works, and operating the military patrol.

While the Burmese Army and local authorities forced the civilians to attend this training, the civilians were too busy working in their farms for cultivation. On the other time, it is the hard time for almost the civilians to have enough foods in rural areas. The recruitment the civilians to attend this military training schools also forced many families to leave from their homes. While the men from poor families were quite busy with training schools and helping the Burmese Army, the families have much difficulties for daily income and survival.

Accordingly to an escaped villager from Kyaikmayaw Township in Mon State, he said he have to work for fishing in a river nearby his village for daily income and survival. His family is too poor 'hand to mouth' family and if he stop working for one-day, his family would have no food. When the order came by the village authority that he was recruited to be in military training school for two-weeks, he found his children would die, if he no longer could work. Therefore, he decided to flee from village. He said that if the situation better, he would return to his home again.

On the other hand, the local authorities and army commanders have made more restriction against the civilians in the rural area, with a concern the civilians would contact the rebel groups.

In Ye and Yebyu Townships, as the fighting is on-going situation and the Burmese Army has concerns that the rebel force could get advantages while the political situation in the country is unstable. They also have a concern that the local civilians would provide the rebels with information, logistics and food supplies.

Hence, on June 8, the military battalions that operated in southern part of Ye Township, Mon State, and in Yebyu Township of Tenasserim Division, LIB No. 543, LIB No. 545 and LIB No. 548 under the command of Military Operation Command, MOC No. 12, issued an order to all villagers to not get out from their villages and to not go to farms.

Before, the villagers or farmers were allowed to work at their farms at daytime. They left from their villages about 6:00 a.m. in the morning and must return to their villages before 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

Actually, in early June, there is a time for the paddy-growing farmers to plow their lands. The time is the beginning of cultivation. Many farmers have to stop their works. Similarly, the gardeners who have fruit or rubber plantations need to do for weeding to clear all grasses. However, they could not go to their plantations.

Normally, the villagers in rural areas have activities to find foods, such as vegetables, fishes, meats and other food stuff outside of their villages in forests, in streams and in the sea. When they were restricted to stay in the villages, even they were not displaced, they still faced food-shortage problems.

After one to two months of restriction, some families who faced food-shortage problems tried to escape to another areas, where they expect they could get foods. Therefore, many hundreds families displaced not only because of conflict but also because of military training school and movement restriction.

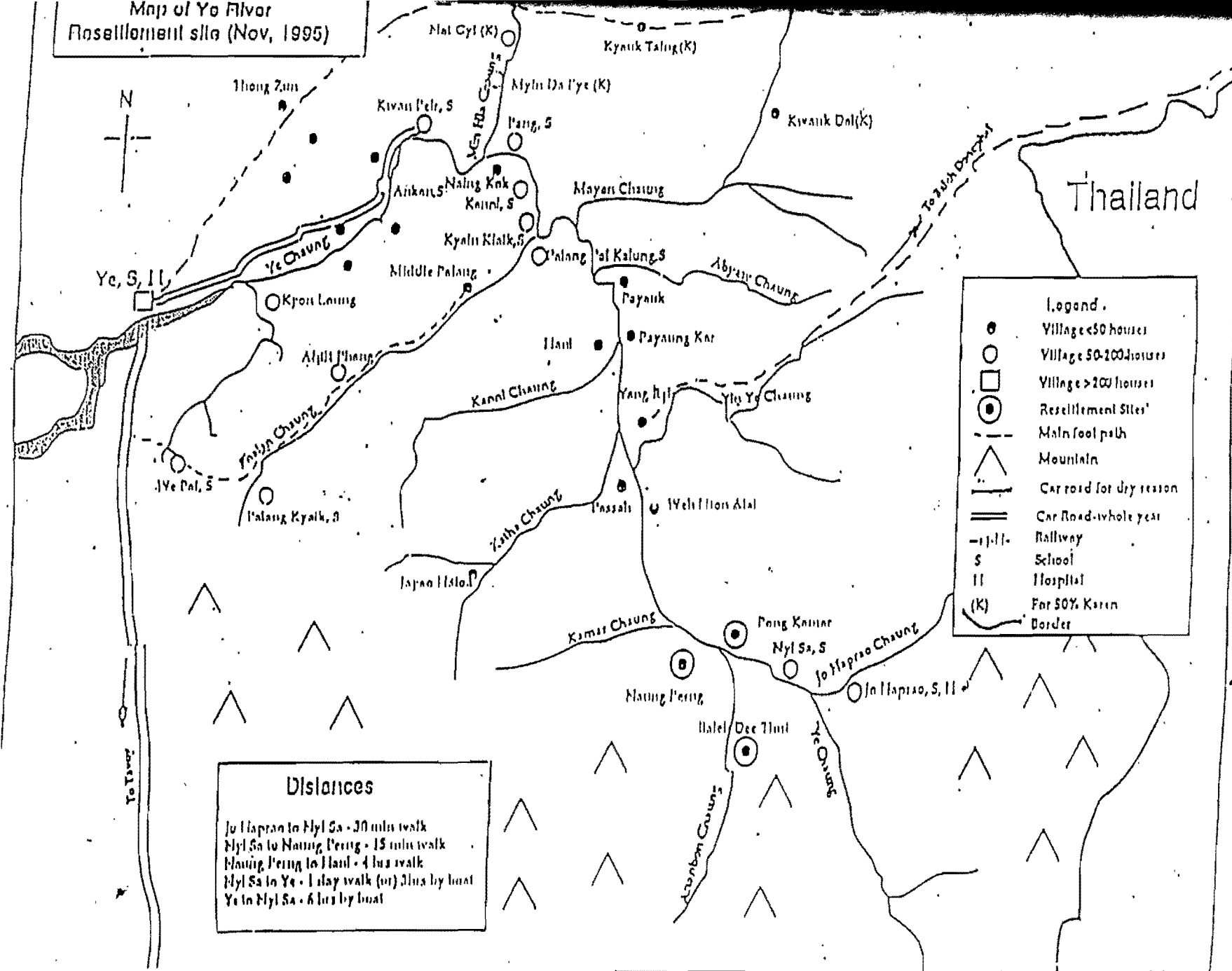
THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THE THREE RESETTLEMENT SITES
(August, 2003)

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	1509	1457	920	781	275	341	5283
	TOTAL	2233	3750	3799	1727	1592	632	729	11821

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

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

Map of Yo Alvor
Resettlement site (Nov, 1995)

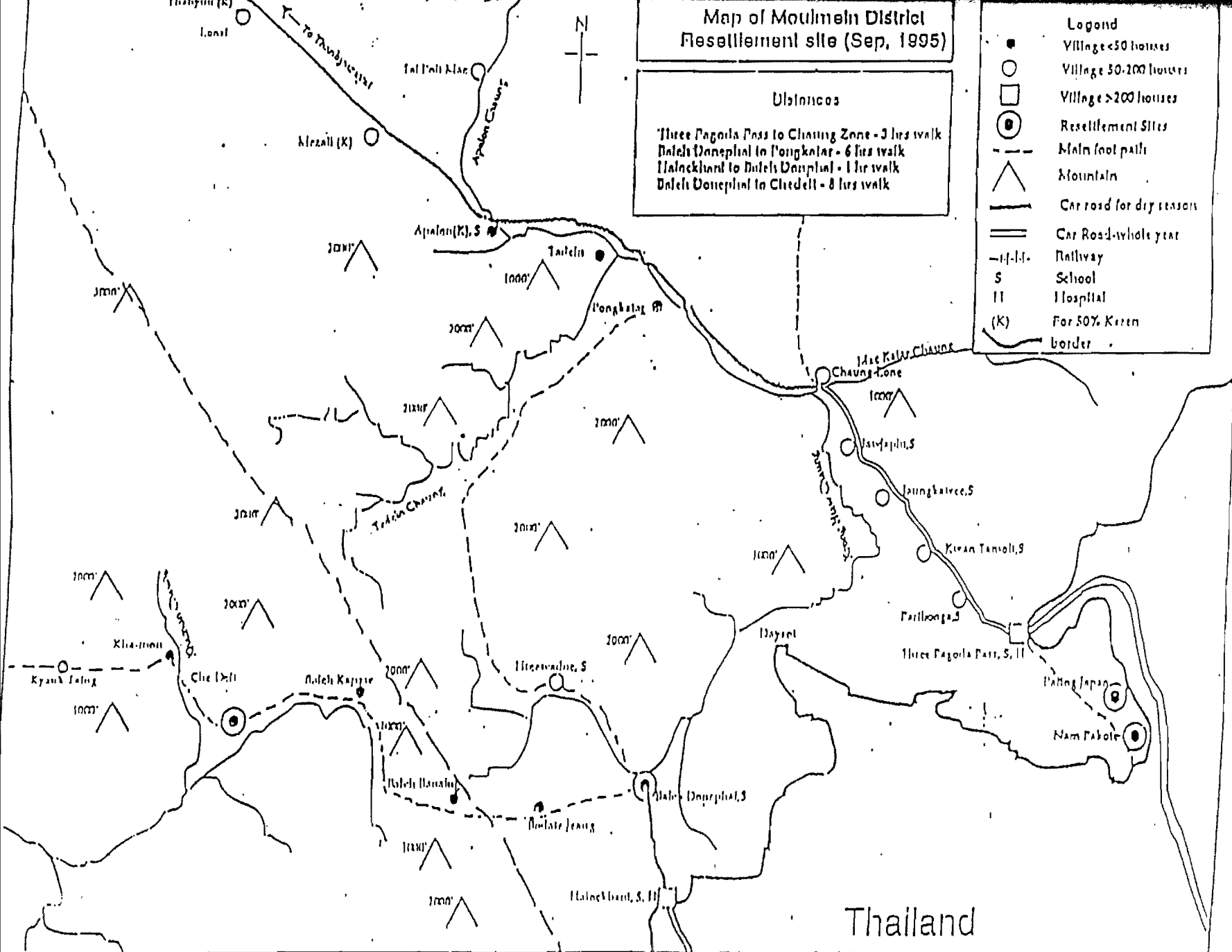


Map of Moumleln District Resettlement site (Sep, 1995)

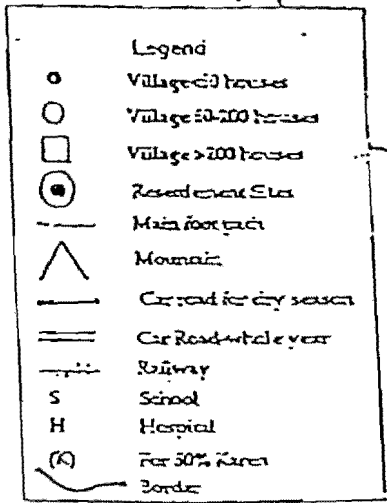
Distances

Three Pagoda Pass to Charing Zone - 3 hrs walk
 Naleh Deneplial to Pongkalar - 6 hrs walk
 Halackhard to Naleh Deneplial - 1 hr walk
 Naleh Deneplial 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 seasons
 - == Car Road-whole year
 - +--+ Railway
 - S School
 - H Hospital
 - (K) For 50% Karen
 - border



Map of Tavoy District
Resettlement site (Nov. 1995)



Distances

Payaw to Jao Done - 5 hrs walk
Jao Done to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk
Hlae Seik to Alaeion - 3 hrs walk
Jao Done to Yaibu - 10 hrs walk

Pyaw to Sao Done - 5 hrs walk
Sao Done to Hlae Seik - 1 days walk
Hlae Seik to Alexon - 3 hrs walk
Sao Done to Yaou - 10 hrs walk