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HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

Very comprehensive & informative issue.



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Religions

DOI SUTHEP CAMPAIGN: About 100 people and Buddhist monks rallied outside the old provincial hall in Muang District of Chiang Mai on May 24 to protest against the plan to run cable cars up Doi Suthep.

The protesters said the construction would endanger the environment of the symbolic mountain in Chiang Mai and would rock the morale of the northern people, who respect and have faith in Doi Suthep Temple, located on the mountain.

A group of local investors and a Japanese firm plan to invest about 150 million baht to build the cable car tracks to the top of Doi Suthep

They said the system would attract tourists to this northern resort city and significantly reduce accidents on the road leading to the mountain top.

However, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Banyat Bantadtan said on July 1, 1986 that the controversial cable car plan on Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai would be scrapped if the majority of the people in the northern province are against it.

Banyat, who is in charge of tourism, said the authorities had already ordered the plan to be put off following a strong opposition to it by the local people.

Chiang Mai Governor Chaiya Poon-siriwongse also said on the same day that he would ask all government agencies concerned to consider suspending the cable car project for the sake of peace and unity in the province.

He said there had been both opposition and support to the project and it was unlikely for a consensus to be reached.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with members of the board of directors of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Banyat said the authorities would sound out the opinions of the people on the controversy.



VISAKHA BUCHA DAY: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn leads the candle procession at Buddha Monthon religious centre in Nakhon Pathom to mark Visakha Bucha Day on May 22.

"If the local people are against it, the plan would be scrapped," he said.

He also allayed fears that the opposition to the cable car project may explode into violence as did the controversy over the tantalum plant in Phuket.

He said while all the people in Phuket were opposed to the tantalum plant, there is a mixture of feelings in Chiang Mai about the cable car plan.

Senior Buddhist monks and groups of environmentalists have voiced opposition to the cable car plan on grounds that it would ruin the environments of the popular tourist spot. They said it would also be an "insult" to the much revered Wat Doi Suthep which is located on the hill.

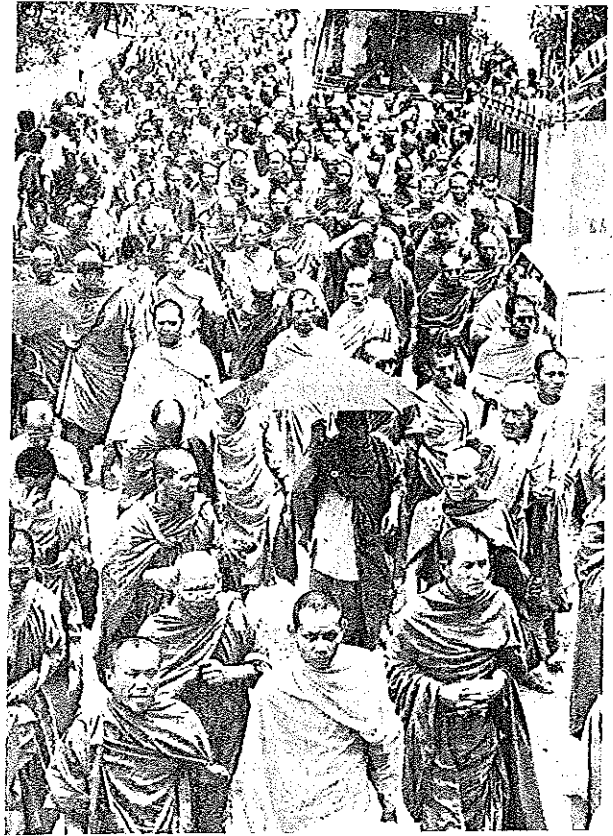


Above, Buddhist monks splash lustral water on the procession of banner-carrying protesters.

MAMOTH MERIT-MAKING MEET: A wealthy farmland owner held a merit-making ceremony on May 6 inviting 15,000 Buddhist monks and novices to the ceremony at his residence in Bangkhen.

Suwat Narksomboon, 47, was quoted as saying that he spent four million baht on food and donations to the monks.

Several ambulances and mobile toilets were arranged at Suwat's residence on Prachachuen Road especially for the occasions.



Suwat owns a huge farm and an agricultural commodities firm.

More than 800 buses were used to shuttle the monks and novices to Suwat's residence.

Above, monks arrive at Suwat's residence.



QUEUES TO HANDOUTS

About 5,000 people on September 2 queued for hours at the office of the Poh Teck Tung Foundation on Plabplachai Road to receive handouts.

The foundation said it gave out 4,300 bags of rice and 100,000 sets of basic necessities worth about 3.8 million baht.

The event, known as "Teh Krachard" is a tradition which has been in practice for 1,000 years. It is considered to be a blessing for the dead.

The ceremony on September 2 was conducted in an orderly manner because the people were asked to queue up for their turns. A similar event a few years ago ended in tragedy when several people were killed and injured in a stampede.

Photo shows the long queues in front of the foundation's office.



POH TECK TUNG IN ANNUAL TOMB CLEANING

Chinese charity foundation Poh Teck Tung on July 18 dug up nearly 3,000 corpses of destitute persons during the annual tomb cleansing at Wat Don in Yannawa District.

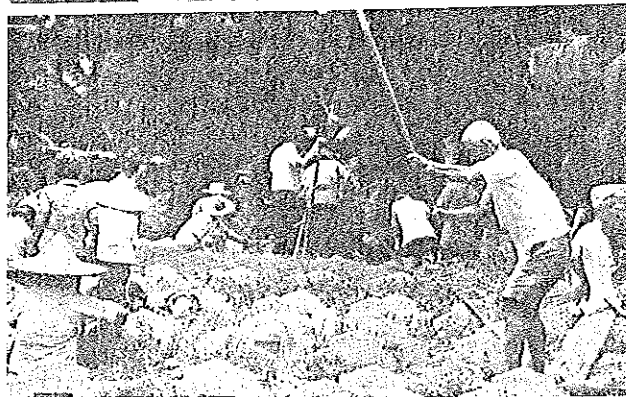
The bodies, most of them accident victims, will be cleaned by foundation officials and gathered for a mass cremation to be held later this year.

Sa-nguan Suwan-wattana, the foundation manager, said the foundation has put up an announcement for relatives to claim the bodies for one month, but that only 30 corpses were claimed.

The corpses have been buried in the Chinese Wat Don cemetery between 1983 to 1985. About 150 unclaimed bodies are gathered daily by the foundation's relief workers from various accident sites and hospitals and buried at the grave, he said.

Chinese believe that the cleansing of the dead's skeletons and the cremation is a means to deliver the souls of the perished for rebirth.

Sa-nguan also said that the tomb cleansing ceremony is held every three years, adding that more than 13,000 bodies of destitute persons are awaiting cremation.



Photos show Poh Teck Tung workers working in Wat Don during tomb cleansing ceremony while a woman brushes a skull.

MONKS CRITICIZE ABBOT

Nearly 100 monks and novices staged a rally in a temple of Thonburi on August 23, 1986 to demand the removal of what they called a "dictatorial-minded" abbot.

The protesting Buddhist monks of Wat Saikai in Tambon Bangyirue also threatened to hold a hunger strike unless their demand for the replacement of Abbot Phra Maha Pipat Wattano was met.



The protesters, who staged a sit-in in a makeshift tent in front of the monastery, accused the abbot of ruling the temple in a "dictatorial manner" by refusing to consider any suggestions by or opinions of junior monks. The abbot, they claimed, also frequently criticized other monks with rude words and beat them for trivial offences.

The disgruntled monks on August 23 submitted a complaint to the ecclesiastical commune chief and ecclesiastical provincial governor demanding the removal of Phra Maha Pipat Wattano.

Above, the protesters are seen displaying a banner seeking the removal of the controversial abbot.

VILLAGERS SEEK OUSTER OF 'MISBEHAVED' ABBOT

Samut Prakan - Villagers of Phra Pradaeng District believe they have had enough with the abbot of a Buddhist temple whom they accused of having seriously violated the Buddhist disciplines.

They first lodged a complaint with local authorities. When that did not work, they began an alms boycott, forcing the abbot to beg for alms in another village.

And on September 28, about 400 villagers of Moo 4 Village in Tambon Bangkrachao staged a rally at Wat Rajrangsang to demand the removal of its abbot, Phra Athikarn-sangkom Punyakamo.

The villagers said they had lost faith in the abbot and had for years refused to give him alms. Some of the villagers claimed that the abbot had been drinking and sometimes even took women into his living quarters.

A group of senior monks were on the same day invited to meet the villagers and promised to consider their demand to have the abbot removed. The senior monks asked for 30 days to process the matter. The villagers later reluctantly dispersed.

Villagers living near the temple complained that they never conduct any religious rites at the temple because they had not faith in the monks there.

POPE PRAISES THAILAND

Vatican City - Pope John Paul on June 3 praised Thailand's help to victims of the Indochina conflict but said the Asian country should not be left to shoulder the problem of Indochinese refugees alone.

The Pontiff, who visited a refugee camp during his 1984 trip to Thailand, stressed the church's view that all displaced persons had the right to return to their countries of origin.

He was speaking at a ceremony to present a Vatican Peace Prize worth \$150,000 to the Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, an organization set up by Thai Catholic bishops in 1975.

The Pope said Thailand had set a shining example of solidarity towards people in distress by throwing open its frontiers to the victims of conflict in Indochina.

"On this solemn occasion I want to say that Thai people must not be left alone in bearing the heavy burden of responsibility and assistance in that region of the world," he added.

The Pontiff, recalling that the infant Jesus was forced to flee his native land because of persecution, urged greater

generosity by the international community towards the world's refugees.

He said governments must work together to offer chances of resettlement. "Only political solidarity on a huge scale can produce a satisfactory solution to this serious and longstanding problem," he said. - Reuter

Suchart Kosolkittiwongse

SUCHART SAYS HIS RELIGIOUS CENTRE STILL IN OPERATION

Founder of the controversial Hoopha Sawan cult Suchart Kosolkittiwongse, who surrendered to police on June 27, 1986 after 5 years in hiding. He was immediately released on bail.

A senior police official said that Suchart had made a pre-condition that he be granted bail if he gave himself up.

Pol Lt Gen Narong Allpart, assistant police director general, told reporters that he arranged for Suchart's surrender at his office at the Police Department.



Suchart, the self-proclaimed 'prince', speaks to reporters during a press conference at the Hyatt Central Plaza Hotel on July 7, 1986.

The 43-year old cult leader, who disappeared in late 1981 shortly before a warrant for his arrest was issued, was prepared to prove his innocence in court; according to his close follower, Dr Klum Vatcharobon.

Pol Lt Gen Narong said Suchart is facing six counts of charges that include collaboration with others to author an illegally published book in which he predicted the doomsday for Thailand. He is also accused of trespassing on state property and illegal possession of firearms.

Police in early 1982 uncovered an assortment of high-powered firearms in a pond in front of the religious centre which was allegedly located on a piece of land proclaimed as a protected historical site by the government.

The religious centre, which reportedly attracted large numbers of followers, became a big controversy after its critics had accused it of engaging in scandalous activities that violated national security. Many of its followers included senior government and military officials.

The cult, which then had several branches throughout the country, continued to operate after Suchart's disappearance.

Suchart, who also claimed to be "World Peace Envoy", is said to have been in hiding at homes of some influential people in Thailand.

At the press conference held at the Hyatt Central Plaza Hotel on July 7, Suchart told the Press that he stayed with his followers in Thailand during his five-year disappearance.

He said he had disappeared for a long time because he did not want to be the cause of trouble in the country. "Besides, my omen was not so good during the past four years," he added half-jokingly.

He also denied the charge that the cult received financial aid from overseas.

"All the money we have came from followers," he said.

The former medium, whose activities in the semi-religious centre were alleged to be harmful to national security, said the first thing he would do is to clear himself, adding that he will resume his work after being proven innocent. "Hoopha Sawan is still open. It was our two foundations (Sasana Samphan and She-na-puto foundations) that were dissolved," he added.

However, he said the cult has filed charges against many persons who he said illegally revoked the licences of the two foundations, including former Ratchaburi governor Pathom Suttivatnarueput and former education minister Dr Kasem Sirisamphan, who was then Chairman of the National Cultural Council.

Speaking with a Chinese accent, Suchart, who was appointed World Peace Envoy by the so-called World Constitution and Parliament Association, said he still plans to host what he called a "World Peace Conference" in Thailand.

"How could we deter the World War III when the superpowers are 'shouting' at one another at different places and different times? What we should do is inviting them to talk it out at our Hoopha Sawan centre, where they will learn how to refrain from greed," he said.

Suchart claimed he had sent letters inviting world leaders from almost 50 countries to join the World Peace Conference before a warrant was issued for his arrest in early 1982.

He said he would ask the government if he could host the conference in the future.

His Hoopha Sawan cult was alleged to have received funds from the Soviet Union. There was also an allegation that the cult was an arms-training centre after an assortment of firearms were found there.



ISLAM TEACHING ENCOURAGED IN SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCES

The House Committee on Education supports the teaching of Islam in government schools in the five southernmost provinces, its spokesman said on April 16, 1986.

Spokesman Thongchart Rattanavicha (Democrat-Nakhon Si Thammarat) said the House Committee considers the teaching to be beneficial to national security.

Thongchart said the government should also introduce more incentives for teachers of the subject, such as higher payments.

He said the Committee agrees that the teaching of Islam should be extended to cover all the over 1,000 schools in the five provinces.

MUSLIM SEPARATISTS FORM NEW MOVEMENT

Muslim separatists, having lost faith in two major secessionist movements, have established a new movement to struggle against the Thai Government, 4th Army Region Commander Lt Gen Wanchai Chitchamnong quoted an intelligence report as saying on April 10, 1986

But Wanchai said that apart from the intelligence report, the Thai authorities had not yet detected any activities of the movement at all.

The southern separatists called themselves Mujahideen, he said.

The new movement has reportedly emerged because the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and the BRN movement failed to make progress in their efforts to establish a new state in the southernmost provinces which are densely populated by Thai Muslim people, according to Wanchai.

He said that members of the new movement reportedly carried military ranks and had military positions.

"We are closely monitoring developments that may be related to the report," the regional army commander told reporters.

Referring to reports about Libya-trained Thai terrorists in the South, Wanchai said that these people were actually not terrorists. "They have been forced by circumstances or tricked into applying for membership of an illegal movement when they were in Mecca and Libya on religious pilgrimage," he said.

He added that about 400-500 such Muslim pilgrims had reported to the authorities over the forced membership. Such people probably totalled more than 1,000 and the military had the list of their names, he said.

But Wanchai said that these people had done no harm to the national security.



REPUTED LINK WITH MUSLIM REBELS DENIED

A representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization on April 30 denied news reports that the PLO has been supporting Muslim terrorists in the southern part of Thailand.

The denial was made by chief of the PLO Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi, who was leading a five-member Palestinian delegation on a visit to Thailand as guests of the Foreign Ministry.

Kaddoumi, whose position is equivalent to a foreign minister, dismissed as groundless allegations that the Palestinians have provided aid and training courses to separatists and guerrillas operating in the Muslim-dominated southern provinces.

Israel defence forces, which invaded southern Lebanon in 1982, had come across evidence including passports, suggesting that Thai Muslims were among the international terrorist groups that received military training from the PLO.

The Palestinian said during an interview that the PLO praised Thailand for its vote for a United Nations Security Council resolution that would have condemned the US attack against Libya. He described Washington as an "obstacle" to world peace.

"The US military action against Libya has been strongly denounced by all peace-loving countries, including the PLO, because the American action is against the UN Charter," he said.

Kaddoumi conferred with Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Panúpong and other senior Foreign Ministry officials during the visit on the situation in the Middle East as well as ways to forge closer relations between Thailand and the organization.

When asked if he had raised the issue of setting up a PLO information office in Thailand during the meeting, he said the PLO had earlier submitted the proposal to Thailand and would leave the issue for the Thai side to consider. "But what we really want is the development of mutual relations," he said.



KADHAFY EMISSARY ON 4-DAY VISIT

A special envoy of Libyan leader Mohammad Kadhafy were in Thailand on an publicised four-day visit, informed sources said..

The sources said that Dr Ahmad Muhammad Al-Sharif and his three-man delegation arrived in Bangkok on Friday May 16 to meet with foreign ministry officials.

Dr Ahmad was on a Southeast Asia tour to muster support for Libya against the American air raids.

During his visit to Malaysia, he lashed out at the Western media which he said gave a distorted view of the US air attacks on Libya.

The sources said that the special envoy sought Thailand's support for the proposed plan of holding world conferences to discuss such military action.

Thailand voted against the US action in the United Nations Security Council of which Thailand is a non-permanent member.

An ASEAN diplomatic source said that Dr Ahmad wished to convey the message of Kadhafy to the Thai leaders and his appreciation of Thailand's support for Libya over the American bombings in April.

The source said Foreign Ministry officials were reluctant to say anything related to the visit.

LIBYA DENIES AIDING SOUTHERN SEPARATISTS

Later on May 19, the Libyan envoy told the Press that Libya has never supported or trained Muslim armed separatist in southern Thailand.

Dr Ahmad Muhammad Al-Sharif denied that Libya played a major role in providing funds and training for the several Muslim separatist movements in the southern provinces of Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Satun and Songkhla, during a press conference at Hotel Siam Inter-Continental.

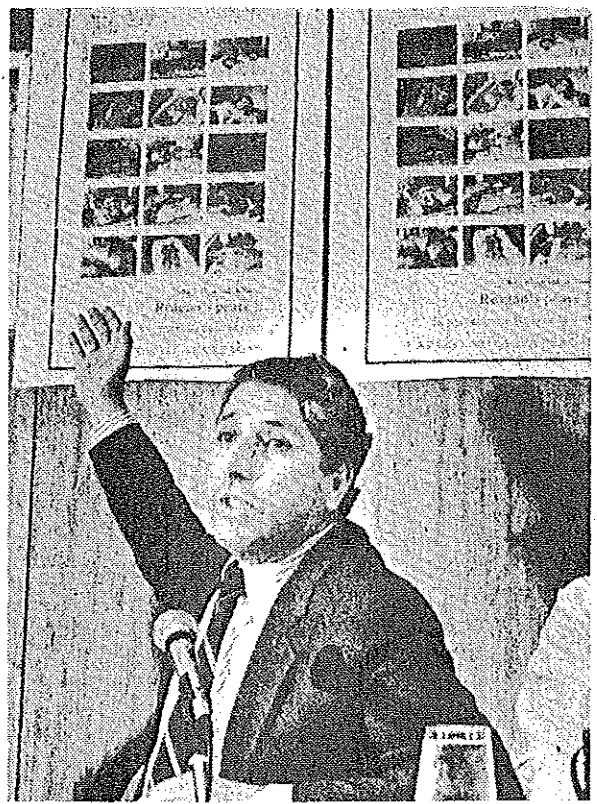
He said the Thai Government understands that Libya does not support them.

"We believe a good Muslim is also a good citizen of his country," he said.

Dr Al-Sharif also said that he was "satisfied" and "happy" with the way the Thai Government treats the local Muslim community.

The Libyan envoy officially met Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Panupong on May 19 to discuss a wide range of topics which include bilateral ties, international and regional issues and the conflict in Kampuchea.

Spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Sawanit Kongsiri said Arun briefed the



Libyan envoy on the Thai Government's policy toward Muslims in Thailand.

Sawavit said there are about three million Muslims in Thailand and they have been enjoying privileges granted by the Thai Government.

Sawanit said the government grants the Muslims special quotas for seats in university and allows the use of Islamic laws in dealing with Muslim problems.

On Kampuchea, Al-Sharif told Arun that he will convey the "comprehensive information" on the conflict and its solution proposed by Thailand and ASEAN to the Libyan Government for consideration.

The Libyan envoy described Thailand as a peaceful non-aligned nation.

Libya has voted against all resolutions proposed by Thailand and ASEAN on the Kampuchean conflict in the United Nations.

Al-Sharif also expressed appreciation for Thailand's vote in favour of a resolution in the UN Security Council that would have condemned the US for its air attacks on Libya.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thailand's vote was based on the UN Charter which deplores the use of force in solving international problems.

The Libyan also told Arun during the talks that Libya is ready to import more products from Thailand, according to Sawanit.

Al-Sharif also praised the estimated 30,000 Thai workers in Libya for their dedication and hard work. He said that there are more opportunities for Thai workers to work there because foreign companies which have won new contracts are very fond of workers from Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand.

He expressed hope that within one year, Libya will be able to set up a "People's Bureau" or embassy here. The Thai Government has been reluctant to grant permission due to the alleged connection between Libya and local separatist movements.

Thailand, Sawanit said, also urged Tripoli to provide financial assistance at the government-to-government level in addition to the people-to-people level.

GOVERNMENT TO LIMIT NUMBER OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

The government is trying to limit the number of foreign missionaries

The government is trying to limit the number of foreign missionaries in the country and will allow only "Necessary" groups to stay, Deputy Education Minister Samphan Thongsamak said in May.

Samphan said the Religious Affairs Department hopes to bring down their

number by ten per cent yearly by not extending their non-immigrant visas.

The government began taking steps in that direction last year and the measures will stay in force until only "necessary" members of each group are left, he said.

The ministry had to limit the missionaries since the number of foreigners who come here on religious missions is increasing, said Samphan, adding that the department's officials would not be able to thoroughly monitor their activities if their number keeps on growing.

He said Thai authorities have consulted with heads of major foreign organizations whose religious establishments are recognized by the department and there was agreement that their numbers should be restricted.

The department asked heads of these principal organizations to consider whether sects that break away from their parent groups should be allowed to preach here.

Apart from Buddhism, there are four other religions which are recognized by the government: Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and Sikhism.

According to Samphan, there are nine organizations of the four religions which the government recognizes as principal bodies: The Buddhist Association of Thailand, Central Islamic Committee of Thailand, Catholic Association of Thailand, the Church of Christ in Thailand, The Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand, Deva Stan Bothprahm (of Hindu mission), Hindu Samg, Hindu Dharma Sabha, and Siri Guru Singh Sabha belonging to the Sikhs.

The department also acknowledges four other establishments as special religious institutions: Office of Chula Rajamontri, Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, the Catholic Mission of Bangkok, and the World Fellowship of Buddhist.

Two foundations, the Foreign Mission Board and Seventh-day Adventists, are recognized as outgrowths of Christianity.

The deputy education minister said several other religious groups were seeking legitimate status from the department so they can institutionally preach their teachings here and their missionaries can have their visas extended.

However, he said the department has discussed with the principal bodies and they concluded that the teachings of these groups contradict theirs and those sects in the same religion.

He said members of these illegitimate sects mostly came into the country as tourists and some were introduced here by Thai expatriates.

All foreign religious groups officially permitted to preach here are governed by the 1981 regulation of the Religious Affairs Department which rules that their activities must not be against Thai law and culture, he said.

Although they are not recognized by Thai authorities, these illegitimate religious groups continue to be active nationwide. Samphan, however, said the department could not take drastic steps to prevent their activities since Thai people have the freedom of religion.

He said foreign missionaries are good at making their ways into the country. "When their visas expire and they cannot get extension, they go to nearby countries and re-enter Thailand as tourists."

700 PEOPLE GROWD AIRPORT
TO WELCOME HOME PRIDI'S ASHES

A crowd of at least 700 friends, admirers and relatives of former statesman Pridi Banomyong, including past and present Thammasat University students gathered at Don Muang Airport to receive the ashes of the former statesman and founder of Thammasat University.



Former Prime minister Luang Thamrongnasavat, one of the few surviving members of the revolutionary movement which changed the country's absolute monarchy to a democracy, sprinkles rose petals on the urn containing the ashes of Pridi Banomyong at Don Muang Airport on May 7, 1986.

The long line of people stretched from Don Muang's VIP Room to the parking lot. In the crowd were Nongyao Chaiseri, Rector of Thammasat University; Poonsook Banomyong, wife of Pridi; Uthai Pimchaichon, House Speaker at the time; as well as some elderly persons who were weeping.

As the urn carrying the ashes passed the orderly crowd, each person reverently sprinkled rose petals on the base of the golden "urn". Distinguished persons included many former members of the now defunct Seri Thai movement as well as representatives from the Vietnamese Embassy. In former days, Vietnamese leaders had close contact with Pridi.

After the ceremonial procedures, the urn containing Pridi's ashes was placed in a car which was covered with flowers.

The motorcade comprising about 50 cars headed towards Wat Banomyong in Ayudhya Province. Leading the procession were two highway police cars. When at Amphur Muang, Ayudhya, about 500 schoolchildren received the motorcade.

Thammasat University, which hosted the ceremonial event, brought back the former statesman's ashes to the University's Dome building later in the day.



Later on May 11, the ashes of late statesman Pridi Banomyong were scattered in the Gulf of Thailand in a solemn ceremony attended by about 200 people aboard a police patrol craft.

The ashes were brought in a procession from Thammasat University to the Marine Police Headquarters in Samut Prakan from which they were put aboard "Darong Rajanuparb" boat to be taken to the gulf.

Pridi's ashes were strewn at 5.10 pm along with those of his son Parn Banomyong and Chamkad Trangkul, a former member of the Seri Thai Movement, who died in China.

Thanpuying poonsook Banomyong said she felt overwhelmed by the large number of people who turned up for the ceremony.

"We are only physically apart. But we still share the ideology and thoughts together," she said of her late husband.



Pridi, a member of the Council of Regents, prime minister, founder of Thammasat University and leader of the Seri Thai Movement, died in Paris three years ago after almost 40 years of political exile.

PEACE MOVEMENT URGES BANGKOK BE DECLARED NUKE-FREE ZONE.

Local peace movement has called on the city administration to declare Bangkok a nuclear-free zone to commemorate the United Nation's International Year of Peace.

Dr Gothom Arya, vice president of the Year of Peace Project, said on August 5 that he would propose the idea to the city administration to mark the 41st anniversary of the first atomic bombing at the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

He said the proposed plan included a ban on the production and installation of nuclear weapons in the city. It also aimed to inform the public of peace issues and encourage Bangkokians to express their determination on world peace, he added.

According to Gothom, Bangkok should be a nuclear-free zone because it is a big community with about 5.5 million population and several historical landmarks locate in the heart of the city.

He said more than 30,000 communities in 37 countries around the world have been declared nuclear-free zone to show their support for the nuclear arms reduction.

About 200 people including academics, students, businessmen, politicians, and representatives of non-governmental organizations attended the opening of a two-day seminar on the "Development of Peace Movement in Thai Society" on August 7 held at Chulalongkorn University.

The seminar aimed to encourage the participation of the public in the celebration of the "International Year of Peace".

On the same day, speaker of the city assembly Pairoj Prasert welcomed the proposal of a peace movement to declare Bangkok a nuclear-free zone.

Speaking after a meeting with Dr Gothom Arya, Pairoj said the idea was interesting and he would seriously consider the proposal because it would benefit the people as a whole.

Gothom handed a letter to the speaker calling the city assembly to pass a legislation declaring the city a nuclear-free zone.

He said Bangkok should follow the other 3,000 cities worldwide banning the production and installation of nuclear facilities.

Dr Gothom told reporters after the meeting that a nuclear-free zone should be initially set up in Bangkok it is the most populated city in the country and the zone should be gradually expanded to other provinces.

Meanwhile, Deputy City Governor Wichai Jiwalai said that the activities of the Year of Peace Project were constructive and in line with the policy of the city administration in making Bangkok a city of peace.

City Governor Chamlong Srimuang also showed keen interest in the activities of the peace movement. He was officially invited to participate in peace activities in Hiroshima and joined the mayors of major world cities to commemorate the atomic disaster.



Human Rights Situations

WHEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR BLOWS HIS TOP

Interior Minister Gen Sitthi Chirachana on March 31 reportedly called a murder suspect "the scum of the earth" and criticized the Press for "exaggerating" his claim of torture by police.

Sitthi said he had received a written police report which categorically denied the allegation by Sunthorn Thammasin, who is accused of murdering a ticketing clerk of the Transport Co in February, that he had been tortured by Parkkred police investigators who wanted him to make confessions.

The minister also dismissed a press report that Pol Lt Gen Prachan Pramphan, the commissioner of the Region One Police had slapped the suspect's face.

"Such a responsible person like him (Prachan) would not have wanted to lay his clean on the face of that scum of the earth," Sitthi said during an interview at the Interior Ministry.

Sitthi also said that the suspect was "hardened person" who cannot even prove that he is a Thai. "He has no identity card or household registration," he said.

The minister then went on to criticize the Press for exaggerating Sunthorn's torture claim. He said the Press was simply undermining the morale of the policemen who tried to perform their duty accordingly.

Sunthorn has claimed that police investigators of Parkkred beat him up and used electric baton to make him confess. He denied the charge that he murdered Mrs Sumalawan Chupia, an alleged member of the bus ticket forgery in gang in the Transport Co.

The Lawyers Council has already launched a probe into Sunthorn's torture claim and indicated that there were grounds to it.

POLICE BRUTALITY CHARGE
MUST BE PROBED IN DEPTH

It is unbecoming of a man of such high stature as Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarochana to dismiss off-hand the police mishandling of a murder case and the subsequent alleged torture of the murder-suspect.

Mrs Sumalawan Chupia, an alleged member of the Transport Co ticket forgery gang, was murdered on Feb 27 and Sunthorn Thammasin was arrested and charged with having committed the murder.

The mishandling of the case came when he was paraded before TV cameras as if he were a convicted murderer and the following day, March 19, an identification parade was wheld in which a witness picked him out - half of Bangkok citizens could have done the same.

Then came reports in the Press of Sunthorn being tortured in the Parkkred District police station with Sunthorn alleging that the police used persuasion, threat and torture to make him confess to the murder; Sunthorn also showed marks on his body which he said were caused by beating by police interrogators. Then came a catenation of events which even a man in so lofty a position as interior minister can not ignore.

1. A group of reporters charged that the chief investigator of the Parkkred police station, Pol Lt Col Udom Pochana, had made veiled threats against them. They took the matter up to the Reporters Association of Thailand which asked Police Director General Narong Mahanonda to probe the charge.

2. On March 28, the Lawyers Council launched an investigation into the alleged torture, and three members met Sunthorn to probe the matter further.

3. Democrat MP Suthat Ngernmuen said that he was convinced of police brutality against Sunthorn and that electric shocks and beatings were administered. He wanted

the House of Representatives' Administrative Affairs Committee to investigate the matter.

The matter of police brutality is escalating so much that it cannot be dismissed by Interior Minister Sitthi by saying that Sunthorn is the "Scum of the earth" - and even if he is, he is a human being and deserves to be treated as one. He is constitutionally innocent until convicted by court. Sitthi also cites a police report that no brutality was used. Did he really expect to receive a report to the contrary? Sitthi says, "He has no identity card or household registration" - a perfect non sequitur. Does that mean that Sunthorn need not be treated as a human being? Despite all this Sunthorn continues to profess his innocence.

At the moment the least that Sitthi can do is to set up an impartial investigation committee to inquire exhaustively into the charges brought against the Parkkred police interrogators. But even that might not suffice to satisfy public because of an administration cover-up.

An independent inquiry as Rep Suthat suggests may be the best. It is necessary at this stage to bolster public confidence in the police force and not let it rest on the words of the interior minister. The police officers themselves who have flatly denied the charge, should welcome such an inquiry which would mean that their names will not be under a cloud of suspicion - they should be proved innocent or guilty - and that could be done only by an independent committee of inquiry.

THONGBAI TAKES SITTHI TO TASK

Human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongpao also criticized Interior Minister Gen Sitthi Chirarochana for what he described as his "slandorous statement" against a murder suspect.

Thongbai said on April 1 the suspect, Sunthorn Thammasin, who is accused of murdering a ticketing clerk of the Transport Co on Feb 27, had not yet been found guilty by the court.

The lawyer said it was not Sitthi's duty to condemn the suspect.

Thongbai said Sunthorn had the right in self-defence by reporting to the press the claimed police brutality. "The Press was also doing its duty in reporting what he said," he said. Thongbai also suggested if the policemen felt offended by the reports, they could take the matter to the court.

The human rights lawyer reportedly said that Sunthorn can file a slander charge against Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarochana for his statement.



GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW ORDER ON COMBATTING COMMUNISM

The government has issued a new order that reaffirms the anti-communist strategy of pressuring the Communist Party of Thailand to lay down its arms and adopt legal political means to attain its objective, informed sources disclosed in early June.

The order outlines guidelines to achieving the goal, including further strengthening the Constitutional Monarchy, reconciling social conflicts and maintaining military pressure on the Party's jungle fighters.

The Prime Minister's Order No.47/B.E. 2529, signed by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda on March 24, this year, also gives priority to the struggle against CPT, as against its "front members and movement," and its armed force.

The rationale behind it is the assessment that the "acute ideological conflicts" in the top leadership of the outlawed party are still taking their toll and should be utilized.

The PM's order, issued to further elaborate on previous anti-communist orders, including the PM's Order 66/B.E. 2523 and the PM's Order No. 65/B.E. 2526, seems to



be theoretical guidance in a systematic way rather than a set of practical instructions, as some observers see it. It calls for the practical realization of the theoretical lines but is ambiguous on the ways to achieve the final objective of establishing a "perfect and strong democracy under HM the King as head of state."

The objectives are the key to final victory over the armed struggle of the outlawed party, it says.

The order says that all ways must be used to pressure the CPT, its leaders and core members at all levels to renounce the armed struggle. As for the front movement, the order says there is a need to step up efforts to reconcile conflicts in the bureaucracy and the private sector, as well as all groups of people lest the banned party exploit the conflicts to spark a civil war.

WRONG GOVT POLICY MAY STRENGTHEN CPT

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh warned on July 22 that a wrong policy pursued by the government may give the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) a chance to regain its lost strength.

In a new conference, the army chief also said that the Kampuchean problem does not pose a major security concern because Hanoi is engulfed with many difficulties, including ideological rift within the top Vietnamese leadership. The Vietnamese, he said, failed to achieve its target of building strong proxy Khmer force to allow the pull-out of Vietnamese troops, set for 1990.

Gen Chavalit said the government had basically put an end to the CPT's revolutionary war, given the successive setbacks which dwindled the armed strength of the banned party from a peak of 10,000 to only 400-500 now.

Yet, the decrease should not be taken as the criteria of the government's decisive success, according to Gen Chavalit, who added that the CPT's threat will not cease so far as the party's platform to seize state powers through an armed struggle is still there.

"If the government made a mistake, the armed strength can grow rapidly, posing a major threat to the national security again," he said.

He also warned that CPT had put emphasis on front work in accordance with late Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung's theory of forming alliance with or infiltrating political parties, political groups and local influential groups.

"We usually overlook the latter form of the front groups," he said. Gen Chavalit said that CPT was still a major problem because without such an armed struggle inside the country, foreign powers cannot have an excuse to invade Thailand. The domestic threat, he said, was intertwined with potential external threats.

Asked whether CPT had infiltrated some political parties, Gen Chavalit said that he believes all political parties have pride and prestige, so much that they would not let CPT to exploit them. In addition, CPT does not have the capability to win leadership in the political parties, according to the army chief.

Referring to the Kampuchean issue, Gen Chavalit said over the past eight years, Vietnam had failed to achieve its goal in Kampuchea.

Vietnam, he said, aims to pull out its troops from the country by 1990 and the success must hinge on two factors: whether it will be able to build up a local force to control the situation from the Vietnamese; and whether ASEAN would back down on its stand against the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

As regards to the first factor, Gen Chavalit said that Hanoi had built about six divisions of Heng Samrin force comprising more than 10,000 troops, of whom only about 600 are combatants. However, the Khmer force has been losing its confidence in the Vietnamese force, he said. ASEAN, he said, has been adamant it its stand against the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

Gen Chavalit said that the Vietnamese did not only face the Kampuchean problem but had problem inside their own country, namely the ideological rifts within the Politburo, the top-level policy making body of the country.

He did not identify the rift and added that the problem inside the Vietnamese leadership was not expected to affect its Kampuchean policy.

"It depends on the next four years. Any side which has the time on its side will win," he said.

Referring to the rifts within the anti-Vietnamese Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, Gen Chavalit said they differed from the conflicts within Vietnamese leadership because the former would lead to growth and development as against deterioration.

ARMY TO REVISE ANTI-RED STRATEGY

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said on August 25 at a news conference that he expected the review to be finalized in time for an announcement at next year's meeting on the government's performance against communist insurgents.

The need to revise the government's strategy has arisen from the banned Communist Party of Thailand's success in restoring its influence, he said. The outlawed party has shifted its emphasis from armed struggle to front affairs, according to the army chief.

Gen Chavalit said that the government's strategy would be revised to the effect that more emphasis would be given on the task to diminish and liquidate the front members of the outlawed party.

"Our officials are working on the question of how to go about to achieve the goal," he said when asked about the directions of the new anti-communist plan.

He added that the revised strategy must include guidelines to distinguish "friends from foes".

Gen Chavalit said that the army has to monitor CPT's achievements and shortcoming in its efforts to solicit new front people.

"This is a more important problem the tendency that some local authorities have resumed abuse of powers - a factor which has been encouraging villagers to switch to the banned party," he said.

He added that the party's setbacks in its armed struggle prompted a shift in its strategy to soliciting more sympathisers. The CPT's new strategy worked well, he admitted.

The armed strength of the CPT is now put at about 600-700 men and most of them are operating in the South.

TACTICAL SHIFT IN POLICY TO FIGHT COMMUNISTS

In a tactical change of strategy to fight communists, the Royal Thai Army will soon shift its priority to efforts to neutralize the role of "front organizations and people" rather than stymie the leadership of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT).

This tactical shift is the highlight of the RTA's master plan to combat communism in the coming year. The master plan has been finalized and may soon be announced before the end of the year.

Another highlight of the master plan is the reference to the pro-Soviet communist party, known unofficially as Pak Mai (the New Party). The allusion was made for the first time because the RTA has received reports confirming the establishment of Pak Mai's strongholds along the Thai-Lao border.

However, CPT will remain the priority target in the efforts to weed out communism.

The sources said that the master plan was the result of a series of brainstorming meetings called by Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh on August 1. Attending the sessions were assistant army chiefs-of-staff in charge of operations, intelligence, personnel, logistics and civilian affairs as well as middle-ranking army officers from the five sections.

Gen Chavalit reportedly approved the master plan in late August in his capacity as general director of the anti-communist drive.

The sources said that political alternatives will take precedence over military operations in the next fiscal year. The question of "front people" in particular was discussed at length during the meetings which concluded that this has become an outstanding issue that needs to be solved immediately and should be given top priority.

In a broad strategy formulated years ago, the army has identified the CPT's armed forces, leadership, front organizations and people as the three targets to fight against communism.

Initially, top on the priority list were the outlawed, armed communist forces while the front organizations followed a close second. But two years ago the priority was shifted to stymie CPT's leadership and that has been maintained ever since.

The sources attributed this strategy change to the weakening of CPT leadership to a significant extent over the past two years.

The meaning of front organizations and people have also been redefined in the new blueprint to the effect that they include not only the people who cooperate with CPT but also those who have "unconsciously" helped the communist party.

These include capitalists, anti-democracy elements, people who create and aggravate social problems and highly placed people who exert influence over the state authorities.

In this connection, the civilian affairs sections of all the regional armies will be given a more prominent role in tackling the question of these front line people and organizations, according to the sources.

The master plan is expected to be revealed during the forthcoming semi-annual meeting of anti-communist officers soon to be held.



DAMRI GETS 10 YEARS, EX-BODYGUARD 8

The Military Court on April 24 sentenced Damri Ruangsutham, a former politburo member of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT), to 10 years in prison on communist charges.

The verdict is final and no appeal can be made. The sentence is effective retroactive April 1981 when Damri, 63, was arrested in Surat Thani.

The court also sentenced Prakorb Thongthueng, 28, Damri's ex-bodyguard, to 8 years in jail.

The verdict was postponed from March after a trial which lasted almost three years because Damri had been admitted to the Police Hospital for an eye surgery.

Damri and Prakorb were arrested in April 1981 while they were on what Damri claimed to be a mission to negotiate a truce on behalf of the CPT with government authorities. The two were formally charged in the Military Court in August the following year.

Defence lawyer Thongbai Thongpao said since the verdict was given by the Military Court, no appeal can be made.

The court initially sentenced Damri to 12 years in jail after finding him guilty of communist charges but commuted it to eight years after he pleaded guilty. The court also added another two years after Damri was found guilty of using a fake ID card.

The same court in January also sentenced communist suspect Surachai Sae Darn to death for the murder of a police officer during a train robbery in Surat Thani in 1978. Several human rights organizations have been campaigning for a royal pardon for Surachai.



Former Communist figures Sentenced: Damri Ruangsutham (with sunglasses), a former senior politburo member of the Communist Party of Thailand, and his ex-bodyguard Prakorb Thongthueng, wave to photographers from a police car after they were sentenced to 10 and 8 years in prison respectively.



GREEN PARTY APPEALS FOR SURACHAI'S CLEMENCY

Two representatives of the Green Party of West Germany on April 1 sought a royal clemency for convicted communist insurgent Surachai Sae Darn who was sentenced to death by the Military Court in January this year.

They submitted the petition through human rights lawyer Thongbai Thongpao, who is Surachai's defence lawyer, at Viangtai Hotel in Bangkok.

The two Green Party members, Wilfried Telkaemper and Barbara Ummuessig, reportedly visited Thailand to look into several cases of human rights violations.

Telkaemper said the Green Party has no intention to interfere with Thailand's internal affairs or question the judgement of the Military Court. But he said the Party is appealing for clemency for Surachai.

"We feel greatly concerned about the life of Mr Surachai Sae Darn, the more so, since the arrest of the accused was made at the time of armistice talk with a representative of the government," the letter said in part.

It was referring to Surachai's arrest in 1981 when he was meeting Sanong Rodphotong, then governor of Surat Thani, to negotiate a ceasefire on behalf of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). Surachai was

sentenced to death after being found guilty of killing a police officer during a train robbery in the southern province in 1978.

The letter also said that several campaigns on Surachai's behalf are being launched in some European countries.

Telkaemper and Unmuessig said that they will try to raise Surachai's case in the German Parliament and the European Parliament.

They said their party will also try to forward the case to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The two Green Party's members said Uschi Ied, an MP of the Party, had earlier submitted a letter to HM the King to ask for clemency for Surachai.

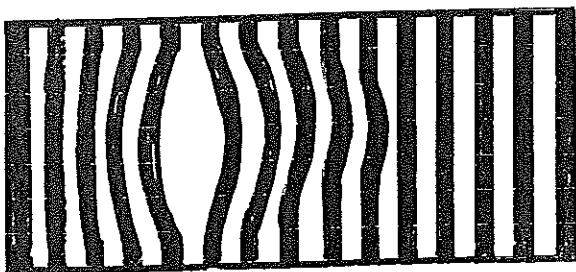
On April 1 Thongbai accompanied the two Germans to visit Surachai at the Bang Kwang maximum security prison where the convict is being jailed.

Thongbai said the Germans who previously thought Surachai was ill-treated in the prison were satisfied with the convict's conditions.

"I am glad that Surachai case has attracted international attention and many organizations have helped campaign for Surachai's clemency," the lawyer said.

The two members of the Green Party said that this is the first time the Green Party campaigns in a human rights case in Thailand.

They also met with the Dutch ambassador to Thailand and called on the West German ambassador respectively.



KING PARDONS CANADIAN

One Canadian convicted on charges of possessing heroin has been granted a royal pardon and released but his alleged partner remains in jail after having time added to his original sentence, a prison official said on April 28.

A Canadian Embassy official, who asked not to be named, said Michel Longpre returned home on April 26 after receiving a pardon on April 10 from King Bhumipol Adulyadej.

The prison official said Longpre and Gilles Massicotte were arrested Feb 26, 1981, after being found with 100 grammes of heroin. They each received a sentence of 25 years.

Both men are from L'Assomption, Quebec province.

While Massicotte was in Bang Kwang Prison, he was caught holding another 1.5 grammes of heroin and another year and a half was added to his sentence, the prison official said.

JUVENILE CENTRE BREAK-OUT

Four young inmates at Baan Metta in Bang Khen District assaulted an official and escaped from the juvenile centre on September 21, police said.

Intorn Srisaikam, the official at Baan Metta, fainted after he was attacked by the four boys armed with a club, one of whom was recaptured by police.

The youths, aged between 15-17, were identified as Niyom Nimnoi, Prasit Malikul, Ubon Kluaklai and Kampol Saengthong.

Officials said the boys climbed a wall of the juvenile centre and fled to Chaengwattana Road.



One of the inmates, Kampol, was apprehended in a field near the road. He was quoted as saying that the group plotted the escape a long time ago. He told police that he intended to visit his sister in the northern province of Tak.

Photo show police taking Kampol Saengthong, one of the young inmates, back to Baan Metta.

28 JUVENILE DELINQUENTS PICKED UP

On September 17, 1986 police picked up 28 teenagers from several shopping centres for alleged juvenile delinquency.

An officer of the Children and Youths Welfare Division of the Police Department said the teenagers were mostly between 14-16 years old and some were runaways from well-to-do families.

He said many of them lived together in a rented house. They were quoted as saying they paid 10 baht each daily for the rent.



Some of the teenagers had admitted to having smoke marijuana.

The police officer said the teenagers were to be detained at the Home for Girls in Phayathai until they were collected by their parents.

Photo show some of the girls in a police van after they were picked up.

TEACHER FORCES BOY TO EAT FAECES

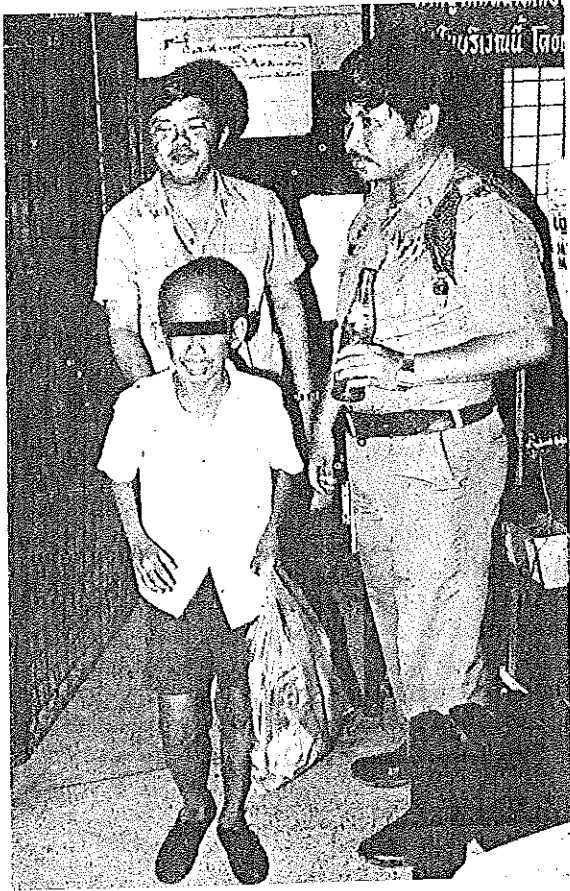
Phatthalung - Police received a complaint from a father who claimed that a school teacher in Muang District forced his son to eat his own faeces.

Sawat Wichien, 50, on August 2 told the police that Ms Anorat Sarasmitr, a teacher of Suksa Songkroh Phatthalung boarding school, forced his son, Choosri Wichien, 7, to eat his faeces after she found that the boy had excreted on the second floor of the dormitory.

The man said the teacher, who took care of the dormitory, ordered the boy to eat his faeces and smeared the rest of it on his head in front of other schoolboys who were assembled to watch him. He found out about the event later from his neighbours because his son was afraid to tell him about the incident.

The police said they would try to find a compromise on the matter.

No further report is filed.



BOY ARRESTED FOR CARRYING HEROIN

A 10-year-old boy was arrested on August 4 with 160 grammes of heroin in his possession. He was sent to Parkred reformatory home on August 12 before prosecuted in Juvenile Court.

Phra Khanong police said the boy, Vichet Chulmonthon, has not been contacted by his parents since his arrest.

He openly wept as he was taken out of the cell at the police station and taken to the home in Nonthaburi.

Vichet, still in his school uniform, was apprehended by Phra Khanong police who found 160 grammes of heroin in his school-bag while he was asking a mini-bus driver to take him to the home of a man. The boy identified the man who paid him 100 baht for the heroin delivery only as "Kaek".

Vichet told reporters he was not aware that what he had in the school-bag was heroin.

"I just learned that it was illegal after being arrested," said Vichet, adding he wanted to see his father.

The boy said he had been hired by Kaek three times to deliver drugs from Soi Naksartsana in Phra Khanong to his home in Klong Toey slum.

"I never knew what I was delivering because it was wrapped with newspapers. And he told me not to open it," he said.

He said he would never engage in such illegal activity again if he was freed.

"I'll work as a drummer in a "Lam Tat" folk singing troupe," he said.

Police still are hunting for Kaek whom the boy described as a man who always helped slum squatters in trouble.

3 HELD FOR TRYING TO SELL BABIES

LOEI - Police arrested three Thai hilltribe people on July 9 who were allegedly trying to sell three infants at a camp for Laotian refugees in this northeastern province.

The three suspects, one man and two women of the Yao tribe, however, denied the charge and said they brought the children, all less than three years old, to their cousins in the Baan Vinai camp because their parents had died.

The police identified the three as Anant Seanfak, 29, Mrs Famjoi sae Han, 19, and Mrs Muangduan sae Lee, 34. The man is a resident of Phayao while the two women are of Chiang Rai.

Pol Lt Poj Sornnakorn, chief of the security guard of Baan Vinai, said the police caught the three while they were holding the babies in the camp and could not provide

the names of the babies' parents and relatives.

He said the three have allegedly sold several babies before.

They were taken into custody at the local police station at Pakchom District.



103 BABIES ADOPTED BY FOREIGNERS

The Public Welfare Department last year gave permission for 103 babies to be adopted by foreigners.

It said there were applications from 600 foreigners to adopt Thai babies last year. Americans topped the list of the applicants, followed by English, French, German and Saudis.

It said another 635 babies were also adopted by the Thais last year.



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS BODY TAKES ON PUBLIC AGENCIES

An organization for children has asked the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) and the Public Works Department to take responsibility for the death of a child who was killed after plunging into a manhole last month.

The Children's Rights Protection Centre said in a letter to the chiefs of the two agencies that they should pay compensation to the parents of the child.

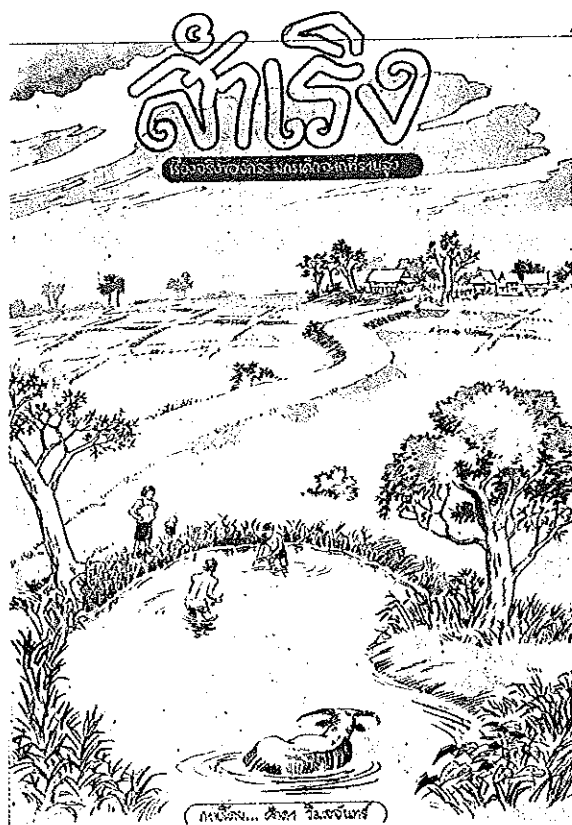
TOT has denied responsibility for the incident saying that the Public Works Department was in charge of the manhole.

Saengduan Yothino, 3, fell into the sewer near Pinklao Bridge which was used for underground telephone cables and died on March 10.

Sappasit Kumprophan, a coordinator of the Children's Rights Protection Centre, told local reporters that two agencies should share the responsibility for the incident by paying compensation to the child's parents.

TOT earlier made what it described as a "humanitarian donation" of 5,000 baht to the child's parents. But Sappasit said the money was too little and cannot be considered a compensation.

Employees of TOT also raised another 9,500 for the couple who are construction workers.



TRAGIC TALE OF A CHILD LABOURER

Samrueng Puanglard, a child labourer in Bangkok died from the ill treatment received from his employer, a fluorescent-lamp factory owner. His death led to a police raid on the factory and other child labourers were rescued. The factory owner was later caught and fined,

he was also ordered pay compensation to Samrueng's family.

This story was told in cartoon-style in a book entitled "Samrueng."

Though the book is in the form of cartoon illustrations, the story of Samrueng is real. The Foundation for Children, its publisher, intends to circulate the book throughout the country, especially in drought-stricken areas where most child labourers come from.

It is meant to be a warning to parents who may otherwise send their children to Bangkok as child labourers.

In the story, Samrueng was a village boy in Baan Nong Snueng of Surin Province. Tragedy struck one year, rice fields turned barren and famine resulted, badly affecting Samrueng's family.

Persuaded by a neighbour whose children were leaving for Bangkok to work in a factory which paid 3,000 baht for each child for a year labour, Samrueng's father decided to send Samrueng along with his neighbour's children.

With high hopes for a better life himself and his family, Samrueng was elated at the prospects of being the family's bread-winner. Only when he reached the factory did he realize that life as a child labourer was a miserable one.

He, together with other children, was forced to work long hours from morning until late at night in the fluorescent-lamp factory, owned by a Chinese. He was subject to harsh punishment when he failed to follow instructions or when he was caught trying to escape from the factory.

Aside from hard work, and un nourishing food, the children worked in a dimly lit room with poor ventilation. They started to get sick and Samrueng was no exception, he was later sent back home because of his poor health. But just before he made it to his house where his parents awaited him, the ill-fated Samrueng collapsed and died.

In this book, not only Samrueng's story is told, it also includes information on child labour law and places where parents and children can seek help from the authorities.

The book priced at 15 baht can be purchased through money order sent to Pimol Kongcharoenkiat, the Foundation for Children at 180/10 Soi Wat Deedua, Chran-snitwong 12, Bangkok Yai, Bangkok 10600 or you may call for further information at 412-1196.

COMBATTING CHILD ABUSE

The abuses of the child labour is becoming a serious social problem in the country that urgently needs efforts from both the government and private agencies in exploring an effective solution.

Voravan Thanaphibul, director of the Labour Department's Woman and Child Labour Division, estimated that there are about 1.07 million children over the age of eleven working in the production sector.

*Children = up to 18 yrs?
or what?*

The number represents about 4.6 per cent of the total work force of the country.

Eighty-nine per cent of these work in the agricultural sector as family workers and assistants. Another 10.2 per cent work in non-agricultural sectors, especially industry and manufacturing, commerce and services while the rest comprise of those who are self-employed or work as government employees.

In industry and manufacturing sector, the director said, children are mostly employed in food production and food processing businesses such as small candy, sweet, gum, biscuit, canned food and pickled fruit factories.

There is a strong and fast-growing trend showing the employment of child workers in the areas of garment manufac-

turing, commerce and services, and particularly in foodshops and restaurants. A number of children are also employed for household work.

She said working children usually receive much lower wages than adult workers although there is no legal specification about the distinction between the minimum wages for the two groups.

In practice, the daily wage for children ranges from 25-50 baht. In other words, a child worker earns between 300-1,500 baht monthly with or even without lodging or food from the employer.

According to Voravan, a number of employers pay child workers on an annual wage basis. Most of the wage is paid to their parents in advance and the remaining sum is paid later to either the working children or the parents. The average annual wage for children is about 3,000 - 4,500 baht including accommodation and food.

She said most of these children worked under unfavourable conditions such as small and inappropriate places, longer working hours than specified by the labour law and without day off, lack of opportunities for education, training and recreation, lack of communication with their families, and have food with low nutritional value.

CAUSES AND JUSTIFICATIONS OF CHILD LABOUR

In her presentation to the Asian Regional Tripartite Workshop on "Measures to Combat Child Labour" held at the Imperial Hotel September 22-30, Voravan identified the causes and justifications of child labour from the points of views of concerned parties as follows:

1) Government The six-year compulsory education system is an important factor in sending children into the labour market before the proper age. Children generally complete the primary education when they are between 11-13 years old and those who cannot afford higher education are forced to work to support their families.

The existing Child Labour Protection Law allows the employment of children between the age 12-15 in certain businesses without prior permission from the authorities, but its enforcement is evidently not effective. Besides, the legislation does not seem to provide sufficient protective measures for child labourers.

2) Communities and Families The prevailing poverty in the rural areas together with the decline in prices of agricultural products as well as the unfavourable economic climate are major causes pushing children into the labour market.

3) Employers The lack of moral and social responsibility among employers has hampered the opportunity of child labour development and causing the exploitation of child labour.

4) Job Placement Agencies and Brokers The ineffective control and monitor of the activities of job placement agencies have also contributed to the exploitation of child workers.

PROBLEMS OF WORKING CHILDREN

Voravan summarized the problems as follows:

1) Unfair Treatment Include unusually long working hours, less or no day off, poor welfare provision, and lowwages with small or no overtime payment.

2) Poor Provided Food Most of the working children are given poor quality food and sometimes insufficient amount, causing malnutrition among them.

3) Health Problem Poor nutrition together with inadequate rest period and unhygienic living as well as working conditions deteriorate both physical and mental health of child workers.

4) Work Safety Problem Since children are still not mature enough or not trained to work in some areas, accidents at workplace which involve child labourers are at high rate.

5) Self Adjustment Problem Children between 12-14 years of age considered to be in the transitional period from their childhood into adulthood. A number of them have difficulties in understanding and adjusting themselves with new environment if proper care and attention were not given to them.

The director called on the public to give more attention to the abuse of child labour. She suggested that more resources should be pooled together to support the efforts to combat the problem.

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LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS PRESS FOR HOUSE PANEL ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

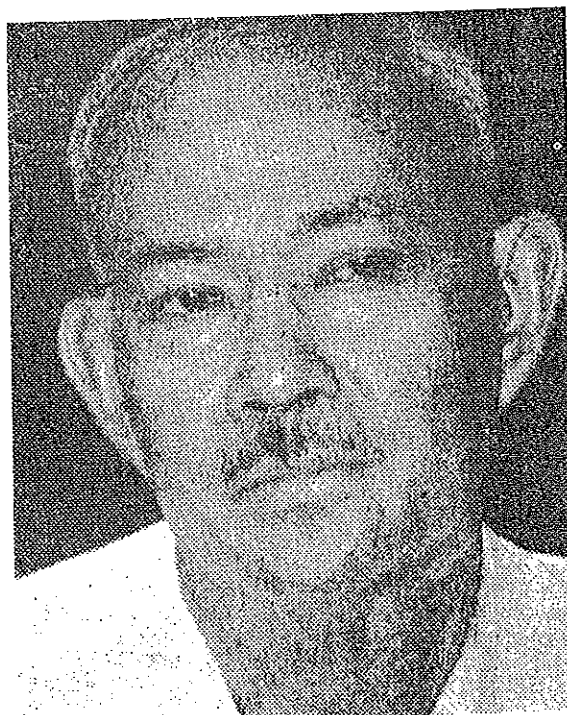
Local human rights organizations called on the House of Representatives to set up a committee to monitor and investigate civil rights violations by government officials.

Lawyer and chairperson of the Union for Civil Liberty (Thailand), speaking on behalf of a coalition of local human rights groups, said on August 20 he would submit a letter to House Speaker Chuan Leekpai urging him to support the formation of a House committee on human rights.

The groups include the Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS), the Friends of Women Group, The Coordinating Commission of Human Rights Organization, The Justice and Peace Commission for Development, The Union for Civil Liberty (Thailand), the The Children rights Protection Centre of the Children Foundation.

Charn Kaewchusai said people mistreated by government officials are often reluctant to file complaints fearing their petitions would not be handled fairly.

Therefore, he said, an independent agency such as the proposed House committee on human rights should be set up to investigate and monitor the violations of the civil rights by authorities.



**CHARN**

The lawyer said lawmakers can look into the cases without being subject to pressure from the administrative branch.

The move came after a report that a worker of the Union for Civil Liberty (Thailand), Somchai Hom-la-or, decided to leave the country for his own safety.

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6 POLICEMEN ACCUSED OF MURDERING SUSPECT

About 20 people from Petchaburi Province rallied at the headquarters of the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) on September 19, 1986. They sought legal action against six policemen whom they accused of having slain a defenceless suspect in their district.

The angry villagers, who came from Cha-am District, called on CSD Commander Pol Maj Gen Boonchu Wangkanont to have six district police officers tried on charge of murder.

The group, led by the murder victim's father Chit Chaitrong, charged that Pol

Sgt Maj Thongkam Klinchan, Pol Sgt Maj Boonchuay Buanoi, Pol Sgt Prakorb Ekchin, Pol Lance Corporal Apichat Boonlakorn, Pol Pvt Palakij Nawong and another policeman collaborated to murder Chusak Chaitrong after accusing him of illegally possessing a pistol.

Chusak was allegedly killed by one of the policemen while trying to escape on the way to the district police station, his father said.

He said his son was arrested while he was visiting a friend's house. He said the police searched the house and nabbed his son after discovering a gun there.

Chit said that Cha-am police did not accept a petition to have the policemen investigated. He added that the incident was witnessed by many people.

FOUR INMATES DIE OF INTERNAL INJURIES IN ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Nakhon Si Thammarat - Four inmates show staged a jailbreak attempt at the Thung Song prison on September 1 died of internal wounds resulting from a struggle with authorities, a doctor who examined their bodies said on September 3.

Director of the Thung Song Hospital Dr Luan Boochakorn said there were bruises on their bodies and it was assumed that the four convicts suffered serious internal injuries before they died.

He said that no autopsies were performed by doctors.

Meanwhile, Commander of Thung Song prison Prakrit Watcharasawat said relatives of the dead - Sawai Chaiyanupong, an attempted murder suspect; Kamnueng Sukpote, a robbery suspect; Somchai Prachak and Samsak Ponghom, both murder and robbery suspects - accepted the situation and will not pursue legal actions against authorities for the killing.

Director General of the Corrections Department Sanit Rujinarong said that au-

thorities severe action against the inmates could not be regarded as an "excessive use of force" by authorities. "As stipulated in the law, prison officials can even shoot inmates who try to escape," he said.

Deputy Interior Minister Chaleo Wacharapuk, meanwhile, said that he had ordered the Corrections Department to probe the real cause of the deaths.

An earlier report said that that the four convicts were killed by other inmates who were assigned to help a warder held hostage by the group.

Director of the Corrections Department's Penology Division Siri Srisawat said if the investigation showed that authorities were involved in the murder, the case would be brought to court.

He also said that the department did not have a policy to kill every inmate who tried a jailbreak, but admitted that sometimes warders assaulted and killed prisoners who staged escape bids.

102 ILLEGAL ALEINS ROUNDED UP

On September 10, 1986 Immigration Police rounded up 102 aliens, many of them children, in a Buddhist temple in Phra Khanong District, police said.

All of the aliens are Napalese and Burmese. Eighty-four of them have



Many children are among the 102 Nepalese and Burmese rounded up by immigration police in Phra Khanong area.

no legal documents, but 18 have Thai ID cards, police disclosed.

After the arrest, Somchai Tawulay, 21, and Ghanmadus Tawulay, 17, complained that they possessed ID cards issued by Phra Khanong District in Bangkok, and they did not know why police arrested them.

The immigration police said they made the arrest because the suspects' parents had illegally entered Thailand. Police said they did not know why government officials issued them the ID cards.

However, police said this case have to be sent to court, and then all the illegal aliens have to go back to their native countries. But people who were born in Thailand can petition the authorities for citizenship.

Songwut Rayee, 33, one of the suspects, said he served in the Army service for two years in Kanchanaburi Province. The native Nepalese said he earned a living working as a tour guide at Royal Plaza Hotel in Bangkok.

"I have never thought of going back to Nepal," Songwut said. "Nepal has no jobs and I have never been to Nepal either. I was born here and I think I'm a Thai," he added.

Most Nepalese in Thailand entered the country during the World War II period. At first, they worked in mines at Pirok, Tongpapoom District in Kanchanaburi Province. In 1983, there were about 800 Nepalese in the mines, but after those mines went out of business, they moved into Bangkok.

Most of the Nepalese in Bangkok live together by renting houses in the Wat Tai areas in Soi Onnuj. Male Nepalese usually work as security guards, while the female work as housekeepers. Almost all of the arrested Nepalese are adults born in Thailand.



2,000 ILLEGAL CHINESE HAW ARRESTED

Authorities have arrested about 2,000 Chinese Haw people who illegally entered northern towns for doing business, during a joint campaign by military, police and local officials, a senior police officer disclosed in Chiang Mai province early April.

The campaign, starting in March to early April, has been launched in 17 northern provinces where about 40,000 Chinese Haw people live.

Pol Maj Gen Vichai Vichaitanapat, deputy commander of the Third Regional Police, disclosed to the Press that about 40,000 Chinese Haw who have not been granted Thai citizenship, live in limited areas in several border districts especially in Fang of Chiang Mai and Mae Sai of Chiang Rai.

The Interior Ministry had informed the Chinese Haw to register for "yellow cards" at district offices in areas where they live. The yellow cards are issued for the Chinese Haw to show that they are legal aliens and are allowed to live in the areas, limited by the government.

Since being informed, about 8,000 Chinese Haw people in Fang and 6,000 others in Mae Sai have come to district offices for registration. The police officer said the registration is aimed at surveying the number of the Chinese Haw living in Thailand and preventing illegal immigration into the country.

After receiving the yellow cards, Chinese Haw who have been living in Thailand for five to ten years will have a chance to receive the identification cards, according to Vichai. He also said the police were also investigating whether some minority groups were engaged in drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, Lau Lee, leader of Kuomintang group, said about 10,000 Chinese Haw have received permanent identification cards while 7,000-8,000 others have temporary alien cards.

Lau Lee, who used to be chief of staff of the Kuomintang force, said former members of the Kuomintang have been disarmed and have given up politics. He said a Chinese Haw family in his group earn about 100,000 baht annually from agriculture.



400 HILLTRIBE HMONGS FACE RELOCATION

More than 400 Hmong hilltribe people in Chomthong District of Chiang Mai are facing a possible relocation following low-land villagers' protest over deforestation by them.

An informed military source told the Press the Third Army Region was investigating a claim by the villagers that the hilltribes people have been destroying sources of water through deforestation in the area of Ban Phaklouy on Doi Inthanond mountain range.

He said the military will make an aerial survey soon to inspect Ban Phaklouy area whose forests were calimed by the low-land villagers to be denuded.

He said a total of 439 hilltribe people, 415 of them are the Hmongs while the others are the Karen and Chinese Haw ethnic, will be moved out of the area if the villagers' claim has been proved to be true.

About 400 low-land villagers, led by a senior monk from the provincial seat, in February staged the protest, demanding the hilltribe people move out of Ban Phaklouy area. They claimed that the hilltribes' deforestation have been destroying the sources of streams flowing down to their villages.

Several streams flowing down from Ban Phaklouy, located about 1,200 metres above the sea level, have been dried up, according to the source.

The source said the protesting villagers also built up barricades around the sources of the streams on the moun-

tainous watershed to prevent the hilltribes' encroachment.

The military source said the soldiers in December last year a total of 688 rai of poppy plantations in Ban Phaklouy.

He said he expected no poppy plantation in the area during the coming poppy cultivation season (November to February).

The Public Welfare Department and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) have been providing assistance, such as substitution crop seed, to the hilltribe villagers in Ban Phaklouy.

Meanwhile, soldiers and forestry officials started a relocation on April 14 of more than 170 Hmong hilltribes in the area of Huay Yooyee in Huay Khakhaeng National Forest Reserve in Uthai Thani.

A senior forestry official said the Hmongs will be settled down in a hilltribe centre in Pop Phra Sub-district of Tak. However, he said the Pop Phra centre, which is expected to shelter all of hilltribe people encroaching national forest reserves in the North, is under preparation.



THAILAND TO RELEASE EX-VN DIPLOMAT'S WIFE

The Thai Government agreed to release the wife of former Vietnamese diplomat who has been detained in Yasothorn Province since July 8 for overstaying her visa, the Foreign Ministry said on July 17, 1986.

Mrs Nguyen Thi Tuat was arrested by Muang District police while wh was visiting her parents who are refugees in the provincial town.

Her husband, Do Cam Tuong, a former third secretary in the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok, returned to Vietnam in January last year.

The agreement to release her came after a meeting on July 16 between M.R. Thep Devakula, director general of Political Affairs Department and Tran Quang Co, the Vietnamese ambassador. Mrs Nguyen Thi

Tuat will be released on the condition that she be deported from Thailand within one week, the ministry said.

The Vietnamese Embassy staff and their families travelling outside Bangkok must give the mandatory three days advance notification to the Thai authorities.

During the discussion, the Vietnamese ambassador promised to abide by the agreement requiring the embassy staff and their families to notify concerned authorities in advance before they travel, according to the ministry.

Tran Quang Co was also reminded by the Foreign Ministry that embassy staff, whose tenure here has ended, must depart Thailand within a reasonable period of time and should not abuse diplomatic hospitalities.

Mrs Tuat was born in Thailand and repatriated to Vietnam in 1961. She returned to Bangkok in 1982 when her husband was assigned to the post in Bangkok.

TRAVEL LIMITS PLACED ON DIPLOMATS OF 10 COUNTRIES.

Thailand will impose new travel restriction on diplomats from 10 socialist and Muslim countries as "reciprocity" and for "security reasons." Foreign Ministry sources said on July 18, 1986.

The sources said that Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda on July 15 agreed to the recommendations made by a special committee, which was set up three months ago.

The new measures to monitor the movement of diplomats will apply to Iran, Nigeria, Iraq, Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, China, Bangladesh, Burma and Pakistan. The regulation became effective beginning August 1.

The diplomats of these countries, the sources said, will have to ask Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department for permission three days in advance to travel outside Bangkok area. They have to identify their destinations,

purposes, places of stay, detail of vehicles used, and accompanying persons.

Furthermore, they also must provide details of day to day programme during their proposed trips outside Bangkok.

According to the sources, the new restriction was originally aimed at Vietnam as the result of the frequent unauthorized visits by Hanoi diplomats based in Bangkok to the Northeast. Most of the Vietnamese refugees from the Dien Bien Phu era live in Udon Thani, Nakhon Phanom, Yasothorn and Nong Khai.

But the committee agreed to include nine other countries which also limit the movement of Thai diplomats in their countries. "It is based on the principle of reciprocity," the sources said.

A western diplomat said that the new regulation will certainly draw strong reactions from China, which has maintained excellent relations with Thailand.

It is known among the diplomatic community in Bangkok that proper notification to Foreign Ministry are required for trips outside Bangkok. Countries like the US, Australia, Canada do inform the ministry of their trips and purposes.

The committee, which is responsible for the more stringent measures, comprises senior officials from various intelligence agencies including National Security Council, Special Branch Division, National Intelligence Agency, Internal Security Operation Command, Armed Forces Intelligence Directorate and Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department.

An intelligence source said that some Vietnamese refugees living in the Northeast have sneaked into other parts of Thailand without permission. They were detected in Petchbun, Phattalung and Songkhla, according to the source.

The source added security officials suspect that some of them could be subversive elements for Hanoi.

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Women

OVER 60 THAI WOMEN DEPORTED BY JAPAN

About 60-70 Thai women were sent back from Japan during the first 3 months of this year after being caught engaging in prostitution there, police sources disclosed in late April.

The sources in the police task force suppressing prostitution by Thai women overseas told local reporters that many of these women were lured into prostitution by members of the Yakuza, the Japanese term for their crime syndicates.

Some of the returnees were quoted by the sources as saying that they were often under constant harassment by gang members who took away their passports to prevent them from coming back.

The sources said Yakuza gang members were behind the prostitution involving Thai women in many of the Japanese cities.

Most of the women who were sent back were caught by Japanese authorities.

The sources said that Yakuza members have been sent to Thailand to recruit Thai women to work as prostitutes in Japan. Police have so far arrested a few of them.

Some of the women who have returned said they were subject to frequent extortion by Yakuza members who controlled the brothels.

Police have reported that more than 700 Thai women alleged to have been involved in prostitution in Japan were arrested and sent home last year.

They were charged with illegally entering Japan, working without a permit or overstaying.



IRAG 'EXPELS' 300 THAI GIRLS

About 300 Thai women working in Iraq were ordered to leave the country in June due to a new Iraqi labour regulation, the Labour Department said July 7, 1986.

Chamnarn Potchana, the director general of the department, said most of the women were employees of entertainment places in Iraq.

He said the Iraqi Government had issued a regulation prohibiting female workers from foreign countries to work at bars, nightclubs and cabaret restaurants in the country.

Chamnarn said 30 Thai women were detained at the Iraqi Immigrant Division because their employers failed to pay for their plane tickets.

He added that the Thai Embassy in Iraq had to find some ways and means to help them.

He also warned Thai women who want to work in Middle East to be careful and make contracts with reliable job placement agencies only.

BROTHEL RAIDED, 9 GIRLS RESCUED

Prachuab Khirikhan - Police and soldiers rescued nine girls who were forced into prostitution in a brothel in Tap Sakae District on August 8.

Police said a raid was launched after a 19-year-old woman, identified as Sai Tantinibhon, escaped from the brothel and asked for help from an army unit in the district.

Sai, who said she was a student of a commercial school in the northern city of Chiang Mai, told the authorities that she was lured into prostitution almost two years ago when a man persuaded her to take a job as a cashier at his company in Samut Sakhon.

However, she said, she was instead sent to a brothel there and was later forced to move to another brothel in Tap Sakae District.

Police arrested the owner of the brothel but he was later released on bail.

POLICE FACE OBSTACLES IN HALTING GIRL EXPORTS

Outdated laws and poor coordination among government agencies have hampered police efforts to uproot the flesh trade across the border, a senior police officer said on August 9.

Pol Lt Col Prasert Chantrapiphat of a police task force set up to prevent Thai women from being lured into prostitution abroad said there was an urgent need for the improvement in the two areas because the smuggling Thai women out of the country had become more sophisticated.

He said that although the task force has managed to crack down on several girl exporting rings, the business continues to exist because it is highly profitable.

Besides, the officer said, the demand for Thai women to work at night entertainment places in some foreign countries was high.

He added that export agents can earn a big profit if they export women to Japan. The other destinations which make profits were Hong Kong, Macao, Malasia, Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, West Germany and Middle Eastern countries, Prasert said.

He said the Police Department had done its utmost to cooperate with Public Welfare Department, the Foreign Ministry, non-governmental organizations, and foreign embassies in Bangkok in preventing Thai women from being the victims of the business.

The cooperation, he said, included the tracing of victims and making ar-

rangements for them to return home.

According to the police officer, the other problem in clamping down on the lucrative business was that a number of Thai women voluntarily leave the country to work as prostitutes with the hope of finding a better life abroad.

He said the task force would strengthen its public relations to inform women of the hardships they could face overseas.

SEX ABUSE RIFE AT JOB AGENCIES

Many upcountry girls seeking jobs at job placement agencies at Hualampong railway station have found themselves ending up as rape victims of their recruiters.

A women's group disclosed that it has processed at least 10 cases of rape as reported by the victims themselves in the past year.

The wife of a broker at one of the job placement agencies admitted that she had witnessed many rapes both by her husband and other job recruiters.

She described it as a "technique" to force the rape victims to be subservient to their recruiters.

Concerned women's rights groups reported that such practice was spreading to almost every job placement agency near the railway station where hundreds of teenagers arrive from upcountry daily to look for jobs. Most of the victims who had the nighmarish experience were too afraid to go to the police, they said.

Miss Naiyana Supapueng, a lawyer of the Women Rights Protection Centre, said some of the rape victims were found abandoned in pathetic condition at Hualampong station or Morchit bus terminal.

"Very few of the victims we found were willing to tell us what had happened to them. Sometimes, it took them a month

before they mustered the courage to relate their ordeal," she said.

Miss Naiyana said some of the victims were very young and were virtually helpless once they fall into the hands of the unscrupulous job recruiters.

One of the most credible accounts about how these country girls were victimized came from a woman who herself was a rape victim under a similar circumstance. The woman, identified only as Mrs Sai, told local reporters that she had witnessed many rapes in the office of one of the job placement agencies at Hualampong railway station.

"The job brokers believe that this is the only way to make these country girls submissive. And it is true that once these girls were raped, they would be too scared to run away or make a fuss about the jobs they would be given," said Mrs Sai who lived with one of the job brokers who had raped her a year ago.

Young job-seekers whose appearance were attractive were undoubtedly most vulnerable to such cruel treatment, she said.

The brokers or the recruiters look out for their potential victims who often find themselves at a loss as soon as they arrive at Hualampong station. The recruiters are able to make a good impression on the victims, who are mostly northeasterners, because they speak the same dialect.

"The recruiters would be very friendly to the girls who are mostly unaware of their real motive," said Mrs Sai.

Since most of the girls have no families in Bangkok, the recruiters are quick to offer them lodging at their offices where they would virtually become their prisoners.

"There were also cases where the job recruiters provided the victims with food or drinks laced with sedatives once they were taken to their offices," she said.

Judging from her own experience, Mrs Sai believed that very few girls would be

spared after they stepped into the offices. She recalled that on many occasions, there were cries for help from the victims, but they were simply ignored.

Most of the job placement agencies set aside their second floors for lodging for the job-seekers pending their job assignments.

Officials of the Friends of Women Centre told reporters that even if any of the victims were willing to go to police afterwards, they would have very little evidence to support their cases. "Nobody wants to be their witnesses," one official said.

The officials alleged some policemen were bribed by the owners of job placement agencies to shelve such cases or to coerce the victims to accept a compromise—mostly in the form of token sum of money.

The Emergency Home and the Friends of Women Centre, both set up to help women and children in distress, are the only two groups of concerned citizens who mainly are monitoring the victimization of job-seekers.

Currently, there are few rape victims who are being taken care of by the Emergency Home.

Their officials admitted they were frustrated by their lack of authority to pursue the cases which often ended in a compromise. Even if policemen were able to arrest the suspects, there would be very little evidence to file charges against them.

In almost all cases, job recruiters accused of rape would offer to pay cash compensation to the victims for a settlement.

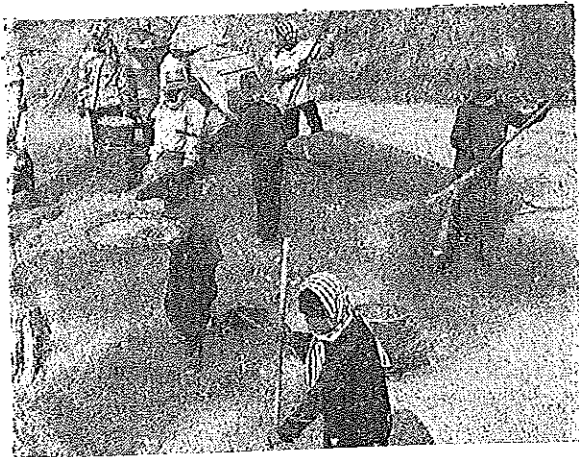
Pathumwan police who are in charge of the Hualampong area appeared reluctant to discuss the rape charge when contacted by concerned officials. Pol Lt Col Rewat Tanmanont, the chief investigator of the police station, admitted that there had been "few cases" of rape at some of the job placement agencies.

He claimed that some of the cases, happened with "the victims' consent." The police officer said these cases mostly took place in the neighbouring area under the jurisdiction of Noppawong police station.

But Pol Lt Col Pissanu Bunyarat, the chief of Noppawong police station said most of the rape cases happened in Pathumwan area.

There are currently about 15-20 job placement agencies, both legal and illegal, in Hualampong area. They are mostly located in a row of rundown shophouses and employed youngsters as their job brokers.

Many of the job placement agencies have agents who go to the upcountry to recruit cheap labour. Officials of the women's groups urged authorities concerned to pay more attention to these job placement firms which are also known to exploit child labour.



GIRL'S HOPE TURNS INTO NIGHTMARE

Miss Daeng was full of hope when she came to Bangkok from her hometown in Kalasin in March this year to look for a job. She recalled that as soon as she arrived at Hualampong station she was approached by a broker who took her to the office of a job placement agency nearby.

"I was taken to the second floor of the office," she told officials of

the Emergency Home later. "They told me to stay there until the next day."

That night, the same man who picked her up at the station raped her at knife-point. Miss Daeng said a woman, whom she believed to be the broker's wife, witnessed the incident and even helped subdue her.

Another rape victim, Miss Khiew, 16, came from Nong Khai and had worked in a foodshop before decided to approach one of the job placement agencies at Hualampong station recently. She said a broker tricked her into going up to the second floor of the office.

"He told me there was nothing to be afraid of because there were a lot of other job-seekers waiting up there," she recalled.

But as soon as Khiew was taken up to the second floor, several other girls who had been there before hurriedly left the room.

That same night, as Khiew was asleep someone came in and raped her. "I cried for help, but it seemed that nobody downstairs heard me," she said.

Khiew said she threatened to report the incident to the police but the job placement agency owner intervened and asked her to compromise. She said the man who raped her offered to become her husband.

Following some persuasive talks and threats, Khiew said she had to accept the "fait accompli". She said she stayed at the job agency for a while and learned that many other victims were treated the same way.

These are just two of the cases which have been brought to the attention of the officials of the Emergency Home - a private women's group which helps women and children in distress.

The Emergency Home, run by the Association of the Promotion of Women's Status whose members comprise female

lawyers, academics, social workers and women activists, has set up a booth at both Hualampong station and Morchit bus terminal where most of the country people arrive to look for jobs.

Miss Naiyana Supapueng, a lawyer of the Women Rights Protection Centre which also helps in the effort, admitted that it is extremely difficult to pursue legal action against the unscrupulous job placement agencies.

She said in one of the cases, she succeeded in helping a rape victim get cash compensation from the job placement agency where the rape took place.

Miss Naiyana said that her interference in such cases often raised eyebrows from policemen who appeared unwilling to help. The lawyer also gave the list of five job placement agencies at Hualampong where she said raping of job-seekers often took place.

She said when some of the victims decided to seek help from the Emergency Home they were often persuaded by the job brokers to drop the cases in return for some money. Sometimes, the job brokers were able to locate the victims' parents in the upcountry and sweet-talked them into recalling their children even before the cases could be processed.



HEALTH SURVEY ON WOMEN WORKERS

About 57 per cent of female workers surveyed at textile factories in five provinces were found to have varicose veins in the legs while many were also suffering from pelvic diseases as a result of long hours they spend standing.

The survey, conducted at 15 factories by the Occupational Health Department of Mahidol University, said most of them are between 20 - 34 years old.

Meanwhile, the Population and Social Research Institute of the university has launched a family planning programme for women factory workers. The programme is being carried out in response to the 6th National Economic and Social Development Plan which aims at curbing the birth rate for 1987-1991 to 1.1 per cent annually.

An official of the institute said the programme will be implemented over a period of 12 months and is aimed at 2,000 female factory workers both in and outside Bangkok, aged from 15 -40.

POLICEWOMEN MAY TURN DETECTIVES

In a bid to upgrade women's social status, Deputy Prime Minister Bichai Rattakul has proposed to the Police Department to allow policewomen handle investigation works.

Mrs Asoke Sunthornsarathoon, secretary general to the National Women's Development Council, said Bichai in his capacity as the council chairman had sent a message to the Police Department on April 1 urging the department to appoint policewomen as investigators.

The proposal was adopted during a meeting of a subcommittee appointed to find ways and means in solving women labour problems. The subcommittee pointed out that policewomen had been assigned to work in various fields such as administrative works, medical and scientific affairs, and that they have successfully carried out the assignments.



FARMER ENDS 2-YEAR PROTEST

After 2 years of picketing in front of the Government House, farmer Pornpit Muensri and her buffalo were sent home to Nakhon Sawan on August 24, 1986 following a promise by officials to settle the dispute concerning the ownership of her farmland.

Mrs Pornpit, accompanied by her best friend "Choei," had been picketing since September 1984 after the authorities declared the plot of land in Non Bua District, Nakhon Sawan on which she had owned and worked for more than 30 years a public property.

She had lived in a temporary shelter on the corner of Nakhon Sawan Road just

opposite the Government House since the start of her lone demonstration.

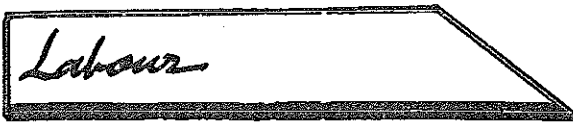
Dusit District Chief Siri Prempri on August 24 morning led a team of officials to demolish the temporary house and provided a truck to transport for Mrs Pornpit and her buffalo back to Nakhon Sawan Province.

He said officials of Dusit District and the Prime Minister's Office discussed the matter several times and decided in their last meeting to re-survey the disputed land in Nong Bua District to determine if the land legally belonged to Mrs Pornpit and her fellow farmers as claimed by her.

Mrs Pornpit willingly agreed to return home, but took about 20 minutes before employees could manage to push her buffalo into a truck which finally took them to Nakhon Sawan, ending the two-year demonstration.

Photo show Mrs Pornpit sitting on Choei's back and showing the map of the disputed land in Nong Bua District during her picketing.





DEATH AND INJURY TOLL AT WORKPLACES UP

Accidents at workplaces last year killed 315 workers and injured more than 40,000 others, a senior labour official said on June 2, 1986.

Chanasak Yuvapurna, deputy director general of the Labour Department, said more than 1,000 were physically injured and not able to work again.

He said the figures were based on the reported cases and the applications from the Labour Compensation Fund, but the actual death and injury toll might be higher.

Most of the accidents were caused by poor working environment which became hazardous both physically and psychologically, said the deputy director general.

He said some employers refused to cooperate with the authorities in reporting about the accidents and declined to help the injured workers and their families.

He added that government hospitals and health offices throughout the country were ready to help and advise workers injured from industrial accidents or chemical exposure.

Dr Pirote Ningsanonda, director general of the Health Department, said the number of labourers killed and injured while working increased at the rate of 0.037 per cent every year.

The most frequent accidents, he said, were the losses of fingers which registered 24.20 per cent, followed by 15 per cent for the lost of visual capability, 13.21 per cent for the lost of legs, and 8.53 per cent for the lost of arms.

Meanwhile, speakers at a seminar on "Work Safety for Better Labour Relations"

held on June 2, 1986 at the Asia Hotel called on both employers and workers to work closely together to increase the safety at their workplaces.

Dr Asa Meksawan, deputy permanent secretary for interior, said better labour relations depends greatly on the attitude of both employers and employees toward each other.

He said good perception of the two parties derived from their realization of both physical and psychological needs of the others and therefore the provision of work safety was crucial to build mutual confidence.

Without cooperation from workers and their employers, the enforcement of the existing nine labour protection legislations would never be effective, he added.

Vichai Thosuwanchinda of the Labour Congress of Thailand called on employers to recognize the role of labour unions and join hands to build safety in workplaces.

He said employers should pay more attention to safety measures in their firms. He added that when employees felt safe at their workplaces, they would contribute more to their works.

Chamnarn Pimolrat of the Employers Confederation proposed close consultation between workers and their employers in exploring safety measures in workplaces and maintaining machines and equipment in good condition.

He said consultation and cooperation between the two parties would lead to better labour relations.

GOVT CENTRE TREATS 97 WORKERS FOR INJURIES

Ninety-seven people injured while working have sought treatment at the Industrial Rehabilitation Centre since last July and 44 of them have returned to work.

Mrs Amporn Junenanond, director of the Compensation Fund Office, said on August 9 that among the 44 labourers, 23 of them had returned to their old jobs in factories while 14 others had been employed in new jobs and the rest had started their own businesses.

The centre, which was set up in Pathumthani last year with the assistance of the Japanese government, offers injured workers not only rehabilitation, but also vocational training, she said.

According to labour laws, the labourers are entitled to treatment worth up to 20,000 baht without charge.

WORKERS UNDERPAID

About 60 per cent of workers employed by some 18,000 businesses with more than 10 employees in Bangkok earn less than the official minimum wage, said a unionist on April 28.

Panas Thailuan, secretary general of the National Congress of Thai Labour, said about 400,000 employees of these businesses including restaurants, gas station, small factories, and retail stores were paid between 400 - 1,200 baht a month despite the minimum wage in the city set by the Interior Ministry is 70 Baht a day or equivalent to 2,100 baht monthly.

The unionist also charged that most of these businesses had persistently failed to observe the labour laws such as refusing to allow their employees to enjoy at least 13 official holidays throughout the year and the failure to pay the workers twice as much as their wages for the overtime.

WORKERS DEMAND INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE

Employees' representatives in the tripartite Wage Committee on September 9 submitted a letter to Deputy Interior Minister Chaleo Watcharapuk to demand an adjustment of the minimum wage this year.

The letter, received by Chaleo him-

self, cited five reasons to support the request for a pay rise from 70 to 76 baht a day for unskilled workers.

Followings are the reasons cited by the employees' representatives:

1) The current rate of 70 baht has been frozen for almost two years while the cost of living has increased by 3.5 per cent since January, 1985 when the minimum wage was adjusted for the last time. A further freeze of the wage will only benefit employers.

2) Workers are suffering from malnutrition mainly due to lack of purchasing power. They don't get enough body-building substances essential to good health such as protein and carbohydrate.

3) The minimum wage should be increased because employers have already benefitted from the reductions of electricity, water as well as interest rates.

4) Workers lack purchasing power. The wage increase will help boost the overall economy.

5) The production cost has increased slowly-only 16-18 per cent. But export value rose by 19,000 million baht in the first eight months of this year, representing bright economic future.

The letter also called for wage rises for workers in other provinces and an immediate meeting of the tripartite Wage Committee to discuss the possibility of the wage adjustment this year.

Meanwhile, Director of the Labour Department Chamnarn Pochana said the wage increase is unlikely this year because the cost of living remains unchanged and prices of cash crops have fallen.

He said the adjustment of the minimum wage should be considered next year or when the economy recovers.

UNEMPLOYMENT TO RISE

Number of the unemployed this year is expected to reach two million as against last year's 1.7 million, according to the latest Employers Confederation of Thailand's report.

The report said the country's unemployment situation has worsened this second half of the year when 80,000 - 100,000 new graduates entered the labour market, thus deteriorating the labour crisis. The organization forecast there would be about 2,000,000 unemployed throughout the country by the end of this year, a 300,000 increase compared to the number of last year.

Apart from the new graduates, the number of jobless people have been on the rise due to the increasing rate of students who failed to pass the entrance examination, the mass lay-offs and the Thai workers in foreign countries who are forced to return home because of unfavourable economic situation in those countries.

The report noted that number of labour disputes is tended to decline this year. There were 220 labour disputes involving 49,037 workers lodged with the Central Labour Court last year.



WORKERS UNAWARE OF LABOUR LAWS

A study show that 17 per cent of wokers are unaware of the minimum welfare and other benefits they are entitled to receive under the existing labour protection law while 48 per cent of them prefer to have the provision improved.

The study, conducted by a team of Thammasat University researchers on "The Welfare Benefits for Workers as a Means to Improve Labour Relations," found that most of the labourers who have no idea about the provision are low-income and non-union female workers.

It also says that employees of state enterprises, commercial banks, and hotels constitute the highest percentage of workers who arr aware of the labour laws.

According to the study, about 57 per cent of the labourers say their employers have never asked their opinions about the welfare benefits given to them and add that they understand little about the regulations of their companies on the matter.

Most of the workers, the study says, believe that their employers are able to bear the cost of improving their employee' welfare and they voice their dissatisfaction with what they are currently given by their companies.

However, when asked about their choice between an improvement of their welfare benefits and a wage increase, the majority of the labourers say they prefer the latter, reasoning that an increase in the welfare benefits is incompatible with a pay hike in uplifting their living standard.

However, the study says that the labourers in some work sectors such as the textile industry, which has been badly hit by the economic recession and increasing protectionism, have a better understanding of the position of the management of their companies and voice their satisfaction on what they presently earn.

It says although the government in consultation with representatives of the workers and employers decided to freeze the minimum wage adjustment in the past two years due to the unfavourable economic climate, employers should pay more attention to an improvement of the welfare benefits for their employees.

They should also cooperate among themselves and with the other private and government agencies to study the needs of the labourers and plan for better personnel management as well as improved labour relations systems, it suggests.

It also recommends that owners of private firms encourage their employees to organize themselves into groups to provide assistance to their colleagues to supplement the welfare given by the companies.

The groups and also labour unions, they study says, should also be encouraged

to take a leading role in educating workers on the regulations and labour protection legislations concerning the minimum welfare benefits to which they are entitled.

The researchers finally call on the government to speed up the introduction of a health insurance scheme and the social security system.



LABOUR OFFICIALS URGE MORE POLICY-MAKING BY WORKERS.

Lack of participation by employees of state enterprises in the policy-making led to 54 labour disputes in the last 5 years affecting 124,121 workers, said a senior labour officials recently.

Speaking on "Labour Problems in State Enterprises" at the Civil Service Commission Office, Wong Chanthong of the Labour Relations Division said most of the labour conflicts in state enterprises resulted from sudden changes of policy in the organizations which could adversely affect the employment status of their employees. He cited shifts in marketing and production strategies, reductions of employees to cut production costs and re-organizations as examples.

He said decisions to shift policies were normally made by top executives of these state enterprises with little or no participation by lower-ranking employees despite their impact on the workers.

The policy of the government to privatize some financial-ailing public enterprises such as the Telephone Organization of Thailand, the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority, and the Mass Communications Authority of Thailand was also one of the main causes of misunderstandings among workers. The administrators of the organizations failed to explain the policies to the employees, whose employment status was inevitably affected by them, he said.

Moreover, he added, the executives of these agencies always paid inadequate attention to the opinions of their sub-

ordinates in formulating plans and in considering demands by the workers for improved working conditions.

According to Wong, administrators of some state enterprises took a hard position in negotiating with the workers, who tried to resist changes that would have a negative impact on them.

He cited the long-standing dispute in the State Railways of Thailand (SRT) as an example, saying that the SRT management refused to be abide by the ruling of the arbitration committee on the backpay of some 12,000 railmen whose status had been upgraded from a daily to a monthly basis. The conflict led to two railway strikes, in November 1984 and July 1985.

The labour official said labour problems in state enterprises were extremely delicate and management should employ the art of negotiation and compromise to prevent the conflicts from becoming strikes.

He said work stoppages by employees who are well-organized and always successful in calling for support from labour unions at other public enterprises disrupt services to the public, and the people are the ultimate victims.



CRACKDOWN WORRIES CITY'S BLIND MUSICIANS

Blind musicians' bands are having more difficulty making a living now because the authorities have banned their street performances, the Blind Association of Thailand said on April 14.

The association spokesman said he has received complaints from blind musicians about the tough police action against them. Police said their performances on the pavements inconvenienced pedestrians and obstructed traffic flow.

"Members of dozens of blind bands are suffering from the police action ... some have gone without food for days because open-air performances are a way for the blind to make a living," he said.

He said the association representatives had recently met Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Lt Gen Sawaeng Thirawat and Deputy Bangkok Governor Chalard Thirapatr to seek the end of the crack-down on blind musicians, but the problem has so far remained unsolved.

According to the spokesman, the association will soon call a meeting of the blind bands to discuss the issue. There are about 50 bands made up of about 300 blind musicians in Bangkok, and about 30 of them perform in public places.

BLIND VENDORS' RALLY FORCIBLY BROKEN UP

Anti-riot policemen broke up a rally by about 100 blind lottery vendors



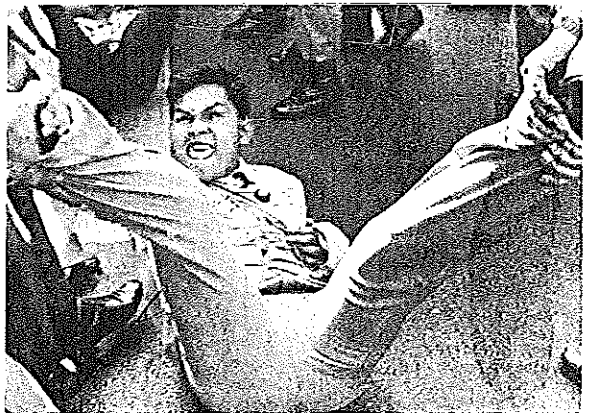
in front of Premier Prem Tinsulanonda's Sisao residence on April 23.

Many of the blind vendors, who were demanding larger lottery quota, were forcibly evicted after they ignored an order to leave.

The protesters were later taken to a spot near the Government House where they staged another rally.

President of the Association of the Blind of Thailand Samran Semathong told reporters that some of the vendors were roughly handled. He said some lost their canes or had them broken.

One week before the proest, the blind vendors unsuccessfully sought help from the Lottery Bureau to increase the quota of lottery tickets allotted to them fortnightly. They then decided to take their case to the prime minister.



PUBLIC WELFARE DEPT DETAINS 500 BEGGARS

About 500 beggars in Bangkok were rounded up since the beginning of this year, a senior official of the Public Welfare Department said.

Director General Pramool Chancham-nong said most of the beggars worked for syndicates which provided them with protection.

He said the syndicates brought poor people from uncountryside to work as beggars in the city.

He said the department will seek cooperation from the police in taking action against these gangs. He also urged people not to give money to the beggars.

Promool also said that the department is trying to take action against Buddhist nuns who are seen begging for alms on the streets.



SETTLEMENTS FOR THE POOR URGED

On September 15, 1986 social workers called on the government to develop unused land in the city into settlements for the poor.

Miss Pratheep Ungsongtham of Duanpratheap Foundation said that government agencies should play a greater role in solving the slum problem in the metropolis and the other major provinces by developing unused land in these cities into well-planned communities for the poor.

Speaking at Thammasat University during the discussion on the slum problem, the 1978 Magsaysay Award winner said the government should realize that the poor had the rights to stay and work in major cities together with rich people.

She said poor people needed to live in the heart of the city where jobs were available and that it was unrealistic to move them to city's outskirts because

Urban

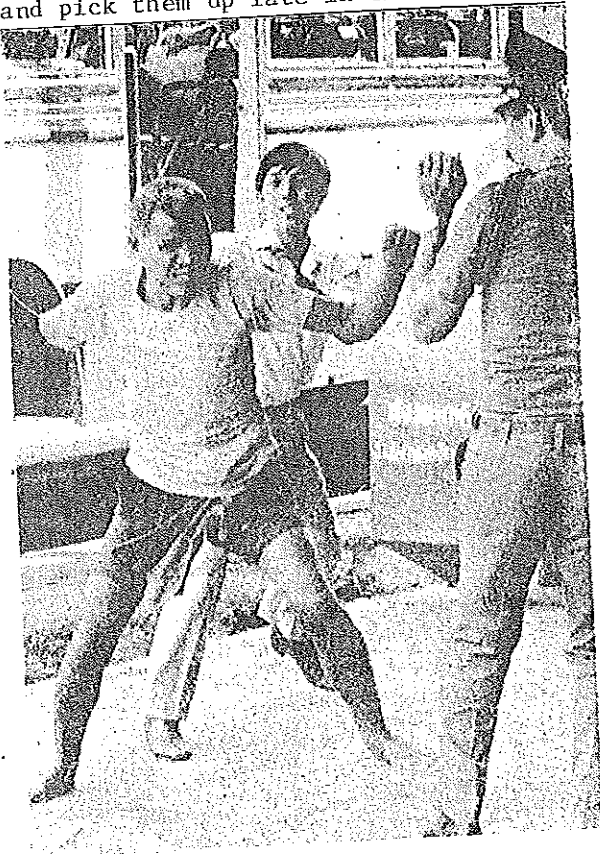
BLIND VISION

A blind beggar is struggling to set himself free as a policeman and an official of the Public Welfare Department try to arrest him in late September at Chakrapadipong intersection, in Bangkok.

The pauper, who was said to be pretending as a blind, later broke loose from the grasp of the authorities and managed to run away into a nearby side-street.

Police and officials of the Public Welfare Department have launched a campaign to arrest beggars who become public nuisances on city streets and pedestrian bridges.

The authorities said begging has become a lucrative business operated by gangsters who drop the crippled children to beg at crowded places in the morning and pick them up late in the evening.



they could not cope with high transportation costs.

Meanwhile, this year's Magsaysay Award winner on the community development Rev John Daly who was visiting Thailand also urged governments in Asia to stop pursuing the western development strategy in dealing with the squatter problem.

He said they should stick to the eastern culture which gives importance to the peaceful co-existence instead of using forced eviction which could lead to unrest.



SQUATTERS SET UP 'VICE-FREE ZONE'

More than 500 squatters living on a plot of land in Soi Wat Phai Singto off Rama IV Road have stepped up efforts to make their community a 'vice and garbage-free zone' in an attempt to seek sympathy from the city administration, a slum leader said.

Khanay Chanpuang, the community leader, said the dwellers have given up gambling, using drugs well as illegal ways of living - a move which he claimed is aimed at erasing the bad image of slum people.

He said the squatters, who have insisted on staying on the land in Klong Toey despite an order for their eviction issued by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) last year, also wanted to impress the BMA by developing their community.

The BMA early last year evicted dwellers in the slum to pave the way for the construction of the Rajadapisek Road. Houses in the slum were dismantled by city workers despite strong resistance from slum people.

However, some squatters in Soi Wat Phai Singto have stayed put in the slum and the city administration did not take forcible action against them for they live outside the construction area.

Khanay said these people have lived

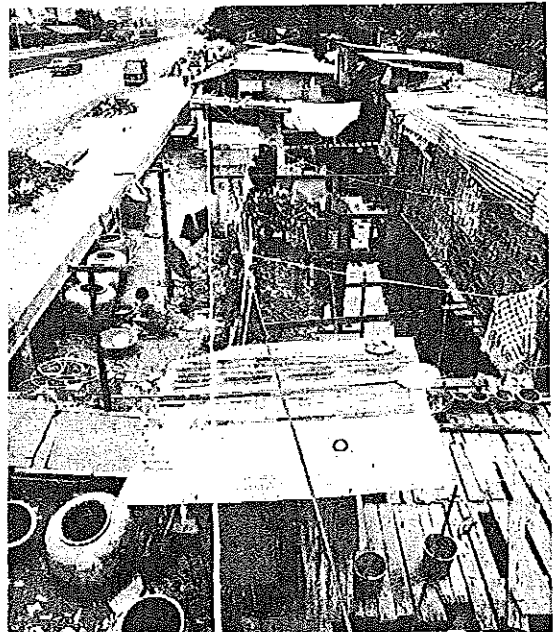
there for more than 30 years. He said since the completion of the construction of the road, the squatters have been feeling uncertain about their future.

He said the idea for squatters to improve their means of living came when their demand for help was rejected by several agencies. Khanay said the agencies regarded the slum as "dirty community and source of narcotics and criminals."

"Community leaders agreed that the living conditions of people in the slum should be improved by slum people themselves. And it was not difficult to ask for cooperation from the squatters who are ready to do anything in order to further live on the land.

"Now, there is no gambling, narcotics or thieves in our slum because the slum committee has tried to find jobs for the unemployed," he said.

According to Khanay, Bangkok Governor Chamlong Srimuang in June invited representatives from the slum to attend a development course and urged all of them to help develop the community.



The slum along Rajadapisek road in Klong Toey where squatters are seeking sympathy from the BMA by developing their community themselves.

FAMILIES FIGHT EVICTION

About 200 families living in a slum behind Baan Phitsanuloke state guesthouse in mid May started to seek a reprieve to an order for their eviction.

The squatters said they were ordered by the Dusit District officials to move out by the end of May.

The said that since the new school year just started, they would not have time to look for new places to live and want the authorities to extend the deadline.

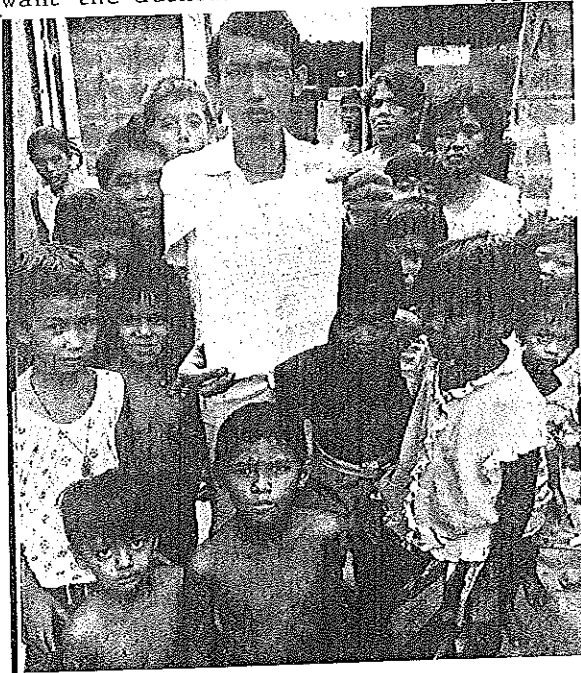


Photo above shows a squatter surrounded by slum children showing the eviction order.

Later on May 14, over 300 squatters from two city slums urged the authorities to put off the dealines for their eviction until they have found new places to settle in.

About 200 from the slum on Rajadapisek Road, rallied at the headquarters of the Capital Security Command (CSC) to air their grievance with Supreme Commander Gen Arthit Kamlang-ek. The squatters said they were threatened with eviction but they did not know where to move to.

Officials of the CSC later inspected

the slum area owned by the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) which subsequently agreed to a reprieve.

Meanwhile, another group of 100 squatters demonstrated in front of the Dusit District office. They squatters were from the slum behind the Phitsanuloke state guesthouse.

An official of the district office accepted their appeal to be passed on to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). They said they would try to find the squatters a new plot of land.



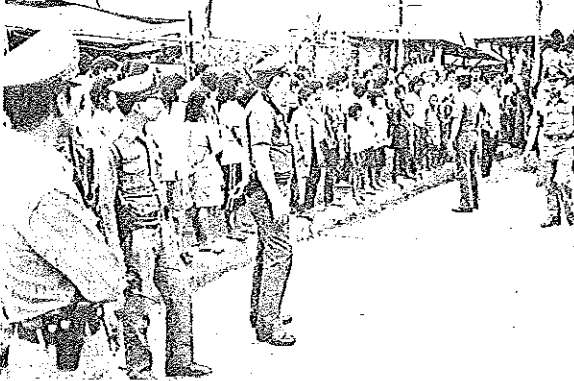
Photo shows squatters from Rajadapisek slum rallying in front of the CSC headquarters on May 14.

SQUATTERS FIGHT POLICE

About 300 angry squatters resisting eviction at a slum on Rajadapisek Road on August 8 engaged in a brief scuffle with police that left a few of them injured.

The scuffle broke out as about 20 Suthisarn policemen stormed into the slum to seize Manas Thongchan, 40, a leader of the slum community, but only found themselves overpowered by a mob of squatters. Police decided to retreat after a 15-minute struggle. About 3-4 squatters reportedly sustained minor injuries in the incident.

A police officer said a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Manas for allegedly instigating his colleagues to resist the eviction order.



Above, Suthisarn police are seen on full alert after the scuffle.

TALL BURDEN ON TIRED SHOULDERS

Mrs Chamnong Niamsopha, 83, is seen here gathering her belongings as she prepares to move out of the slum on Ratchadapisek Road on July 9, 1986.



She is one of several families of squatters facing eviction.

Meanwhile, representatives from the Capital Security Command, the State Railways of Thailand (SRT) and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) met to seek ways to end the prolonged dispute between the SRT and the squatters. Representatives from the slum were invited to to the joint meeting.

The SRT has been trying to evict the slum dwellers in the area in order to pave the way for the construction of a trade centre on the five rai plot of land.

PLIGHT OF AN OLD SQUATTER

If Mrs Chamnong Niamsopha is evicted this time it would probably be her last. "But I will fight to stay on here because I know I won't be able to live much longer," said the 83-year-old woman who is probably the oldest among the 400 families of squatters in the slum off Rajadapisek Road.

For three months after the first eviction order was issued, the squatters have been living under constant fears.

Mrs Chamnong and her family have been living there for eight years and are among the pioneers of the settlers. She told reporters that she will fight through every means to stay on in the slum. "I want to die here," she said.

For her, this is definitely not the first time that she is facing an eviction. She remembers that she first became a squatter as far back as the late 1950's when she illegally settled down in a piece of land near Klong Lord. And from then on, she moved from one slum to another until she moved to the present site eight years ago.

"I never own a house or land in my entire life," she said bitterly.

Mrs Chamnong is too old to work and has to depend on her five grandchildren for support. They are just kids who are learning about life the hard way. The

oldest is only 14 and they have to work after schools everyday to earn some money.

All of Mrs Chamnong's own children have left her to take care of the kids. "I want all my grandchildren to have good education. Maybe, someone will be kind enough to help them," she said.



Mrs Chamnong in a resigned mood looking out of the window in her house.

HALTING SPREAD OF SLUMS IS A MUST - SEMINAR

The government must lay down a clear-cut policy on how to stop the proliferation of slum areas, which is seriously hindering efforts to improve the living conditions of squatters in existing slums.

The call was made during the three-day seminar on the problem of slums, organized by the Faculty of Public Health of Hahidol University in May.

Dr Debhanom Muangman, dean of the faculty, said the problem of slum has reached national level because it is affecting not only Bangkok but other provinces as well.

Debhanom, who is chief of the Slum Improvement Project, told the Press that

government and private agencies have been able to provide assistance to improve the living conditions of squatters in more than half of the slums in the city. "But the efforts can never solve the problem because more slums keep springing up," he said.

The seminar, held at the New Imperial Hotel, was aimed at standardizing the differences in dealing with the issue for better coordination among agencies concerned. Participating in the seminar were representatives from 24 agencies, including the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Labour Department, First Army Region, Council of Social Welfare of Thailand, World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Family Planning International Assistance (a private US agency).

Debhanom said the latest survey conducted by the BMA and the National Housing Authority found 526 slums in Bangkok. But an aerial survey by NHA found as many as 1,021 slums, he said.

"And we still don't know how the exact figure of slums in Bangkok," he said.

During the course of the seminar, some participants called for a new definition of the word 'slum' (or officially referred to as crowded community) so that it can be used as a standard in deciding the number of such communities.

The seminar also agreed to appoint a joint government-private committee to approach the improvement of the environment and living conditions for the squatters, both in and outside Bangkok.

It was agreed that the traditional policy in coping with slums by demolishing them and building new apartments for squatters was impractical because of the high cost involved. The NHA said that the construction of each apartment unit costed about 150,000 baht.

The seminar participants agreed that the most practical way to deal with the problem is to introduce programmes to improve the living conditions and environments for the squatters.

"It's time that the government adopt a clear-cut policy to contain the proliferation of the slums and to prevent the existing ones from expanding," Debhanom said.

One of the resolutions adopted at the seminar was a plan to ask government agencies and state enterprises to lease out their vacant land for housing purpose. Most of the land in this category are rented to private businessmen for commercial purpose.

Trespassing of the land by squatters have often been reported. Kleng Toey slum, the biggest slum in Bangkok, is located on a plot of land owned by the Port Authority of Thailand.



SQUATTERS IN JUNK-FOR-LAND BID

More than 70 families, squatters near the city garbage disposal site in Soi Onnuj have organized monthly junk sales to raise funds to buy a piece of land for a new settlement.

About 300 squatters, starting in the end of May, once a month join hands to collect junk from the site and sell it to traders to raise money to buy 5-rai of land nearby for one million baht, on which to build new shelters. The land shall be bought in instalments.

The fund was set up with 100-baht monthly contributions by each family, but amount is till short of the first required payment.



The city, meanwhile, agreed to allow them to stay on the land until they find a new settlement.

Son Boontham, a representative of the squatters, said each of them earn about 70 baht daily from the business. He added that if the land was bought, each of the 70 families would get 120 square metres of land on which to build their shelters.

The squatters, who live on land owned by the city, were recently ordered to move, but after talks with City Governor Cham-long Srimuang, they decided to take the governor's advice and set up the fund.

On May 26, about 300 people from about 70 families in Onnuj area eventually launched what is known to be "Sell Garbage for Charity" project so that some income could be earned to buy a piece of land to accommodate some of the slum-dwellers evicted from their original living areas.

Some of the slum-dwellers disclosed to the Press that they had in fact started the contribution spree sometime ago, with each family contributing 10 baht a day to the fund and so far, they have managed to collect a total of 40,000 baht. However, on June 2, the first down payment of 50,000 was to be made to the landowner for a five rai piece of land there. Hence the "Sell Garbage for Charity" project.

The plan shall eventually allot about 80 square wah to each evicted slum family in that area once the project is completed. The charity activity will be carried out once a month, with an aim to make 2,000 baht each time.

And to achieve that, villagers gather around the garbage dump to collect every thing that could be sold to contribute to the fund. And these items include waste-paper, empty bottles, copper and aluminium -anything at all that could be sold in return for some money.

Soi Onnuj's Garbage Dump is known to be Thailand's largest garbage centre. Now, with the initiative of the local people, it is being turned into something very constructive. The smell does not bother the people with a good heart. The

waste could be turned into something meaningful.

Let this type of idea spread all over the country. The grass-roots people could be in a better position to determine their own lives. They could help develop the country through self-help rather than having to rely only on the government.

HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

Legal Aid Service

On April 28, 1986, 14 villagers from land disputed area in Nakhon Sawan Province led by Mrs Grae Sorada came to CGRS and sought advice from the Human Rights Section on the possibility of presenting their urgent petition to the concerned authorities.

After serious consultation, it was mutually agreed that this petition should be submitted to 3 major political parties in the present coalition government: the Social Action Party, the Chart Thai Party and the Democrat Party.

It was strongly recommended that the petition should also be submitted to the Prime Minister through his office.

It was the first step to push the issue to the parliament. The villagers however were quite determined to seek legislative change on certain laws governing land ownership. The 1936 Land Act was the particular law that the villagers wished to be revoked.

The existing law requires a new law approved by the House of Parliament to revoke it. Therefore, they decisively lobbied members of the House to introduce a new law so that the Ministry of Interior is prevented from taking away their land based on authority given to it in the existing law.

It may take 1 or 2 years before they could succeed. But at least, they have

avoided using violent means to fight the provincial officials for the time being.

On the same occasion, Mrs Grae Sorada also brought with her 2 representatives of villagers from Tambon Khao Thong, Phayuhakiri District, Nakhon Sawan Province to CGRS office.

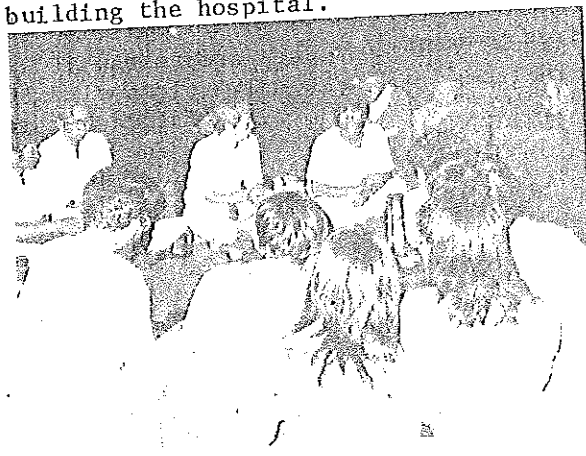
Mr Yont Khanitha and Mrs Tham Khamkhom, representing 18 families, also facing eviction because the same 1936 Land Act, formally filed a complaint with CGRS that the previous government had planned to build a Mental Hospital in their 900 rais of land.

This proposed hospital would be under the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Public Health.

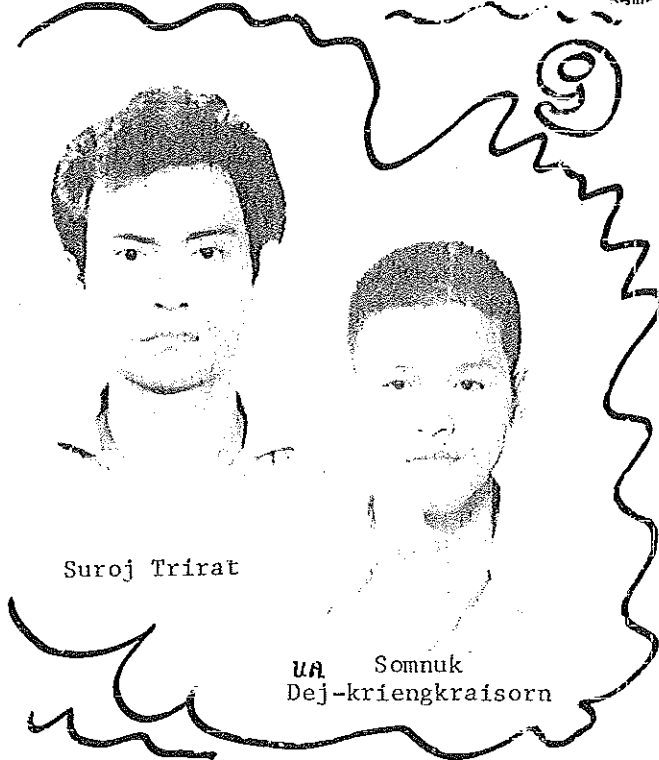
After the first series of consultation, the two representatives from Phayuhakiri District decided also to submit their petition to Mr Marut Boonnag, the Minister of Public Health.

In their petition, they formally urged the Minister, a highly regarded lawyer and lecturer of law, to order an urgent investigation and find a alternative location for the project.

The 900 rais of good farm land has been occupied and cultivated by 18 families for many generations without any previous threat of eviction by any previous government. These villagers would definitely become landless peasants if no alternative location is found for building the hospital.



DISAPPEARANCES



Suroj Trirat

UA Somnuk
Dej-kriengkraisorn

In April 1985, CGRS received a complaint from Mrs Sa-nguan Trirat claiming that her son had been arrested by a Thai military unit on June 8, 1983 and she could not find out his whereabouts from the authorities involved.

Despite her continuous effort to inquire with local military command of Northern Military Region Command in Nan Province and the Police Regional Command, no responsible officials could tell her where his son, Suroj Trirat, was being detained or any arrest report had been filed.

After serious consultations, CGRS decided to take up the case and set out to investigate this particular "disappearance" case.

The followings are fact and circumstantial evidences which have been compiled by the Human Rights Section:-

1) Preliminary investigation has been concluded that a total of 9 persons were arrested by a Thai military unit at a road block located between Nan Province and Phitsanuloke Province on the night of June 8, 1983 at about 10.00 pm.

2) List of Disappeared Persons

1. Suroj Trirat, male, 32, resident of Bangkok.
2. Somnuk Dejkrieng-kraisorn, male, 26, resident of Bangkok.
3. Nikorn Ungkathavorn, male, 30, resident of Bangkok.
4. Unidentified male, 38, resident of Petchburi Province.
5. Unidentified female, 23, resident of Northeastern region.
6. Unidentified male, 33, resident of Northeastern region.
7. Unidentified male, 24, resident of Northeastern region.
8. Unidentified female, 20, resident of Lumpang Province.
9. Unidentified male, 33, resident of Nakorn-rajsima Province.

3) Place of Arrest

Huey-Nam-Oon Check-Point, Sa District, Nan Province (Approximately 8-Hour drive north of Bangkok).

4) Date and Time of Arrest

June 8, 1983 at about 10 pm.

5) Possible Charges

Collaborating with communist insurgents, violations of the Anti-Communist Act, 1952.

6) Transport Used by the "9 Disappearances"

TOYOTA Hilux, Col: light brown, round headlights, License Plate No. 2M 3660 registered in Bangkok.

Special feature: Black top, black flintcoat on lower part of the body.

Front seats: light brown
2 rows of back seat: same

Radio: Beltek with 2 speakers installed on both side of front seats.

Air-conditioned with filter film on windshield and windows.

No special markings on outside of the body except for a broken right tail light.

Engine No. 12R2259217

Body No. RN40070779

Former registered owner of the vehicle: Mrs Siriwan Dilokrat-ampol.

7) Driver: Suraj Trirat

8) Passengers: 8 persons also reportedly arrested at the same time.



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (leading up to the arrest of the 9 disappearances)

In the early morning of June 7, 1983, Suroj Trirat left Bangkok driving a light brown TOYOTA Hilux pick-up truck. He was heading for Nan Province on his regular trip selling agricultural tools and equipments.

He reportedly stayed overnight in Nan provincial town.

The next morning of June 8, 1983, about 10.00 pm., Suroj drove his vehicle back from Nan Province with 8 passengers believed to be 6 villagers originally from the Northeastern region and 2 other passengers believed to be former students.

This group of 8 passengers were later alleged by the military to be former guerrillas of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). They were presumably on their way to surrender to the authorities and wished to live peacefully as law abiding citizens as general amnesty was granted to them, or any CPT's cadres, guerrillas or supporters, by the Executive Order No. 66/2523 issued by the Office of the Prime Minister in 1980.

When Suroj and 8 passengers arrived at the Huey-Nam-Oon Check-Point, a road block set up by the military in Sa District of Nan Province, they were stopped by an armed unit posted there. This particular roadblock was reportedly manned by a joint Civilian-Police-Military Unit under the direction of the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) of Nan Province.

As a routine security procedure, Suroj was requested to identify himself as driver and actually signed his name on the entry of the log at exactly 21.52 hour.

After showing his driver license to the joint security unit on duty and having signed his name in the register book inside the security boot, he was subsequently arrested with 8 other passengers at the check point. However, no arresting officers have been identified at the time of the report of this incidence.

Later on, Suroj's family learned about his arrest in Nan Province, Suroj's mother, Mrs Sa-nguan and one of his brothers, went to Nan to find out about his whereabouts.

Out of grave concern for Suroj's safety, they went to meet with some Army Intelligence Officers in Nan on June 21, 1983. They were received by 5 supposedly Intelligence Officers in civilian clothes.

Instead of giving her information on Suroj's whereabouts, or what charges he was arrested on, the plain-clothed officers started to ask many questions about Suroj's personal background, his attitude towards life, his social behavior, his past activities during his college years and afterwards.

However, Mrs Sa-nguan was casually informed during the interview that Suroj was arrested along with his passengers who were suspected of being CPT's operatives and supporters.

Suroj's mother was also told that her son was being detained and charged with collaboration with the communist insurgents. Mrs Sa-nguan also was informed at the end of the interview that Suroj was being detained for questioning at the Intelligence Section under the 3rd Army Region at Ekatosaros Camp in Phitsanuloke Province. And if she wished, she could to to see him there on the same day.

Mrs Sa-nguan and relatives then rushed to the Ekatosaros Camp, a huge military camp in Phitsanuloke Province after the meeting as suggested by the intelligence officer.

Upon arrival, on June 23, Mrs Sa-nguan and relatives were allowed to meet the interrogation officers there. But one of them flatly denied having received any arrest report of the 9 individuals at the time and date as claimed by Suroj's relatives.

Subsequently, Suroj's relatives made many attempts to inquire about his whereabouts from various military intelligence units, they all devied any knowledge of such arrest.

Up till now, Suroj's relatives still hope that there is a chance to see him again.

With full consent of Suroj's mother and relatives, CGRS in February 1986 formally submitted a letter of enquirv

to the Assistant Commander of First Military Region asking him to make an effort to find out about this case with his personal friend, the Commander of the Third Military Region responsible for the military zone where Suroj and other 8 persons were allegedly arrested.

However, the Assistant Commander of the First Military Region, acting as an inforaml gobetween, could not find out anything about the whereabouts of the missing 9 persons. The result was the same: they have not received any report of the arrest.

Finally, on May 11, 1986, the Human Rights Section of CGRS, together with Suroj's mother and one of his brothers went to investigate the case at the check-point where the 9 missing persons were reportedly arrested. They also requested a meeting with the concerned military officers at the Third Military Region in Phitsanuloke Province.

Inspection of the Check-Point

It was confirmed that the check-point was manned by a joint Civilian-Police-Military and Volunteer unit under direct command of the Internal Security Operations Centre (ISOC) of Nan Province. According to the observation made by Suroj's relatives and CGRS, the check-point was located at about 50 Kilometres from Nan provincial capital and about 25 Kilometres from Sa District town.

The check-point is normally manned by a group of 13 heavily armed unit. Each vehicle passing through this particular roadblock is required to register in the security Log at the security booth.

From first-hand inspection of the Log at the check-point, CGRS and Mrs Sa-nguan discovered that Suroj actually signed his name in the Log at exactly 21.52 hour on June 8, 1983 and his signature was verified by his own mother.

In addition, 2 road-side vendors at the check-point also told CGRS that they remembered distinctively that on the night of June 8 at about 10.00 pm. an usual arrest was made because the security unit seldom arrested a group of 9 persons.

They remembered vividly that this group was travelling in a pick-up truck and the vehicle was searched and the driver and passengers were subsequently arrested. Auch incident was considered as a big bust. Moreover, they could also identify correctly the light-brown colour of the vehicle which matched the vehicle driven by Suroj on the night of the incident.

They recalled that the whole group of suspects were herded into the same vehicle and was driven back to the direction of Nan provincial capital.

When the two eye-witnesses were asked to identify Suroj from his photo, they almost instantly said "Yes, that's him. He was arrested overthere, at that point." pointing to a spot about 50 metres away from the roadblock.

However, they had some doubt whether the arresting officers were members of the regular unit posted there.

Further details of the circumstantial evidence of the arrest disclosed at a proper time in the near future pending further investigation and enquiries to be made from the authorities. CGRS is presently compelled to reveal only certain information for the benefit of the people involved.

At the moment, CGRS is compiling a rather comprehensive report from reconstruction of accounts of their case of 9 disappearances.

CGRS also is in the process of submitting a letter of enquiry to the new Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army.

On June 8, 1986, Suroj's mother said after 3 years of praying and making enqui-

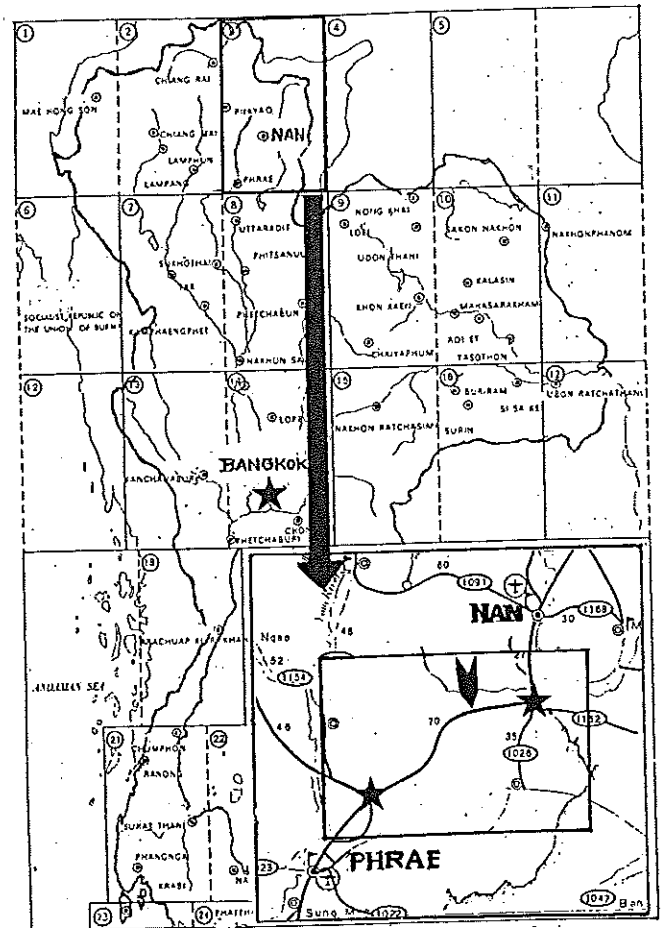
ries, "We only want to know if he is still alive, the authorities could at least tell us what's happened to him. If we could find out for certain, we would be satisfied."

Supplementary Information

According to the 1952 Anti-Communist Act, Article 9: Anyone could be charged and prosecuted for violation of the Act if involved or committed the followings:

- 1) Providing accommodations and/or meeting place in support of the communistic activities or for members of the Communist organization or party.
- 2) Recruiting of members for Communistic organization or party or persuading any one to support communistic activities.

LOCATION OF THE ARREST AND CHECKPOINT



Religion and Non-Violence Section

On April 5-6, 1986, the Section organized and sponsored a field trip to study a self-reliance community at the followings:-

Suan Wana Santi Nun Centre, Don Yeeprom District, Petchburi Province.

Pathom-Asoke Buddhistan, Nakhon Pathom Province.

Wat Sangtham-kalayanee, Nakhon Pathom Province.

Participants in this field trip were 2 novices from Chiangmai Province, 5 development workers, 3 university students and 5 interested people.

It should be noted that this field trip is a continuing program initiated in 1985.

Peace & Non-violence Dissemination and Public-Relations Program

Since the begining of this year, the Section has been actively engaged in the preparation and production of various pamphlets on the programs related to religious studies and other Non-violence and peace studies.

A portable exhibit designed for travelling exhibit was assembled and was put on public display at various functions and was part of the Peace Campaign for 1986.

Peace'86 Campaign

Due to the wide-ranging programs and activities of the campaign, one extra volunteer was recruited to assist the implementation of the following programs:-

Travelling Peace Programs

Jazz Drama

Open Forum on "Peace & Non-Violence"

Public Discussion on "Libya & the US"

Administrative & Financial Functions.

Peace Training Workshop

On July 8, 1986, 4 Buddhist monks from Maha-Chulalongkorn Buddhist University and 19 individuals were invited to participate in a Peace Workshop organized and sponsored by CGRS.

The workshop was held at the Xavier in Bangkok with permission granted by the Catholic church there.

The Peace Seminar planned for the end of 1986 was seriously discussed at the workshop. The Peace Seminar had been earlier scheduled for 11-14 of December at Asoke-wongsanit in Nakhon Nayoke Province.

Buddhism & Peace Studies Scholarship

CGRS was informed officially by Ms Khanungnit Chantabutr that her study on the subject would be published by the end of 1986.

Ms Khanungnit Chantabutr had been granted a research scholarship on the subject as part of the effort to promote Peace and Non-Violence Studies.

Travelling Exhibit

To promote Peace and Non-Violence issue, CGRS deemed it necessary to produce 3 sets of identical exhibit under the title of "Non-Violence for Peace".

These travelling exhibits were displayed at various functions such as the Xavier Hall during a Peace Workshop, Bodin-Decha School in Bangkok, etc.

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The same exhibits were also sent to display for public viewing in the South and North of Thailand on some occasions.

As part of the exhibit, the first batch of 3,600 pamphlets were produced to disseminate among the public. In addition, 7,300 more pamphlets were later produced to accompany the exhibits in various provinces.

Buddhist Monks and Young People Program

A joint project organized in cooperation with the Buddhist Centre for Development, a development training camp was set up in Amnart-charoen District of Ubon-rajthani Province. Participants were assigned to do some physical work in the field, for example, repairing fish ponds, road construction and installation of water-pumps for CGRS-initiated agricultural Training Centre for village youth.

A monk, a novice, 19 students and some volunteers from various NGOs participated actively in the program.

Prof Rabhi Sakrik, Mr Decha Siripatr and Mr Suban Chantabutr from Ubon Teachers College were among some distinguished guests who visited the project.

The program was basically carried out with full cooperation from CGRS field officer, a local village school teacher, 3 volunteers recruited by CGRS while the Religion and Non-Violence Section of CGRS and the Buddhist Centre for Development were fully represented with their officers sent there to observe the program.

As the result, Buddhist monks, novices and young people were able to have a genuine dialogue in a concrete situation. A better understanding of each others life-style and out-looks were initially established.

Secondly, the participants had a first-hand knowledge of development work in the rural areas. In fact, they actually contributed both their time and labour to part of the village development scheme.

Thirdly, a linkage was initially established between the participants and the local villagers. There was a stronger possibility that this could lead to a future cooperation and mutual support.

In addition, a supplementary activity was offered to the participants at the end of the program. A field trip to various temples and monasteries was organized for the benefit of the participants.

Slide Presentation

As a continuation of CGRS attempt to produce an effective slide presentation, the "Three Jewels" slide show was revised to improve the effectiveness of the production.

A duplication of the said slide show should be completed at the end of 1986.



Prof Rabhi Sakrik, a distinguished resource person from Kasetsart University, is seen visiting a local village.

CENTRE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR RURAL PEOPLE

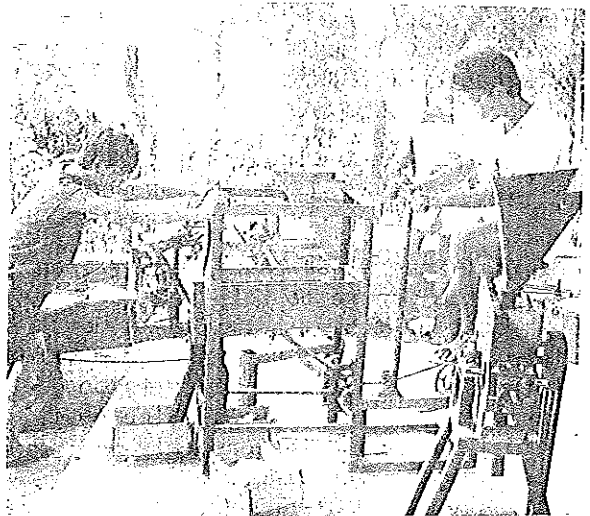
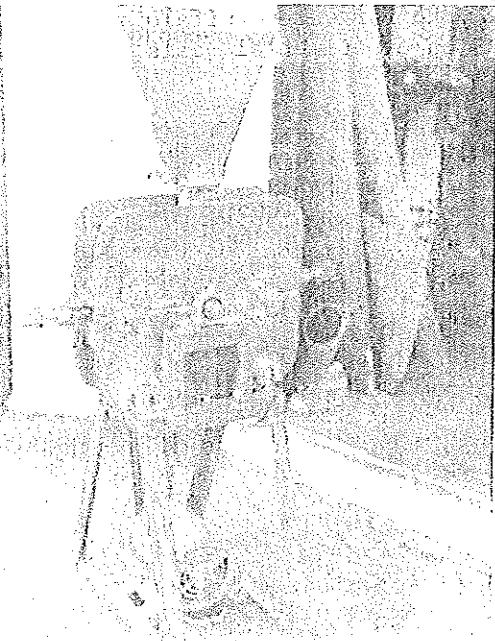
Under direct responsibility of the Rural Development Section, the Centre of Technology for Rural People has carried out the following programs and activities:-

1. A small and economical type of Rice Polisher operated with only 0.5 HP engine is part of the rural development program developed to meet the need of the rural people.

This small project is an attempt to introduce appropriate technology at the grass-roots level. However, this low-budget model of rice polisher, designed and built by CGRS field officer has been operating on experimental basis only.

In addition to the rice polisher, a Rice-Separator was also built with pedal-power by the Centre. This particular machine was basically designed to have multi-functional purposes with inter-changeable parts. It is reported to have some inconveniences in actual operations. Further developments and experiments are needed at this stage.

RICE-POLISHER
designed and built by CGRS



RICE - SEPARATOR powered by bicycle-pedal

2. Motorised Tricycle with small 50 cc engine attached to the body is another project experimented at the Centre in Ubon-rajthani Province. The main feature of this vehicle is the alternate choices of power source; motorised or pedal-power. The rider can easily switch to foot-pedal to save fuel any time he wishes.

It is important to note that only 2,500 Baht is the total budget for building such vehicle including the cost of engine purchased from local market.

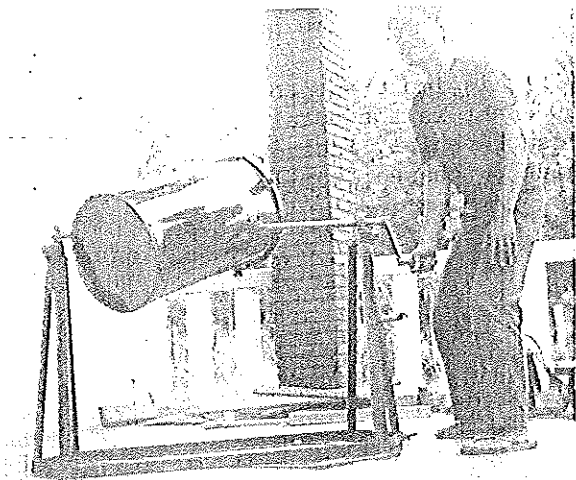


THREE-WHEEL TRANSPORT-a product of CGRS

This small three-wheeler can carry a maximum load of 200 Kilograms with a maximum speed of 15 Kilometres per hour. Some minor improvements are being made to increase the maximum speed, according to CGRS field officer based in Ubon Rajthani Province.

3. Animal-Feed Mixer has recently been built by the Centre to help reduce the labour cost of mixing animal-feed for farmers in the area. Purchasing commercial type of animal-feed mixer is too expensive for many farmers. High cost of animal-feed for pigs can only be countered by encouraging the farmers to mix their own animal-feed. An economy type of mixer seems to be an answer for the villagers at the moment as well as for long time development.

In comparison, the lowest-priced mixer available in local market is more than 10,000 Baht while the model built by CGRS costs only 1,100 Baht or about 10 % of the commercial model.



ANIMAL-FEED MIXER designed and built by CGRS in the Northeast.

The motivation behind this project was to meet the demand from villagers which needed a cheaper model of mixer for their need. In fact, CGRS field officer was approached by a number of villagers who asked him to develop a kind of mixer which could be built locally and by the villagers themselves.

This hand-crank mixer was the result of CGRS response to the local demand for appropriate technology.

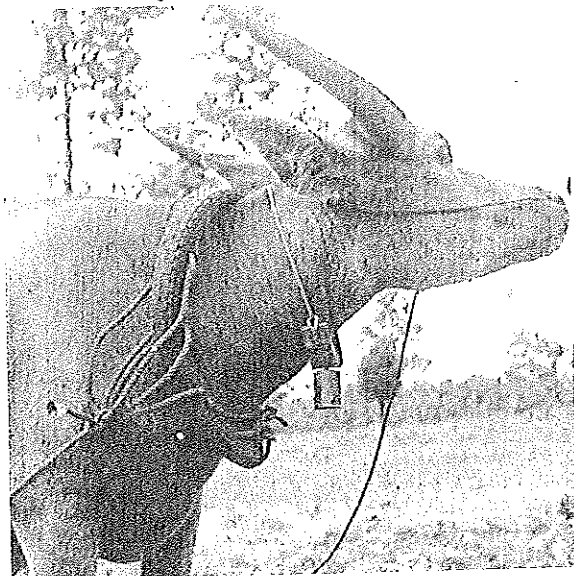
The drum-tank of the mixer was designed for operation at about 45° angle. The 75-litre tank was converted into a mixing tank which can mix a total of 50 litres of animal-feed at one time. The mixing can be completed with only 6-7 rounds and could be operated by children.

4. Water-buffalo Yoke made from old motorcycle tyre is another small attempt to use locally found-materials to experiment with.

As naturally-curved hard wood is increasingly hard to find in rural areas, the traditional type of yoke for ploughing work may be replaced by a new kind of yoke as made by CGRS.

Although this type of yoke is not yet widely used in the Northeast, CGRS deems it worth the effort to introduce it for experimental purpose. By virtue of its economical and practical feature, it has the potential to meet the shortage of hard wood normally cut down by villagers to make traditional yokes.

New yoke for water-buffalo designed by CGRS on experimental basis.



5. Agricultural Training for Youth Project was initially organized in April starting with preparatory works and the selection of the location for the training centre.

During the first phase of setting up the project, villagers and volunteers were fully involved in the construction of classrooms, living quarters for volunteers, preparing the experimental plots and digging a fish pond.

On April 20, local teachers and resource persons were invited to offer their ideas and suggestions on how best this training project could serve the interest of the villagers and the youths in particular.

It was expected from the beginning that this project should also function with increasing participation and involvement from the villagers in the long run.

The second phase of the project began in May when 12 youths were enrolled in training programs. May 10, 1986 was officially the opening day of the centre completed with religious rites and ceremony.

The village headman and village school master were quest-speakers at the opening ceremony. Parents, teachers, volunteers, development workers and registered students collectively planted some trees to promote collective responsibility for their natural environment.

It was emphasised that self-sufficiency and self-reliance are to be basic

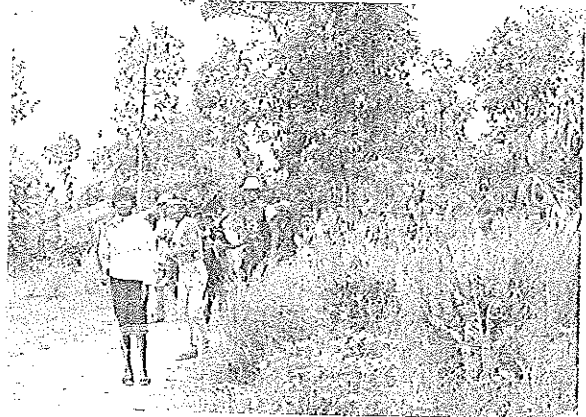


Opening ceremony with senior monk presiding at the training centre.

working principles for the staff and students alike. They were expected to demonstrate their commitment not only to the training centre, but to the whole community development scheme. They should be able to set some fine examples to other village youths in terms of initiatives, creativity, energetic work in agriculture programs. In this respect, vegetables, potatoes and others were planted in training plots. Goats, ducks and fish pond were placed under their collective responsibility as part of the training programs.



People participation in real situation at the experimental plot.

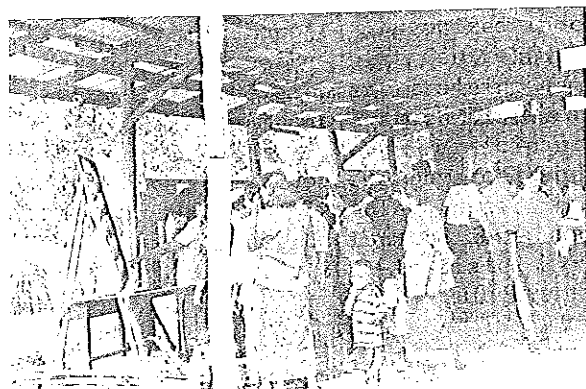


Water-buffalo pageants and parade with villagers in festive mood.

In June, the centre was visited by a group of Buddhist monks, novices and volunteers interested in Peace and Development and also some resource persons organized by CGRS Peace and Non-Violence Project.



Competing water-buffalo with motorcycle-tyre yoke in action.



Public display on agricultural tools and equipments organized by CGRS for villagers at the Ploughing Competition.

6) Agricultural Promotion, another project started in mid April, has been carried out with Field Officer and other volunteers working in the Northeast. This promotion scheme was aimed at villagers in general who wished work for supplementary income by raising fish in paddy fields and/or having a fish pond for their family.

The idea of raising fish in paddy field was welcomed by 5 families in May who were willing to work harder for extra income for their families.

Appropriate types of fish were provided by CGRS for them to start their own fish ponds and raising fish in their paddy fields. It was reported that the peasants were able to benefit from this project after 3-4 months and they could breed fishes all year if they have enough water for them.

Free vaccination for chickens were also part of the general promotion carried out by CGRS in the area. Demonstrations and field lectures were given by volunteers and CGRS staff to villagers. This could help increase their productivity and they can learn how to vaccinate their own chickens in one session.

In addition, a number of goats were purchased and transported to the Centre. Goats and goatmilk were introduced to target villages as alternative sources of diet and nutrition.

7) Ploughing Competition and Festival was held on May 25, 1986 with full support from CGRS and local officials. Villagers took many initiatives to make this event highly successful.

The ploughing competition itself was the main attraction while water-buffalo pageants and parade involved many villagers with creative ideas for decorations. The event was the first of its kind ever organized in the area.

The objectives of organizing such a festival were to promote traditional ploughing with water-buffalo using new type of yoke made from old motorcycle tyres.

This new type of yoke was introduced by CGRS as an alternative kind of yoke.

CGRS also seized the opportunity to disseminate some practical knowledge about alternative agricultural tools and techniques to villagers in the area and from the vicinity.

On the cultural aspect, CGRS made a serious attempt to promote some relevant folk-lore and games which could help the development of the whole village. It is always CGRS basic policy to discourage villagers from celebrating with alcoholic drinks and gamblings at village festivals. Other forms of recreation and folk games with communal spirit and creativity are promoted instead.

Hundreds of people from 3 neighbouring villages also came to the festival and actively participated in various fun and games. Chickens, ducks, goats and other farm products were given as prizes instead of commercial items or cash.

Proceeds from sales of cheap clothes were collected for a common fund. A water-pump was later purchased for communal project in the village.

As the result, CGRS was asked by many villagers to organize similar festivals again annually.

8) Community Health Care Education Project was a 4-day seminar organized and supported by CGRS during April 18 - 21. This seminar was designed to offer basic knowledge to monks on herbal and folk medicine at the grass-roots level.

The seminar intitled "Herbal and Folk Medicine for Primary Health Care" was held at the Thepmongkol Temple, Amnart-chareon District of Ubon-rajthani Province.

A total of 40 monks representing many rural temples in Amnart-chareon District and neighbouring districts were invited to participate in the seminar.

A highly respected senior monk of the district, Phra Kru Bhothi-ratana-banharn, officially presided over the opening ceremony. Resource-persons and qualified herbal and folk medicine specialists were invited to share their experiences and knowledge on the subject. Alternative health care and education on herbal culture were the subjects of lectures and discussions at the seminar.

Also represented at the seminar were some representatives from the Herbal and Folk Medicine for Self-Reliance Project, Folk Medicine Collective of Gudchum District in Yasothorn Province, Phra Maha Boonsong Siritecho of Pha Phra Maew Thannaram Temple, Udon-thani Province, including some concerned health officials from Amnart chareon District Hospital.

Series of lecture and demonstration on basic treatment with herbal and folk medicine were given to participants. Some basic and easy-to-mix formulas were shown to the participants with special emphasis on herbs which can be found locally.

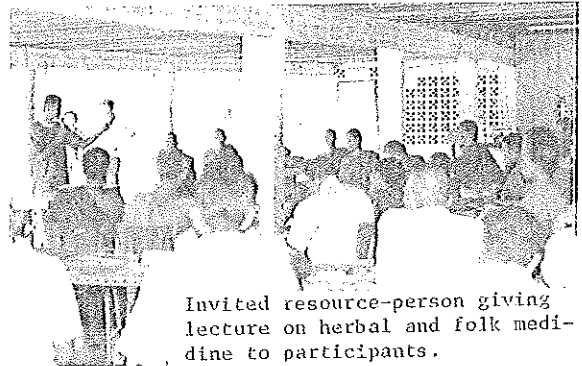
A field trip to see how patients were treated with herbal and folk medicine at Gudchum District Hospital was the highlight of the program.

It was expected that Buddhist monks in rural areas could be motivated to become more and more involved in this type of community-based health care programs in the near future. As monks, they are in a respected position to give advices and promote herbal and folk medicine as alternative to expensive and commercially manufactured drugs and government-owned hospitals. Private clinics are something alien to many of the villagers.

Thus village-based health care and basic education on herbal and folk medicine are needed at the moment and it could be more and more beneficial in the near future.



Common Cold Treatment with herbal and folk medicine - a lecture at the workshop.



Invited resource-person giving lecture on herbal and folk medicine to participants.

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