

ผลกระทบบ่อคุมการร้ชาดินิฮมมอญร้ชามชาติค่อประเทศไทย

นายภาณุทัต ยอดแก้ว



วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาวิทยาศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต

ภาควิชาความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างประเทศ

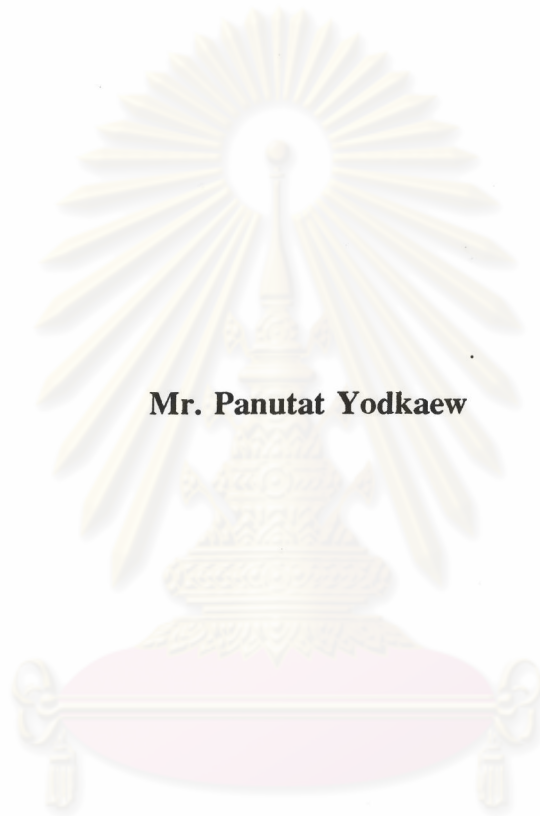
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**The Impact of Trans-State Ethnic Mon Nationalism
upon Thailand**



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การวิจัยเน้นจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อศึกษาผลกระทบอุดมการณ์ชาตินิยมมอญข้ามชาติต่อประเทศไทย การศึกษาจะเน้นไปที่เครือข่ายของกระบวนการชาตินิยมในมิติของสื่อและสาร ซึ่งพวกชาตินิยมมอญได้ใช้ในการรักษาความเป็นปึกแผ่นของสังคม และเพื่อเผยแพร่อุดมการณ์ไปยังสมาชิกของตน สารชาตินิยมจะถูกศึกษาอย่างละเอียดเพื่อที่จะหาองค์ประกอบของแก่น ของความเป็นชาตินิยมมอญข้ามชาติ



ศูนย์วิทยพัทยากร
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

ภาควิชา ความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างประเทศ

สาขาวิชา ความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างประเทศ

ปีการศึกษา 2538

ลายมือชื่อนิสิต *ณัฐพร อ.ก.*

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา *ชยันต์ จรุงธรรม*

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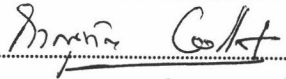
This research has the objective to study the impact of trans-state ethnic Mon nationalism upon Thailand. The focus is placed upon the study of the standing network of the nationalist movement in the dimensions of media and of message upon which the Mon nationalists have drawn to maintain their social cohesion as well as to propagandize their ideology among their members. The message will be scrutinized to capture what elements constitute the essence of the trans-state ethnic Mon nationalism.

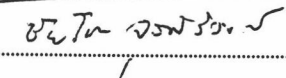
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สาขาวิชา..... ความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างประเทศ

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ลายมือชื่อนิสิต..... 

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา..... 

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม.....

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ศูนย์วิจัยทรัพยากร
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

Content

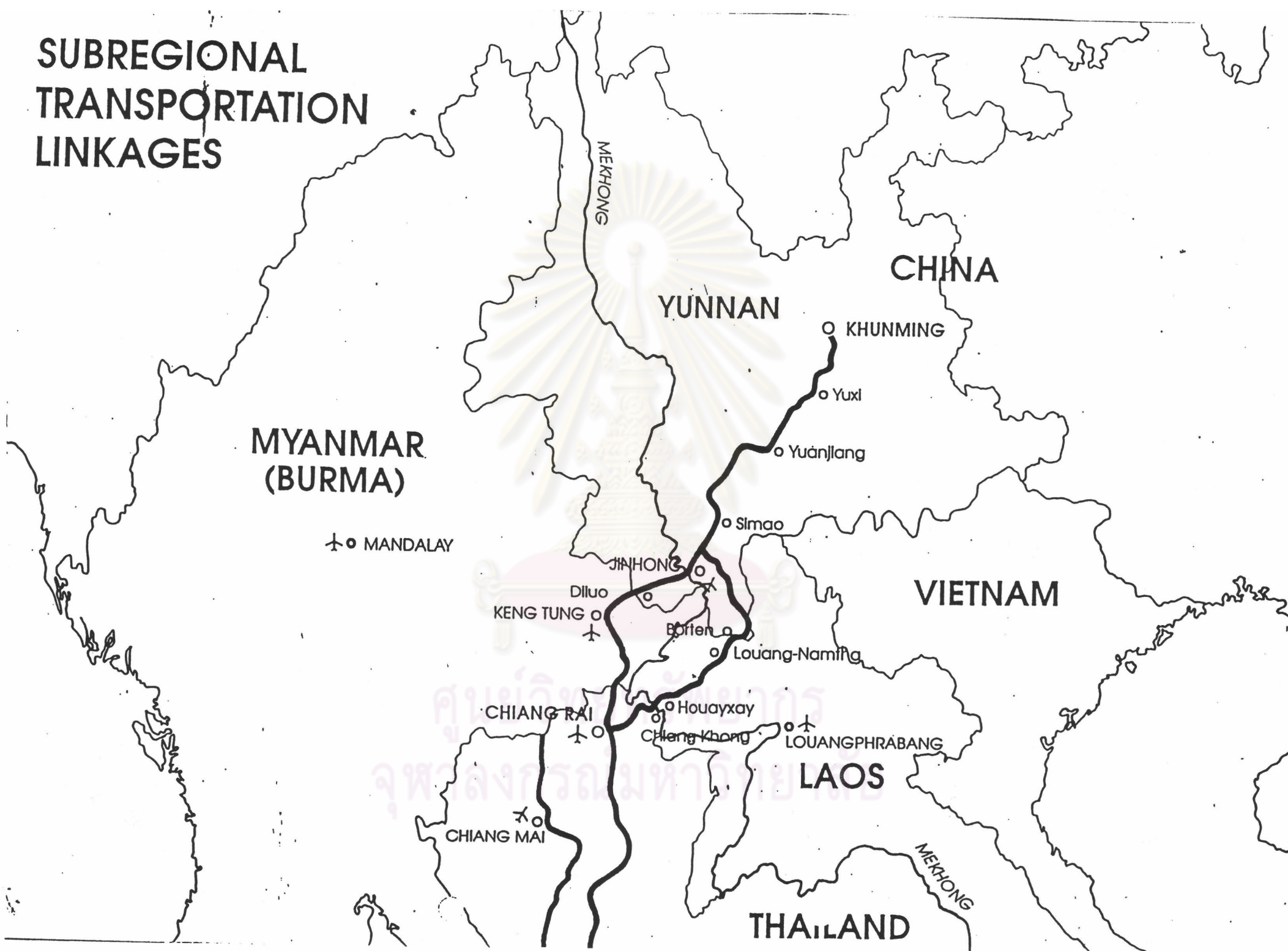
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The Following are the Examples of Mon
Newsletters and other Kinds of Printed Materials Collected during
the Field Research



ศูนย์วิทยทรัพยากร
จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย

SUBREGIONAL TRANSPORTATION LINKAGES



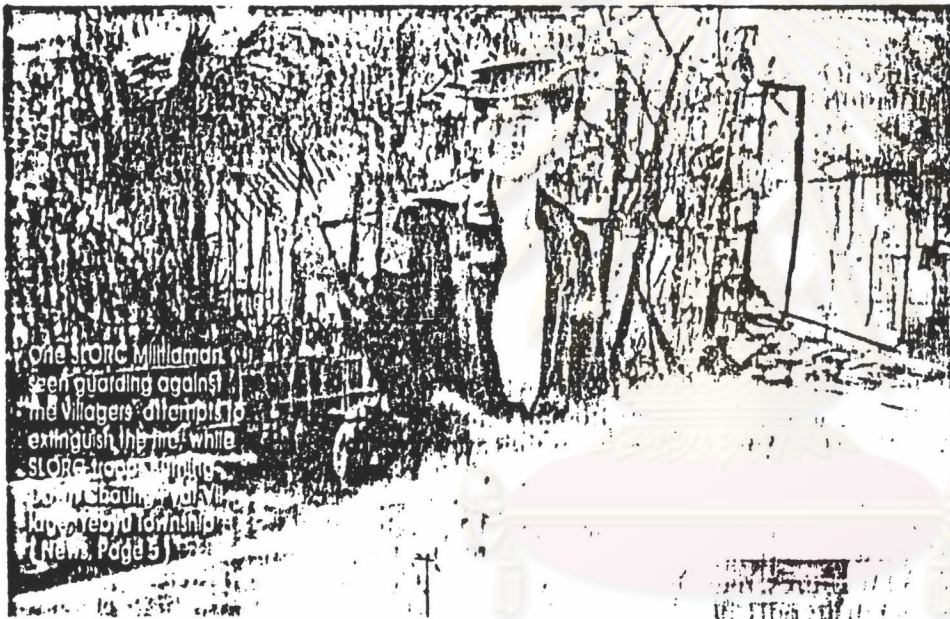


NEWSLETTER

Committee for Publicity People's Struggle in Monland

January, 1994.

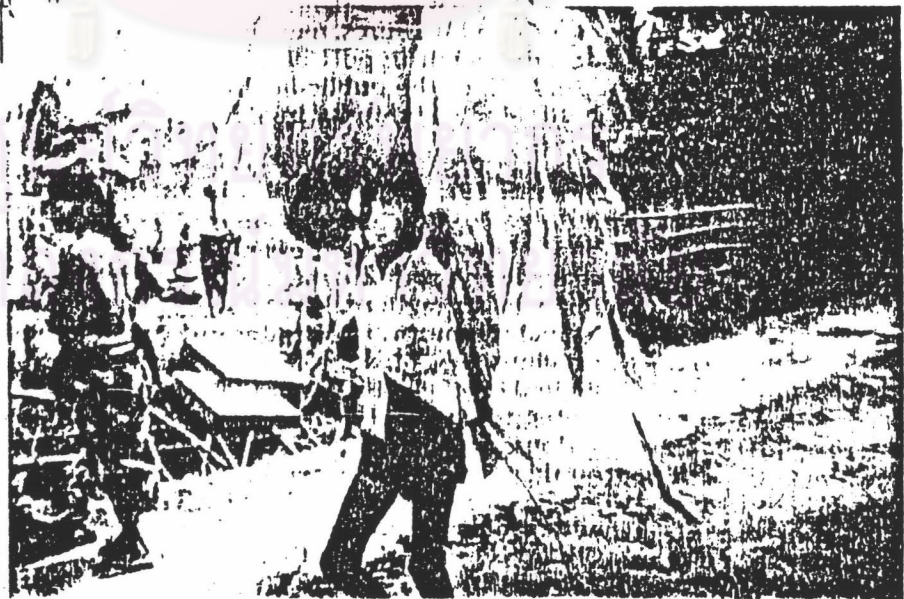
Vol. 2, No. 1



An Example,
of Appalling
Atrocities of
SLORC troops
Towards Local
Civilian Ethnic
Minority
Populations

One SLORC Militiaman
seen guarding against
the villagers' attempt to
extinguish the fire, while
SLORC troops continue
to burn down the village
in the background.
(News, Page 5)

An
Unfortunate
View
Deserving
of
Complete
Human
pity



Panic-stricken villager boy, with a heavy load of his family's belongings bearing on head, uneasily hurrying away to escape the fire

The Committee for Publicity of People's Struggle in Monland (CPPSM) was formed with a group of Mon national young men on 29 September, with a primary aim to struggle for human rights in Burma. As the situation demanded later on, CPPSM extended its aim to also work for people's empowerment in Mon community by means of public education programmes. CPPSM is a non-violent, non-profit, independent work group.

As it has been admitted, the word "Monland" involved here does not represent any political meaning or territorial claim of the Mon people, but it does stand for all the people inhabiting the Mon area in Burma regardless of race and religion, as well as any places on earth where Mon people are struggling to survive until they can return back to their beloved homeland. CPPSM chooses to work specially for Monland because Monland is not only practically within its reach to most effectively monitor, but also is most convenient for it to communicate and relate to.

Since it came to existence, CPPSM has been seriously monitoring human rights situation in Monland, particularly of the grass roots community, and regularly been reporting its findings to international human rights groups and supporters, thereby CPPSM has been actively taking part in human rights struggle for Burma. Up to the present time, CPPSM has been successful in

On CPPSM's Struggle

publishing and distributing one poster which highlights the literacy struggle of Mon refugee schoolchildren, one human rights News Report and 4 publications of CPPSM Newsletter including this publication for the part of its struggle for human rights.

And for the part of its struggle for public education in Mon community, just recently CPPSM has successfully published two Mon-language health education brochures, namely Aids education and malaria education with moral and financial support of Maryknoll Mission and Welcome House (Ban Phark Jai). Both of the public health education brochures are widely distributed in both Mon community in Burma and Mon refugee population in Thailand.

CPPSM is really very eager to publish CPPSM Newsletter regularly on a monthly basis; but sadly, its present financial situation does not permit it to for. It does not yet seek any source of regular financial assistance. However, CPPSM has been with a relentless effort endeavouring to continue its human rights struggle and produce the CPPSM Newsletter whenever time is opportune and its financial strength makes it possible to. Sadly again, CPPSM has not been able to include more background information and news commentaries in its all previous CPPSM Newsletter publications for the space has always been too limited for them. However, CPPSM has been, as far as its journalistic capability, trying to choose from its current heap of news pieces most important and serious facts and proofs of human rights situation in Monland and report them on the CPPSM Newsletter. In this respect, CPPSM is profoundly apologising its readers who demand and advise for inclusion of more background information and commentaries. Only if and when its financial situation permit it to publish CPPSM Newsletter monthly, CPPSM will be able to narrow these weaknesses.

CPPSM, herein, is seriously appealing to international human rights support groups, refugee relief organizations, NGOs and individuals interested in and sympathetic to its struggle for human rights and public welfare, to support it with all possible assistance.

BURMESE ARMY CONSCRIPT THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS AS SLAVE-LABOUR FOR CONSTRUCTING YE-TAVOY RAILWAY

Since 1 November 1993, local military in Tenasserim Division of the ruling military regime, State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), have been continuously conscripting thousands of civilian people from local ethnic Mon, Karen and Tavoyan communities as labour to construct 110-miles-long Ye-Tavoy railway. During the process of constructing the railway, the local SLORC military forcibly press these conscripted people into slave-labour; and consequently many of these people have died of exhaustion, many hundred have increasingly fallen ill, and many hundred have fled to the areas which are better protected by armed ethnic opposition groups or to many Burmese refugee camps which are situated along the Thai-Burmese border to escape the forced labour.

Out of those many escapees, a group of 34 Karen and Mon people from Lort Thine, a village in Yebyu Township, arrived at the Mon refugee camp, Pa Yaw on 4 December 1993. The group represents six families and was led by Saw Khaleh, a 40-year-old Karen man. During a recent interview, many members of the group respectively described that they had suffered increasing human rights abuses of the local SLORC troops before they abandoned their village in late November 1993. In connection with the human rights abuses of the local SLORC troops, Saw Khaleh who led the group put what he had experienced and suffered like this.

" Burmese army force us to construct the railway, to construct their outposts, to perform as porters along with their troops, to carry water for the use in their barracks and so on. They call us very often and we do not even have enough time to work for our own living. Our village (Lort Thine) has to supply 15 men daily as labour for the railway construction. when a group of 15 men has worked for two weeks, then another 15 men from the village have to replace the group and work in the railway construction for another two weeks. By this way, turns of the duty go on in rotation within the villagers. And at the same time, our village has to send two men daily to carry water for the use in their barracks. When the two men has served their one-week duty, then another two men from the

village must replace them to supply water for the barracks for another one week. In this way, turns of this duty are also changing weekly and going on in rotation amongst the villagers. Again, our village very often has to supply 3 to 5 men as portering labour along with their troops. Lort Thine is just a small village with only 80 households and accordingly such constant conscription of the villagers is extremely overloading the village. Further more, their troops very often come in to the village and forcibly take away our livestock without payment. We cannot bear with such these abuses of the Burmese troops any longer and so we abandon the village now."

The interviewees continued by saying,

" Burmese army force us to construct the railway, to construct their outposts, to perform as porters along with their troops, to carry water for the use in their barracks and so on. They call us very often and we do not even have enough time to work for our own living "

"Many more people from Lort Thine also have fled toward the Thai border by way of Nat Eln Taung and all those who still remain in the village are, too, thinking about abandoning the village to escape the Burmese troops." Saw Khaleh who led the group added by saying that all other villages in Yebyu area were also forced by the SLORC troops to supply men as labour for the railway construction and etc. on the basis that a larger village must contribute a

proportionately bigger number of men.

According to local sources, a village with a total households of 500 or so is required by the local SLORC military to supply 50 men daily as labour for the railway construction. The village leaders must be responsible for arranging turns of the duty for their fellow villagers so as to fulfil the quota of 50 men per day. According to the current way of dividing and sharing duty within the villagers, the village with 500 households is divided into 10 equal groups, 50 households making a group. And each 50-household group must contribute 50 men on the basis of one man per household. And 50 men from one 50-household group must work in the railway construction for two weeks as one turn of duty. And for another two weeks construction, another 50 men from next 50 households of the village must similarly be responsible. In this way, turns of the duty change in rotation within the villagers, that is when all the 500 households of the village have equally served their respective first turn of the

duty, then the first 50 men again have to begin with their second turn of the duty, and then again the second 50 men and so on.

In other words, 10 per cent of the total households of the village are daily required to contribute 50 men from their own families as labour for the railway construction. The SLORC military instruct village leaders that the villagers whom they send to the railway construction as labour must be all able-bodied men. In fact, these able-bodied men are, especially, the bread winners

permanent labourers for the railway construction.

According to Mon National Liberation Army, since the beginning of 1992, SLORC has deployed ten more light infantry battalions along the Ye-Tavoy-Mergul way of Tenasserim Division, namely LIB No.(401), LIB No.(402), LIB No.(403), through to LIB No.(410) as a provision of more security for the area through which the proposed gas pipeline will possibly be laid for transportation of the natural gas from the gas fields in the Gulf of Martaban to Thailand. And the SLORC military in Tenasserim has increas-



Unbearable to forced Labour in constructing Ye-Tavoy Railway, Local Karen and Mon people fleeing to Thai border

of their respective households. Thus, during the two-weeks' period their bread winners are being out of work, all the dependants, including children, of those households are automatically left in a near-to-starvation situation under the current high cost of living in Burma.

According to some local Mon people who request not to be named, the local SLORC military inhumanely beats those conscripted villagers who can not work to meet its satisfaction level and indefinitely detains them at the local outposts and also requires them to work on in constructing the railway as permanently conscripted labourers unless they cannot afford to pay a fine of 1,000 Kyats to the military. At least, 10 men from Hsin Ku village (which is called Choein Klort in Mon), 10 men from Hsa Taw village and more than 15 men from other villages in the area still remain caged at the local outposts and used by the military as

ingly forced the local ethnic Mon, Karen and Tavoyan communities through several forms of human rights violations to supply the bigger demands of its larger number of troops.

According to reliable local sources, this Ye-Tavoy railway construction is divided into three main parts and supervised by 3 local light infantry battalions, namely LIB No.(343), LIB No.(409) and LIB No.(410) through 5 supervision camps. The three main parts of the railway construction are (1) the part from Ye to Pauk Pin Gwin, (2) the part from Pauk Pin Gwin to Kalain Aung, and (3) the part from Kalain Aung to Tavoy respectively. The Ye-Pauk Pin Gwin part and the Pauk Pin Gwin-Kalain Aung part have simultaneously been constructed by more than 2,000 conscripted civilians from more than 200 local villages, whereas the construction of the Kalain Aung-

○ Continued on Page (10)

SLORC TROOPS BURN DOWN MON VILLAGES ACCUSING THEM OF MON-REBEL SUPPORTERS

Chaung Pyar, Yebyu Township

Some 100 combined troops from SLORC's Light Infantry Battallion No.(408) and local militia-men unit commanded by Captain Zaw Min Oo burnt down Chaung Pyar (which is called Kanoot Krone in Mon), a Mon village in Yebyu Township of Tenasserim Division on the first week of September 1993, having accused the villagers of Mon-rebel supporters. As a result, 15 out of total 40 houses of the village were burnt and more than 80 villagers became homeless.

The troops came in to the village in order to seize some 6 male villagers whom they suspected of allegedly having links with the opposition Mon National Liberation Army. The troops, however, could not seize any of the 6 men as they had already run into hiding in fear. Because of the 6 men's escape, the troops were angry and in turn set fire to the 6 men's houses and burned them. During the process, other houses in the village also caught fire. But the troops did not allow the villagers to extinguish the fire and save their houses from burning. The fire went on burning the houses one after another. Destitute of any human compassion, the troops happily clapped their hands and witheringly laughed at the troubled villagers as they were shedding tears seeing such deliberate devastation of their homes.

According to the villagers of Chaung Pyar, the 6 men from the village who were wanted by the SLORC troops are in fact all simple farmers who have not had any contacts with the opposition MNLA forces. As the troops told the villagers that the 6 men would be killed if caught, now these 6 men do not yet dare to return back to the village in fear

of killing by the troops.

Waeng Patoke, Thanbyuzayat Township

Some 20 troops from SLORC's Light Infantry Battallion No.(343) burnt down Waeng Patoke, a Mon village in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State on 21 November 1993, having accused the villagers of supporters of the opposition Mon National Liberation Army. As a result, 70 houses and the primary school building in the village were burnt to ashes and more than 200 villagers became homeless.

In earlier March, the then SLORC's local regular Infantry Battallion No.(31) already ordered this village to vacate from the site immediately along with 6 other Mon and Karen villages in the area, namely Beh Dung, Halauk Ang, Phar Badaw, Joke Hanih and We Tor. As a matter of fact, the SLORC troops assumed these villages as supporters to the opposition forces and as such forced them to vacate from the area. At that time, a total 500 families of the villages were forcibly removed, whereas some villagers who could not afford to resettle and make a living anywhere else remained stay put in Waeng Patoke at the risk of similar ill-treatment due to be imposed any time by the SLORC troops. Later on, the situation seemed becoming stable and many villagers gradually returned back to the village to stay. Accordingly, Waeng Patoke grew up again with the increasing population. The SLORC troops considered this behaviour of the villagers as defiance of their order, and eventually burned down this village on 21 November 1993.



SLORC'S TROOPS TORTURE AND KILL TWO POWs BEFORE LOCAL MON VILLAGERS

Some troops from SLORC's local regular Infantry Battallion No.(61) caught 2 members of the opposition New Mon State Party (NMSP) in Hnit Hnoo, a village in Ye Township of Mon State on 2 December 1993 and inhumanely tortured them and finally killed them before the local Mon community.

According to the administration system of NMSP, Hnit Hnoo comprises Northern Ye Township. The SLORC troops unexpectedly came in to the village in early morning of the day in a surprise attack on the local NMSP administration area. Nai

Krorh, aged in his 30s, who was an executive member of the local NMSP administration board, and his one assistant were together caught by the SLORC troops as they could not have managed to move away.

The SLORC troops inhumanely tortured these two prisoners of war before the local Mon villagers, deliberately showing such torture in public as a way to intimidate the local Mon villagers. After severely torturing, the SLORC troops openly shot dead the two POWs just before the local Mon community.



SLORC'S TROOPS RAPE MON WOMEN

Battallion No(104)'s Soldier Rapes Freshly Child-Borne Mon Woman

One soldier from SLORC's local regular Infantry Battallion No.(104) raped Mi Pan, a 25-year-old Mon woman from Kyone Kanyar, a village in Tavoy District, Tenasserim Division while the SLORC troops were encamping in the village on 30 September 1993.

The rapist soldier was one of the 40 troops of SLORC's local Infantry Battallion No.(104) commanded by Captain Aung Min Tun and at the time encamping in the village. Having knowing the troops came in to the village, all able-bodied villagers ran away in fear of ill-treatment by the troops

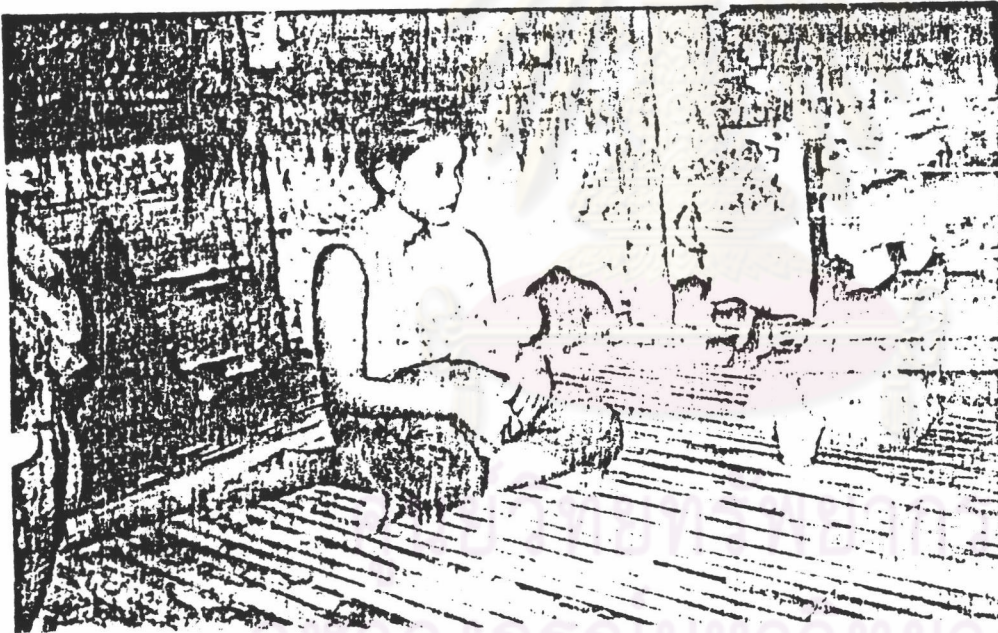
and escaped, whereas only young children, the aged and unhealthy women remained in the village.

The rape victim Mi Pan was at the time not healthy as she had given birth only one week earlier. Mi Pan was at her house in the village and was bearing her young baby while the soldier rushed up to her house and raped her, her husband having run into hiding along side other villagers.

LIB No.(343)'s Soldier Rapes Mon Woman

One soldier from SLORC's local Light Infantry Battallion No.(343) who was responsible for wireless communication service in the battallion raped Mi Mee, a 27-year-old Mon woman from Ywar Thit, a village in Ye Township of Mon State on 3 September 1993 while the SLORC troops were encamping in the village.

The rape victim Mi Mee was a mother of three children. According to Mi Mee, the rapist soldier, accompanied by his some fellow soldiers, came up to Mi Mee's house. The soldier saw Mi Mee at her house and requested the other soldiers to stay outside the house. As soon as those soldiers went away accordingly, the soldier forced to rape Mi Mee.



25-year-old Mon woman, MI Pan, who was raped by SLORC soldier



SLORC'S LIB NO.(408) ON WHIM SHOOT MON VILLAGERS

Some 30 troops from SLORC's local Light Infantry Battallion No.(408), on their whim, shot local civilian Mon people they saw near Ame, a Mon village in Yebyu Township on 18 December 1993. As a result, one male villager (namely unknown) who was at the time at the seashore and was preparing for going fishing was killed on the spot, whereas other villagers ran into hiding and escaped.

After this shooting, the troops came in to Ame village and beat the villagers and asked them

if any MNLA troops encamped at the village earlier night. As a result of the beating, two male villagers, Nai Lu and Nai Ban Chein respectively got fatal injuries on their heads and many other villagers were also badly hurt. In fact, none of MNLA troops had arrived to the village up to that time according to the villagers. As the troops went on beating and continued forcing the villagers to let them express the point that some Mon soldiers were at the village earlier night, the villagers eventually had

✚ Continued on Page (10)

SLORC'S LIB NO.(408), LIB NO.(409) ARREST, DETAIN AND TORTURE LOCAL MON PEASANTS IN PROCESS OF EXTORTING RICE TAX

During December 1993, SLORC's two light infantry battallions in Yebyu Township, namely LIB No.(408) and LIB No.(409) arrested and detained many local Mon peasants who could not afford to pay the rice tax required by the existing SLORC's rice tax collection law. This law requires all the rice-cultivating farmers to pay the government 10 Burmese-unit baskets of unpolished rice for every acre of their rice fields. During the rainy season of the year, a large area of rice fields in Yebyu Township were suffering a bad flood, and a great deal of rice plants were consequently killed. And accordingly many local Mon peasants only produced less rice and many of them did not even yield the quantity of rice necessary for decent survival of their own families. These losses in rice production have in turn made many local Mon peasants unable to pay the so-called rice tax required by SLORC.

During a recent interview with one Mon monk who came from Yebyu Township, the monk put what he had witnessed this way. " During December 1993, SLORC's LIB No.(408) and LIB No.(409) arrested many Mon peasants from Kort Preng Muor village (which is called Kywe Thone Nyi Ma in Burmese) who could not afford to pay the

rice tax. The troops detained these peasants at their local outposts. During their detention period, the local SLORC military severely beat these peasants as a means of extorting the rice tax from them. The peasants explained that their farms had not produced good rice this year due to the flood and that made them unable to pay the rice tax. But the SLORC military bitterly rejected the reason given by the peasants and in turn accused them that they depended on the Mon rebels and were attempting to defy the government law by deliberately refusing to pay the rice tax. As the soldiers went on beating them, many of the peasants eventually had to pay off the rice tax by selling up their cattle, which is the backbone of their livelihood. And those peasants who could not afford to pay off the tax were still kept on at the local outposts and possibly subjected to continued torture by the SLORC military. Besides, in such a case that peasants who are family leaders were not available at the reach of the troops to be arrested, then the troops in turn forcibly took away their wives as hostages. Now, in order to escape such these abuses of the SLORC troops, many local rice-cultivating villagers have, family by family, left their villages and are hiding in the forest."



A Mon peasant family fleeing to escape abuses by local SLORC military

AIDS THREATS BURMA

According to Colonel Pe Thein, Health Minister of Burmese military regime, State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), at least one per cent to two per cent of pregnant women in Burmese border regions have tested positive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is increasing year by year in Burma. According to statistics of SLORC regime, more than 5,000 people in Burma tested positive for HIV in 1992, and of the total number of people discovered to have contracted HIV in Burma, 74.3 per cent were intravenous drug users, 9 per cent were prostitutes and 6.9 per cent were venereal disease patients.

Daniel Tarantola, AIDS specialist from Harvard School of Public Health, says that Burma is facing a critical AIDS situation with 300,000 to 400,000 people already infected with HIV, the precursor to AIDS. And within two years, Burma with a population of 42 million could surpass the number of HIV infections in the United States.

Just recently, Committee for Publicity of People's Struggle in Monland (CPPSM) has conducted an interview with two Burmese AIDS patients at Kwai River Christian Hospital in Sangkhlaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province of Thailand. These two AIDS patients are Eh Toe, a 30-year-old Karen man from Kyar Inn township of Karen State; and Khin Own Kyi, a 25-year-old Burman woman from Moulmein. During the interview, both of these AIDS patients respectively said that they had never heard or known about AIDS when they were in Burma. During the interview, Khin Own kyi described her story like this.

"I have arrived at Sangkhlaburi for 5 months now. Here, I stay with my sisters and depend on them. I can not work as my health is always bad. Before I came here, I lived in Moulmein. I was married at the age of 15. xxxxxxx I did not know much about my husband's sex life as he worked most of his time at a bean-preserving factory. But my sisters often warned me that my husband was always happy with other girls. After 6 years of our marriage, my husband died. He suddenly died in hospital. According to the doctors there, he died of cerebral malaria. When my husband died, I was 8 months pregnant. xxxxxxxx When I was in Moulmein about two years ago, I suffered acute diarrhoea for 4 months. And consequently, I did not eat well and became weak and also got pain on my lips. I went to both modern clinics and physicians of indigenous



AIDS victim Khin Own Kyi, 25-year-old Burmese woman

medicines. They gave me medicines. But their medicines did not relieve my suffering at all. Despite my suffering, I had to work hard on the other hand to earn for a meagre hand-to-mouth living for my family under the escalating cost of living in Burma until my sisters here in Sangkhlaburi called my family and we came here to stay with them. Now my health situation is quite better because I get to eat well and live well here. xxxxxx When in Burma, I was always busy with striving for survival and never had a chance to learn about AIDS."

Another AIDS patient, Eh Toe, who has symptomatic pain on upper part of his sex organ, also described his story as follows.

"I have arrived here only for one week. Before I came here, I was getting medical treatment at a hospital in Mae Sot. And with the instruction and help of the doctors of that hospital, I came to this hospital. Before I was in Mae Sot, I stayed at

Httabaw, a Karen refugee camp situated in Sangkhlaburi District. I arrived at Httabaw last year. Before I came to stay at Httabaw, I lived at Azin area of Kyar Inn Township. When I was with my family at Azin about two years ago, Burmese army attacked and occupied Azin area and burned down

" I did not know much about my husband's sex life as he worked most of his time at a bean-preserving factory. But my sisters often warned me that my husband was always happy with other girls "

the villages in the area, seized the villagers, killed some of them, forced many villagers to carry their things. I am a simple villager and have never been a Karen soldier. The Burmese army seized all the villagers they saw. Thus, all the villagers had to run away to escape the Burmese army. People from 10 or so villages in Azin area had to abandon their homes and ran away at that time. Then together with my wife and a-year-old child, I also fled to Httabaw refugee camp. xxxxxxxx When I was at Azin, I had not up to that time got any such (symtomic) pain as I am getting now. This pain began to appear on my body when I was at Httabaw. I arrived at Httabaw camp last year. xxxxxxxx I have never visited to any prostitute both before and after my marrige. I have no such habit at all. And I also know about my wife very well. She had never got married with any other man before she married me. xxxxxx But I had received medical injection many times when I was at Azin. Once I was at the age

of 20, I accidentally got a bad thorn jabbed into the flesh of my sex organ; at that time, I received some medical injection from local bare-foot healers. And many times when I got sick, I received medical injection from them again. But I did not see they ever boiled

their needles and syringes before they gave me injection. However, I had still to receive treatment from them because I could not afford to pay for medical treatment in a modern hospital since I was poor and had not enough money to do so. When in Azin area, I only earned for a poor hand-to-mouth living by cutting and selling fire-wood. xxxxxxxx I never heard or knew about AIDS when I was at my home village in Burma. No one ever came to tell me about this deadly diaease."

Just recently, 5 Mon men from Kort Doot village in Ye Township of Mon State have died of AIDS, according to their friends from the village. One of them died in Thailand during his illegal stay in that country, whereas the rest 4 persons, namely Aung San aged 28, Hla Tin aged 35, Aung Ti aged 35 and Ko Aung aged 40, died in Burma not long after

★ Continued on Page (10)

The image shows a mon-language AIDS education brochure published by CPPSM. It features a central illustration of a man and a woman standing together. Above them, the word 'AIDS' is written in large letters, followed by its Burmese equivalent 'အိုင်ဒီအီး'. Below the illustration, there are several columns of Burmese text, including a section titled 'EXPRESSION OF THANKS'. At the bottom, there are two small diagrams illustrating the transmission of AIDS through sexual contact. The brochure is part of the CPPSM Newsletter, Vol. 2 No. 1, January 1994.

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Tavoy part is not yet started by the local SLORC military. Some of the large villages currently subjected to the forced labour for the railway construction are Chaung Taung, Hnit Kayin, Kort Doot, Lamine, Hangam, Kalort Kyi, Mort Kanin, Taung Pone, Aru Taung, Thaung Pyin, Ang Daeng, Thin Gan Kyun, and Abaw etc. of Ye Township, Mon State; and Kort Hlaing, Hsin Ku, Ywar Thit, Yin Tain, Yin Ye, Khaw Zar, Magyi, Mi Taw Hlar, Wun Kyar, Chaung Pyar, Nat Kyi Sin, Pauk Pin Gwin, Koe Mine, Ma Aung etc. of Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division respectively.

In constructing the railway, the local SLORC military require these more than 2,000 conscripted villagers to clear foliage all the way to the width of 40 feet, to remove natural barriers on the way such as rocky walls, hills and etc., to add up the earth all the way to the width of 12 feet and to a height of up to 6 feet in flood-risking area, to fall hard-wood trees in the forests and cut them to make sleepers needed for the railway, thus preparing the way for forth-coming placement of iron rails. And during working for the railway construction, these conscripted civilians are not provided with any assistance by the SLORC military. They must take their own food for their meals and own medicines to cure themselves in case they get any sickness. According to local sources, during the first week of January 1994, the local SLORC military had to officially release 98 people from their railway-constructing duty due to their serious illness. And on 10 January alone, about 700 persons of the conscripted people fled away from several construction sites to escape the hard labour.



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to express the point wanted by the troops in order to be released from the torture though it was untrue. After getting the answer from the villagers, the troops stopped the torture, but still forcibly took away three of the villagers to their outpost at Kalain Aung, a nearby village, and held them to ransom until members of their families paid off a ransom of 1,500 Kyats each to the troops. According to the three villagers who were held to ransom by the troops, in connection with this incident, the SLORC troops reported to their senior military officers as their troops having fought with some Mon rebels and killed one of them and successfully driven out the rest of them away toward the sea.



Sangkhlaburi District,
Kanchanaburi Province

On 6 January 1994, local Thai authorities removed 115 Mon refugee families (over 500 population) from Loh Loe, which is the biggest Mon refugee camp with the population of 7,400 and is currently situated in Sangkhlaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province, to Halauk Hani, a Mon village on Burma soil as a first step of relocation of the entire Mon refugees in the camp. The practical relocation of this Mon refugee camp contradicts the most basic points which were agreed by Thai authorities in their formal meeting with Mon National Relief Committee in Sangkhlaburi on 16 February 1993. In that meeting, Thai authorities agreed that Loh Loe Camp would be relocated to appropriate sites on Thai soil and the Mon refugees would be permitted to be seeking shelters inside Thai territory until genuine peace and democracy is attained in Burma.

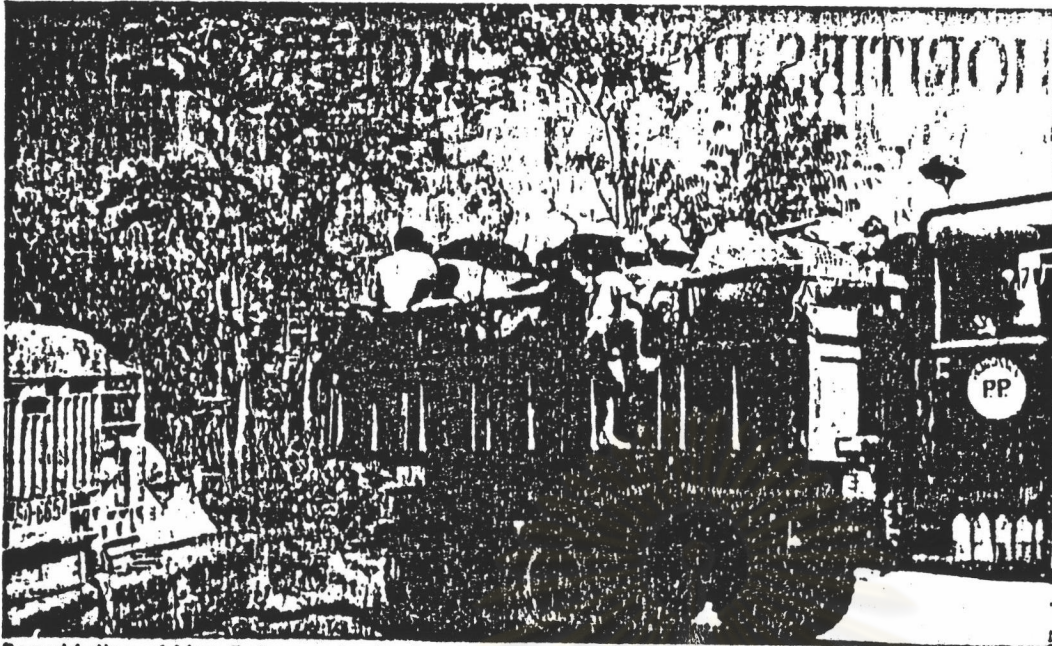
According to relief workers in Sangkhlaburi, many of the remaining refugees in Loh Loe will soon have to be removed to Halauk Hani and the rest of refugees will move to Pa Yaw, another Mon refugee camp which is situated on the Thai-Burmese border line and is about 50 kilometers far from the present Loh Loe camp. Hopefully, the entire relocation process has to be completed before coming rainy season. Due to only few small water sources are available in Halauk Hani area, this camp with forthcoming bigger number of refugees will soon face scarcity of water if necessary new water sources are created by foreign relief organizations.

Present Halauk Hani camp is only one-hour's walk from the outpost of Burmese army at Three-Pagoda-Pass and accordingly is very vulnerable to any disturbances might be made by the Burmese troops. Moreover, the foreign NGOs and relief organizations which assist these Mon refugees may find

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they had return back from Thailand. Now it also is a matter of grave concern for health security of these men's families should they are not knowing properly about the disease and the way to prevent it.

Recently with assistance of Maryknoll Mission and Welcome House (Ban Phark Jal), CPPSM has successfully published a Mon-language AIDS education brochure and widely been distributing it in Mon refugee population in Thailand, as well as in the rural Mon community in Burma as an AIDS prevention campaign.



Repatriation of Mon Refugees by Thai authorities

on influxes of Burmese refugees of all ethnic races to neighbouring countries, especially and more conveniently to Thailand which shares a long common border with Burma. Until and unless these root causes of the refugee problem are actually resolved, military dictatorship is eliminated, and genuine peace and democracy is attained in Burma, it is very likely to be remaining as a potential threat not only for the national security of Thailand but also for the whole regional security and stability.

Thailand is a country which is not a party to "1951 Convention in Relating to Status of Refugees" and on the other hand has actively pursued the policy of "Constructive Engagement" along side the 5 other member countries of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Malasia, Indo-

nesia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines in dealing with the present ruling Burmese military regime, SLORC. Both Thai government and private business companies, for their short-term profits, have been exploiting natural resources of Burma such as fish, timber, mineral and etc. at a rate which is alarmingly causing both human and ecological disaster of Burma by means of friendly dealing with the ruling illegal SLORC regime, thus directly supporting the SLORC for its longer stay in power and deeper suffering of Burmese people.

The current situation of Burmese refugees in Thailand urgently demands United Nations and international community at large to make concerted efforts to persuade Thai government as to not support State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which is an illegal government as it is against the will of its people, as well as to take softer and more humanitarian measures in dealing with all Burmese refugees seeking havens on its soil.

Reference - Bangkok Post, 9 January '94



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