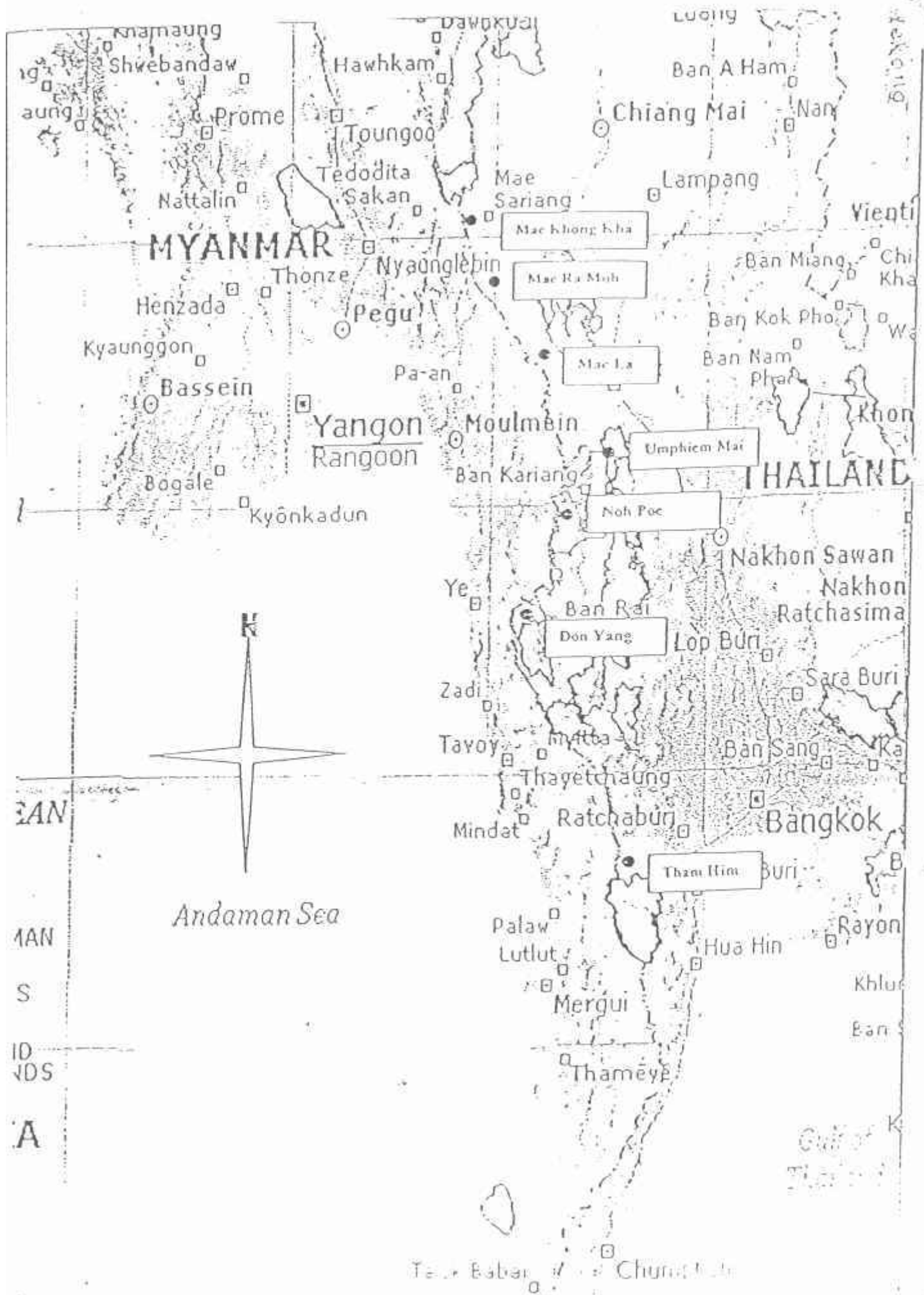


KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE.

MONTHLY REPORT

September, 2003



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KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT
SEPTEMBER, 2003

With this September we have come round again to the Day when on 11 September 2001, the world was horrified to see the terrible suicidal attacks on the world Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States. It was unprecedented in that enemies of the United States used air Planes of the United States to hit United States Structures and establishments. The success of the attacks showed that any target whether military or otherwise, however well guarded or seemingly safe can be destroyed, so long as people are dedicated enough to die for their cause.

There is surely no shortage of such fanatical people as shown by the suicidal bombings that took place later, from time to time, in various parts of the world. What we are seeing is that in addition to deaths, destruction and terror brought on by such deeds, we see more of reprisals, and retaliatory strikes, which would lead to more hatred, killings and counter-killings. There would be no end to this. In Burma, its remembering the 18th of September 1988, the Day on which the SLORC took over Power. It was the Day on which Burma's "Big Brother" General Ne Win stepped aside, to let his proteges, the younger Generals take over, after his impromptu remark that "when soldiers shoot, they shoot straight"/ That remark and the resultant shootings made him belong to history *in* the Company of Idi Amin. Bokassa, Pol Pot and Milosevic.

Now, Burma is a member of ASEAN, in the Company of Nations striving for Regional Development, Prosperity and Peace. But whether Burma's Leadership can be worthy of that partnership remains to be seen . For Burma's Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is still under detention in isolation after the debacle at De Pae Yin. She was supposed to be under Custody for her own Protection. Even now she is kept under House Arrest, convalescing from her recent surgical operation. Obviously the SPDC seems to regard the frail, unassuming lady as a threat to them that need to be contained.

Many Nations are now imposing sanctions, which is hitting the country real hard. But surely, the Generals, and their Military will not be in the front line with those who are being hit. They have made sure they're very well protected . But then, people of Burma are used to being hit hard. They are being hit for over forty years. The tragedy was that the World believed the Burmese People can sought relief on their own, that Burma can solve its own problems.

Many Nations are trying to ease the tensy that is Burma. Indonesia is sending its Top Diplomat to ease the tension, but he was not even allowed to see Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The UN's Mr. Razali is going to Burma for the umpteenth time, although his previous trips have produced nothing concrete in the form of improvement. However his patience is highly laudable, when we compare it to that of Mr. Kofi Anan, whose patience seems to have exhausted with what happened at the UN Head Quarters in Baghdad.

Now friendly Nations are providing Road Maps for Reconciliation and Peace in Burma. The newly appointed Prime Minister of Burma, General Khin Nyunt, the same Khin Nyunt who was SLORC/ SPDC Secretary One- came up with his own Road Map for Reconciliation and Peace. But to all evidence, it will be the same Way of the Generals because the SLORC/SPDC were always saying that they will strive to move towards Peace and Democracy in their Own Way. Many People seem to believe what the Generals say. Some are saying that the Generals need be given more time so that they can solve their country's problem. But then, People will have to do more home work if they believe Friendly Persuasion can move these tough and obstinate Despots- who only understand that Power issues forth from the barrel of a gun.

KRC - Camps Activities - September, 2003

Machine Sewing Training started in Tham Him Camp, On the 4th of September 2003. There will be (20) Males and (20) females in the Training class. The aim is production of Men and Women clothing for the Camp Population.

On September 11th (This will remind people of the 2001. September 11th attacks on the World Trade Centre in the United States)- (29) families with (139) population- displaced Karen villagers crossed over into Thailand near Tha Song Yang- to seek Temporary shelter from fighting in the Karen State. They are from Thee Wah Poo, Wah Klooo Poo, Po Thee Mu, Htee Wah Klay villagers in Na Boo Township. They were given temporary shelter at the Monastery in Mae Ok Hoo (Thai) village. They are being provided emergency support by NGOs. Reports are that hundreds are still hiding in the forest on the Karen side of the Border.

On September 9th - KRC Camps Affairs Co-ordinator and ZOA Assistant Manager for KEP visited Noh Poe Camp. They discussed with the Camp Committee for establishing a Community Agriculture enterprise for the Camps People. A Nutrition Center Building is to be built in the Camp. Material to be provide by BBC. Financial assistance will be from ZOA. The Camp Commander, Thai ? Army, Forestry personnel will participate in joint effort.

On September 15th 2003, Mr. Anda, Dutch Foreign Ministry Secretary, together with Mr. Jacob and Mr. Oorit of the Dutch Embassy, Political Department, visited Tham Him Camp on the fact finding tour of Refugee Camps.

On the 22nd and 23rd of September 2003, a Repatriation Awareness Work shop was held in Mae La Camp. Workshop discussions were led by Saw George- KRC Secretary, Saw Bweh Say -KRC Camps Affairs Coordinator, and Saw Hta Nar, KRC Coordinator. Subjects discussed were Durable Solutions to Refugee Problems, international protection of Refugee Rights, International status and Protection of Refugees, Background History of Karen Refugees and Current Situations Participating were (23) representatives from SRWG, Noh Poe, Um Phiem, Mae La Camps social Welfare Groups.

On 24th September, 2003, there was a meeting in Mae La Camp. Participating were Social Affairs Coordinators from Mae La, Um Phiem and Noh Poe Camps, together with Camps Women and Youth Representatives. Discussed were Social Relations Problems and Needs, and needed changes and corrections. Also discussed were formations of SRWG in all Camps. Community Agriculture and Nutrition matters were also discussed.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS SEPTEMBER, 2003.

	CAMP	No. of families	Over- 13 Yrs		6 - 12 Yrs		Under 5Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
MAE SOT AREA	Mae La	5,416	10,831	10,564	3,546	3,328	2,275	2,147	32,691
	Um Pheim Mai	3,517	5,604	5,355	2,833	2,732	1,271	1,182	18,977
	Total	8,933	16,435	15,919	6,379	6,060	3,546	3,329	51,668
NORTH	Mae Ra Mu Luang	1,896	4,158	3,675	1,258	1,115	753	717	11,676
	Mae Kha & Sa la	2,790	5,792	5,311	1,892	1,716	1,208	1,158	17,077
	Total	4,686	9,950	8,986	3,150	2,831	1,961	1,875	28,753
SOUTH	Noh Poe	2,799	4,107	3,913	1,418	1,256	744	814	12,252
	Ban Dong Yang	736	1,058	1,175	409	388	304	316	3,648
	Htam Him	1,652	2,045	2,188	1,421	1,395	874	891	8,814
Total		5,187	7,210	7,276	3,248	3,039	1,922	2,021	24,716
Grand total		18,806	33,595	32,181	12,777	11,930	7,429	7,225	105,137

RICE AND OTHER ITEMS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

FROM	CAMP	Rice 100 Kg Sack	Salt Kilos	F -paste 15 ~Kg Tin	Yellow Bean- 60 Kilo Sack	Chilies Kilos	Cooking Oil 200 ltr	Charcoal 30 kg saks	Charcoal 25 kg sacks
B.B.C	Umphiem Mai	5,874	7,579	1,263	297	2,369	89		6,364
	Mae La	14,183	18,252	3,043	716	5,710	217	10,962	
COERR	Um Pheim	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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.

BBC- Support in Food and Shelter Material. BBC is also supporting with warm clothing for all the camps.

MSF - Support in Medical and Health facilities.

AMI-

ARC-

MHD -

ZOA (ABWaid) - Support in Educational facilities Teachers' Training.

Consortium - Support in 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.