



KAREN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2007

Karen Refugee Committee
Monthly Report
February, 2007 – Newsletter

With February of 2007 – we look back (60) years to February of 1947. When there was great effort by the Peoples of Burma for Identify, Freedom and Justice.

At that time, Burma was still under Colonial rule and like many other Colonies; there was aspiration for Independence from Foreign Rule.

For the Peoples of Burma, there were efforts towards an Independence Entity, but there was still the obstacle to overcome, the diversity of Ethnic Races and dis-unity. There was need of Unification between the Frontier Areas, inhabited mostly by Ethnic Races like the Arakan, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Karenni, Karen, Mons with Ministerial Burma, where most of the inhabitants are Burmese.

The PANGLONG CONFERENCE held on the 6th to 12th February 1947 was effort for that Unification between the Frontier Areas and Ministerial Burma, on the strength of which lies the hope for Independence, for all.

On the 6th of February 1947, at 2:30 pm there was a meeting at Panglong, Shan state between the Shan Committee and the Kachin Committee, where there was agreed opinion that freedom for the Shan and Kachin would be achieved sooner through the cooperation with the Burmese and as such, the Two Races would send in their respective Representatives to take part in the Executive Council of the Burmese Government during the transition period with the following conditions:

1. With the same status, rights and privileges as enjoyed by the Burmese on democratic lines.
2. The Shan and Kachin Members in the Executive Council would be responsible for all their respective Internal Affairs and would jointly be responsible for common subjects. e.g – Defense, Foreign Affairs, Railways, Customs etc.
3. This committee supported the demand of the Kachin for the desire to have a distinct separate Kachin State.
4. The terms of agreement as arrived at between the Burmese delegates and His Majesty's Government is not to be binding on the Shans and the Kachins.
5. The Right to secede after attainment of freedom from Confederation with Burma, if and when we chose.

Shan Committee

Sd. Hkun Pan Sing – Sao Pha of Taung Peng State
Sd. Sao Shwe Thaike – Sao Pha of Yaung Hwe State
Sd. Sao Hom Pha – Sao Pha North Hsenwi State
Sd. Sao Num – Sao Pha Lai Kha State
Sd. Sao Sam Htun – Sao Pha Mong Pawn
Sd. Sao Htun – Sao Pha Hsa Mong Kham
Sd. Hkun Paung
Sd. Tin E
Sd. Htun Myint
Sd. Kya Bu
Sd. Hkun Saw
Sd. Sao Yape Pha
Sd. Hkun Hte

Kachin Committee

Sd. Sinwa Naung - Myitkyina
Sd. Zau Rip - Myitkyina
Sd. Dinra Tang – Myitkyina
Sd. Zau La – Bhamo
Sd. Zau Lawn – Bhamo
Sd. Labang Grong – Bhamo

Then, the Chin Delegation, having arrived on the night of the 6th of February 1947, there was the combined meeting between the Chin, Kachin, and Shan Committee on the 7th February 1947 at 9am.

The meeting agreed on that.

The terms of the decision arrived at yesterday by the Shan Representatives and the Kachin Delegation at their meeting at 2:30 pm was duly read out and explained to the Chin Delegates, who approved of the decisions and subscribed to the same, with the following additions and which was approved by all.

- (a) All rights and privileges as regards Central Revenue, enjoyed by Shans shall also be extended to the Chins and Kachins on a Population basis.
- (b) Any deficiency in local Finance to be made good from Burma Revenues.
- (c) There shall be formed a Supreme Executive Council of the United Hill Peoples, composed of Representatives of Shans, Chins and Kachins which shall have full power of decision on all matters of policy between the Hill Peoples and the Government of Burma.

Shan Committee

Sd. Hkun Pan Sing – Sao Pha Taung Peng State
Sd. Sao Shwe Thaike – Sao Pha Yaung Hwe State
Sd. Sao Hom Pha – Sao Pha North Hsenwi
Sd. Sao Num – Sao Pha Lai Kha State
Sd. Sao Sam Htun – Sao Pha Mong Pawn
Sd. Sao Htun E – Sao Pha Hsa Mong Kham

Sd. Hkun Pung
Sd. Tin E
Sd. Htun Myint
Sd. Kya Bu
Sd. Hkun Saw
Sd. Sao Yape Pha

Kachin Committee

Sd. Sin Wa Naung – Myitkyina
Sd. Zau Rip – Myitkyina
Sd. Dinra Tang – Myitkyina
Sd. Zau La – Bhamo
Sd. Zau Lawn – Bhamo
Sd. Labang Grong – Bhamo

Chin Committee

Hlur Hmung – ATM - IDSM, BEM, Falam
Thawng Za Khup – ATM, Tiddim
Sd. Kio Mang – ATM, Haka

At the meeting of the Chin – Shan – Kachin Committees, at Pang Long on 7th February 1947, at 1pm, it was unanimously resolved that a Sub – committee of the under-listed members be formed, and given full Powers, for the Purpose of negotiating with the Burmese Leaders according to the terms of the decisions of the 6th, and 7th February 1947, arrived at by (a) the Kachin –Shan Committee and (b) the combined Chin – Shan – Kachin Committees.

- (1) U Kya Bu
- (2) Sao Pha Long of Mong Pawn State
- (3) Sinwa Naung
- (4) Zau Lawn
- (5) U Hlur Hmung
- (6) U Thawng Za Khup

Dated – Panglong
7th February 1947.

Sd. Hkun Pan Sing (Chairman)
Combined Chin-Shan-Kachin Committees
C / Panglong

THE PANGLONG CONFERENCE

Dated – Panglong, the 12th February 1947

A conference, having been held at Panglong, attended by certain members of the Executive Council of the Governor of Burma, all Saobwas, and representatives of the Shan State, the Kachin Hills and the Chin Hills:

The Members of the Conference, believing that freedom will be more speedily achieved by the Shan, the Kachins and the Chins, by their immediate co-operation with the Interim Burmese Government:

- (1) A Representative of the Hill Peoples, selected by the Governor on the recommendations of representatives of the Supreme Council of the United Hill Peoples (SCOUPH), shall be appointed a Counselor to the Governor to deal with Frontier Areas.
- (2) The said Counselor shall also be appointed a Member of the Governor's Executive Council, without portfolio, and the subject of Frontier Areas brought within the purview of the Executive Council by Constitutional Convention as in the case of Defense and External Affairs. The Counselor for the Frontier Areas Shall be given Executive Authority by similar means.
- (3) The said Counselor shall be assisted by two Deputy Counselors, representing races of which he is not a member, while the two Deputy Counselors should deal in the first instance with the Affairs of their respective areas, and the counselor with all the remaining parts of the Frontier Areas, they should on Constitutional Convention act on the principle of joint responsibility.
- (4) While the Counselor in his capacity as member of the Executive council will be the only representative of the Frontier Areas on the Council, the Deputy Counselors shall be entitled to attend meeting of the Council, when subject pertaining to the Frontier areas are discussed.
- (5) Though the Governors' Executive Council will be augmented as agreed above, it will not operate in respect of the Frontier Areas in any manner, which would deprive any of those Areas of the Autonomy which it now enjoys in Internal Administration. Full Autonomy, Internal Administration for the Frontier Areas is accepted in Principle.
- (6) Though the question of demarcating and establishing a separate Kachin State within a Unified Burma is one which must be relegated for decision by the Constituent Assembly, it is agreed that such a state is desirable. As a first step towards this end, the Counselor for Frontier Areas and the Deputy Counselor shall be consulted in the administration of such areas in the Myitkyina and the Bhamo Districts as are part II Scheduled Areas under the Government of act of 1935.
- (7) Citizens of the Frontier Areas shall enjoy rights and privileges, which are regarded as fundamental in democratic countries.
- (8) The arrangements accepted in this Agreement are without Prejudice to the financial autonomy now vested in the Federated Shan States.
- (9) The arrangements accepted in this Agreement are without prejudice to the financial assistance which the Kachin Hills and the Chin Hills are entitled to receive from the revenues of Burma, and the Executive Council will examine

with the Frontier Areas Counselor and Deputy Counselors, the feasibility of adopting for the Kachin Hills and the Chin Hills, financial arrangements similar to those between Burma and the Federated Shan States.

Shan Committee	Kachin Committee	Burmese Government
Sd. Hkun Pan Sing (Sao Pha Taung Peng State)	Sd. Sinwa Naung (Myitkyina)	Sd. Aung San (12 / 2 / 1947)
Sd. Sao Shwe Thaike (Sao Pha Yaung Hwe State)	Sd. Zau Rip (Myitkyina)	Chin Committee
Sd. Sao Hom Pha (Sao Pha North Hsenwi)	Sd. Dinra Tang (Myitkyina)	Sd. U Hlur Hmung (ATM-IDSMS, BEM, Falam)
Sd. Sao Num (Sao Pha Lai Kha State)	Sd. Zau La (Myitkyina)	Sd. U Thawng Za Khup (ATM, Tiddim)
Sd. Sao Sam Htun (Sao Pha Mong Pawn State)	Sd. Zau Lawn (Bhamo)	Sd. U Kio Mang (ATM, Hakar)
Sd. Sao Htun E (Sao Pha Hsamongkham)	Sd. Labang Grong (Bhamo)	
Sd. Maung Pyu (Representative of Hsa Htung)		
Sd. Tin E		
Sd. Tun Myint		
Sd. Kya Bu		
Sd. Sao Yape Hpa		
Sd. Hkun Saw		
Sd. Hkun Htee		

Note – However the Agreement No. (5) on the meeting of the 6th of February 1947, that of “the right to secede after attainment of freedom from confederation with Burma, if and when chosen” was not included in the Panglong Agreement of the 12th February 1947, due to the request by General Aung San to refer it later to the Legislative Assembly Agenda. Also, looking at the Agreement it is questionable why there were no signatories from the Arakan, Mon, Karen and Karenni Groups. So, on the Strength of the Spirit of Unity, born was the Union of Burma. But looking at the country today, Union can only be a misnomer. The feature today is Domination rather than Unity. It can only be a sad story.

K.R.C – Refugee Camps – Activities

February 2007

- 5th Feb. 2007 – IRC (Ms. Lim) Visit K.R.C. There was discussion on Legal/ Judiciary matters in Refugee Camps. There was discussion towards establishing of (LAC) – Legal Assistance Centre in Camps with the purpose of helping with the Judiciary Processes.
- 6th Feb. 2007 – A visiting Group from Nepal visited K.R.C. They were a Group related to helping with Nepalese Refugees from Bhutan who has a parallel of issues with Karen Refugees from Burma. There was exchange of knowledge, information and features related to the two Refugee Groups.
- 6-7th Feb. 2007 – K.R.C. Education Co-ordinator, together with I.C.S. Asia Director, visited Umphiem and Mae La Refugee Camps. Discussed were wide- ranging matters related to preparatory needs for School/ Education needs in Refugee Camps for the Academic year 2007/ 2008.
- 7th Feb. 2007 – Camps Management Program – Annual meeting held at K.R.C. Office – Mae Sot – Representatives from K.R.C. – T.B.B.C., Noh Poe Camp, Umphiem Camp, Mae La Camp, Mae Re Moo and Mae La Oo Camps attended. O.S. and K.E.A.B participated as observers. There were altogether (34) Representatives. Discussed were (1) Finance/ Budget Statement (2) Clarifications on Extra Need supports (3) Population (Statistical Figures) and Feeding Figures (4) New Arrivals in Camps (5) Relationships/ Communications, (6) Overall Camps Statistical Figures and Reporting Processes (7) Daily Management and the difficulties that were met.
- 15th Feb. 2007 – K.R.C. Education Co-ordinator attend meeting of Educational N.G.Os in Z.O.A. Office. K.E.D. Karen Education Department Representatives also participated in the meeting.
- 19-20th Feb. 2007 – The Karen Elders Advisory Board (K.E.A.B.) the K.R.C. and The Refugee Camps Committees, join in Annual General meeting at Mae La Camp. Htam Him Camps Representatives are not present due to Travel difficulties. The 1st day meeting began with K.R.C. presentation. (Annual Report) Covering All K.R.C. works activities, including reports on Over-all Camps Administration, Social, Educational, Medical Health and the Judiciary processes. Then follow the presentation/ Reports by Individual Camps,

covering all activities, improvements failures, obstacles, problems. The Camps Management seems to be helping with improvements and progress, but still there seem to be obstacles to overcome.

- 24th Feb. 2007 – Visiting Group from the U.S. met with M.O.I and Camp Committee at Mae La Camp. It was information gathering and discussion related to the Resettlement Program for Refugees from Mae La Camp. The United States will be taking in 12,000 refugees per year beginning with Mae La. Already, the process for Interviewing and preparatory process are on going with the first group of Resettlement Departures to start in the middle of the year.
- 24th Feb. 2007 – K.R.C members visit Htam Him Refugee Camp. There was the General meeting where Issues related to Resettlement, Post – Resettlement Issues, The Camp’s Management Program Issues, Issues related to New – comers into Camp were discussed.
- 26th Feb. 2007 – K.R.C. members visit. Ban Don Yang Camp. There was the meeting with the Camp Committee where there was exchange of information and ideas. K.R.C. provide with Guidelines and Advocacy for proper processes of Administration and Management.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS FEBRUARY, 2007.

MAE SOT AREA	CAMP	No. of Familie s	Over – 12 Yrs		6 – 12 Yrs		Under 5 Yrs		Total
			M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Mae La	9,574	16,914	16,277	5,323	4,866	3,481	3,396	50,257
	Um Phiem Mai	3,725	7,277	6,985	1,914	1,761	1,381	1,179	20,497
		13,299	24,191	23,262	7,237	6,627	4,862	4,575	70,754
NORTH	Mae Ra Moe	2,761	5,413	5,222	1,631	1,469	1,084	1,126	15,945
	Mae La Oo	2,721	5,566	5,043	1,680	1,560	983	885	15,717
Total		5,482	10,979	10,265	3,311	3,029	2,067	2,011	31,662
SOUTH	Noh Poe	4,573	5,706	5,180	1,576	1,593	964	1,000	16,019
	Ban Dong Yang	950	1,544	1,604	388	379	357	351	4,623
	Htam Him	1,642	2,671	2,755	909	917	705	621	8,578
Total		7,165	9,921	9,539	2,873	2,889	2,026	1,972	29,220
Grand Total		25,946	45,091	43,066	13,421	12,545	8,955	8,558	131,636

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.

AMI – 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 Education facilities Teachers Training.

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

TOPS – support in Educational facilities.

ICS – Asia – support in Education 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.

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

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