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HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

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To Our Readers

The Human Rights in Thailand Reports editor wish to make apology to our readers for the delayed publication of the Human Rights in Thailand Report, May-June, 1979.

In this issue, we continue to appeal to our readers to give urgent assistance for 4 points:-

1. Somchit Morasilp, a village-headman from the southern province of Nakornsrihammarat, was 'invited' by a navy officer and disappeared. His parents and the villagers who urged the authorities to tell about his whereabouts are now facing harassment and threats. Please send telegrams and letters to ensure his safety and to secure his unconditional release to the Commander of the Fourth Army, the Minister of Defence and the Prime Minister. Your immediate action will surely help to ensure the safety of Somchit Morasilp. (see P.P. 7)
2. Omnoi (Supap Pasa-ong) Case will get a court sentence on August 15 this year. The 7 defendants in this case are workers and worker leaders arrested under communist charges. Please send telegrams and letters to the President of the Supreme Court, the Prime Minister, expressing your concern on the case. (see P.P. 23)
3. The Minibus Treason Case will get a court sentence on August 14 this year. The 9 defendants had in 1976 led or joined the demonstration against a franchise of a bus company and were arrested for Treason in Kingdom. Please send telegrams and letters expressing your concern on the case to the Judge Advocate General, Commander of the 3rd Army Precinct, and Prime Minister Kriengsak Chomanan. (see P.P. 22)
4. CGRS and many other groups are campaigning for the abolishment of the NARC Decree 22 (Endangering Society), which allows the police to arrest and detain people without passing through judicial process. We would appreciate your assistance in campaigning for the abolishment of the Decree 22 by letters and telegrams to the Prime Minister of Thailand. (see P.P. 24)

We would like you to keep us informed of your actions and send us the copies of your telegrams and letters, so that we can use them for internal campaigns.

As always we thank all our friends overseas for your continued support for and interest in our non-violent efforts to create a more just society, where human values and human lives are sacrosanct.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

During the past two months the Thai people have taken up the period after election when the political climate in the country was relatively open to struggle widely for their justified rights. However, since the open climate was infact a deceptive illusion, given the undemocratic government with the prime minister and most of his ministers not elected by the people and the House of Representatives having very little power and given the existence of many unjust and oppressive laws, such as the Anti-Communist Activities Act, the Martial Law and many NARC dictatorial decrees, the struggle of the people are at the risk of their security and lives. Already many people were threatened, harrassed, arrested or even murdered. Whilst the people's movements for their rights and freedom grew in strength, the rightist groups, which had been very active before the October 6th, 1976 Coup, appeared again on the political arena, by taking up the Indochinese refugee and the Vietnamese invasion controversial questions to expand the feelings of chauvinism amongst the people and urging the government to purchase arms for them to fight against the Vietnamese.

The most active movement during the past two months was that of the workers who inspite of Martial Law and NARC decrees that prohibit gatherings and strikes have held protest and demonstration against the unjust management or demanding for more wages, cost of living allowances, etc. During the two month period there were protests and strikes in up to 20 factories, the highest figure since October 1976. Although most of the strikes ended with the workers' demands being met, there were also a few cases that the workers were dismissed from their work after the strike, and one case at Thai Rung Union Car factory that 170 strikers were arrested by the police during the strike.

According to the Labour Department announcement on June 2, there were in Thailand 65,000 factories, 15,000 of which were in Bangkok. Up to May 21, there were 181 labour unions, 95 of which were in Bangkok and 86 in the country-side, with 95 unions being in state enterprises and 122 in private business. In the past most of the labour movements were led by the stronger labour unions in state enterprises, whilst the workers in private bussiness remained unorganized and inactive. However, during May-June, up to 75% of the movements were done by workers in private business, which was a very pleasing point.

Many groups including CGRS have started with the campaign against one of the most unjust laws namely the NARC Decree 22 (Endangering Society) which empowers police to arrest and detain people for at any length of time without passing through judicial process. The campaigns goes well

particularly when the House legislation - scrutiny committee approved 5 bills proposed by 4 political parties on July 11 to abolish the NARC Decree 22. The bills will thus be forwarded to Parliament for debate. The Committee, during the same session, turned down a bill which sought to revoke NARC Decrees 1 and 30, which state that certain categories of cases must be tried in the Military Court.

One of the big news during the past two months was the arrest of two big persons, the governor of Trat province and the former Commander of Bangkwang Maximum Security Prison. The provincial governor was arrested for alleged involvement with the murder of Pichit Kitvirat, a local journalist and stringer for Bangkok newspaper who was shot dead on May 25 this year, whilst the ex-commander of the prison was accused of involving in the escape of a major drug trafficker. At about the same period there was also news (not half as big) on the release of two big men, Former Fire Brigade Chief M.R. Chetchand Pravitt and former deputy Special Branch commander Thipcharoen Choovej who were charged with complicity in corruption and murder of a police officer respectively.

It was the first time since October 6, 1976 that the student unions of 18 universities both in Bangkok and up-country are able to perform a united movement. On June 29 - July 1, student unions of 18 universities organized an exhibition of pictorial displays, stage performance and panel discussion on Vietnam problem at the conference hall of Thammasat University. The students called on the Vietnamese government to halt its military adventurism in Indochina, to recognize the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other countries and to take more responsibility for its own citizens and the refugee problem. The exhibition was greeted by 4,000 people, mostly students, everyday. Earlier on June 25 the 18 student unions had submitted a letter with similar demands to the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok, but the embassy refused to accept the letter.

Many rightist groups have during the same period taken up the Vietnam and Indochinese refugee problem, through protest letters, leaflets and demonstrations. On May 25 a 'United Mass Power Organization' comprising offrightist groups sent letters to many embassies in Bangkok, urging the embassies to urge the Vietnam government through the Vietnam embassy to stop all 'hostile' actions against the Thai people. On June 18 about 3,000 demonstrators calling themselves "the People Volunteers for War" gathered at the Government House demanding that the government provide arm training and purchase arms for them in event of security threats from neighbouring Indochinese countries. The demonstrators also voiced support for government action in forcing some 40,000 Cambodian refugees out of Thailand.

CGRS is concerned about this indochinese refugee problem and the wide feeling of chauvinism amongst the Thai people, and has made

a public statement on the humanitarian standpoint supporting the non pushback policy, but at the same time urging the Vietnam government to be directly responsible for the refugee problem and urging other countries to take in more refugees to their countries with more kindness and justice and now.

It is extremely essential that men must help his fellow human beings in preserving their lives and the right to live, particularly when they have great sufferings and most need help, regardless of the difference in nationality, religion and ideology. National interest must not be used as an excuse to damage other people's lives and security, or to make war on other nations, since this has always been the greatest obstacle on our path to a humane and peaceful world.

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MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

Provincial Governor Arrested for Murder a Local Journalist

Governor of Trat Province, Mr. Panya Reuk-urai, was arrested for alleged involvement in the murder of Pichit Kitvirat, a local journalist and stringer for Thai Rath newspaper and Associated Press.

Pichit Kitvirat (33) was shot dead on May 25 this year by 2 gunmen while he was riding a motorcycle from his home to the press office in Muang District, Trat Province, leaving behind his just married and pregnant wife. His death reasoned from his newsreports disclosing the malpractices and corruptions of many local administrative officers, including the provincial governor.

The giant Thai Rath newspaper continuously reported on the death of its reporter and the progress of police investigation on the case for many days, thus putting pressure on the police department to find the real murderer. Shortly after Pichit's death, two gunmen, a police sergeant, the president of Trat Provincial Council and finally the governor of Trat Province were arrested. The deputy director-general of the Police Department said to the reporters on June 12 that the police had enough evidence to support the case against the provincial governor, Panya Reuk-urai, who, along with 6 other suspects, is believed to have had a hand in the murder.

Former Prison Chief in Prison

The former Commander of the Bang Kwang Maximum Security Prison was arrested on June 21, 1979 for alleged involvement in the escape of major drugs trafficker, Siri Sirikul, from Bang Kwang prison on June 30, 1977.

The police had earlier arrested two low ranking prison officials, Boonsri Polsaeng and Chamras Doklamchieak after the escape of the drugs trafficker from the prison. The interrogation of the two however came out that Harn Pansomboon, who was commander of Bang Kwang prison when Siri escaped, was directly involved in the forgery of Siri's release warrant.

The ex-commander strongly denied involvement in the forgery of the release warrant. However, one source said a witness had given a statement indicating that Harn "rewarded" him with 5,000 Baht (US\$250) before Siri's release, and promised a bigger reward later. After June 30, 1977 Harn gave him 20,000 Baht in cash, plus several lesser amounts ranging from 100 to 500 Baht. One member of the three man investigation committee said that further interrogation of Bang Kwang officials will be carried out. He believed that there were many more officials involved in this escape.

Policeman jailed for murder try

The chief inspector of Khu Mueng police station, Buriram Province, was arrested on May 5 for allegedly ordering the abortive assassination

of a provincial businessman philanthropist. Pol. Maj. Sawasd Nakhasiri was arrested on charges of instructing two junior officers, Pvt. Songpol Proikhuntod and Pvt. Vichien Premvichit, to kill the businessman on April 20.

Police said Maj. Sawasd allegedly wanted the businessman, Teng Kieng or Chang sae Ung, dead because he knew too much about Sawasd's alleged abuse of power.

Pvts. Songpol and Vichien are alleged to have tossed a grenade at Mr. Teng Kieng's car while he was returning home from work.

However, the grenade missed its mark and the two policemen escaped hurriedly, leaving behind their motorcycle which was later discovered by three other policemen who reported it to Maj. Sawasd.

But instead of praising the three officers, Maj. Sawasd allegedly reprimanded them for patrolling the area without his permission.

The three officers nevertheless took the matter to Provincial Police Superintendent Col. Niyom Watjanarak.

While the issue was pending, Pvt. Songpol was arrested in Surin Province and allegedly came out with the story of the attempted assassination.

300 Villagers Voice Complaints to Interior Minister

A group of about 300 people from Kanchanaburi came to the Interior Minister on May 22, 1979 to voice their complaints charging eight junior policemen of assaulting four villagers and harassing the women.

The villagers led by Suparb Chinkamond said that they were from Tambon Nong Khao in the district of Tha Muang. They had to seek justice from the Interior Minister because the police chief of that province apparently ignored the case. The incident took place on April 13 at Wat Nong Khao - the venue of the Songkran (Thai New Year) Day's celebrations. Eight policemen allegedly harassed some girls and that led to a quarrel with the four men. The four men then were mobbed by those policemen who were later arrested after the villagers reported the incident to the police station of Tha Muang District. They were all released the following day.

Caretaker Interior Minister Gen. Lek Naewmali accepted the case and forwarded it to Deputy Police Director General for investigation.

Innocent Civilian Shot Dead During Police Raid

A 65 year old man, Luan Vaimitra, was shot dead by a policeman who was chasing after a robber on Prannok Street in Bangkok. Mrs. Thanom Vaimitra said that her husband was sitting at the house gate watching his son take exercise when the robber ran against him. A policeman

shouted to him to catch the robber, whilst the other told him to stay away. At that moment Pol.Pvt. Pinit Saksombot was able to catch the robber, and Pol. Pvt.Komson Boonchana stood watching. The robber took out his gun and shot in the arm of Pol.Pvt. Pinit. Suddenly Pol.Pvt. Komson sprayed his gun at the robber, killing him instantly and also killing Luan who stood watching nearby.

Mrs. Thanom Vaimitra said that soon after her husband was killed, a second lieutenant from Bangkoknoi police station came to see her, and told her to give a statement that her husband had assisted the policemen and consequently was shot to death; and the police would subsequently give assistance and reward to her, since her husband was a ' good citizen '. But Mrs. Thanom refused, and disclosed the story publicly. " So that my dead husband would find justice ", said she.

23 Villagers Petitioned Against Malpractices

23 Villagers from Pakam Sub-district, Bureeram lodged a petition to the Commander In-Chief of the Army against the malpractices of a sergeant. The villagers said in their petition that Sergeant Sampan Sutipanya and 7 other soldiers had severely tormented a man during a religious festival on May 1st. On that day the villagers were enjoying themselves with a traditional Thai Singing (Moa Lam), and Indra Tip-aksorn out of joy jumped on the stage to dance. Annoyed by his dance, the soldiers went on the stage, pushed him down, and began hitting him with their guns and kicking him until he lied unconscious on the ground.

The villagers claimed that this was not the first time that Sergeant Sampan tormented innocent villagers, but nobody dared to speak up against his malpractise.

Village Headmen Sacked

The Local Administration Department fired 33 village headmen, deducted salaries of three others and put two on probation in January-February this year after they were found guilty of various charges, director general of the department, Mr. Damrong Sunthornsaratool announced on May 14.

These village headmen, including assistant village headman, village sanitarian officers and village inspectors, were found guilty of embezzlement, dishonesty, negligence, murder, robbery and accepting stolen goods.

REPORT FROM UP-COUNTRY

In Report from Up-country in the previous issue of HINTER (March-April 1979) we have reported on the assassination of two villagers of Ban Moo in Fromkiri sub-district, Kr. Pew Sapsarachol and Kr. Chanai Chuthai. The two men were believed to be shot dead by the soldiers on February 28th, 1978 because they were suspected to be communists. Only three months after the death of the two, a village headman of the same village was 'invited' by the soldiers from the same military camp and was disappeared ever since. The death of the 2 men and the disappearance of the village headman have something in connection. The three persons were suspected by the soldiers to have blown up the water tank at Fromloke fall, Fromkiri sub-district, and the village headman has strongly attacked the soldiers for the death of the 2 men. In addition, shortly after the two were killed, 2 men came to the house of the village headman, trying to kill him. But he was able to catch the two, who finally confessed that they were soldiers.

The death and disappearance of the three men from one small village in a short period of time is not an extraordinary case in the vast countryside of Thailand. Such an incident repeats itself regularly, from the North to the South.

NAKORN RITHAMARAT - The Disappearance of a Village Headman

On June 1st, 1979 during a monthly meeting of Tambon and village headmen at Fromkiri district office in Nakornrithamarat province, five navy officers led by Commander Chumthorn Thepvotin asked the permission from the chairman to bring Somchit Morasilp, village headman of Ban Moo to the military camp at Ban Naitum in Pasala district, without giving any reasons. They only told the chairman that they would soon bring Somchit back.



Somchit Morasilp during the interview with CGRS in May 79.

However, until the next morning, Somchit did not show up. His father went to the military camp and was told that Somchit had been released since the evening of June 1st.

His relatives and friends believed that Somchit had already been killed, because there had been many similar incidents before, that a person is invited or arrested and then disappeared and later on found out to be dead. Consequently, on June 5th the relatives and 500 villagers went to Promkiri sub-district office to inform the police and the provincial governor about the incident and urged for justice. And on June 7th they made a petition to the commander of the Fourth Army and the Ministry of Defence, demanding the authorities to investigate and give detailed report on the arrest and to give just treatment to the village headman.

At the Fourth Army the relatives were informed that Somchit was still alive. The soldiers also let the relatives hear the recorded voice of Somchit confessing that he had given supplies to the communist guerrillas. After hearing the tape record, the relatives and the people were afraid to make further movement.

However, to our point of view, whether the voice is the real voice of Somchit or not and whether the confession was made by force and severe torture or not, the relatives and the people must continue to demand to the authorities, at least to produce the missing village headman publicly, and if there is enough evidence against him, he should have a chance to prove his innocence in a fair and just court. CGRS. has encouraged and supported the people to make such moves.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

Send your letters and telegrams of appeal and petition, to ensure his safety and to secure his unconditional release to :-

1. Lt. Gen. Pin Thammasri
Commander of the Fourth Army
Vajirawut Military Camp
Muang District
Nakornsrithammarat
Thailand
2. Gen. Prem Tilasulanonda
Minister of Defence
Sanamchai Road
Bangkok
Thailand

Before Somchit was disappeared, one of CGRS. workers had a chance to talk with him about the death of the two men from his village. The interview, lasting about 40 minutes, was tape recorded. The interview did not only give a clear picture of the death of the two, but also shows clearly why Somchit was arrested and disappeared, and who did it.

Following is the final part of the interview made in the afternoon of April 28th, at Somchit's house in the South. (CGRS. has already publicized it in a Thai press - Matichon 19/6/ 1979)

Could you tell us about the incident when you arrested the two soldiers who tried to shoot you?

After my friend Pew was killed, I became more cautious. I got some rumours that they would get me in 10 to 15 days. On that day I was washing my face at a well when the two men came. I did not know them but they knew me. They said to me that they wanted to talk about the soil to be put on the road. I thought then that these two wanted to get my life. I invited them to sit in my house and told them that I would follow when I finished washing. But I went to the back of my house, calling two of my friends and waiting for the two men at the front gate. The two men, perhaps seeing that I was away for too long, said goodbye to my father. When they reached the gate where I was hiding, I told them to put their hands on their head and searched their bodies. I found a 11 m.m. gun. I seized the gun and brought them back into the house.

They confessed to me that they were soldiers at Pruchon military camp. I finally returned them the gun and let them go.

After that I went to see the head of the sub-district. I said to him that I could not do my work effectively, I could not make any move, because my life was in danger. The soldiers threatened me, and tried to kill me. The sub-district headman, Mr. Naruchit Thongsuk, said, "I do not know how to help you, because the country is not ours; it belongs to the soldiers". Later on, I asked my father to narrate the incident to Captain Nopadol Churthai, so that this can be used as evidence in future.

On April 1st, I attended a meeting at the district-office. Navy commander Chumporn Thepyotin came to see me. I said, "Commander, I am in a difficult situation. I cannot work well, because the soldiers keep following me and try to get my life all the time. I cannot think differently." He said I misunderstood; those people were not soldiers. I said, "I am sure and insist that the soldiers who threatened my life were the ones who killed my friend." The commander was angry and said, "Village headman, if I want I can arrest you because you have a war firearm, a carbin, in your possession." I said what carbin? He said the carbin that I used to threaten his subordinates' lives - the ones who contacted me about the soil. They were a navy officer, a lieutenant. I told him that the gun was not a carbin, it was a 9 m.m. pistol. I said to him how could his subordinates be a navy officer when he did not know how to distinguish a pistol from a carbin.

I cannot find justice from anybody. All the time the soldiers intimidate and oppress me. I feel very uneasy. I do not know what is left or right. All I know is that I will do what is correct and what is useful for the people.

Before I was elected a villageheadman, the soldiers from Donca military camp attacked me in public that I was a member of the Communist Party of Thailand, who got 40,000 Baht (2,000 US\$) from a meeting in Bangkok. They spreaded such rumours to many villages, so that the people were suspicious of me.

I have talked about this matter to a navy commander. I asked "what evidence these soldiers had against me?" "If you have evidence then arrest me." Is this the way the soldiers do, the soldiers whose duty is said to preserve the security of the nation? I think what they do will only cause more conflict amongst the people.

What other things happened to you after the appearance of the two soldiers?

Yes. On April 1st, one day before the general election. I went to the district office to get the election poll box for my election unit. I was standing in front of the office when an official orange Toyota open van passed by. There were 6 men in the van. After that I went back to my unit, got everything ready for the election of the next day, and then went to a cross-road near Promloke market. The orange Toyota passed by again. Everybody in it looked at me directly. I got my business done and suddenly I got to think that there was something unusual with that van. Moreover, all men in the van were strangers. I changed my plan to go back to the election unit, and went back home instead by a hired motorcycle. But on my way home I had to pass the unit. The van was there. I passed it by. The van started off and followed me. When I reached the place where there were many houses, I stopped, got down, and acted as if I would take my gun out. Then they drove the van back.

On that day my father was at the election unit. He said he recognized a man. He was the one who came to my house to shoot me. Now he came with 5 other men to shoot me. I have to be very cautious now, and cannot do my work properly. I do not know from where I can find some advice, or justice, or sympathy.

What security means do you have? Do you have to keep yourself at home all the time?

No, I cannot always stay at home. I have gone to see the villagers at their home, where I think it is safe.

I do not know why they keep following me and trying to get my life. All that I have done were for the sake of the people here. You see, I am still young, have no wife, no children. I only want to work to help the poor people. The people here love me and have faith in me. This is why they elected me. But why do the soldiers, the government officials and the ruling class always try to get my life? Is this what they say they are protecting the people's interest? In my opinion, they are damaging the people's interest, not protect. I really do not understand.

CHIENGRAI - Young Man Tortured to Death in Prison



Thongsuk Muang-in, a young man of 19 years old, was arrested by a village headman of Ban Moo 6, Tambon Chanva, Maechan district while he was walking along a road in the evening of October 9th, 1978. He was accused of possessing a pistol without permission. Thongsuk was going to sell the gun to a friend so as to get the money to attend a training of the Free People League of Thailand.

Four days after the arrest a policeman contacted his father, asking him how long he wanted his son to be imprisoned. If he wanted his son to be detained for 9 months, he must pay the police 2,000 Baht (US\$100), if he wanted 2 months then 5,000 Baht (US\$250). Thongsuk's father had only 2,000 Baht for the police. On November 3rd, 1978, Thongsuk was sentenced by the court to 9 months imprisonment. He was detained at the provincial prison of Chiengrai.

Thongsuk's behaviour was quite satisfied by the custodians. He was thus allowed to work with the construction outside the prison and was allowed to visit his home 3 times. On the third time of his visit, he told his parents that he would be released on May 28th, 1979.

However, on May 6th his parents was informed by the police that Thongsuk was dead, and his body was at the hospital. At noon of May 6th, his parents went to the hospital. The dead body of Thongsuk was swollen as if he had died for 2 days; and yet one could clearly see the wounds on his body, as if he had been severely tortured. According to the autopsy report, he died "without reasons".

His parents and relatives went to Maechan district police station and asked for reasons of Thongsuk's death. The policemen there told them to find it out at the provincial police station. At the provincial police station, a police lieutenant told them that it was the responsibility of the doctors. Up till now there is still nobody responsible for Thongsuk's death.

Other prisoners who were expected to be released on the same day as Thongsuk (May 28th) were all released on May 6th. Some of them told Thongsuk's parents that Thongsuk was called out of the cell on May 3rd, they heard the sound of fighting, and Thongsuk never came back to the cell. However, none of them dared to say this publicly or to be a witness for Thongsuk.

ARREST AND RELEASE

Arrests

- 11/4/79 Parinya Akathit, former journalist of "Athipat" newspaper (National Student Center of Thailand's Newspaper before October 6, 1976) surrendered himself to government officials at Khamcha-ee District, Nakorn Panom Province. (Bangkok Post 3/5/79)
- 1/4/79 Mrs. Samorn Chongchit (Chit Chongchit's wife), 32, surrendered herself to the Fourth Army Region in Nakornsri Thammarat. (Bangkok Post 7/5/79)
- 12/5/79 Seven fishermen of "Chokchai Nava 1" ship named Mad Adam, Somphong Promprasert, Sommai Intago, Somporn Klimklom, Lorn Sinsachatham, Kamthorn Virojkul, Phaiboon Promkhunthong, were arrested in Pattani Province, because of robbing gold valued 300,000 Baht (US\$15,000) from the Vietnamese refugees. They were charged with endangering society and smuggling gold. (Bangkok Post 13/5/79)
- 25/5/79 Five fishermen of "P. Pornphet Bkk. 1245" Ship were arrested on the charge of bringing people into the country illegally (320 Vietnamese). They were charged with endangering society and detained at Laem-Ngob Police Station in Chantaburi Province. (Thai Rath 26/5/79)
- 31/5/79 A group of 64 Mao (hilltribe people) led by Leng Sae Wang, 32, surrendered themselves to government at Ban Ko Luang, Tambon Thung Kloy, Chiangkam District, Payao Province. (Bangkok Post 1/6/79)
- 1/5/79 Somchai Lekvivat, former Ramkhamheng University student, one of the nine students dismissed by Dr. Sak Pasukniran before October 14, 1973, was arrested with his 2 friends while buying things at Ban Na Dee, Kabinburi District, Prachinburi Province. They were detained at Watana Nakorn District police station in Prachinburi Province for further questioning. (Matichon 1/6/79)
- 3/6/79 Kosol Thanakorn, 25, gave himself up with Soppanee Kongrat, 13 and Surin Prachak, 15, to military officials in Ban Yangkom in Phipoon District, Nakornsri Thammarat Province. (Bangkok Post 5/6/79)
- 1/6/79 Boonchan Phupan and his wife, Vinai Hongphu, surrendered to Sakon Nakorn provincial authorities and were held there for further questioning. (Bangkok Post 3/4/79)
- 11/6/79 Mr. Panya Ruek-urai, the Governor of Trat Province was arrested for alleged involvement in the May 25 slaying of Mr. Pichit Kitvirat, a reporter of Thai Rath Newspaper. (Bangkok Post 12/6/79)

14/6/79 Four students who joined CPT. were arrested at the border between Laos and Nongkhai, allegedly posing as Loatian visitors. They were Miss Siriratana Chanthamorn and Anuwat Litlarm, second year student of the political science faculty in Ramkhamhaeng University, Chartchai Boonvirat, MS. 5 student at Sathit Prasarnmitr School, Prateep Wacharangkul, a second year student of the political science faculty in Thammasat University. They were detained at Civilian, Police and Soldier Joint Information Center in Udornthani Province. (Bangkok Post 15/6/79, Matichon 16/6/79)

13/6/79 Boonsri Polsaeng and Chamras Doklamchieak registrar at Bang Kwang Maximum Security Prison, were arrested on the charge of facilitating the escape of an offender sentenced to over 15 years imprisonment (Siri Sirikul, who was a major drugs kingpin sentenced to life imprisonment on April 18, 1977) (Bangkok Post 15/6/79)

21/6/79 Harn Pansomboon, the former Commander of the Bang Kwang Maximum Security Prison was arrested for alleged involvement in the escape of major drugs trafficker, Siri Sirikul, from Bang Kwang Prison on June 30, 1977. (Nation 22/6/79) - See details on Page 4)

Releases

16/6/79 The Criminal Court acquitted former Fire Brigade Chief M.R. Chetchand Pravit and former deputy Special Branch commander Thipcharoen Choovej who were charged with complication in corruption and murder of a police officer respectively. (Nation 17/6/79)

1/5/79 The fifteenth group of 323 endangering society prisoners were released from all over the country, 10 prisoners (33 still detained) in Bangkok, 107 prisoners (232 still detained) in central and north region, 36 prisoners (54 still detained) in the north-eastern region and 170 prisoners (199 still detained) in the south were released. There still are **518** prisoners detained. The Correction Department announced that 941 endangering society prisoners were already released. (Matichon 5/5/79)

THAI WORKERS START ACTIVE MOVEMENTS - CHALLENGES TO MARTIAL LAW

After the declare of Martial Law in October 1976, the workers' protests, strikes and demonstrations, which before Martial Law had been a daily incident in Thailand, were almost dead from Thai political arena. However, the relatively open political climate after the general election on April 22 has made the period of May-June a good start for the Thai worker movements to grow again. During this 2 month period there were protests and strikes in about 20 factories and state enterprises, many of which lasted for weeks and even months. Eventhough in many strikes the workers demands were met, there were also some cases that ended with workers being dismissed from their work and even arrested (e.g. Thai Rung workers). It is also significant that up to 75% of these movements are done by workers in private companies and factories, whilst earlier most of the movements were led by workers from what might be called elite labour groups (e.g. in state enterprises), who have much stronger labour unions and are more educated and less exploited than those in private business. During the past 2 months the Labour Council of Thailand with 40 unions as its members have taken up 2 issues to struggle for, first to have real worker representatives in the Labour Relations Committee and secondly to have real worker representatives to attend the ILO annual conference.

The workers long protest led by the Labour Council of Thailand against the formation of the Labour Relations Committee (LRC), an arbitrating body to settle labour disputes, continued. At first the structure of the tripartite LRC worked out by the Labour Department was that the committee comprised of 4 representatives each from employers and employees and 7 from the government. But the workers demanded that the tripartite committee should comprise of 5 employers, 5 employees and 5 government representatives. The protest of the workers lasted from March to April, and finally the meeting also elected 5 employees to represent them in the tripartite committee. The five are from leading labour unions namely, Arom Pongpa-ngan from Metropolitan Water Works labour union, Amad Kamthesthong from State Railway labour union, Chin Vuthinawin from Port Authority labour union, Sakul Olarnchantarothai from Bangkok Bank labour union and Saiyud Srisurak from Metropolitan Electricity labour union.

On May 16, Vichit Saengthong, head of Labour Department said that there would be no change in the structure and the members of the LRC.

The Labour Department also appointed three worker representatives to the International Labour Organization annual conference in Geneva without consent of other employees, inspite of the fact that the workers led by the Labour Council of Thailand had planned to elect their representatives to the ILO Conference on May 13. On May 13 however, the workers continued with their election and elected 3 worker representatives to attend the conference. The three persons elected are Paisarn Tewatchainan president of the Labour Council of Thailand, Arom Pongpa-ngan, and Krisna Promsuwan from the Teijin Polyester labour union.

In order to make the workers voice heard, the Labour Council of Thailand sent a protest letter to the ILO on June 5 to protest against the Thai Labour delegation attending its annual conference. Paisarn Tawat-chainan, president of the Labour Council said to the press on that day that the delegation from the Labour Department is not true representative of Thai labour as it was not selected by the entire labour movement in Thailand. "We have submitted the names of 3 worker representatives elected from a nation-wide meeting to the Labour Department, but the government turned them down, and made up its own delegation and in doing so ignored the will of the Thai labour movement."

However on June 18 the ILO refused to accept the protest, but accepting the delegation sent by the government as representatives of the Thai labour.

Of all the workers protests and strikes during the past 2 months, the most striking one was that carried out by 400 workers of Thai Rung Union Car Company, a company which produces spareparts for Japanese Isuzu lorries. On April 28 the workers made 4 demands to the company, which included demands for 500 Baht monthly cost of living allowances, double payment for holiday work, 7 special holidays per year and the right to be regular workers after 60 day probation. But the employers refused to negotiate with the workers and so on May 7 more than 400 workers staged a strike. The Labour Department set May 14 a negotiation day between workers and employers, but on May 11 the company fired 257 workers from their work.

With the help from the Labour Council of Thailand (The Thai Rung workers have no labour union), a negotiation was made (from May 15-21) but could not reach an agreement. On May 21, 200 policemen from many police stations arrested 170 workers who were gathering in front of the factory, and charged them with hindering and damaging other peoples liberty!

Two days after the arrest there was an urgent meeting of representatives from the Labour Council of Thailand and 20 labour unions to consider this matter. The meeting agreed to send representatives to see the Prime Minister on the next morning (May 24). After getting the workers complaint, the Prime Minister forwarded the case to Deputy Police Director General Chumpol Lohachala to order the employer to withdraw the accusation as soon as possible.

Instead of withdrawing the case, the employer bailed all workers from the prison. As for the demands of the workers, the employer agreed to pay 225 Baht (US\$11.25), instead of 500 Baht (US\$25), cost of living allowances and also agreed to 3 other demands. The workers were satisfied with this and were ready to return to their work. But the employer made the expelled workers sign a new working contract, which meant that all these workers were to be under probation again and thus losing many rights of old workers. Therefore the workers refused to go back to work and continued with their strike. Up till now (July 10) the workers are still on strike.

The Thai Rung Union Car factory is one of the many factories and bussiness owned by a big business and politician, who would not allow the victory of the workers in one factory to encourage workers in his other business to do the same movement. The dismissal, the arrest and the prolonged arguement to the great lost and suffering of the poor workers are used to threaten the other workers to shy away from the struggle for their better lives.

However, the struggle of the Thai Rung workers for better lives, the struggle of 40 labour unions to have real representatives of workers in the Labour Relations Committee and to make their voice heard in the International Labour Organization, although not succeeded, did not discourage the overall workers from their justified struggles, as can be seen from about 20 protests and strikes occuring during the period. The workers should have got a good lesson from this that with the existence of Martial Law, the NARC decrees that prohibit gatherings and strikes, with the government and the Labour Department that do not really try to help or solve the problems of the workers, it is extremely essential for the workers to get organized, to educate themselves and to really be united, if they want their lives to be improved.

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SUMMARY OF WORKERS PROTESTS AND STRIKES DURING MAY - JUNE 1979

- May 1 . Thousands of workers celebrate May Day at Sanam Luang.
- May 2 1,300 workers of Boonrawd Beer Factory staged 4 hour strike protesting unjust salary increase. The employer agreed to make new adjustment in the same afternoon.
- May 7 400 workers of Thai Rung Union Car factory staged a strike.
- May 9 2,100 workers of the Thai German Dockyard Constructors staged two-hour walkout to protest against the management which rejected all the workers demands for an increase in wages by 2 baht (USCent 10) per one working hour and a monthly cost of living allowances of 300 Baht (US\$15). On May 11-14 the 2,100 workers staged a strike. May 14 the management agreed to all demands.
- May 9 200 workers of Thai Elfe staged a strike after failing to reach agreement with the employer over 200 Baht (US\$10) monthly cost of living allowances, 50 Baht (US\$2.50) monthly traveling expense, and the demand for the management to hire a person to clean the toilet. May 11 the management fired 138 strikers from work but the strike continued. On May 14 the management yielded to all demands and accepted all workers back to their work.

- May 17 200 workers of B. Grimm and Co. went on strike after failing to reach agreement with the management over increment in salary and cost of living allowances. Agreement was reached only on salary increases and adjustment of annual bonus.
- May 11 1,000 workers at K. Cotton and Co. protested against the management after failing to reach an agreement over the demands for 500 Baht (US\$25) monthly cost of living allowances, for drinking water and medical treatment and 1 hour break. The 1,000 workers gathered in front of the factory after work everyday until May 20. The management finally agreed to pay 150 Baht (US\$7.50) cost of living allowances and agreed to other demands, but the workers had to sign in a contract that they would not make any other demands until October 1, 1980.
- May 18 200 workers of Sammit Manufactory went on strike demanding the management to yield to the workers demands which had been submitted since May 9. The workers had demanded the management to abolish the old unjust working contract, to allow the workers to 10 days holiday a year and to give 500 Baht cost of living allowances.
- May 18 100 workers of Vessawat Gas Stove Factory staged a strike, demanding the management to hire a doctor in the factory, to accept them to be regular workers and to give 500 Baht (US\$25) cost of living allowances.
- May 25 1,000 workers at the Indian textile company Thai Rayon staged a strike to protest the management which neglected the workers demands for more wages and welfare.
- May 23 100 railway workers of the State Railway of Thailand gathered in protesting against the new work schedule which made the train drivers, technicians and workers work longer but get less payment. They threatened to stage a strike on June 4. On May 30 the State Railway agreed to use the old work schedule.
- June 1 200 guards of the Port Authority submitted 200 sick-leave letters to the management in protesting against a reduction on the guard spots. The reduction made the guards have wider area under their responsibility but get less payment. On June 4 the management agreed to the workers demand.
- June 4 1,500 workers of the State Railway of Thailand stage a strike on June 4-5 while 1,500 others gathered inside their offices and staged a go-slow. The workers demanded the management to adjust the salary to be equivalent to salaries paid to water and electricity workers. On June 5 the Prime Minister promised to adjust the salary within a month.

- June 8 500 workers of Bangpra-in Paper Factory staged a strike from June 8-12, demanding for more wages. The management agreed to the workers demand.
- June 12 1,500 workers of Kura Sapha Trading Organization staged a go-slow. The workers demand the government to adjust their salary scales to the level of the Telephone Organization of Thailand, and to change the status of the organization from that of government agency to that of a state enterprise. On June 25, 500 workers marched to the Government House to voice their demands to the government. The Prime Minister ordered the concerned authorities to see whether it would be possible to adjust the salary scale.
- June 16 300 workers of Kimberly-Clark Corperation staged a strike to protest the management which had dismissed a worker, whome the management suspected to lead the workers to demand for more wages.
- June 20 200 workers of A.S.A. Electric (electric pot) factory marched to the Labour Department to hear the outcome of their demands earlier submitted to the department for arbitration. On May 25 the management dismissed 200 workers from their work, by accusing them of being absent from work on June 20. The case cannot yet be settled.

ACTIVITIES OF CGRS.

Visiting, Helping Prisoners and their Families

During the period of May-June 1979 CGRS. still actively continued with its regular work of visiting and helping political prisoners and their families both in Bangkok and up-country. On its visits (at least once a week at every prison in Bangkok, and on a less regular basis at the prisons in the country side), CGRS. provided prisoners with necessary assistance such as clothes, sandals, soap, toothpaste, medicines, books, etc., and also with moral support and encouragement. It also gave regular assistance to poor families of some prisoners, and from time to time arranged for the families to visit the prisoners or attend the trial hearings in Bangkok.

After the death sentences being commuted to life imprisonment, the prisoners in the SURIN THREE case are now detained separately in different zones. Boonrurug Sriudom has to work very hard all day long with the sewing-machine until she now has great pain in her knee, where she was shot during the arrest and did not have adequate medical treatment. If she stops working, she will not be given food to eat. The three prisoners in the case are detained ^{separately} in the same cells as ^{the} criminals.

At the special prison of Bangkok, prisoners in Udom Pkkrong case were not allowed to have their supper on the day they go to court. (Normally they are allowed 2 meals a day - breakfast and supper). Therefore, at the court when we give them food at lunchtime, they have to stock some food for their supper also.

Because of restrictions and limitation of time at each visit, one important way of exchanging information and thoughts is through letters. Following are two letters, one from Boonrurug Sriudom and the other from Banchob Chuaipan. Both of them are farmers arrested from the countryside as they were accused of being and supporting communists. The letters reflect their sorrow and frustration of being cut off from friends and loved ones and yet do not lose strength and faith in rightness, justice and freedom.

Special Prison of Bangkok

25 June 1979

Dear friend,

Thank you very much for your letter. We are glad to know that you have made photocopies of my statement given in the court during the last hearing. I hope you can send it into the prison before our next hearings on August 7th, so that the other defendants in my case can study it and thus be well prepared for the next hearings. I will also write a

copy of the statement and again have to ask you to send it to my witnesses in the south.*

I am happy to know from you that our lawyer has said that I made a good statement. These days I have been very worried about it, always thinking that the statement is not good enough. After returning from the court, I have been thinking over and over until I had headache. But when knowing that the lawyer was satisfied with my statement, I feel much better. I am glad to know that your friend was so moved by my statement that she wrote a short story on it. I wish that her words will make the readers see into the black hearts covered by uniforms of those inhumane human beings.

Now I recall the days when I was arrested and the days later when I was detained in a tent in a military camp. I will never forget that sad day, the day I was lying on the ground with high fever from severe torture, and suddenly I woke up to the cry of a baby which reminded me of my own child. I put my eyes closely against a small hole in the canvas and looked through it. My breath almost stopped. It was really my own child. I saw my wife carrying my little baby, swaying it with her hands to console it. My eldest child stood closely to her, with one arm around her waist. Their eyes were staring at me but could not see me. Forgetting where I am, I shouted to them, "I am here." The soldiers on guard scolded at me and ordered me to lay flat on the ground. Alas! my wife and my children travelled a long way to see me, but were driven away and had no chance to see me at all.

I have done nothing wrong. They put communist colour on me. Now I stand here, looking around but do not know where to go. I keep asking myself in which way I should be going.

I wish it rains more so that the weather will be less hot and the farmers will be able to begin with their work in the field again. I think they start sowing the seeds now at my home.

With Love,

Banchob Chuaipan

* 4 out of 11 defendants in Udom Pakkrong case have given their statements in court, and Banchob was the fourth. After all defendants have given their statements, the hearings of the defence witnesses will begin. The case is expected to be finished within a year.

Ladyao, 5th Cell

23 April 1979

Dear friends,

I have received the parcels your sent me with deep thanks. I have nothing in return to your kindness. All I can do is to embrace it within my heart.

I am now in the position of being unable to help anyone. Sometimes to help myself alone is already hard. The word 'prisoner' is something not welcomed by anybody, but when we have no other choice, we have to accept it and try our best to adjust ourselves to it so that we can live in the present.

In the prison, I get up early, take a bath, wash clothes, have breakfast at 8 am. and then go to the working room to sew the children's school-uniform. At noon I have lunch and have one hour free-time which I usually spend in the library. At 1 pm. I work again and stop in the evening, take a bath and go back to my cell. I spend all my time working and reading. By this I can pass my day, day after day. It is much better than having nothing to do, since this will only makes me too worried.

I have got the written confirmation that my punishment is commuted to life imprisonment. I have made an appeal to the King and am now waiting for the result. I hope it does not take too long for the result to come out.

I want to write to you more often, but cannot, because I am allowed to write only one letter in a week. I hope you understand.

I am quite well here. We need to make the trouble and obstacle in our lives to be our lesson, to pave our way to success. Everybody has both personal and social problems to solve, whether he is inside or outside the prison. However, no matter where we are, let us continue to be good people. "Good people" - is something very easy to write and to speak of, but before we reach it by action, it is not at all easy. But as long as we do not lose our faith in life, and as long as we believe in goodness, it is not beyond our ability. I strongly believe that you are the one who can do it, and always wish for your success.

My warm thoughts to you.

Boonrurong Sriudom

Listening to Trials and Providing Legal Aid

CGRS has been trying hard to ensure justice to political prisoners and prisoners facing unjustices, that at least they should have legal protection, legal representatives and fair trials in just courts. CGRS has not only given direct assistance such as finding experienced defending lawyers for the prisoners, helping raise and arrange bail, etc. but also has been trying to give assistance to lawyers defending political cases, help organize lawyer groups, organize campaigns for the release of prisoners and against unjust laws, and so on.

The MINIBUS TREASON CASE will get a court sentence from the Military Court on August 14th, 1979. The sentence was earlier scheduled for July 4th, 1979 but was postponed because the judge could not make a sentence in time.

On July 3rd hundreds of people from Prakonchai district, hometown of the 9 defendants in this case, who were prepared to take minibuses to the court, were stopped by policemen. The police said that this action would be interpreted as 'demonstration' and thus anybody involved in this journey would be arrested. On July 4th the court was guarded by more than 10 policemen.

Mr. Bamrung Charan-yanon, his pregnant wife and 7 other persons were arrested on June 10th, 1976 at Prakonchai district, Bureeram Province because they had led the people and the minibus drivers in a demonstration on June 8 - 10 against a franchise of a bus company. The demonstration broke out after the death of a pregnant woman who died on her way to the hospital because the minibus that she hired was stopped and the road blocked by the influential bus.

The demonstration was held peacefully, but in the afternoon of June 10th, 9 persons were arrested with severe charge of Treason in Kingdom and 3 smaller charges of hindering traffic, using amplifier without license and libelling government officials.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

To ensure justice to be done to the 9 persons, please send letters and telegrams expressing your concern and urging that the 9 persons get all the justices and have the right to appeal, to :

Judge Advocate General
Lt.Gen.Pratin Pattanatham
Ministry of Defence
Sanamchai Road
Bangkok, Thailand

Maj.Gen. Dampa Prayoonsorn
Commander of the 3rd Army Precinct
Third Army Precinct
Muang District
Nakornrajsrma, Thailand

Prime Minister Kriengsak Chomanan
Thai Ku Faa Building
Bangkok, Thailand

It is expected that all defence witnesses in OMNOI (SUPAP PASA-ONG) CASE will finish giving their statement in the court in August this year. There are now only 5 defence witnesses left to give their statement in court. In July the hearings will be increased from 4 to 7 times a month.

The seven defendants in this case were before their arrest worker leaders who had been very active in the labour movement. Two of the defendants, Supap Pasa-ong and Pisit Patanaseree were university graduate and student who before the arrest had been assisting the workers in many factories to set up their labour unions. The 5 other defendants were active workers. They were arrested on March 30th, 1976 under 3 charges of communism, activities against the security of the state and possessing firearms. The first two charges were very severe charges. So far they had been in jail for more than 3 years.

The Omnoi case is one of the most wellknown political cases in Thailand. Since the case will be finish in August this year, CGRS now plans a campaign on the case to take place in around August, on the last day of the hearings (the date is not certain yet).

International interest and campaign are also something that are greatly needed. Your action of concern will surely and significantly help to ensure justice for these 7 people.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

To ensure justice to be done to the 7 persons, please send letters and telegrams expressing your concern and urging that the 7 persons get all the justices, to :

1. Judge Prapot Tirawat
President of the Supreme Court
Ministry of Justice
Rajadamnern Road
Bangkok 2, Thailand
2. Prime Minister Kriengsak Chomanan
Thai Ku Faa Building
Bangkok, Thailand

Campaign Against NARC Decree 22

CGRS. has been prepared for the campaign against the Decree 22 (endangering society decree) of the National Administrative Reform Council for many months, through lobbying with many groups of people (political parties, MPs and lawyers), through discussing with groups of people such as students and workers, to join in this campaign. We hope that the law students from every law college in Bangkok will join in the campaign by taking up this issue as a main emphasis in their statement and campaign on the Rapee Day (Lawyer's Day) on August 7th,

To facilitate the campaign CGRS. has printed an in-depth background paper on the decree (the injustice and misuse of the law, numbers of people arrested, situation of the detention camp under beautiful name of 'Profession Training Center', and the challenges to this law). The papers were distributed widely.

NARC Decree 22 was proclaimed in October 1976. It allows the police to arrest and detain any person at any length of time without passing through a judicial process. Up till now about 12,000 people have been detained under this decree. (See more details in HRTR, Jan-Feb. 79)

We would appreciate your assistance in campaigning against this decree by letters and telegrams to :-

Prime Minister Kriengsak Chomanan
Thai Ku Faa Building
Bangkok, Thailand

Statement on Indochinese Refugee Problem

CGRS. is extremely concerned about the influx of almost 200,000 refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam into Thailand. Eventhough we realize that such a great number of refugees is too big a burden for the Thai government and the Thai people to bear, we are also worried about the government's policy to pushback these refugees back to the sea or to the battle field in their country. We are also extremely worried about a wide feeling of chauvinism amongst the Thai people. We feel that it is necessary for a human being to help his fellow human being from suffering and death, regardless of the difference in nationality, religion and ideology.

On July 1st, 1979, CGRS. made a public statement, expressing our support to the PM. 's statement to France Foreign Minister that he would not pushback the Indochinese refugees out of the country. CGRS. also urges other countries to accept more refugees to their countries with even more kindness and justice than now. It also urges the Vietnam government to have responsibility to its people and the refugee problem and to face this problem with other people and other governments, so that the problem can be solved at its root.

Campaign for Bail of Somboon and Vichai Banlusilpa

Since February this year CGRS. has been campaigning to raise bail money to bail Somboon and Vichai Banlusilpa, the two brothers arrested under communist charges. CGRS. produced pamphlets, telling about the background of the case, and distributed them widely so as to ask for contribution towards the 30,000 Baht (\$1,500) needed to rent land title deeds to be used as security for the 500,000 Baht bail. Until the end of June this year, CGRS received up to 8,700 Baht contribution, and was ready to lodge the court for the bail. The rest of the money will be borne by CGRS.

The two brothers were arrested in October 1976. This case is wellknown for its delay and frequent postponements of the hearings. Their lawyer had earlier estimated that the case would not be finished within a year, although there were only 5 witnesses left. However, because of a wide interest in the case at present, the trials are speeded up, and the case will be finished within 4-5 months.

It is therefore agreed upon by Somboon and Vichai, the lawyer and CGRS. that in such an unexpected situation where the case will be finished in a short period of time, we should not lodge for the bail. To the two imprisoned brothers, they feel that the money should be used to bail other prisoners who will have to stay in jail for longer time than they.

As for the 8,700 Baht we got from people both inside and outside Thailand, 4,000 Baht has been given to pay the debts of the two brothers' family, and the rest (4,700 Baht) will be put into the "Bail Foundation" of CGRS.

Seminar on Buddhist Monks and Village Development

CGRS. has assisted in the coordinating and organizing of a seminar on "Buddhist Monks and Village Development" which was initiated by a group of monk teachers at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya Buddhist Monk University in Bangkok. The seminar was held in Bangkok on July 3-5. The participants comprised of monks involved in village development from all parts of the country, monk students, and observers from different religious groups involved in social and development activities. The purpose of the seminar was to exchange ideas and experiences on buddhist monks role in village development. This seminar is financially supported by the Catholic Council of Thailand for Development.

Support Indigenous Rural Development Group

CGRS. has only recently started with the rural development activities. We have long realized that throughout the country there are groups of dedicated people and groups struggling to improve their quality of life, particularly in the rural areas. Most of these groups are working entirely on their own, have no idea how other people are dealing with the same problem, and feel that they are alone with no one to help them.

Basically our idea is to interfere as little as possible in the direction of the rural development taking place, but merely to establish an urban support network for these groups, so that various essential services from the urban areas can be provided.

At present CGRS. is supporting a group of teachers at Banyaka School, Tambon Sida, Bua Yai district in the northeastern province of Nakorn-rajshima. The children in the village are suffering from malnutrition. The teachers thus try to give lunch with high protein to the children. (These children are too poor to have lunch), through self-reliance agriculture.

CGRS. supports the teacher group through following activities:-

1. Campaign for money for the food of the children. Every month the school spends 30 Baht (US\$1.46) for one month lunch for a child. CGRS. produced pamphlets giving background information of this program and the malnutrition problem in Thailand, and urges the people in the urban area to contribute their money for lunch for the children. By this activity, not only the children will have food to eat, but the urban people will also be aware of the serious malnutrition problem in the rural area.

2. Arranging visits of the teacher group to a religious based group in Surin Province, which is quite successful with the self-reliance agriculture program.

3. Providing urban based support services to the group, particularly services from student groups.

4. Supporting student groups to study the malnutrition problem in Thailand deeply, so that publication and slide-set on this problem can be made to conscientize the general population.

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STOP PRESS

The SENTENCE date of Omnoi (Supap Pasa-ong) Case has been fixed to be on AUGUST 15 this year. The lawyers have cut off the rest 5 defence witness, and the hearings of defence witnesses was thus finished on July 11.

URGENT ACTION

URGENT letters and telegrams, urging that all charges against the seven defendants to be dropped, are nuded. (See more details on Page 23)