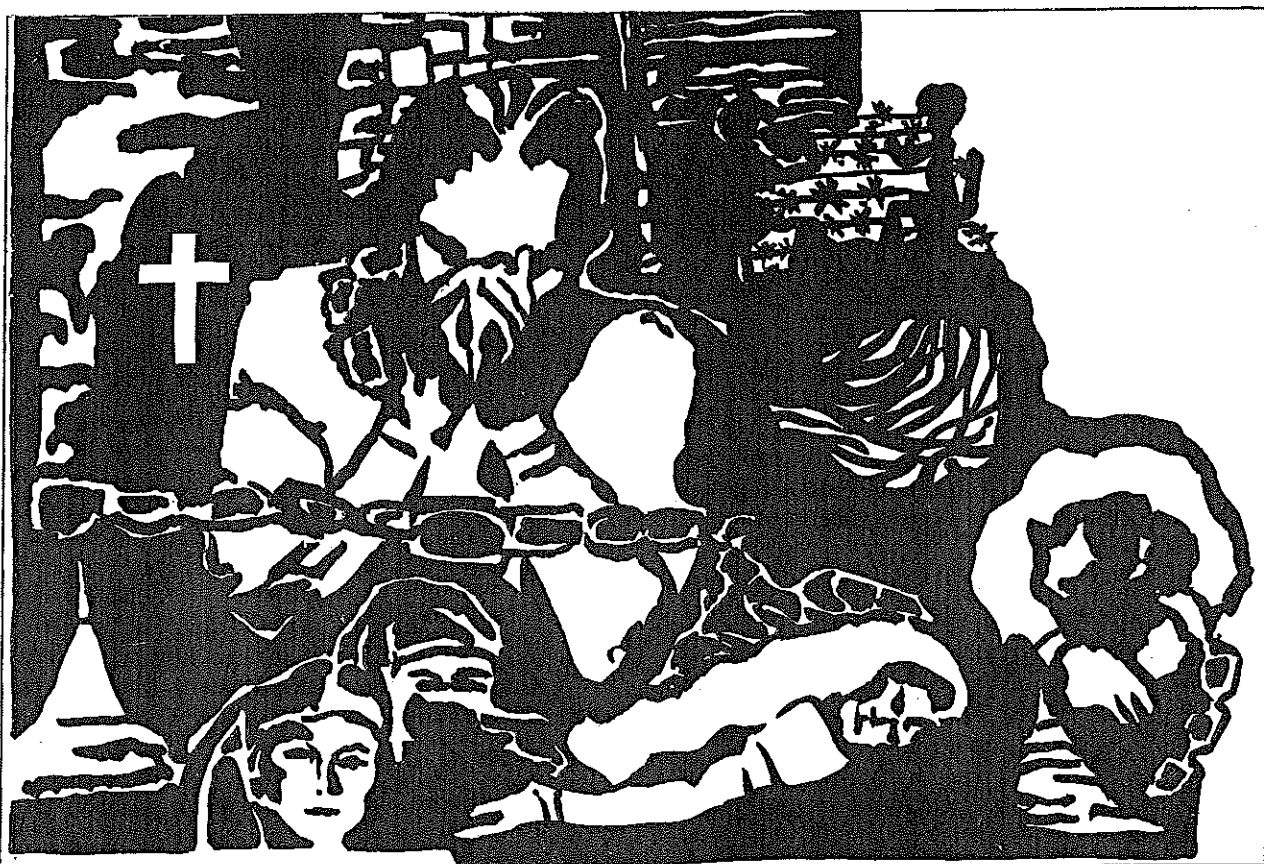


HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT



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May 1984, he told residents he wished to help them find "relief, comfort and a reason for hope."

During his meeting with the new Thai Ambassador, John Paul said he was praying that the refugees "will always be treated with the human solidarity and brotherhood which is their right."

PONTIFF ORDAINS THAI CANDIDATE AS BISHOP

Bishop John Bosco Manat Chuabsamai from Ratchaburi, Thailand, was one of 7 new bishops ordained by His Holiness Pope John Paul II January 6, 1986 at St Peter's Basilica, on the Fest Day of the Epiphany, the Roman Catholic Feast of the Visit of the Three Kings from the Orient.

Bishop Manat was also privileged to be the only Asian candidate for such an ordination. The other 6 candidates came from South America, the United States, Africa and Eastern Europe.

Some 10,000 faithful watched as the 7 candidates prostrated themselves before the Pope on the floor of the huge cathedral in the ordination ceremony.

Other new bishops included Auxiliary Bishop Franco Komarica of Bagja Luke, Yugoslavia; Brazilian Bishop Walmir Alberto Valle of Candido Mendes; Bishop Norbert Mtega of Iringa, Tanzania; Bishop Felipe Gonzalez of Tecupia, Venezuela and Auxiliary Bishop Donald Wuerl of Seattle, US.

Monsignor Pier Luigi Celata, long the personal secretary of Vatican Secretary of State, Agostino Casaroli, was also ordained and named Apostolic Nuncio to Malta.

Thailand, with a population of some 300,000 Roman Catholics, has a Cardinal, Monsignor Meechai Kitboonchu an Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, helmed by H.E. Archbishop Renato Raffaele Martino that has full diplomatic status, and 12 bishops.

The Pope also paid an official pa-

pal visit to Thailand in May 1984, on which occasion he also ordained several priests on the day he left Thailand after a short Apostolic stay.

SURACHAI SAE DARN GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE FOR POLICEMAN'S MURDER

Accused communist insurgent Surachai Sae Darn, who is serving a 23-year jail term for sedition and arson, was sentenced to death on January 29, 1986 by the Military Court which found him guilty of murdering a police officer during a train robbery in Surat Thani Province in 1978.

Surachai said he would appeal for a pardon from His Majesty the King.

A panel of military judges ruled that Surachai shot dead a police captain who was escorting the train which carried about 1.2 million baht in payroll. The train, which was on its way from Bangkok to Nakhon Si Thammarat, was stopped by about 200 communist insurgents on December 26, 1978 at Prupri railway station in Nasarn District of Surat Thani Province.

The court also found Surachai, 43, and his two co-defendants guilty of being members and acting as officials of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) between 1971 and 1981 under the Anti-Communist Act of 1952.

Surachai denied all the charges while the two other defendants, Mali Sakhon, 49, and Pravit Paencharoen, 42, pleaded guilty to the communist charges but denied involvement in the train robbery and the murder.

Both Mali and Pravit were sentenced to 10 years in prison each on the same day.

Defence lawyer Thongbai Thongpao, one of Thailand's leading human rights lawyers, said Surachai was the third communist suspect sentenced to death by a military Court on political charges since 1976.

He said two former student activists,

Adul Boonruang and Chirawas Kuangpanya, who were alleged to be communist operatives were sentenced to death by the Chiangmai military court in 1983 for the murder of a policeman.

The two were accused of killing the policeman while trying to help a communist suspect to escape in the northern Province. Their sentence was later reduced to jail terms through a royal pardon.

The verdict which came after 4 years of trial, is final and no appeal can be made. However, Thongbai said he will send a petition to HM the King soon for a royal pardon.

"Since the case was decided by the Military Court, sending a petition to HM the King is the last recourse to save Surachai from the death sentence," he said, adding that Surachai has 60 days to submit the petition.

But the court dismissed Surachai's statement and based its decision on the account given by Sawai's wife, Mrs Saengchan, who witnessed the murder.

The court also dismissed Surachai's denial that he was a member of the CPT. Surachai and the other two defendants claimed they went into the jungle to escape political repressions.

The court said the fact that Surachai was appointed a representative of the CPT to hold truce talks with then Surat Thani Governor Sanong was an indication that he was trusted by the outlawed party.

Surachai was initially sentenced to 15 years in jail for being a member and operative of the CPT. But the sentence was dropped after he was given a death sentence for the murder.

The three defendants, who were brought into the courtroom in the compound of the Defence Ministry with shackles, have been detained at the Bangkwang maximum security prison.

Lawyer Thongbai said the testimony given by the wife of the slain police officer was given too much weight while other witnesses to the murder, including five policemen held captive by the insurgents during the train robbery were not summoned as witnesses.

The policemen reportedly said they did not see Surachai shoot Pol Capt Sawai, according to Thongbai.



SURACHAI IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

On February 2, 1986, Mr. Sanit Ruchinarong, the director-general of the corrections department disclosed to local reporters he had ordered officials at Bangkwang maximum security prison to closely watch Surachai Sae Darn, a communist suspect who was sentenced to death for murdering a police man.

"He is being kept in solitary confinement," said the director-general.

Surachai was convicted of killing a police officer during a train robbery in Surat Thani in 1978. He was found guilty in military court.

Sanit Ruchinarong also said that there are currently 88,571 inmates in prisons throughout the country. Of these 6,390 prisoners are serving life sentences and prison terms of from 20 years up. Another 9,682 are serving sentences from 10 to 20 years.

He said 47.24 per cent of the prisoners were convicted of crimes against properties.

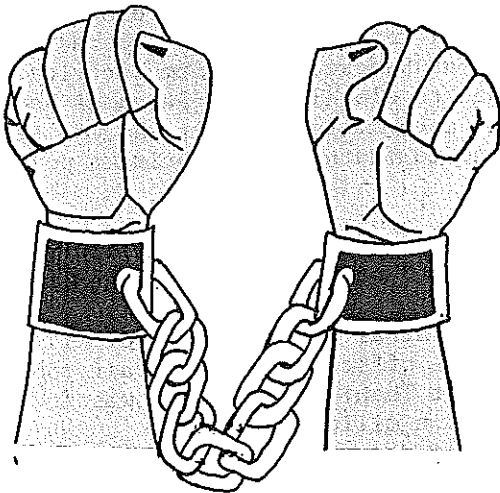
PRISON-MADE HANDICRAFT SALES
MADE OVER B 100 MILLION

The Corrections Department has sold more than 100 million baht worth of prison-made handicrafts during this year's annual exhibition at Amporn Garden, Director General Sanit Ruchinarong disclosed on March 5, 1986

He said a total of 108,857,461.62 baht worth of products made by prisoners were sold during the Feb 24-March 2 Fair and that the department expected to gain a net profit of 25 million baht - 50% of which will be given to inmates who produced the goods.

Sanit expressed satisfaction with the amount of sales although the department last year earned 112 million baht from a similar event.

He said the department would bring down next year's sales target to between 80-90 million baht to be in line with the unfavourable situation.



'EXPLOITATIONS' OF PRISONERS ALLEGED

A human rights group accused the Corrections Department of exploiting prisoners who are made to produce handicrafts or do manual work in return for meager wage or nothing at all.

In a paper released in mid March, the Coordinating Group for Religion in

Society (CGRS) said the complaints of exploitations were made in letters it received from inmates and ex-prisoners.

It said some of the inmates were assigned to difficult and dirty work, such as cleaning up city sewers and canals. The job was done almost without pay.

But Director General of the Corrections Department Sanit Ruchinarong denied the charges of prisoner exploitation and said prison regulations require all inmates to work in accordance with assignments and not their skills.

He said the inmates were paid for their labour in the form of dividend annually. He said this year's dividend will be paid in May, and denied that sometimes the money was embezzled by prison officials and wardens.

The CGRS's paper quoted prisoners as complaining that on many occasions, such as when working under contracts from outside organizations or when they had to produce handicrafts for the annual prison products fair, they were forced to work around-the-clock with no holidays.

The inmates were quoted as saying that they were required to increase their productivity from time to time. For instance, they said, an inmate who produced gold paper was told to produce at least 500 pieces of the paper daily in the first week and then 900 on the second. The target rose to 1,500 in the third week.

The CGRS also charged that prisoners were not paid wages commensurate with their labour. It cited prison regulations as saying that an inmate was entitled to at least 35 per cent of the net profit from the sales of his or her products while a warden would receive 10 per cent. The rest would go to the prison.

It said the proportion was unfair and did not serve as an incentive for the inmates.

Siri Srisawat, director of the Penology Division, said there was no "exploitation" as well as brutality in prisons.

He also denied that the disturbances at Bangkwang, Chonburi, and Sakhon Nakhon prisons had been caused by the ill treatments as well as physical and psychological harassments of the prisoners.

He said Thailand has strictly observed the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and Related Recommendation which set guidelines for the treatment of prisoners.

Meanwhile, Winyu Panichakarn, deputy director general of the Corrections Department, said the department had never received any complaints about the irregularities in the payment of the annual dividend.

He said there was no tax deduction from the dividend and families of prisoners were allowed to withdraw the money if necessary.

2 WARDENS ACCUSED OF BEATING INMATE

The Corrections Department, on March 28, 1986, ordered an investigation into a charge that two wardens at drug rehabilitation home had beaten up and seriously injured an inmate, an informed source said.

The source said the inmate, who is serving a jail term on drug charge, is still recuperating from the injury he sustained. His nervous system was reportedly also affected by the beating, according to the source, who identified him as Wallop Yankomut, 21.

The source said Wallop's mother, Mrs Phayao, had lodged a complaint about the alleged beating with Deputy Interior Minister Chaliew Vatcharapuk.

Wallop was sentenced to three years and six months in prison in 1984 and was later moved to the rehabilitation center at Thanyaburi Hospital.

Wallop reportedly had a brawl with another inmate and two wardens who inter-

vened beat him up severely. He was subsequently sent to Police Hospital.

Director General of the Corrections Department Sanit Ruchinarong then ordered a probe into the allegation at the instruction of Minister Chaliew.



STOP TORTURE now!

'POLICE CHIEF THREATENED PRESS'

The Reporters Association of Thailand on March 28, asked Police Director General Pol Gen Narong Mahanonda to probe a charge that a police officer of Parkred police station had intimidated reporters over a much-publicized murder case.

The association said it was acting on a complaint by a group of reporters who said Pol Lt Col Udom Pochana, chief investigator of the police station, had made a veiled threat against them.

The reporters said in a letter to the association that the police officer was angry with them because of their reports of alleged torture of murder suspect Sunthorn Thammasin by his subordinates.

They said Pol Lt Col Udom used abusive language when asked for his reaction to the reports on March 27, 1986.

The association said an investigation should be conducted into the allegation.

LAWYERS VOLUNTEER TO MAN POLICE STATIONS

About 300 lawyers are ready to stay at police stations throughout the country to provide legal assistance to the public, newly-elected president of the Lawyers Council Kamnuan Chalopatham said on March 17, 1986.

He said the lawyers were volunteers from the Female Lawyers Club and they would be ready to work as soon as the proposed plan of the council is approved by the authorities.

The council president earlier proposed having lawyers stationed at every police station nationwide to offer free legal advice.

He said the council could fund the program and added that he preferred to have female lawyers carry out the task in the initial stage.



KAMNUAN

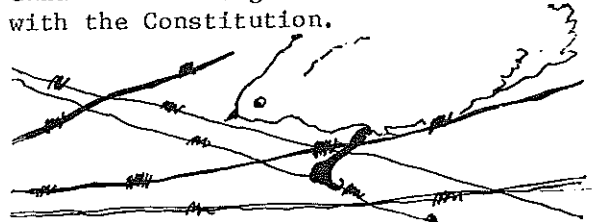
According to Kamnuan, female lawyers might be able to perform better than their male colleagues, especially when they have to work with the police.

Kamnuan became the first president of the Lawyers Council when he won the election on March 15. The polling was marred by charges and counter charges of irregularities among rival factions in the council.

The council was set up to replace the Lawyers Association of Thailand after the Parliament passed the Lawyers Act in the middle of last year.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarochana voiced support for the proposal of the council.

He said the proposed program would enhance civil rights and it was in line with the Constitution.



**LAWYERS TO CHECK CLAIM OF TORTURE
BY THAI POLICE**

On March 28, 1986, the Lawyers Council launched a probe into a claim by a suspected gunman that he was tortured by police to confess.

Three lawyers of the council met the suspect, Sunthorn Thammasin, at the Nonthaburi province prison to question him on the allegation.

MP Suthat Ngermuen (Democrat-Ubon Ratchathani Province) said Sunthorn, who is accused of murdering an alleged member of the bus ticket forgery gang at the Transport Co in February, repeated the claim that police investigators had beaten him up and tried to drown him. He said an electric baton was also used against him.

Suthat quoted Sunthorn as saying that the alleged torture took place during interrogation at Parkkred police station where he was detained before being transferred to the provincial prison on March 27, 1986.

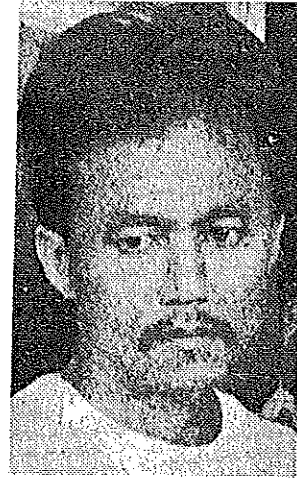
He said Sunthorn repeated the allegation that a senior police officer asked him to admit the murder charge in exchange for dropping other charges which the suspect was accused of committing earlier.

Sunthorn was arrested March 17 in connection with the murder of Mrs Sumalawan Chupia, an alleged member of the bus ticket forgery racket at the Transport Co. Country singer Praiwan Look-etch was also wounded in the attack which was described by police as the result of double-cross in the gang.

Suthat, who is chairman of a committee in the House responsible for providing legal assistance to the public, said he will ask the House committee on administration to invite Police Director General Pol Gen Narong Mahanonda to testify on the charges.

Suthat said the Lawyers Council decided to launch a probe after receiving

a complaint from Sunthorn's relatives who feared that his life is in danger.



SUNTHORN

Chief of Parkkred police station Pol Lt Col Arun Narksen on March 27, denied the torture charge by Sunthorn. He said the injury on Sunthorn's head was sustained when he slipped and fell in the bathroom of the police station.

Sunthorn on March 27 also showed reporters bruises on his ears which he said were caused by beating by a police officer.

Suthat said the Lawyers Council was not interested in whether Sunthorn had committed the crime as charged but that it is opposed to physical harassment of the suspect.

Meanwhile, Deputy House Speaker Piyanat Vatcharaporn said on March 28 that the Police Department should review its methods of interrogation. He said it was known that more than half of criminal suspects make confessions under duress.

He said the Police Department was strongly against the bill to allow lawyers to be present during police interrogation of criminal suspects. The bill was rejected by the House.

Confess or Suffer!



NATIONPHOTO

MAKA BUCHA DAY: Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is seen here during a candle procession at Buddha Monthon religious centre in Nakhon Pathom to mark the Maka Bucha Day.

Thai Buddhists nationwide observed Maka Bucha Day on February 23 conducting religious ceremonies and taking part in candle processions.

Maka Bucha Day commemorates the day 1,250 disciples of Lord Buddha gathered for the Great Assembly. It falls on the full-moon day of the third lunar month.

JOINT PERFORMANCE FOR PEACE
ON MEKONG RIVER PROPOSED BY
THAI PEACE MOVEMENT.....



A Thai peace movement proposed in mid February a joint performance of Thai and Laotian artists aboard a ferry cruising along the Mekong River to celebrate the International Year of Peace.

Dr Gothom Arya said recently that the activity should be the highlight of the celebration which would be held throughout the year. Gothom made the proposal in his capacity as a member of the government-appointed working group to prepare the celebration of the International Year of Peace.

He said both Thai and Laotian artists would be invited aboard the same ferry to stage their folk shows while the boat is cruising along the river which separates the two countries.

He disclosed that the proposal was formulated to show Thai people's good will towards Laotians who share some similar cultures. He also hoped the proposed activity would help promote the relations between the two countries.

It was also designed to show the world that countries with different political ideologies could live together peacefully, Gothom added.

He said the proposal was under the consideration of the government and if approved, it would be relayed to the Lao government. If Vientiane agreed to it, the festival was expected to come about in October, he said.

Gothom said a series of exhibitions to mark the occasion would be organized throughout the country, while a seminar, on "Peaceful means in Thai Society" would be held in Bangkok in September.

In addition, he said, Thailand also plans to host an international conference on "Settlement of Conflicts through Dialogues" in August. He added the plan to

hold the conference had been welcomed by nations in the South Pacific region which was greatly affected by nuclear tests.

As a member of the Coalition for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization comprising 20 private agencies, Dr Gothom said the coalition would lobby with the city administration and city legislators to pass a city legislation declaring Bangkok a "nuclear-free zone" by the end of this year.

Cothom proposed that the bill ban the storage and transportation of nuclear weapons through the city.

MPs CALL ON EX-TU RECTOR TO LEAVE EXILE



A group of MPs called on the government on February 28, 1986 to invite former rector of Thammasart University Dr Puey Ungphakorn, who has lived in self-imposed exile in England since October 1976, to return to Thailand.

The move coincided with a plan by Dr Puey's former students and admirers to celebrate his 70th birthday anniversary at Thammasat University in early February.



Puey's statue is seen above on display at the university auditorium as the focus of the exhibition.

Puey's Exhibition: Thammasat University organized a three-day celebration of the 70th birthday anniversary of its former Rector Dr Puey Ungphakorn.

On March 7, 1986, a panel discussion led by leading academics on the monetary and financial policies of governments after Dr Puey's governorship of the Bank of Thailand was held at the university.

A religious ceremony and the exhibition about the life and achievements of the former rector, who has been living in self-imposed exile in England since the Oct. 6, 1976 Bloodbath, as well as a series of entertainments were organized at the university's auditorium on March 9, 1986.

The representatives including Klaew Norapati (Social Democrat-Khon Kaen), Suthat Ngermuen (Democrat-Ubon Ratchathani), Samran Paenphat (Democrat Nakhon Si Thammarat), Horm Thongprasert (SAP-Rayong), Samruey Chettanadi (Chat Thai-Nakhon Ratchasima), Prachan Klapachon (Chat Thai-Nakhon Ratchasima), and Sawat Wongkavi (Caht Thai-Lopburi) submitted a letter to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda urging him to extend Puey the invitation.

In the letter, they said the former rector, who has won high respect

for his outstanding achievement in education, finance, economic planning and social development, had served the country with great honesty.

But due to "some misunderstanding" of a group of people who were then in power, he had to leave the country for security reasons, the letter said.

According to the MPs, Puey's life should be taken as an example of the younger generations and therefore he should deserve an invitation to spend the rest of his life in his motherland.

Dr. Puey was awarded a PhD with honours in economic from prestigious London School of Economics in 1941. He played a crucial role in the Free Thai Movement fighting against the invading Japanese forces during World War II.

He served as the governor of the Bank of Thailand for 12 years and is widely respected for his honesty and outstanding performance.

Dr. Puey was named the TU rector in 1975 and again won the public recognition for his impartiality and as an advocate of academic freedom.

He left the country following the October 6 Student Bloodbath and his health deteriorated as a result of hard work.

He now lives peacefully in a suburb of London.

THAI YOUTHS PLAN CYCLING TRIP TO MARK 'YEAR OF PEACE'

A Thai youth group was planning to organize a transcontinental cycling trip that may take them as far as Turkey to commemorate the International Year of Peace in July this year, the president of the group said on March 22, 1986.

Wanlert Kittithornkul, president of the Youths Group for Peace, said he had discussed the plan with Minister

of the Prime Minister's Office Kramol Thongthammachart who, however, suggested that it should be confined to ASEAN countries.

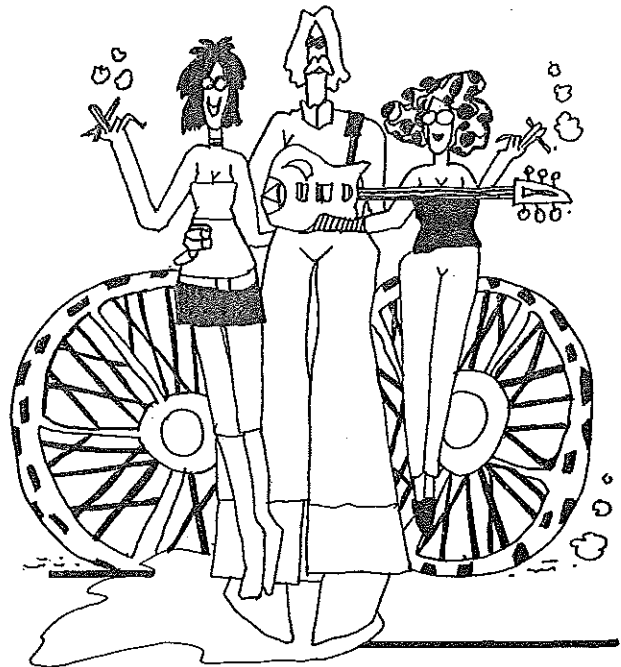
Wanlert said that according to the plan, the trip will start from Thailand and participants will travel to Burma, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Israel, Turkey, North Korea, South Korea, China, Vietnam and Kampuchea.

He quoted Kramol as saying that Thailand does not have diplomatic relations with some of these countries and that there was still fighting in some of them.

Wanlert estimated that about 100 youths, aged 18-25, will join the trip which will take about 3 months and cost about 1.4 million baht to organize. He said the group will seek sponsorship by private firms and interested organizations for the trip.

Wanlert said Minister Kramol agreed to discuss the planned trip with the foreign Ministry to find out the best routes for it.

He said the purpose of the trip is to demonstrate the desire of Thai youth to see peace in the world.



PAISAL RE-ELECTED,
VOWS TO FIGHT FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS



PAISAL

The Thai Trade Unions Confederation (TTUC), one of the country's largest labour organizations, will continue to fight for better treatment of workers by both the government and employers, its president said on March 9, 1986.

Paisal Thawatchainan, who was re-elected president for the second term, also called for more political participation by the labour.

He said that workers should have more political awareness and should play more role in elections in the future.

Paisal, who overwhelmingly beat two other candidates on March 9 to win the presidency of the labour body for another two-year term, also said that it is also his policy to prevent interference in TTUC from outside.

It was the second time that Paisal was elected president of the labour organization after it was founded in 1983 when Paisal broke away from the Labour Congress of Thailand (LCT).

Thirty-nine out of 44 candidates were also elected members of the new executive committee which has a two-year term.

Under the regulations of TTUC, Paisal will appoint the secretary general of the organization.

Paisal, 49, currently works at the Metropolitan Electricity Authority.

WHEN SERMONS BECOME TORTURE

On March 20, 1986, President of the Thai Trade Unions Confederation (TTUC) Paisal Thawatchainan said he was investigating a complaint that 10 workers of a Japanese firm had been subject to a daily "mental torture."

He said the workers were reportedly confined to a guarded house and made to listen to taped Buddhist sermons for 8 hours daily.

Paisal said the workers were given no work to do. He said the workers had been laid off but were later reinstated after they won a court battle.

"They said they are confined in a house far from the factory and are under-guard. They are given food and water but have no work to do. They are also made to listen to Buddhist sermons all the time," he said.

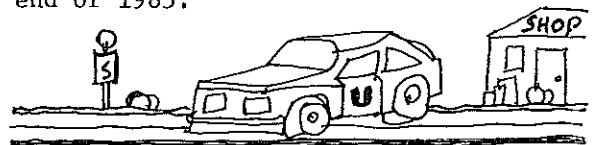
LABOUR UNIONS

There were a total of 444 labour unions throughout the country by the end of 1985, a senior official said on March 9, 1986.

Nikom Chandaravithoon, chairman of the Labour Development Advisor Board, said 348 of them are unions of private firms and the other 96 were labour unions of state enterprises.

He also disclosed that about 250,000 workers were affiliated or under the care of these labour unions.

The population of Thailand was estimated at about 54 million by the end of 1985.

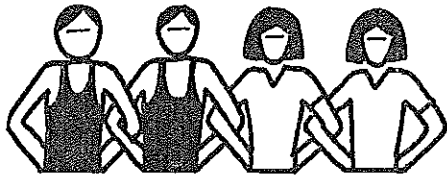


VIOLATIONS OF MINIMUM WAGE LAW IN SERVICE SECTOR RAISE CONCERN

On February 27, 1986, a labour representative in the tripartite Wage Commission voiced concern over widespread violations of the minimum wage law by employers in the service sector.

Unionist Saneur Pisarn, a workers' representative in the committee, said that he and his colleagues had raised the issue during the recent meeting of the committee and also called for a survey on the actual wages of the workers in the sector such as waiters and waitresses.

He said there was evidence showing that employers in the business underpaid their employees.



According to Saneur, there are about 50,000 workers working in this area and they are paid between 500 - 2,000 baht monthly which is well below the 70-baht minimum daily wage (equivalent to 2,100 baht a month) imposed in Bangkok and some surrounding industrial provinces.

He said the authorities should seriously enforce the minimum wage regulation and added that they should not consider including extra earning of these workers such as tips from clients into their actual pay.

Labour representatives in the committee earlier agreed to the proposal to freeze the minimum wage this year.

They, however, recommended that supplementary measures be adopted to help both workers and their employers amid the prevailing economic slump.

One of the proposed measures is the effective enforcement of the law on the minimum wage to ensure that all private firms do not underpay their workers.

LABOUR BODY URGES POLICE TO PROBE UNIONIST DEATH

The Thai Trade Unions Confederation (TTUC) in early March called on the authorities to investigate the death of one of its leading members killed in an accident in Samut Prakarn.

In an open letter to the police and the other labour unions, the TTUC called for a probe into the death of Buaphan Sirivarin who was hit by a truck after leaving a textile factory in Samut Prakarn where he worked for home on February 18.

The letter said there were indications that Buaphan's death was not an accident but was apparently a murder because he had been under threats of murder shortly before his death.

The unionist had played an active role in fighting for the rights of workers and had been working keenly for the benefit of labourers in the Labour Court, according to the letter.

Buaphan and nine other workers were named by the TTUC to run in the election for associate judges of the Labour Court which was held on February 26, 1986. The TTUC candidates won three out of the 20 vacant seats.





WHAT'S SO NICE ABOUT BANGKOK, ANYWAY?

"There is really no place like home and so you better not come to Bangkok because jobs have become scarce here. Stay and make your living where you belong."

This may sound poetic but is probably a piece of sound advice from the government. It came in a commentary broadcast over Radio Thailand during its daily 12.30 pm news program on March 11, 1986.

It represented part of the government's efforts to campaign against the influx of rural people to seek jobs in the city after the harvesting season.

A study of the National Economic and Social Development Board estimated that between 4-5 million people in rural area face seasonal unemployment yearly.

It said almost 100,000 of these people make their way to Bangkok every year to look for jobs during the post-

harvesting season.

The commentary, while elaborating the beauty of the countryside, painted a nasty picture of Bangkok.

It said Bangkok was no longer the heaven for job-hunters since the lack of new investment, which was the result of worldwide economic recession and international protectionism, has drastically reduced job opportunity in the capital city.

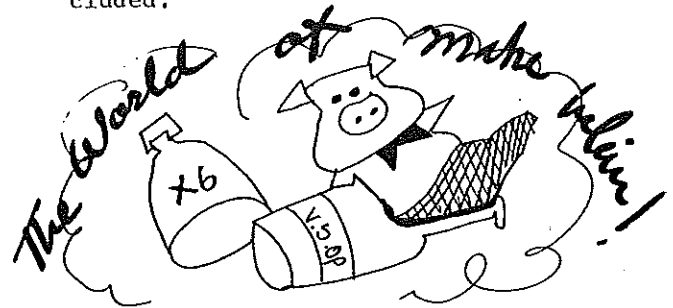
Worse still, the commentary said, those who made "unforgiveable mistakes" leaving the rural area for the city had to face fierce competition in the labour market, sky-rocketing cost of living, unpleasant environment which they had never experienced before.

A number of them became losers and sought an easy way out by turning to crime or being lured into illegal businesses, it said.

Meanwhile, the commentary tried to project close and warm family ties, beautiful landscape, peace and tranquility of the countryside, saying that all of these made life meaningful.

The government, it said, had tried to "trickle down" the fruits of development to rural area through its job creation scheme during the dry season and also through the promotion of industrial investment in provinces.

"If you work hard at home, you will never fail. Just turn your eyes and ears open for the official reports on the prices of the cash crops and plan to grow what are demanded by the market. You will definitely be better off," it concluded.



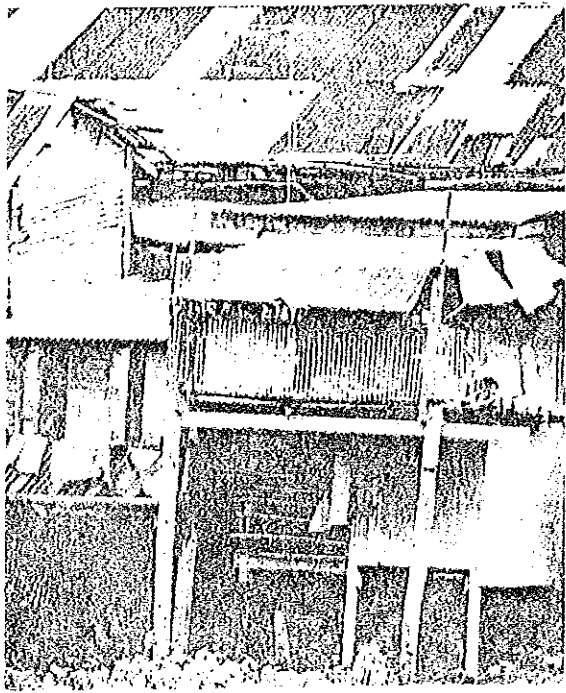


EXHIBIT ON SIX GIRLS KILLED IN FIRE

Five private organizations campaigning against prostitution held a public exhibition during the first week of February 1986 in memory of the six girls who died in a brothel blaze in Phuket in 1984.

A religious ceremony was conducted at Wat Mahathat near Thammasart University to make merit for the dead.

The five organizations that took part in the exhibition were the Friends of Women Group, Northern Relations Group, Women's Information Centre, Child's Rights Protection Centre and Women's Rights Protection Centre.

The organizations also campaigned actively against prostitution and child labour abuses.

Footage of the aftermath of the fire at the brothel in which the six girls were killed was shown as part of the exhibition at the American Alumni Association (AUA) building in Bangkok. Mothers of some of the dead girls were also invited.

On February 3, 1986, a panel discussion on the problem of prostitution was

organized to bring the issue to the public. Well-known academics and representatives of the mass media and human rights groups were invited to speak and freely voice their opinions on the issue.

The six girls were reportedly chained in a room while the brothel burned.



THAI WOMEN'S GROUPS URGE BONN GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT PROSTITUTION

Thai women's groups have called on West German authorities to increase efforts to prevent Thai women from being lured into prostitution in Germany.

They contended that West Germany had done "too little" to crack down on the immoral business and to aid victimized women from Third World countries, particularly Thailand.

The groups, including the Women's Information Centre, the Foundation for Children, the Home for Battered Women, the Women and Media Research Group, and the Northern People's Relations Group, recently submitted a "Statement of Concern" to the government of West Germany, through the opposition Social Democrat Party (SDP), over the condition of Thai women who are the victims of prostitution.

The statement was in response to a reply by the German Ministry of Justice to the motion of SDP representatives questioning what the German government had done to prevent women from developing countries from being tricked into prostitution in that country.

The groups accused the West German government of possessing "inaccurate" assumptions on how women from these nations were lured or even forced into the sex business.



They said the German government tended to view that German development cooperation projects with developing nations, especially in the field of vocational education and training, would help prevent "poverty-induced" prostitution.

The statement said such programs had not fully benefited Thai women because a very low percentage of them had a chance to continue their education at that level.

It also contended that the assumption of the German authorities that the relatively high income of prostitution had attracted women and girls from developing countries was not completely correct.

According to the statement, although the average income of prostitutes in these countries was higher than that from jobs in other areas, the girls and women was subject to high personal risk in terms of sexual harassment, social stigmatization, health hazards, and social insecurity.

Because of incorrect assumptions about the causes of prostitution, the groups said, the West German government appears to have failed to impose tough measures to suppress prostitution gangs, widespread sex advertisement, match-making businesses, and sex tourism organizers there.

The statement demanded that the German government get tough with such businesses and pay more attention to initiatives of German and Third World women's groups to assist the victims of prostitution.

It also called on the German government to step up its cooperation with non-governmental organizations to study the root causes of the problem and to explore ways and means to provide security and protection to the victims of the immoral business.

The groups finally urged German authorities to clamp down on the publishing and sale of pornographic literature on Thai women and children in the country.

PROMOTING TOURISM MAY ENCOURAGE PROSTITUTION

The promotion of tourism serves as a "double-edged sword" in both generating income for the country and making prostitution thrive.

That was the view agreed by some leading academics and social workers during a panel discussion at the AUA Auditorium on February 3, 1986 to mark the second anniversary of the brothel blaze which killed six prostitutes in Phuket Province. The panel discussion was entitled "Tourism Policy and Its Effects on Thai Women."

Dr Krirkkiat Phipatseritham from the Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University pointed out that during the period of economic hardships, with Thailand facing problems of trade deficits and high foreign debt service ratio, income

100 % Hygenic for men and women



Turkish bath massagi

from service industry including tourism has contributed to the survival of the country.

"It seems that our service industry has overgrown the agricultural and industrial production capacity. Judging from the materialistic development and per capita income, Thailand has seen improvement. But regarding the quality of life, it's still doubtful."

Dr Krirkkiat said although the exact figure of how much Thailand earns from prostitution is never available, it is estimated that some 700,000 women are engaged in such profession which brings about 42,000 million baht of cash flow annually.

Despite the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) advertising slogan "sea, sun and sand," practically the trip to Thailand turns out to be "sun, sand and sex," he said, adding that progression of tourism can be another factor to proliferate prostitution.

Opas Lertamphai, director of the International Convention Division of TAT, insisted that tourism has never been promoted through prostitution. On the contrary, TAT with awareness of such bad reputation Thailand assumes, has been attempting to get away from such image.

Ironically, said Opas, prostitution has in effect reduced the number of prospective family package tours, with wives fearing sexual involvement resulting from such reputation.

"The problem is there. Tourism just comes as a variable. The solution lies in strict law enforcement," he said.

MP Dr Yupha Udomsak, Chairperson of the House Committee on Culture and Tourism, voiced concerns over the fact that prostitution and economic plight are inseparable, and consequently uncontrollable. "But the point here is how can we protect other girls from being lured into such profession, and those engaged from being exploited."

"The existing law seems to be valid on very unstable basis. Apparently in some tourist spots, namely Pattaya, officials simply do not touch such illegal deeds for the excuse that it's a tourist spot."

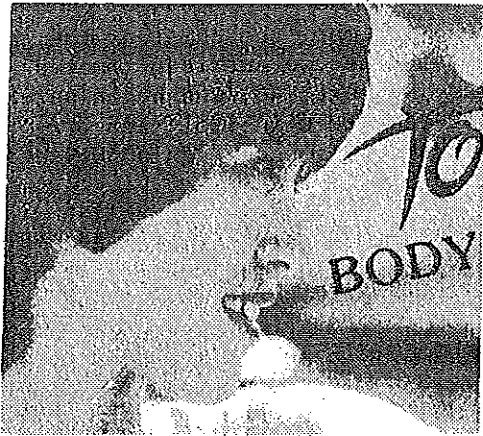
TAT, she commented, has stepped in to control tourism after it has long been dominated by private sector which tends to cater to service facilities rather than promote the nature and culture.

Prapoth Sritet, chairman of the Northern People's Relations Group, said tourism promotion fertilizes the growth of prostitution, judging from privileges granted to build service facilities in places aimed to be developed as attractive tourist spots.

He said tourism has, according to his own experience, altered way of living local people, especially the northerners. Girl prostitutes from the North has been the most popular and disirable, with the new trend favouring the hill-tribes girls, he said.



SEX HUMAN \$ SEX BAHT WOMAN \$
LOVE BAHT \$ LIFE \$ HUMAN \$
MASSEGE LOVE WOMAN SEX BAHT LIVE \$
WOMAN BAHT \$ SEX HUMAN MONEY LOVE
BAHT MONEY \$ LIFE WOMAN HUMAN \$



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CABINET OKAYS STIFF ANTI-PROSTITUTION BILL

On March 25, 1986, the cabinet approved in principle the draft of an anti-prostitution bill which seeks to impose severe penalties on brothel owners and procurers, Dep Government Spokesman said.

The bill also specifies penalties for women who engage in prostitution, but they will be more lenient than those for the organizers.

The bill, if approved by the Parliament, will replace the Anti-Prostitution Act of 1960 which has been criticised for being out-dated.

According to the bill, many women are forced into prostitution by economic and social pressure and most of them are uneducated. It says that they therefore deserve rehabilitation rather than punishment.

"Prostitutes are not criminals and the prostitution organizers deserve more severe penalties," it says.

Under the bill, people found guilty of procuring are subject to a maximum jail term of five years and a fine of 30,000 baht. The penalty is three months and 1,000 baht under the present law.

Brothel owners will face a maximum jail term of two to seven years and a fine of 12,000 to 42,000 baht, compared to six months to three years and a fine of 6,000-

30,000 baht under the current act.

The bill also spells out additional penalties for brothel owners or prostitution organizers found guilty of false imprisonment for prostitution purposes. The penalty will be a jail term of three to 15 years and a fine of 18,000-90,000 baht.

As a measure to protect the young, people found guilty of having women under 18 as prostitutes will be given an additional penalty equivalent to one-third to half of their original penalty.

Under the bill, prostitutes who solicit in public places face two-month jail terms or a maximum fine of 1,000 baht or both. The penalty is the same as in the present law.

However, those found in brothels are subject to a maximum jail term of three months or a fine of 1,500 baht. There is no penalty for this category of prostitutes in the present law.

The bill was drafted by a government appointed committee, whose members include representatives from government agencies, and the National Women's Development Committee.

The bill now will go to the Juridical Council for scrutiny before it is submitted to the House of Representatives for debate.



3 HELD IN PROSTITUTION CASE



Two women who say they were lured into prostitution are seen above identifying three suspects at Police Crime Suppression Division (CSD) headquarters in Bangkok on February 3, 1986

Banchong Thai-orn(left), 25, Noo-kiang Chaipa, 38, and Samarn Chuaysri, 32, employees of the Kitcharoen job placement firm in Bangkok Yai, were charged with recruiting the two women for prostitution.

The three suspects were accused of luring Vidhya Mekchai, 23, and Bua-loy Ngarm-ying, 23, to work as prostitutes at a brothel in Thamuang District of Kanchanaburi Province.

The girls, rescued by police from the bothel last October, told police they came to the firm after learning that it was looking for female workers from an ad placed in Wattachak, a job opportunity magazine. The three suspects allegedly later brought them to the brothel owned by a man known only as 'Sawang'.

2 AMERICAN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

Two American prisoners serving long sentences for drug cases in Bangkok maximum security prison reportedly staged hunger strike in protest against US Embassy's ignorance to their cases, a senior corrections official disclosed on February 4, 1986

Arun Rithimat, the chief of the prison, said the two American inmates were: Gary Bennett, 46, who began serving a 50-year term in 1981, and Gregory Ferguson, 31, who began a 40-year term in 1979.

An order was given by Arun Ritimat to prison officials to investigate into reports that the two foreigners had been on hunger strike for more than 10 days.

The warders later discovered that they actually staged the fast for only one day. Arun said he has already notified the US Embassy in Bangkok about the incident.

The Rev. Joseph H. Maier, an American Catholic priest who visited the prison, said he had received a letter from Bennett in which he asked for help, claiming the US Embassy was ignoring his pleas. Maier said Bennett went on the 21-day hunger strike, having lost about 11 kilograms. Ferguson reportedly staged a 12-day hunger strike in January.

Bennett claimed in the letter that he had been a "scapegoat" in a 1981 case involving the smuggling of 45 grams of heroin. Bennett reportedly said he was the only one of a five-member group convicted on the drug charge even though he did not have possession of the heroin.

The letter asked the US Embassy to review his case in which he claimed injustice had been done.



THE DISABLED UP IN ARMS

A group of handicapped people plan to form an organization to fight for the rights and recognition of the disabled.

Samran Semathong, president of the Association of the Blind of Thailand, said recently that representatives from five organizations of disabled people, including the Association of the Crippled, the Association of the Blind of Thailand, the Association of the Deaf of Thailand, the Association of the Parents of Mentally Retarded Children, and the War Veterans Organization had recently agreed to establish the Disabled People Council of Thailand.

The council, he said, would concentrate on the campaign to eliminate the discrimination against disabled people and also on the call for equal rights and treatment for handicaps.

Samran, who is the coordinator of the council, said the application for the registration of the council had been submitted to the Interior Ministry and is presently under the consideration of the National Cultural Commission for final approval.

He added the International Human Assistance Program had offered financial aid to the council in campaign for the promulgation of a law on the rehabilitation of disabled people which has been delayed for almost two years.

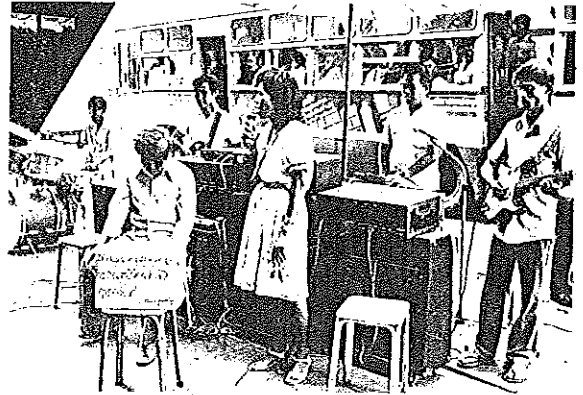
THE BLIND CASH IN ON MUSIC

For many of the blind, roadside singing is no longer just a means of making a living. It has now become a real business.

And they are not making money for themselves. Their "sponsors" also rake in considerable amount of what is supposed to be donations from the sympathetic passers-by.

Samarn Semthong, president of the Association of the Blind of Thailand,

estimated that there are around 30 musical bands set up by the blind and playing on the roadsides in the city.



One of the bands of the blind playing on a Bangkok sidewalk.

there were only a few bands in the beginning. But the number keeps growing as more and more blind, including those who once sold lottery tickets, turned to this lucrative business.

They are now almost everywhere.

Chana Puddao, the leader of the "Puddao Band", told local reporters he had been a musician for about 20 years and was apparently one of the pioneers in the field.

"Previously, I performed in restaurants, government agencies and sometimes in the provinces before I turned to the city streets," he said.

Chana disclosed that his band, which performs mostly at the Victory Monument and in front of Ramkhamhaeng University, earns an average of 2,000 baht daily in donations from passers-by. He said 600 baht is used to pay for the rented musical instruments and another 600 baht goes to transportation.

Pissamai Namwongse, a 29-year-old singer of the band, said each of the band members gets about 40-100 baht daily. "There were days when we earned as much as 4,000 baht daily," she said.

But the "boom" in the music busi-

ness may be over soon. There is a stiff competition among the dozens of bands on the streets. Besides, city officials are getting tough with them.

Sudchai Kaewnil, the director of Phayathai District, said legal action would be taken against such musical bands as they tend to obstruct pedestrians.

He said he had learned that many of these bands were sponsored by businessmen who offer them transports and musical instruments in return for a share in the donations.

However, he said the bands may be allowed to perform on the roadsides on certain occasions.

The president of the Association of the Blind of Thailand said most of the blind musical bands in the past performed at schools or selected places to raise funds for the blind.

"But the booming business has driven many people try to cash in on the pity the public has for the blind," said Samran.

He said it is common for the blind to get musical instruments and traveling facilities from certain sponsors to form a band.

"However, the business may be getting tough now as more and more blind are turning to it," he said.

'MORE SLUMS SPRING UP IN BANGKOK EVERY YEAR'

A recent survey has found that at least 100 new slums spring up in and around Bangkok every year.

The survey, conducted by the Urban Community Development Project of the Mahidol University, blames the lack of government's policy to limit the growth of slums.

Disclosing the result of the survey during a seminar on urban community development held in Pattaya

on March 8 and 9, 1986, Dr Somchit Suphannathas singled out Phra Khanong, Dusit and Pomprab as the three areas with the largest number of slums respectively.

Somchit, vice dean of the Public Health Faculty of the university, said more slums are likely to go up in those areas because they are commercial places with a lot of job opportunities.

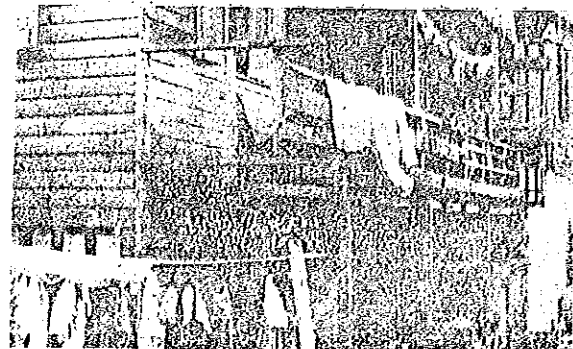
He said the government has failed to solve the problem at the root cause by stopping rural people from migrating into the city.

He said the Urban Community Development Committee of the university is studying a plan to categorize the city slums so that development can be carried out selectively in accordance to the needs of each of the communities.

He said the slums will be divided into different grades in accordance to their social and economic conditions.

The university will hold another meeting later this year to discuss the plan, he said.

According to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), there are about 500 major slums—officially referred to as crowded communities—in and around Bangkok. Apart from the three mentioned districts, the other districts with large number of slums include Yannawa, Phayathai, Bangkok Noi and Thonburi.



CGRS Activities

HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

On January 10, 1986, the Human Rights Section of CGRS sponsored and organized a public panel discussion on "The Exercise of Anti-riot Authorities and the Rights of the Suspects". This was part of the attempt to raise some serious questions about the methods used by the police and prison officials in suppressing the rioting inmates in Bangkok, Cholburi and Sakhon-nakhon prisons last year. (see Human Rights in Thailand Report, Vol.9, No. 4)

Human rights lawyer, Thongbai Thongbao and Chairperson of The Union of Civil Liberty (Thailand), Mr. Xan Kaew-chusai, were two distinguished speakers at the discussion held at the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasart University. Dr. Gothom Arya, a leading Committee Member of CGRS was the moderator for the public event.

During the discussion, the government policy for the suppression of prison riots was heavily criticised by many participants there. Particularly when the shootings of hostages and inmates were found unjustifiable from the legal point of view of many lawyers and law students in the audience. It was revealed that actually the prison authorities and the police anti-riot squad had been ordered to suppress the inmates by all means necessary without regards for the lives of hostages who were prison officials themselves. Needless to say about the safety and the lives of other inmates who might have not been directly involved in the prison riots.

The main point of discussion was centered around the legality of such order - "Shoot to Kill". It was also pointed out to the audience that the methods used in all three prison riots could constitute for a clear case of power-abuse committed by some tricker-happy prison officials and members of the police Special Squad. Simply because, no existing laws allow prison

officials and the police to shoot the suspected inmates with an intention to kill under the circumstances reported in many local press.

One of the main objectives of organizing such public discussion was to raise the level of understanding among the general public that eventhough some inmates may have been directly involved in the prison riots, they still were protected by certain laws governing the rights of a suspect. They, according to both penalists, should have been charged formally and taken to the court of law and at least they could be judged by the due process of law. "They should not have been summarily executed on the spot in cold blood", one legal expert was quoted as saying.

To bring all the necessary facts out in the open, CGRS also showed a VDO tape account of what happened at the Cholburi Prison with a portion of tape revealing how inmates were suppressed both during and after the riot.

CGRS also published a pocket-book size account on the policy and the result of its implementation under the title: "Prison-a path to.....". This small publication of CGRS critically reflects the attitudes of law-enforcement officers in suppressing the prison riots. Detail accounts of violent situations in rioting prisons were included the said book. "Prison - a path to...." was put on display for sale on the same day.



In addition, CGRS and The Union for Civil Liberty (Thailand) were jointly responsible for the drafting of an open letter to the Minister of Interior expressing serious concern for the suppression of riot in Sakhon-nakhon Prison. Hundreds of signatures were gathered from the public supporting our concern in this issue. The open letter also urged the Minister to order an investigation on the alleged case of summary executions of some inmates who had surrendered. The letter also mentioned the fact that some basic problems existing behind prison walls should be solved without delays in order to prevent future riots within the Thai Penal System.

JOINT LEGAL-AID PROGRAM

On February 21 - 22, 1986, the Human Rights Section of CGRS in collaborations with the Faculty of Law, Thammasart University and the Center for Legal Aid organized a public seminar on "Government Agencies and NGOs Cooperations for Legal Aid Program" at the Meeting Hall, Faculty of Law, Ramkhamhaeng University.

The objective of this seminar was to seek cooperations among both government agencies and NGOs giving legal aid to the public. It was considered necessary by all concerned agencies to seek cooperations among various agencies giving legal advices and services to the people.

Due to the fact that various agencies have different positions in offering legal aid services, it was therefore necessary for related agencies to be aware of the limitations and the organizational policies of different agencies. This seminar was considered to be the first step towards better cooperations and coordinations in the future.

A total of 16 agencies representing 6 government agencies and 10 NGOs participated in the seminar. 80 participants were invited to share their views and experiences in this unique event. Also at the seminar were representatives of the Center for Legal Aid from the Northeast Region.

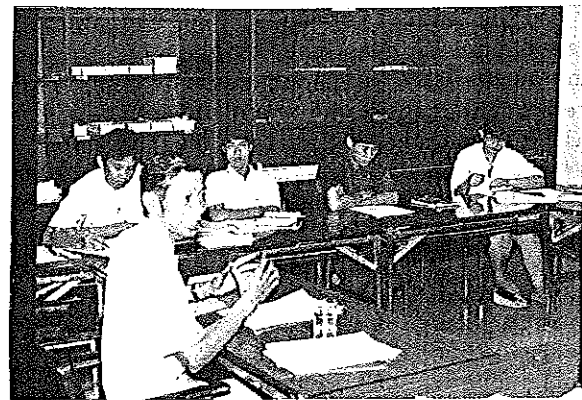
The result of the seminar was compiled and summarised in practical form for dissemination through the press. It was widely distributed also to various agencies and organizations working on human rights issue.

WORKSHOP ON "FACT-FINDING METHODS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION CASES"

On February 25, 1986, CGRS sponsored a special workshop on "Fact-finding Methods for Human Rights Violation Cases" with participants from 5 concerned agencies.

The objectives of the workshop was to offer a basic training for those who were interested in the methods and techniques in data-gathering and fact-compiling for human rights violation cases. Particularly when human rights workers should be able to prepare a preliminary report for legal action, if the situation calls for.

From past experiences, human rights lawyers had to spend unnecessary time in contacting sources of information and travelling to and forth between provinces and cities to investigate the possible cases of human rights violations. CGRS saw the importance of having human rights network people contribute their



(Caption) Senior lawyer Mr Sompol Jirapat was invited to lecture on the methods and techniques of find-finding for human rights workers at the workshop.

time and effort in helping the lawyers by recording vital information for possible legal action. If proper methods and techniques were well understood by local lawyers and field workers, the nature of the case could then be determined with more confidence from the very beginning.

Legal aid workers also the target of this workshop. The first interview with the complainant, if properly questioned and recorded, can easily establish a firm legal ground to work with.

Another objective of such workshop was to give guidelines to the participants for speedy and effective methods of interview and report on the possible case of human rights violation. Systematic ways of recording and compiling facts seemed to be the only alternative when few human rights lawyers could be consulted in provinces.

"BASIC LAWS" WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE RURAL AREAS

On March 1-2, 1986, CGRS in collaboration with the Center for Legal Aid jointly organized and sponsored a training workshop on basic laws for rural community leaders and potential village leadership.

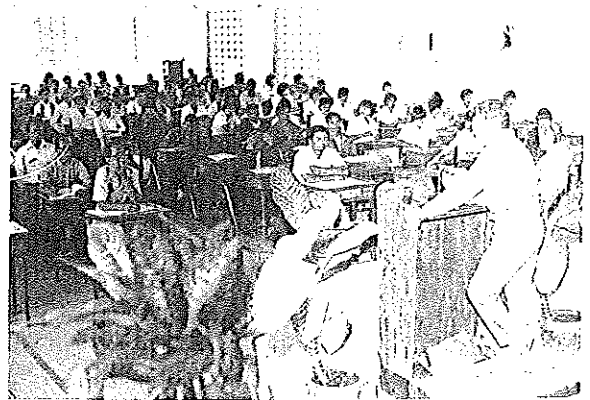


(Caption) Local law-enforcement officers and other leading officials were among invited speakers and panelists.

Most participants represented various communities in Na Dune District of Maha Sarakham Province about 480 Kms northeast of Bangkok. A total of 150 people joined the workshop upon invitation extended by CGRS and the Centre for Legal Aid.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:-

1. To familiarise them with basic laws which are useful and practical for community leaders. Special attention was given to some existing laws which are relevant and applicable to their grass-roots problems and situations.
2. To gain support for CGRS and the Center for Legal Aid from the people in the rural areas.
3. To raise the level of understanding for human rights issue.
4. To establish possible human rights network in the communities.



(Caption) Human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongbao was the distinguished speaker on Human Rights and the Existing Laws.

It must be noted that this program was recognised by the local administration. The opening session was presided over by the governor of the province. This special workshop also enjoyed the support from government sponsored legal aid agencies by having had their legal experts as guest lecturers for the workshop.

The total budget spent for the workshop was about 5,000 baht mainly for low budget lunches for the participants and some expenses for coordination work.



SUSPECT TORTURED BY POLICE

On January 16, 1986 about 11 pm. a murder suspect was reportedly beaten by a group of arresting officers in his own house at Chor.14/12 Kookseng Lane, Sawanvithi Road, Muang District, Nakhon Sawan Province (about 237 Kilometres North of Bangkok).

On the night of the incident, while he was watching TV in his home with his family, he suddenly heard a series of explosion caused by home-made fire-crackers near his residence. He then asked his 16-year-old son, Thongchai, to chase away a group of local teenagers who were responsible for the disturbance.

A few minutes after, his son, Thongchai was confronted with a group of armed police officers known to be members of provincial special task force, code-named the "Black Shark" Unit.

For unknown reason, Thongchai was slapped with pistol butt many times in the face until his nose and mouth were covered with blood. Eventhough Thongchai did not resist or try to defend himself, he was still kicked and punched without mercy by that group of plain-cloth police officers.

Thongchai reportedly ran away from the police and reached his house shouting for help from his father. The same group of fully-armed officers reportedly chased Thongchai into his house with pistols pointing and aiming at him.

Faced with such situation, Mr Chalor decided to run for his 11 mm pistol in

defend of his son against the group of armed intruders. He reportedly shot dead the first officer who was aiming the pistol at his son's back.

Chalor was later charged with murder for killing a police officer.

He was detained at the local police station pending preliminary investigation. During his detainment, he was reportedly beaten with wooden stick till he was unconscious twice. He also claimed that he was severely kicked and punched by a group of police officers in his detainment cell. Chalor later told CGRS that he was tortured because he refuse to admit that he fired the shot which killed the police officer with full knowledge that he was member of the police unit.

His last physical condition was reported as: internal bleedings and unable to sit in the up-right position. Chalor also had difficulaty with his bowel movement and severe pains in his stomach.

CGRS later accompanied Chalor's wife and children to file a formal complaint with the Ministry of Interior in Bangkok on February 14, 1986.

An order for investigation on this case was issued from the Interior Ministry through the chain of commands to the commanding officer of the provincial police in Nakhon-sawan. This case is still pending investigation at the moment.



Mr Chalor Sooksomsri, 44, a victim of police brutality in Nakhon-sawan.

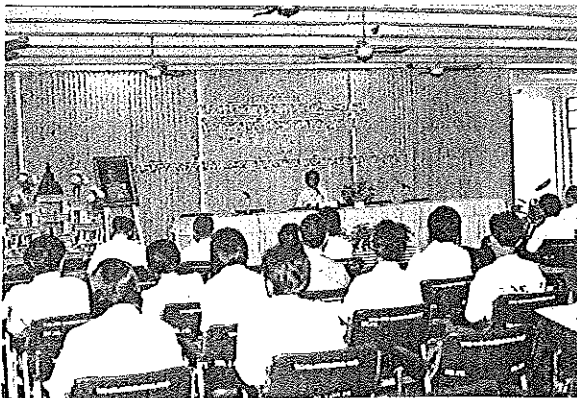
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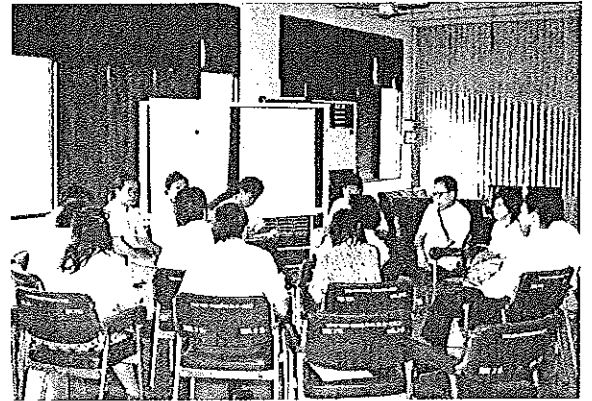
1. Panelists at the discussion on Jan 10, (left to right) Mr Xan Kaew-xusai of The Union for Civil Liberty(Thailand), Dr Gothom Arya of CGRS and leading human rights lawyers, Thongbai Thongpao.

2. VDO program on the bloody suppression of prison riot at Cholburi Prison in 1985.

4



5



3. The opening ceremony for the Seminar on "Government Agencies and NGOs Cooperations for Legal Aid Program" held at Thammasat Law School on Feb. 21, 1986 presided over by Dr Sukhum Nualsakul, the Rector of Ramkhamhaeng University.

4. Distinguished panelists at the seminar: Prof Somyos Chuerthai of Thammasat University, Mr Sahai Sapsunthornkul of Public Prosecutors Office, Prof Thira Srithamarak of Ramkhamhaeng University and Attorney Xan Kaew-Xusai of the UCL (Thailand).

5. Special workshop on human rights and the process of law, Ramkhamhaeng University, organized as part of the program on human rights education.



FALSE ARREST AND TORTURE OF SUSPECT

On February 5, 1986, Mr Bancha Srinad, 22 of 91/1 Moo 2, Tambon Phikulthong, Thachang District, Singburi Province was arrested at a temple fair for assault and battery.

Banacha Srinad was accused of stabbing his own elder brother after a fist fight with other fair-goers. Despite repeated protests and explanation made by his relatives who accompanied him at the fair, the arresting police officers did not pay any attention to them. Banacha was arrested and taken to the local police station for interrogation and investigation.

According to Banacha's relatives who followed that group of arresting officers to the station, Banacha was repeatedly kicked and pushed by police officers forcing him to admit that he assaulted his own brother. Banacha denied all involvement in the incident throughout the questioning.

The beating continued until they reached the local police station, Banacha was found semi-unconscious there.

Banacha was finally released from police custody without formally charged by the police. However, his relatives had to rush him to the provincial hospital for treatment of internal injuries. He was admitted to ICU Unit for emergency operation.



A formal complaint was filed by Banacha's relatives to the Police Commander of the 8 Zone at Ayudhaya Province. CGRS and Banacha have been informed that an investigation on this particular case was finally ordered and the case is still under investigation.

3 POLICE OFFICERS SENTENCED FOR MURDER

On March 28, 1986 the Provincial Court of Ubon rajthani Province sentenced 3 police officers for murdering a 16-year-old suspect identified as Banacha Sangsuk.

Banacha Sangsuk was originally arrested for assault and battery and accused of using fire arm in the public place. Banacha Sangsuk was reportedly not involved in the incident occurred on March 16.

Banacha, who was only 16 at the time of his death, was tortured by the convicted policemen and died of multiple injuries.

All three police officers have been released on bail pending appeal in higher court. One of the three officers was the Station Master of the local police station. He reportedly have threatened local human rights lawyer that if he had to go to jail for this case, the lawyer would suffer from serious consequences. Mr Isra Somchai, the lawyer, told CGRS that he had been threatened many times even before the first court passed the judgement. Besides, he also disclosed that some individuals acting as go-between had tried to negotiate for a compensation with the relatives of the dead 16-year-old victim of police brutality. However, the relatives refused to accept the money in exchange for an withdrawal of the case from the court.

Mr Isra said that court settlement seemed to be the last means for the people to fight against police torture and other means of police brutality in this country. He was satisfied with the ruling of the court of the first instance.

**FRUIT FARMER MURDERED BY POLICEMEN
IN FALSE ARREST IN HIS HOME**

On February 25, 1986, Mr Jarae Supat of 38 Moo 2, Tambon Kaokaew, Lansaka District, Nakhon-Srithamaraj Province (about 500 miles south of Bangkok) was shot to dead by a group of 7 policemen who surrounded his home and sprayed his house with semi-automatic weapons.

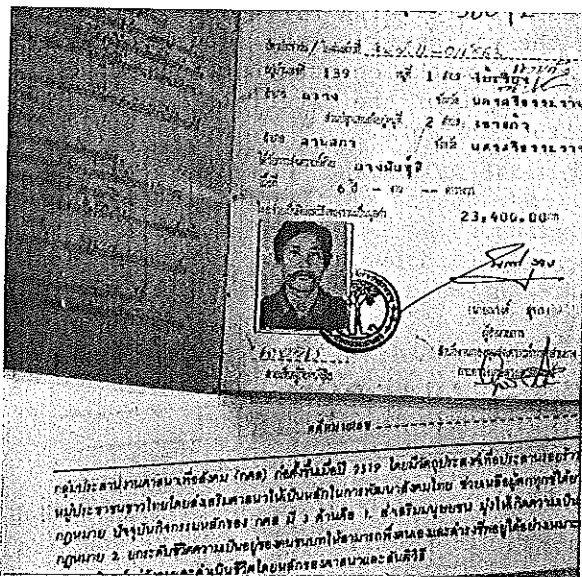
The arresting officers allegedly claimed that they were from Sonkla Province and acted on information that Mr Jarae was wanted for theft and a fugitive from Sonkla.

Subsequent investigation proved beyond doubt that Mr Jarae was innocent and the 7 police officers were acting on false information. However, no compensation was ever offered to the victim's family.

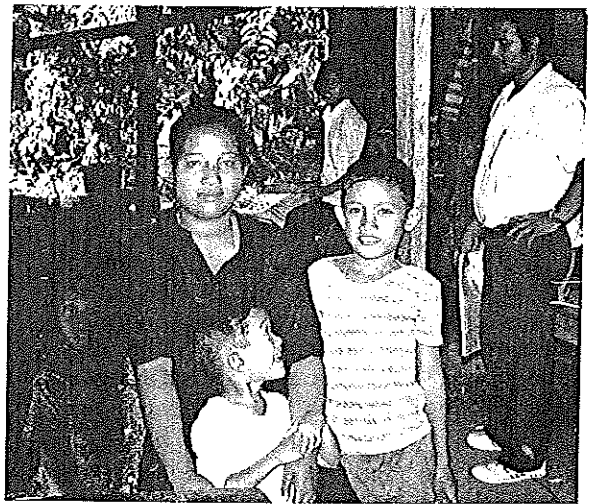
CGRS and Jarae's family have been working towards reasonable compensation for his death.



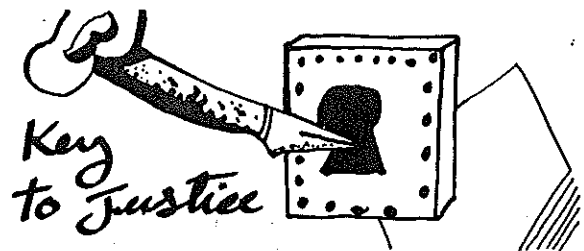
(Caption) Jarae's house riddled with bullet holes seen from the front yard. CGRS human rights officers and local lawyers visited his family and his bedroom where he was shot through wooden panels.



(Caption) Jarae's photo attached to his ID book issued by the Ministry of Agriculture certifying him as welfare recipient under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.



(Caption) Jarae's wife and his three young children who seek compensation from the police authorities.



RURAL LIFE DEVELOPMENT SECTION

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Since the beginning of 1986, CGRS has been highly active in organizing a agricultural-oriented program in the Northeast. The Agricultural Promotion Project and Agricultural School for Youth Project were two main programs which the Rural Life Development Section first initiated with cooperations from both village teachers and the villagers in Baan Samakki Village.

The Agricultural School for Youth was designed to attract village youth from 11 years old up to a training program for vocational subjects, particularly basic techniques in modern farming and other related subjects in farming appropriate to their immediate condition.

This one-year program would also provide village youth with vocational skills so that if they have to leave school, many of them for economic reason, they could survive locally without having to hunt for jobs in big cities at young age.

This could be considered as one of the alternative and preventive actions against child labour exploitation in big cities. The migration of child workers could be reduced in the long run if this project proves to be a success.

The first 3 months of 1985 was the preparatory period for the establishment of the program in the village. Parents of village youths had to be convinced of the benefits before they would give consent to it.

The second obstacle was to find a well-qualified volunteer or paid staff to work as full-time personnel and a full-time teacher who could be highly versatile resource person.

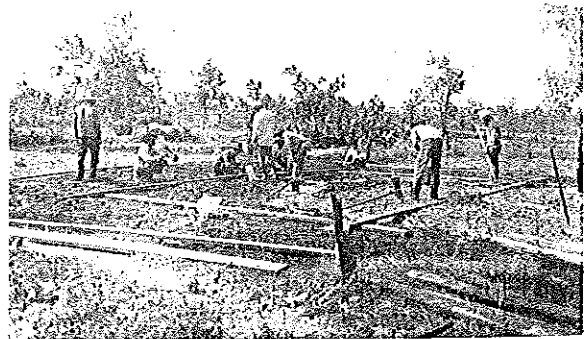
Designing the training program was the crucial point to guarantee the suc-

cess of the workshop. CGRS and its field officer were very selective about the appropriate skills and subjects to train the village youth. Immediate needs were the prime objectives of this training program. Skills acquired from the program must be appropriate to their rural conditions.

The most important step to prove that the training workshop is welcomed by the local village was the donation of the land for building school workshop.

CGRS and its field officer have been assured by a number of villagers that an empty lot shall be found for the workshop. The villagers would also donate their labour and skills in constructing the school and living quarters for volunteers and teachers. It was agreed that local materials should be used for the construction work. It was also suggested that the construction itself could serve as training course for the first group of student as well.

As soon as the donated plot of land was given to the program, the first living hut for the volunteer and teacher was constructed with full cooperation from the villagers. They actually came and helped with the construction. CGRS donated most of the materials for the construction work.



(Caption) CGRS staff and villagers pitched in their labour and materials for the construction of first thatched roof and wood-paneled living quarter for volunteers and teacher.

Unfortunately, the Agricultural Promotion Project still needs volunteers and full-time personnel to administer the project in the same area. CGRS is recruiting highly qualified persons to be assigned to the area.

It was strongly recommended that local resource persons should be given first consideration to the post. Recruits from other areas must be highly experienced in the field of agricultural promotion.

THE CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL TOOLS AND SERVICES

During the months of January, February and March, the center put a lot of emphasis on the development of Rice Huller of Centrifugal-Force type. The one-man bicycle-powered huller has proved to be economical but not very practical. It simply takes too much man power to peddle. However, the 1/4 HP Motor-type has proved to be more efficient.

The objective of building and developing such huller was to offer the villagers a small size huller, low budget and practical for their usage.

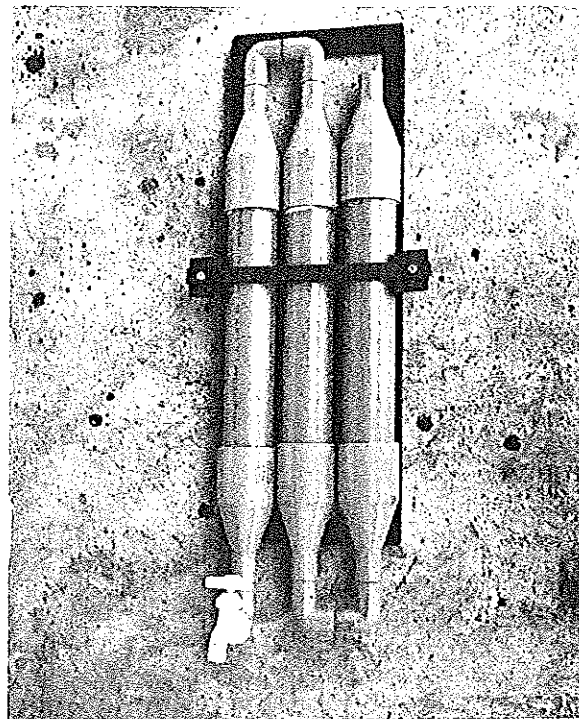
The problem of separating Brown Rice from paddy was yet to be solved when first tested and operated in February. Whitening process was another problem for the CGRS field engineer to deal with. An appropriate type of polisher is needed to complement the whole process.

LOW-BUDGET FILTER FOR DRINKING WATER

The center also has developed a low budget type of filter for villagers in areas where drinking water is the problem. This 500 Baht filter made from PVC with metal fram and bracing can be easily stalled or even carried on the back if necessary.

It should be noted that all materials used for this model can be found in local market at economical prices.

This light-weight filter has become very popular in the surrounding areas. CGRS is developing other types and models for other practical purposes.



(Caption) CGRS developed filter set for villagers in the Northeast which could be easily assembled by local farmers.

HERBAL MEDICINE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The first quarter of 1986, the Rural Life Development Section was involved in planning a special workshop for Buddhist monks in the Northeast, especially in Amnart-chareon and 6 other districts of Ubon-rajthani Province.

This project offered training in Herbal Medicine for Basic Health for monks in the areas without charging any fee. About 40 interested monks from a total of 7 districts registered for the workshop in March.

The first 3-day workshop was scheduled for April 18-20 with full cooperation from senior monks who are knowledgeable about hundred different herbs which can be found in the Northeast. These highly respectable monks were invited to share their knowledge on herbal medicine with other monks involved in community development.

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