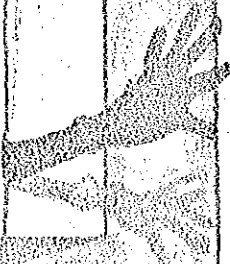
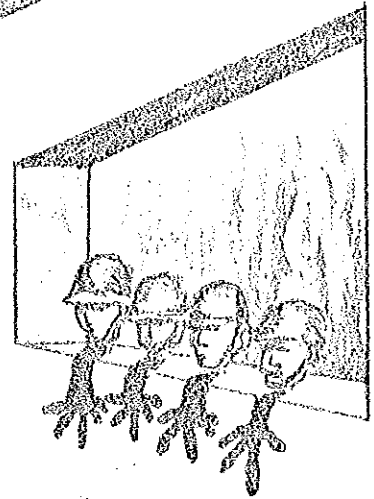
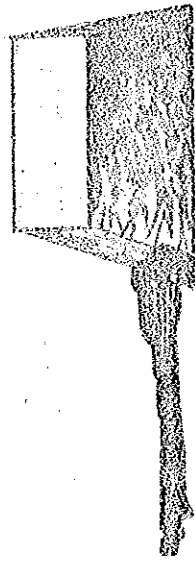


HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

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In This Issue

To Our Readers	
Rangers - Reign of Terror in Southern Thailand	1
Misuse of Government Power	10
Arrests and Releases	12
Impact of Multinational Corporation in Thailand...The Case of Dole Thailand	14
Activities of CGRS	22
Activities of Other Human Rights Groups	27

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To Our Readers

The Human Rights in Thailand Reports' editor wish to make an apology to our readers for the delayed publication of the HRTR, January-March 1980.

You will see that HRTR has been changed from a bimonthly to a quarterly report. During the recent past there have been some improvements in the political atmosphere in Thailand, with many groups of political prisoners released, a few unjust laws abolished, newspapers able to report the truth to some extent, labour and student unions becoming stronger and stronger. All these happen inspite of the existence of the unjust and exploiting politico-economic structure which still remain strong under the same-old-face politicians, military-men and capitalists. We therefore see it more important for our readers to receive more indept stories and analysis of the situation; and have thus reduced the regularity of the report.

In this issue you will see that in addition to reports on political suppression i.e. reports on the Rangers paramilitary force, on misuse of power by policemen and Village Defence Volunteers, whose malpractices ranging from harassing, robbing, raping and killing have become a rule rather than an exception; we also present a report on the multinational company Dole Thailand and its impact on local people and its relation with the superstructure as well as the politico-economic domination in Thailand.

We are happy to inform you that the Justice and Peace Commission of Thailand has produced a slide set (with cassette tape in English and Thai) The Bitter Fruit which is on the MNC Dole and its impact. Those who are interested in this slide set could contact the JPCT or CGRS. We would appreciate your help to disseminate these facts in your country.

We would be very happy to receive any comment or criticism on the Report. Your comments as well as suggestions will greatly help us to improve the HRTR to best serve and satisfy our readers.

We thank all of you for your support for and solidarity with our struggle here in Thailand.

RANGERS

REIGN OF TERROR IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

In mid-March CGRS got a complaint from relatives of 8 villagers who were shot dead by some members of the paramilitary force known as Rangers in the Southern province of Pattalung. Later that month, a member of the CGRS staff went to the village to investigate the case, and since then CGRS has been following the case very closely. In April CGRS together with some MPs, the press and other human rights organizations organized a fact finding team to Pattalung, and met with some surviving victims, relatives, and the governor of Pattalung.

Following is the story compiled from our months-long investigation of the issue.

In the twilight of March 6, while a group of about 200 villagers were gathering for funeral rites at the home of a young man who had died of heart-failure, a familiar-faced ruffian in camouflaged green fatigues, and armed with an M16 stalked in accompanied by 2 men in civilian clothes. None of the men, women, children or elderly people who were gathering there paid any attention to the man and his lethal gun, for they knew him well. He was Prasob (or Char) Suktaen, an ex-hooligan who after escaping from prison, became a member of the paramilitary force, the Rangers.

Suddenly, the ranger, who showed signs of drunkenness, swayed his rifle toward a group of people sitting in the yard. Without a word of warning he pulled the trigger and the bullets rained in rapid succession to the last cartridge. Screams and the rapid report of the gunshots drowned out the chatter. The man then changed the cartridge magazine and climbed up the stairs onto the front platform of the house without even glancing back to see the victims of the first salvo. He steadied his rifle toward the people on the platform and blasted out more deadly bullets. Fortunately, the rifle developed a mechanical failure after a few shots. The cold-blooded gunman then stepped down and disappeared into the darkness with his friends accompanying him.

The mad firing killed 8 people, including 3 young children, and seriously injured 12 others.

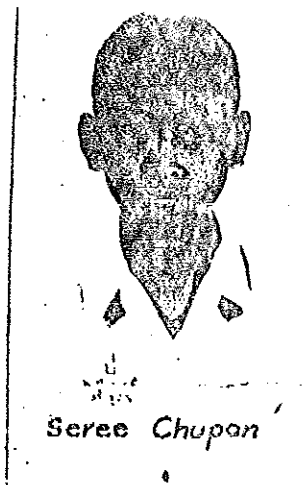
On March 8, two days after the bloodbath incident, the villagers of Village No 6, Tambon Chamuang in Kuan Kanun district of Pattalung province held a funeral ceremony for the 8 people killed by the ranger. During the ceremony, a teacher put some posters on the coffins, which

read "Where is justice? Eight innocents killed and twelve injured ! Who is responsible? Who gives weapons to bandits?" Then someone took photographs of the posters. Suddenly, a ranger-leader named Po Chumpae seized the camera, took the film out, and then set fire to the 8 corpses.

"We have to hide ourselves in fear. We dare not come out to earn our living as before.... The smell of blood... the wailings of mothers who lost their children and wives who lost their husbands.... are still haunting us..." This letter of despair dated March 15 written by the villagers to Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinasulanonda, undoubtedly best described their feelings about the incident.

Names of 8 persons killed by rangers

1.	Seree Chupan	aged 13	school-boy
2.	Pas Chokchamroen	aged 13	school-boy
3.	Chok Kongnoo	aged 14	farmer
4.	Suwit Tepsong	aged 18	farmer
5.	Chamnan Makchu	aged 22	farmer
6.	Chamnong Nitsuwan	aged 27	farmer
7.	Serm Putsrichart	aged 33	farmer
8.	Sa-ad Kaewkwan	aged 30	Village Defence Volunteer



The Ranger Paramilitary Force - Campaign against whom?

Since 1965, in an effort to more effectively deal with the Communist Party of Thailand's guerrilla warfare the Thai Armed Forces has been changing its counter-insurgency tactics. From a reliance on heavy weapons and large numbers troops as in conventional warfare the counter-insurgency efforts relied increasingly on small units of soldiers and



paramilitary forces to suppress the communists. For example in February 1966 the Thai government began with the training of Border Patrol Police units in the North-East and in August equipped and reorganized Village Defence Volunteers for counter-insurgency. Both these programmes received strong support from the US. Later, more and more paramilitary forces, including the Rangers were set up.

The Rangers were set up around 1975, after the American Indochina war ended. At that time a large number of Thai mercenaries returned to Thailand - jobless. The Thai Armed Forces realized that these "brave and experienced" people could be put to good use in fighting against communists inside the country, and therefore set up a first Ranger unit, to operate

with the Second Regional Army in the North East. Presently Rangers are operating in "pink and red areas" in every part of the country. It is estimated that there are as many as 10,000 persons active in this force.

The Rangers are more loosely organized and under less order and control than any other paramilitary force. Any man can apply to be a Ranger with the village-headman or the district-chief, because there are no fixed qualifications. Since the daily wage for the Rangers is comparatively low (30 baht), when compared to the standard in the south of Thailand, those who become Rangers are usually good-for-nothing young men or gangsters. The recruits will receive 15 days armed training after which they will be issued an M.16. Eventhough Rangers have a camouflaged green uniform, they usually do not wear the uniform. In the southern provinces of Pattalung and Suratthani, by day or night, Rangers are normally seen walking around in blue-jeans, shorts or even the local sarong, M.16 in hand. In many areas Rangers are so powerful that even the police are afraid of them. Moreover, the Rangers kill a person and claim that the dead person is a communist, the officials could, in accordance with the Anti Communist Activities Act, omit to do an autopsy.

Consequently, with unlimited and uncontrolled power given to them, Rangers always misuse their power and are found involved in cases of killing, raping, robing, harassing, etc. of innocent people. These malpractices have become a rule rather than an exception as can be seen from the following incidents involving Rangers.

Misuse of Power by Rangers During October 1979 - March 1980 in the South

- 6 October 1979 At 23:00 hrs, ten Rangers all armed with M.16 robbed Mr. Pairong Kammi who was driving his car from Nakornsrithamarat to Ranong. The Rangers got away with 6,000 baht cash.
- 10 October 1979 Rangers seized (stole) 2 motorcycles from Mr. Paisit Chantaboon and Mr. Weorapong Inrapat, villagers of Ban Moo 3, Tambon Kwansi, Na-sarn district in Suratthani province.
- 2 November 1979 At 10:00 hrs, 3 Rangers tried to force a mine company in Nasarn district to give them 20,000 baht, but failed.
At 13:00 hrs, the Rangers forced another mine company to give them 20,000 baht, but got only 10,000 baht.
At 14:00 hrs, the Rangers tried to force a rubber shop to give them 1,000 baht, but failed.
- 18 November 1979 At 17:00 hrs, eight Rangers at Prasaeng district, Suratthani province stopped a car belonging to Mr. Song Chuang-tong, and took 30,000 baht from the man. The Rangers ordered the man to give them another sum of 50,000 baht before the end of the day.
- 23 November 1979 At 18:30 hrs, four rangers killed 2 men, Chamras Hitket and Cha-liew Hitket, on the Asian Highway in Nasarn district, Suratthani province.
- 28 November 1979 A group of Rangers robbed Mr. Sapon Taweasilp of his car in Nasarn district.
- 30 November 1979 A group of Rangers robbed Mr. Somkuan Panlek, a teacher

- at Ban Kuanmahachai, Tambon Prupri, Nasarn district, who has just received his monthly salary. The rangers took the whole salary of 2,170 baht from him.
- 2 December 1979 At 20:00 hrs, three Rangers robbed Nasarn Mine Company and got away with 33 sacks of refined mineral, 4 guns, 2 radio cassette-tape decks, 3 wristwatches. The whole was valued at 500,000 baht.
- 4 December 1979 Ten Rangers armed with M16 waited to shoot Mr. Prem Unsorn, village headman of Ban Moo 8, tambon Kiensa in Nasarn district. But Prem, who knew about the plan, asked the police to help protect him. Six policemen came, and the Rangers started fighting with the police. The exchange of gunfire ended in the death of 1 policeman, and the injury of 2 Rangers. The Rangers also took one M.16 and one pistol from the police.
- This incident has caused a serious conflict between the policemen and soldiers/Rangers in the area.
- 6 December 1979 A group of Rangers seized 2 lorries loaded with rubber at Punpin district, Suratthani province, and sold them for 200,000 baht in Krabi province.
- 13 December 1979 At 20:00 hrs, a group of 6 Rangers robbed a tour bus in Punpin district.
- 13 January 1980 Ranger from a Ranger Unit in Ban Moo 13, Tambon Banna in Muang district of Pattalung province killed Mr. Chamroen Prachumtong, a villager of the same Tambon, who had not been proven guilty of any crime.
- 18 January 1980 A group of Rangers robbed a rubber shop in Yantakaw district, Trang province.
- 6 March 1980 Prasob Suktan, a Ranger and his 2 friends killed 8 villagers and injured 12 others in Kuankanun district, Pattalung province.
- 15 March 1980 At 11:00 hrs, a group of Rangers gang-raped Miss Yen Channun, aged 17, at Ban Pagtang, Kaochaison district, Pattalung province.
- 18 March 1980 A group of Rangers threatened to blow up a theatre in the heart of Pattalung province. Its owner had to block the entrance to the theatre with iron gates and employed additional men to guard the premise. The Rangers were said to have been angered by the owner's refusal to let them have free admission.

Interview with Uncle Am Raw-ngoan

Uncle Am is one of the most respected leaders in Kuan Kanun district in Pattalung. During 1975 he played an important role in the protest against the "Red Tank" scandal in Pattalung (people suspected of being or supporting communists were killed and burnt in red benzine tanks). He had even come to speak at a mass demonstration in Bangkok about this incident.

6.

- What are your feelings regarding the regulations and control of Rangers?
- If we merely talk about Gen Prem's principles as they were implemented in the North-East, I think they are good principles. At that time and in that areas they had qualified people, and had good control. And Gen Prem himself was the Commander of the Northeastern Army. But the South is another case. The Northeastern people can be contented with the 30-40 baht wage, but not the Southern people. With 30 baht in the South, you will only have under-qualified people, mostly gangsters, hooligans, or murderers. Moreover, there is no order or control at all. Today, Rangers walk around in the town, carrying their M.16. Sometimes they even shoot their rifles for fun.
- Since things have turned out like this, what do you think would be a solution to the problem?
- I think the Rangers should be abolished, and have the work carried out by the regular police and soldiers. As it is now, when a Ranger commits a crime, no one is responsible. We have gone to see the district chief, the provincial governor, and even the Commander of the Fourth Army, but all have denied responsibility for the Rangers. But who pays their wages? I want to know who pays their wages? Isn't it strange that no one will accept the responsibility? We do know that the district office determines how many Rangers each Tambon should have, and that the selection is also done there.
- What has been the reaction from the communist guerrillas?
- They are afraid of each other. The communists are afraid of the Rangers, and vice versa. The Rangers dare not enter the liberated areas, but rather they stay in pink areas like this village. One evening the Rangers put mines around the village. Four cows were killed when they stepped on the mines. No one is responsible. These Rangers will not be able to suppress the communists. They just enjoy themselves day after day, singing and shooting.
- Do the Border Patrol Police work in areas controlled by Rangers?
- No, in these areas there are no BPP. I think that the BPP alone is enough. The bad deeds of Rangers make it clear what drives the people into the jungle. In the past, we used to live in peace. But now it is getting worse and worse with news of our friends and relatives shot and killed. Sometimes they cut off the heads of the people they kill and display them on stakes in public places, just to shock the people. Each time we have to ask ourselves, "Whose head now?"

Movement Against Rangers' Misuse of Power

At first the people had endured the Rangers' malpractices in silence and fear. But later on they began to realize that their silence did not make the situation better. Instead it made the Rangers become

even more arrogant and they more readily misused their power at any time and any place.

The people first brought their greivances to the local members of parliament who leaked the news to the Press. On December 19, 1979 Mr. Suthep Turgsuban, of the Democrat Party, put a question to the Parliament regarding the matter but the parliament was dissolved before his question was answered. His action however did arouse press interest in the issue.

On March 17, Mrs. Muk Prachumtong, mother of Mr. Chamroen Prachumtong who was killed by Rangers, made a petition letter to MPs of Pattalung province, asking for justice.

During this period CGRS received a complaint from relatives of the 8 villagers killed by Rangers. It sent one staff to investigate the case in Ban Moo 6 of Tambon Chamuang, and has forwarded the results of its investigation to the press.

In April both the press and public became extremely concerned about the misuse of power by Rangers. And on April 18 in Nakornsri Thammarat the Commander of the Fourth Army Juan Wanarat, held a press conference about the Rangers, to which all MPs from the South were invited. In contrast to his earlier protection the Rangers and harsh remarks for those who criticized them, the commander accepted during the conference that their was inadequate control over Rangers, and promised to get rid all "bad" ones. He also issued an order that officials arrest all Rangers who dress improperly.

On April 19, CGRS together with a Pattalung MP, (Mr. Thirasak Akarabovorn), members of the Union for Civil Liberty, the Lawyers' Association of Thailand and reporters from 4 newspapers (Matichon, Siam Rath, Nation, Review and Siam Nikorn) went to Kuan Kanun District to investigate the case of the 8 villagers killed by the Rangers. The team met and talked with Mr. Am Raw-ngoan and the relatives, visited the house where the incident took place, and the temple where the 8 villagers were cremated. The team also met the wife and the mother of Mr. Charoen Prachumtong, another villager who was also killed by the Rangers. Finally the team met Leut. Kitti Pratumkaew, the Governor of Pattalung province. After the discussion, the team presented him a petition letter signed by the Lawyers' Association of Thailand, the Union for Civil Liberty, and CGRS.

On April 28, the Lawyers' Association of Thailand, the Union for Civil Liberty, and CGRS lodged a petition letter with the Commander of the Fourth Army, urging that the Army punish all Rangers guilty of various crimes and find a way to prevent such malpractices from occurring again. (See petition letter below).

Petition Letter from 3 Human Rights Organizations to the Commander of the Fourth Army

28 April 1980

Maj Gen Juan Wanarat
 Commander of the 4th Army
 Vajirawut Camp
 Muang District
 Nakornsrihammarat Province

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PUT MORE HASTE IN PUNISHING CRIMINALS

Dear Sir,

We are extremely concerned with the assassinations of many innocent people, such as the case of 8 children, villagers and VDV being shot to death and 12 others injured, on 6 March 1980 at No. 78, Moo 6 Tambon Chamuang, Kuan Kanun district, Pattalung province; the case of Mr. Chamroen Prachumtong being shot to death on 13 January 1980 at No 41, Moo 4, Tambon Banna, Muang district, Pattalung province; the case of Miss Yen Channeen being raped on 15 March 1980 at Moo 7, Tambon Kaochaison, Pattalung province, and many other cases. We have learnt from the relatives of these victims that the people who committed these crimes were Rangers. But so far no one of these criminals have been arrested.

On behalf of the Legal Aid Section of the Lawyers' Association of Thailand, the Union for Civil Liberty and the Coordinating Group for Religion in Society, we urge you, to urgently find the criminals and bring them to face trial, so that other innocent people will no longer live in fear. We also urge you to find ways and means to prevent such incidents from occurring again. If not the Rangers will only produce bad results; rather than being a means of suppressing communism, it will only drive more innocent people to join the communists. Furthermore the present situation is in contradiction with the Prime Minister's policy which aims at the peace and prosperity of the Thai people.

We are hoping for your future cooperation and wish to thank you in anticipation for your help.

Yours Respectfully,

(Mr. Pradap Manurasda)
 Legal Aid Section, Lawyers' Association of Thailand

(Mr. Gothom Arya)
 Union for Civil Liberty

(Bishop Boonluen Mansap)
 Coordinating Group for Religion in Society

Enc. A file of information and newspaper-cuttings on the Rangers operation and misuse of power.

Petition letter from 34 villagers to the Prime Minister

No. 78 Moo 6 Tambon Chamuang
Kuan Kanun District
Pattalung Province

15 March 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

On 6 March 1980 between 19:30-20:00, 8 villagers were killed at No 78 Moo 6 Tambon Chamuang, Kuan Kanun district in Pattalung Province. Detail of the incident are herewith enclosed.

The murders were committed by a Ranger from Unit 402. His malpractices have caused great trouble to the people. We have to hide ourselves for fear of danger from the Rangers. We dare not come out to earn our living as before, or even to fall asleep. Even now, 11 days have passed since the incident, the people are still afraid. What happened on that day is still haunting us.... the bloodied bodies of our young children and innocent people lying there, the smell of blood, the wailings of mothers who lost their children in whom all their hopes lied, the wailing of the wives holding the dead bodies of their husbands, We are all still terrified by that incident.

This problem is too big for us to solve with our own hands. We urge you, who have the responsibility of solving the problems of the country and who have power to right what is wrong, to give us justice.

We are waiting for your kindness and for justice. We hope very much that you are one who loves justice, and that you will do everything within your power to insure justice within our society. We thank you in anticipation for your help.

Yours Respectfully,

(Signatures of 34 villagers)

MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER

Five Policemen Harmed the Truck Driver And Four Workers Brutally

Sukhothai: December 21, 1979 Mr. Somnit Sannatta a driver and four workers were driving a truck loaded with wood. When the truck reached an intersection, a group of policemen ordered Somnit to stop the truck and ordered all to get down. A policeman, Sergeant Thongchot Kaewluemsai who was drunk at that time proceeded to punch Mr. Somnit in the chest and stomach and kicked him as lay on the ground. The four other workers received similar treatment.

The policemen then detained all of them at Sergeant Thongchot's house while he himself went to Mr. Pring Khamchu, the owners of the truck, to ask for 2,500 baht cash, in return for his truck and workers.

However, Mr. Pring complained to the Police Officer Chamnong Buakao, the Police Director of Sukhothai who promised to follow up on this case thoroughly.

A Village Defence Volunteer Abused Laos Refugees

Nongkai: On January 8, four Laotian women left the refugee camp to visit cousins who lived outside of the camp. When all of them reach a little house near the Border Guard Unit, they met a village defence volunteer, Wan Potchompu and three of his friends who worked as security guard at the camp. They were drunk and ordered each of the four women to give them 100 baht. They had no money so they gave them their wrist-watches instead but Wan didn't agree to let them go because he wanted the women to sleep with them.

Wan and his friends shamelessly carried on in this way in the presence of three reporters. When the reporters pleaded with them to let the women go Wan refused but the women took this opportunity to run back to the camp.

The journalist complained to Mr. Witan Suwanatat the Director of Nongkai Refugee Camp and reported the incident in the press.

Two Policemen Shoot an Army Private

Bangkok: On January 30 while Private Sumpun Boonrod (22), his brother and a friend were going out, they were approached by two policemen who suspected Sumpun was concealing something in his clothes and began to search him. Then they shot him in his right cheek and stomach. He was sent to the hospital and died there.

The two policemen said that Private Sumpun was behaving suspiciously so they want to examine him but when he took out his gun they had to shoot him in selfdefence. The policemen said that he was in illegal possession of a firearm and 4 tubes of heroin.

Mr. Seksan, the victim's brother who was present during the incident said that the policemen went straight to Sumpun, discovered something in his clothing and then suddenly shot him. Mr. Seksan insisted that his brother was innocent because he had never been in possession of illegal firearms or drugs.

Two Police Officers, Sunthorn Lohana and Narong Ditjam rushed to the scene and questioned the two policemen and the victim's brother. They promised to do justice in this case.

A Hundred People Petition the Prime Minister

Petburi: March 14, a hundred people of Tayang District, Petburi, marched to the Prime Minister's house and reported to him that on March 12 while Mr. Chaipruk Thongkird (25) and two of his friends were driving a car back home, Captain Sompong and four other policemen shot at his car, seriously wounding his two friends.

Captain Sompong rushed to Tayang Police Station and alleged that Chaipruk and his friends obstructed the policemen's work and shot at the policemen first.

While the people were waiting for the Prime Minister, Mr. Pratueng Kiratibut, the Minister of Interior met with them and promised to investigate the incident and ensure justice was given to everyone.

ARRESTS AND RELEASES

Arrest

- 1/1/80 Nong Khai police arrested Laotian of Vietnamese origin with documents in the Laotian language detailing the strength of Thai military and police installations in Nong Khai province. He reportedly claimed to be a nephew of former senior Laotian official Kenin Polsona who was killed by his own guards in 1958. (Bangkok Post 3/1/80)
- 1/1/80 The number of Vietnamese soldiers arrested by Thai military in Thai territory until January 1, 1980 was 306 men. Most of them were placed under custody of Ministry of Interior and kept at Lardbuakau Controlling Center in Sikew District, Nakornrajsrima Province. After January 1, 1980, the average number of Vietnamese soldiers arrested in Thailand is about 10 men per day. (Matichon 5/1/80)
- 5/1/80 At Nakornrajsrima province, Miss Chada Jongjit, Miss Taerujai Raksawong, Mr. Chaichona Jongjit and Mr. Somboon Boriphan who joined Communist Party in the jungle in 1976-1980 surrendered to the police in the province. The women had duty in production unit whilst the men in military unit in the campus No. 32 Nakornrajsrima province. (Siengpuangchon 5/1/80)
- 10/1/80 Three men identified as Kork Daengcharoen, Teh (last name unknown) and Daeng Phanthari who is the assistant leader of Baan Prao-Nue, were rounded up by police on charge of smuggling Laotian refugees into the country at Baan Prao Nue in Muang District, Nongkhai province. (The Nation 12/1/80)
- 14/1/80 Four Vietnamese soldiers with an assortment of light weapons were captured by Thai marine near the border village of Bang Chanang Lang in Pong Nam Ron District of Chantaburi. These four captives were reportedly attached to a Vietnamese artillery unit now operating in neighbouring Kampuchea. (Bangkok Post 18/1/80)
- 14/1/80 Sixty-four Khmer Rouge guerrillas armed with Ak-47 automatic rifles, M-79 grenade launchers and carbins were disarmed and placed under custody of the marine forces in eastern province of Trat. (Bangkok Post 18/1/80)
- 15/1/80 Twenty-eight Vietnamese boat people were arrested about 60 km. off shore of Pak Panang District, Nakorn Sri Thammarat province. (Bangkok Post 18/1/80)
- 18/1/80 Pol.Sgt. Chamlong Luangprachaporn, who was suspended early last year from his duties at Tambon SanSuk of Banglamung District in Chonburi, was arrested in Muang District of Nongkhai province. He is alleged to have confessed to charge of the

premeditated murder of Pol.Maj. Thavi Meeboon, police chief inspector in Ban Khai District. (Bangkok Post 23/1/80)

22/1/80

Sawaeng Manowas and an alleged accomplice Charoen Kamansak were arrested at Sawaeng's house in Tambon Tha Rai in Muang District, Nakornsri thammarat. Police claimed Sawaeng confessed that he and other gang members had robbed and killed several Vietnamese boat people at Koh Kra off the Nakornsri thammarat coast. He also confessed to the crimes committed in the province's Muang Tha Sala, Pak Phanang and Sichon districts, including the Kidnapping of two women with intent to rape. (Bangkok Post 24/1/80)

1/2/80

Five communist insurgents squatted under a tree by a roadside in Tambon Karor, Tha Sala District, Nakhonsri thammarat. When a military jeep and truck drove past, they opened fire, triggering a half hour battle. Shortly after the clash five of them were captured by government forces. (Bangkok Post 2/2/80)

12/3/80

Thao Kampu Chanta (43), the Director of Laos News Reporting Department were arrested after he had managed to escape into Thailand. He rowed the boat across Maekong River from Laos and docked at Taboa District in Nongkhai province. He surrendered himself to Colonel Prasong Luxsanachaiyaporn, the police officer, but was investigated and controlled carefully because Thai police suspected that he was a military spy who wanted to get official secrets.

12/3/80

Five men suspected to have connection with six time bomb explosions which shattered grocery shops and drugstores in Yala city were arrested. Two out of the five confessed that they had been hired by some leading members of the BRN southern separatist movement. (Bangkok Post 12,14/3/80)

24/3/80

Nakhonsri thammarat police arrested 2 men and 2 women on charge of being communist insurgents who joined about 80 other people raiding and burning a tambon police station in Ron Phiboon district on 23 March. The suspects were identified as Mrs. Korbkul Pinnupong (56), Mr. Sutham Boontham (40) Mr. Nueng Masuwan (45) and his wife Somsri (43). (Bangkok Post 26/3/80)

30/3/80

Two crew members of a fishing boat were caught in Songkla by Vietnamese refugees as they were trying to visit a woman whom they allegedly raped on the high seas early March. The two - Ouan Pomaram (22) and Khao Luangsa-ard (22) were handed over to the provincial police. (Bangkok Post 31/3/80)

Release

12/2/80

Two victims Mr. Somboon and Mr. Vichai Banlusip who were alleged as being communist were acquitted from the charge and released, after they had been detained for 3 years in prison.

28/2/80

Sombat Charaskul, charged with communist activities and detained at Nakhonsri thammarat prison, was acquitted and released, after about 3 years in prison.

IMPACT OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION IN THAILAND

THE CASE OF DOLE THAILAND CO., LTD.

This study on the impact of the operation of a multinational corporation in Thailand, in which Dole Thailand Co., Ltd. was taken as an example, was done by the '79 Research Group with the support from the Justice and Peace Commission of Thailand. The study, finished in September 1979, was done in response to the awareness of negative effects of such operations in developing countries. The study emphasized the importance of the impact of the MNC Dole on local people, and at the same time considered the relation between the company and the superstructure as well as the politico-economic domination within this country.

The research group spent 3 months studying through papers and more importantly through conversations and collaborations with local people such as labourers, planters, farmers in and nearby Dole's plantation and cannery. The group also met and talked with Dole's employers and executive personnel, and with some government officials and many economists. Following article is a résumé of the study.

WHAT IS DOLE

Dole Thailand Co., Ltd. is under license of a multinational corporating system of Castle & Cooke Co., Ltd., of which the head office is located in San Francisco, California, USA. Dole Thailand is a branch of Dole company operating in three countries : Dole Hawaii, Dole Philippines and Dole Thailand, they export canned pineapples to the parent company.

Castle & Cooke has branches throughout the world producing agro-industrial products, such as pineapple, banana, mushroom, pawn, etc., as well as heavy industrial, real estate and other activities, yielding lots of revenues amounting to more than 1,000 million dollars a year.

The plant of Dole Thailand Co., Ltd. is located in tambon Nongplab, Hua Hin district, Prachaubkhirikhan in the southern part of Thailand, which is about 260 kilometers from Bangkok. Around the cannery is the vast land for the pineapple plantation. Dole land is about 26,000 rai (10,400 acre). With more than 3,000 labourers, Dole produces canned pineapples and sends these products directly to its parent company in San Francisco. The product is not available in Thai market. The full capacity out-put of the Dole factory in a year is around 2.8 million. Presently it produces at the level of 2.3 million and gets a

profit of approximately 120 million Baht. 75% of the pineapple is from Dole plantation and the rest is bought from many small local planters and some planters or merchants who have credit to Dole. In planting and canning pineapple, Dole has much more advanced techniques and greater investment than the local planters.

PLIGHT OF SMALL PINEAPPLE PLANTERS

Pranom Puakhorn, a planter aged 35, has lived in Ban Nongkhra, on the high land of Hua Hin district for 10 years. With hardship she has cleared the jungle into fields where she grew corn, pineapples, lemon and banana. But five years later, Dole Thailand Co., Ltd. started to build a cannery not far from her house, and pineapples were wanted in a great number by the company, so she decided to change to plant pineapples. At the beginning Dole gave good price for her pineapples. She earned 1.5 baht (7.5 US. cent) or even 2 baht (10 US. cent) for one kilogram of pineapple. But after a few years she started to lose business because of the high cost of production. Dole now buys pineapples in a very low price at only 80 stangs (4 US cent) for one kilogram and the company chooses only good pineapples and fixes the size.

Just like Pranom, pineapple growers of more than 600 families living near the cannery have encountered the same problem. They are so troubled because they can't change to grow other crops. Changing crops means they have to spend more money in planting and they have to find a new market to sell their products. Poverty doesn't allow them to risk an alternative.

Dole's method of buying pineapples

When the cannery was first set up, Dole bought pineapples at a high price in order to encourage more farmers to grow pineapples and also because it couldn't find enough pineapples to supply its cannery. But now, the company has its own plantation which gives enough supply. The company is able to control the price of pineapple in the market. 75% of the pineapples supplying the cannery comes from Dole's own plantation. Dole buys pineapple at 80 stang (4 US cent) for one kilogram. Even at the time when pineapples are out of the market, Dole never increases the price. The company solved the problem when there are not enough supply of pineapple by delaying or stopping the canning. The company orders the workers to stop working without giving them any compensations.

Besides paying only 80 stang for one kg. of pineapple to planters, the company also make many conditions in its purchases. Dole fixes the purchasing to only 2 hours per day. Therefore all trucks loading pineapples have to wait in front of the cannery, sometimes for the whole days and nights, waiting to get a permit from the company. If the pineapples became rotten, it is the planters' faults; the company will not give any compensation.

Dole also fixes the size of pineapples by claiming that it has a standard size of pineapple cutter machine, eventhough Dole never throw

away any small pineapple of its own plantation. Consequently the planters have to throw away up to 1/3 of their pineapples.

The planters' production and marketing condition

Planting pineapple takes 14 months before the planters get the first product and two other products later. The planters have to spend 2,518 baht per year in order to get products totaling 3,969 kilogram. Cost of production is 64 Satang per kilogram by average. The planter gets 80 Satang per kilogram from cannery, but the cannery still charges 5 Satang per kilogram as a quota, so the planter gets only 11 Satang per kilogram as a profit or about 436 baht per rai (2.5 rai = 1 acre).

It was found that pineapple growers living near Dole Cannery had only 30 rai (12 acre) by average for each family. Almost all of the planters can't sell their produces directly, but sell them through a middle-man who owns a truck or through a broker of the company. In this case, they have to pay 5 Satang for a quota and 10-15 Satang for transportation for a kg. of pineapple. Sometimes, a middle man or broker will take 5-15 Satang from planters for services. From these, we can see that the net income which the planters get is only 50-65 Satang per kilogram. This shows that all planters do not gain anything from their work and sometimes, they even lose. Moreover, from the fact that they have to throw away their small and unwanted pineapples, it is quite obvious that the pineapple planters could hardly live. Many of them became in debt, whilst others choose to send their children to work in Dole's plantation and cannery, or sell their lands and go to Bangkok to sell their labour there. Though many have tried to grow other crops such as corn, it does not make things better. Because to change and grow other crops, they need a lot of investment. And most important of all, in some places it is impossible to grow any other plant because of the chemicals from Dole in the waste water that runs into the land of the people. In addition, there is severe droughts because of Dole's huge pineapple plantation on which there are no trees.

The poverty and hardship that pineapple planters and other farmers are facing has proven to us that foreign investment does not help improve the lives of the farmers. On the contrary, it quickly spoils national resources and exploits cheap labour.

And where does the future of the peasantry lie?

REPERCUSSIONS FROM DOLE'S PLANTATION

The vast 26,000 rais (10,400 acres) of the Dole Company's Plantation lies about 100 metres above sea level. Farmer's rice fields are situated in the west, 80 metres above sea level, i.e. about 20 metres lower than the company's plantations.

Flood Problem

To make plantation suitable for the cultivation of pineapples,

machines were used to weed away all plants and trees and make the land a clean surface, as well as divide the land into sections with drainage ditches to provide water outlets. This has to be done since pineapple is a little-water-consuming crop. Water runs down to natural waterways, to the plains on the west and finally to Pranburi River. Without big trees, flood always inundates farmers' fields which lie below the company's plantation. An aged farmer of Ban Rai Dong Village told us: "Formerly, before the company came here, big trees existed, and flood would occur only once a year, usually at the end of the rainy season. Before the establishment of the company's plantation, it would take about three days for the water to reach our land. But now, without such trees, it takes less than three hours and every time there is heavy downpour, our land becomes inundated".

The small ponds are not capable of receiving such huge amount of water running down from the company's plantation. Besides, some of the company's drainage ditches were curtailed only at the end of the company's plantations, making the land below which belongs to farmers suffer from flood. Farmers filed complaints several times to the company. The company solves the problem by extending the length of their drainage ditches past the farmers's land down to the waterways. Yet this was by no means a good solution since it was just to put damages to other places. In addition the company did not pay any compensation to farmers for its drainage ditches which run past farmers' land.

Land Erosion

Pineapple is a short-rooted crop and thus unable to hold the surface of the soil. Without other trees or crops, rain always destroys surface soil and sand.

A survey showed that within a period of two years, the surface soil was eroded and washed away down to the drainage ditches two metres in height. Mr. Prachoom, a villager, told us: "The flood water was not clear. It was neither drinkable nor usable. Usually, rice likes water very much. Even under water, if the water is clear and sunlight can get through the water, the rice will not die. But if the water is not clear, sunlight will not reach the rice and the rice will die."

The water coming from the cannery also brings down various chemicals such as fungicides and herbicide as well as grass-protecting chemicals. These chemicals which come with the water pollute and kill the fish in the streams and damage such crops as rice, bananas, sugar-canes and corns which belong to farmers. Children who swim in the chemical polluted streams also contact allergies and get itches all over their bodies.

Up to 67 families with the total area of 2,000 rais have suffered from these problems for 4-5 years. At present, the problems still exist and the damaged areas have increased up to 3,500 rais. The damaged areas are in tambon Huay Sai Nua of Cha-am district in the province of Petch-

buri covering 2,500 rai and in Tambon Hin Lek Fi of Hua Hin district in the province of Prachuab Kirikhan covering 1,000 rai.

Villagers have filed their complaints with district officials. But when the officials went to the company to investigate, they were bribed and became silent. A son of a village headman referred to the company: "They have influence over the provincial authorities. Once, a district official was asked by the villagers to inspect the damages in the rice fields, the official summed it up by saying that the damages were due to worms and insects, not the flood. We, villagers argued that rice fields in nearby areas which were not flooded suffered no damages. And when we questioned the company, they denied the responsibility by referring to the remark made by the official. The company even accuse the villagers of trying to make money from the accusations!"

We made a trip inside the company's compound and found that the herbicide chemicals used in the company's plantation were Bromacil and Diuron. The two chemicals can be used effectively only in pineapple, orange and lemonade plantations but are dangerous to other crops such as rice, corn and sugar-cane. An experiment was done, and it was found out that these two chemicals remain in the soil in amount of one-sixth of the total quantity used. We brought some of the water from the company's drainage ditches and the flood-hit areas to our lab to test. We found a very high standard in quantities of these two chemicals which remained in the water.

Villagers again and again filed complaints to the company and the district officials. But it seems the government officials always have some excuses and reasons beneficial only to the company. The company itself never did anything to correct the problem, although it has promised twice, both times witnessed by the head of the district, to get the right thing done. Up to now, they never kept their promises and even told the villagers to file suits against it in court.

DOLETHAI, LAND HOLDINGS

Dole's land is approximately extended in an area of 26,000 rai (10,400 acre) covering two districts: Cha-am in Petchburi province and Hua Hin in Prachaubkhirikhan province. Dole used a lot of plans and methods to acquire this area of land. Before the year 1972, Kao Angkaew Co., Ltd. which was under Dole control, opened its business in Prachaubkhirikhan. It bought land from many local people, who had owned the land for more than 20 years, with the price of 300 baht per rai. Due to poverty and need of a big sum of money, they sold their lands. Some thought that there were still lots of lands left unoccupied. Kao Angkaew bought vast areas of lands. In Prachaubkhirikhan only it reached 13,000 rai. We have not explored the land in Cha-am. However according to information given by the assistant of Hua Hin sheriff, it is a big piece of land. (Kao Angkaew is the name of a hill in Cha-am).

Dole leased lands with a total area of 3,500 rai (1,400 acre) from the Royal Project of Land Development Department which was expected

to be a project to help Thai planters. Aside from these, Dole leased lands from villagers. The rent was 250 baht per acre and the contract will last 6 years. At the same time, Dole submitted a request for leasing state land totaling 6,300 rai (252 acres) in Cha-am district. Even though the request has not yet been approved, Dole has already planted pineapple on the land.

According to a law to promote investment in Thailand, approved in the year 1977, section 27; states that : foreigners can legally possess land for industrial operation, and according to a land law, section 86, states that foreigners can legally possess land for agricultural operation with only 10 rai (4 acre) at the maximum. To avoid violation, Dole established another company, Kao Angkaew Co., Ltd., which worked to provide land for Dole Thai. The following reasons are given to confirm this fact:

1. The first two Thai shareholders of Dole Thai, Mr. Wiwat Boonak and Mr. Tawee Sujinno, are established shareholders of members of Dole Thai Board of Directors.
2. 40% of the present shareholders of Kao Angkaew Co.,Ltd. belongs to Inter West American Co.,Ltd. which is under Dole administration.
3. Other shareholders of the two companies are in the same families, Lum-sum and Wanglee, or have some connections.
4. Two directors of Kaw Angkaew Co.,Ltd., who are at the top of the company are among the 3 directors of Dold Thai (Mr. Chumpol Lamuang and Mr. Suwan Wlaidatian)

Mr. Puang Suwannarat, the former chairman of the Board of Directors of National Land Generation has also been a director of Kao Angkaew since 1970.

Mr. Hing, a villager at Name Taban, had high hopes for his 250 rai of land leased by Dole Thai. He said that the company wanted to buy his land but he preferred having them leased. It was useless to cultivate his land because he himself had no modern machines to improve the lands while the company did. He hoped that after the end of the contract, he would make good use of his land without the use of modern machines. But he forgot something, that to plant pineapples, all trees are cut down, grasses are eliminated, a lot of fertilizers and chemicals are used which will affect other kinds of plant. His land becomes fertile as long as fertilizers are used. The chemicals leaves about 0.14 kilogramme per rai per year and increases every year. It will be harmful to other plants. The same thing will happen to other lands leased by Dole Thai.

Hence, land reform, land of state, royal project and local people yield a lot of benefit only to foreign capitalist.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE OF DOLE THAI

Dole Thai works under a multinational corporation company called Castle and Cook. Many influential Thais were appointed members of the Boards of Directors. They are :Mr.Boonyong Lumsum, Managing Director and an

important shareholder of Thai Farmer Bank, Mr. Supot Wanglee of Wang Lee Bank, Mr. Puang Suwannarat, a former Thai high ranking official, the former chairman of board of director of National Land Generation, Mr. Chumpol Na Lum-Liang, a capitalist, some lawyers and many scholars. Their presence in the board of director guarantees the stability and legitimacy of the company as well as their financial stability. Dole benefits becomes more sound with this group of people sharing the administrative seat in Dole Thai.

63.97% of the total shareholders belongs to a foreign company, (Castle & Cooke and Dole). The rest is composed of Thai shareholders. They are registered as a company or an individual but they have connections with one another. They are influential capitalists from well-known family, such as, Wang Lee, Pisanlabut, Sarasint, Lee Thavorn, Sirisampun, Pramote, Suwannarat and Unakoon (the Governor of Bank of Thailand) etc.

CONCLUSION

Dole Thailand established and registered its business in 1972. Board of Investment company the privilege and the tax payment was expected that land would condition development, and the But it is obvious wanted to have investment for the purpose of material and cheap profit.

Over all, what country and her people were not at all had expected.

Dole occupies many ten-thousand acres of land by the use of various kinds of trick and plan. All the trees on Dole plantation are cut down to let the water flow out rapidly which causes flood in nearby lands of local people which are located lower than the plantation. The chemical mixed and polluted water from the plantation and cannery is harmful to other crops. The flood damages lands. It causes Erosion, leaves land barren and riverbed shallow.

Dole buys small amounts of pineapple from nearby planters with low



Co., Ltd., was established in 1967 and started under the promotion of (BOI). BOI gave the privilege on landholdings exemption because it Dole operation in Thailand more employment, sources transfer of technology. that Castle & Cooke plants in Thailand only exploiting cheap raw labour for the maximum

Dole returned to the place where it is situated what the local people

price. And even if the labour invested by the planters is not counted, the local people sell their crop at a very disadvantageous price.

Dole wage is low (31 baht = US. \$ 1.55 per day). Casual employment comprises the bulk of the workers. Working overtime, all day and night and working with machines make workers weary and tense. Accidents occur often with low or no compensation. Labour union is eliminated.

With their high rate of investment and high specialization system, Dole modern techniques cannot be adapted for the local people to help with their pineapple planting. It is obvious that from the sweat and suffering of Thai workers and farmers, Dole Thai produces canned pineapples to consumers in few rich countries, by tearing out all the sustenance in the lives of the poor Thai people.

Futhermore, Dole Thai and its parent company - Castle & Cooke are trying to dominate over politico-economic system through its connection with Thai monopoly capitalists, some politicians and Thai top officials to maintain their benefits. Consequently, the foreign capitalists' domination over Thai politico-economic system is unavoidable, which will tend to strengthen the expansion of imperialism in Thailand.



ACTIVITIES OF CGRS DURING JANUARY - MARCH 1980

The Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS) is composed of priests, laymen and young activists from the Buddhists, the Catholic and the Protestant Religions, who share a common belief in non-violence, and feel that religion and spiritual value have a central role to play in development of Thai society. CGRS was founded early in 1976 but has become actively involved in Human Rights since the October 6th, 1976 Coup d'etat. For over three years CGRS has carried out its activities openly, inspite of repressive governments and Martial Law. During this period the activities of CGRS have expanded considerably from merely helping political prisoners and their families and others suffering from conflicts in the society, to exposing misuse of government power and campaigning for its victims, for the release of all political prisoners and for abolishment of unjust laws; helping form other groups prepared to struggle for justice and human rights; supporting indigenous rural development groups and coordinating religious organizations.

All the efforts of CGRS are directed at tackling the injustices and oppression that exist in society using religious principles and non-violence as the basic method. In all these activities CGRS hopes to play a catalytic and coordination function, rather than doing everything directly itself.

I. Human Rights Activities

1. Visiting, Helping Prisoners and their families

During the three month period (January - March) CGRS continued with its regular work of visiting and helping political prisoners and prisoners facing injustices, and their families both in Bangkok and up-country. On its visits CGRS provided these prisoners with necessary assistance and also with moral support and encouragement. It also gave regular assistance to poor families of some prisoners, and from time to time arranged for the families to visit the prisoners or attend the trial hearings.

2. Providing Legal Aid

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

During the first 3 months of 1980, three prisoners were released, namely

Mr. Somboon and Mr. Vichai Banlusilp were acquitted from communist charges and set free on February 12th. The two brothers had been detained since October 1976 for more than 3 years before they were finally acquitted. After they have been released, Somboon went back to his hometown in Ubonrajthani province and continued with his work as a farmer, while Vichai stays in Bangkok. After the arrest Vichai was expelled from his work at the Telephone Organization of Thailand and now, after having been proved innocent in the court, he is officially urging to the TCF to continue with his work there. But no answer has yet been given to him. (See details of the case in HRTR November - December 1979)

3. Campaign Against Misuse of Power by Rangers

Since November 1979 CGRS has regularly been informed of various cases of misuse of power by Rangers, which include robbing, harassing, raping and killing, etc. (See Report from up-country, pp. 1). In the middle of March CGRS got a complaint from relatives of 8 villages who were all shot to death by a Ranger in Kuankanun district of Pattalung province. In that month, one CGRS staff went to Pattalung to investigate the case. CGRS has disseminated the result of the investigation to the Press. In addition, the precise information got has enabled CGRS to make a plan for further moves.

On April 19, CGRS and a MP of Pattalung province Mr. Thirasak Akarabovorn (Democrat Party) organized a fact finding team comprising of representatives from CGRS, Union for Civil Liberty, Lawyers' Association of Thailand, and 4 newspapers, led by the MP to Pattalung province. The team went to Kuankanun district, met and talked with relatives of victims from Rangers' misuse of power, visited the house where 8 innocent people were gunned down to death and talked with the people. The team also met with Lieut. Kitti Pratumkaew, the Governor of Pattalung province, and lodged a petition letter signed by representatives of the Lawyers' Association of Thailand, the Union for Civil Liberty and CGRS.

On April 28, these 3 Human Rights organizations lodged a petition to the Commander of the Fourth Army. (See the petition letter on pp.8)

The government authorities including the Commander of the Fourth Army, the Governor of Pattalung province and the Internal Security Operation Command have made some positive response to the cries of the people, the press and Human Rights organizations. The Commander of the Fourth Army said on 18 April that he would take full responsibility to get rid of every bad rangers. Similar remarks were made by ISOC officials and Pattalung governor. But we have to wait and see, whether and when these remarks will turn to action.

4. Campaign for Prisoners Awaiting Deportation

CGRS has been extremely concerned with the 221 Chinese and Vietnamese detained at Bangkhen Temporary Prison in Bangkok. These 221 persons are mostly old (aged 50 - over 70) and have been detained for

5-16 years. The long years in prison, lack of food and exercise and the critical state of hopelessness has driven some of them to commit suicide, and some became mentally breakdown.

These people were illegal imigrants who after having committed a crime (however small it was) and been punished, were remanded and again put into custody, awaiting deportation. But because of the complication in the deportation of these people to the two socialist countries, these people seem to have been forgotten.

CGRS is now trying to raise the public and press interest on the case. It has given information and various articles to be published in the press, and is now trying to encourage other organizations to join in the campaign. We are now expecting to have in May a fact finding team comprising of representatives from a few Chinese organizations, human rights groups, the press, and the Faculty of Law to go into Bangkok Temporary Prison and to meet with some high-ranking authorities who have the responsibility over the matters.

To our view, there is no point of keeping these old people in custody for an endless period of time with an excuse that they are waiting to be deported, when the government now make no real effort to deport them. The government should issue resident permit or grant citizenship for these people, and release all of them.

5. Campaign Against Misuse of Power by VDVs

On 24 January CGRS arranged for 2 relatives of Pralom Kaewsuan, who was shot dead by a Village Defence Volunteer in Promkiri sub-district on 15 January, to appeal and give a statement to the Parliamentary Commission on Military Affairs. The PCMA later appointed a working team to investigate the case and to talk over the problem with various high authorities including the Minister of Defence and Minister of Interior. (See more details in HRTR, November-December 1979)

On 10 April, chairman of the PCMA officially informed CGRS about the result of the investigation, which can be summarized as follows:-

The investigating team found out that the people in many areas in Nakornsriathammarat are in great fear. The counterinsurgency campaigns in the South persue a military approach, rather than political approach. Many people in the South have joined the CPT armed struggle because of this severe counterinsurgency policy.

In Ronpiboon district, the team found out that many people, both the good and bad ones, have been killed. The people in Ronpiboon are mostly rubber tappers, and have to go up the mountains or deep in the jungle to tap the rubbers, and thus meet with the communist guerrillas. Eventhough these people are not communist sympathizers, they were killed by the officials who put false accusation on them.

In Pipoon district, the team could not find out the facts behind the killing of the 3 monks (See more details in HRTR, November-December

1979, pp. 8) But the team visited a VDV camp and learnt that a large number of people were arrested and put under investigation by VDV.

Eventhough the team found out that large number of people have been killed, there is no evidence that it was the VDV, who killed them.. But there are some hints showing that VDV's might be involved in the killings.

The people killed were both those suspected to be communists and ordinary thieves and gangsters.

The Parliamentary Commission on Military Affairs does not agree with the severe suppression policy, and is in favour of the political approached policy.

The PCMA finally proposed that improvements be made on VDV training so that the VDV's are more controled and in order. Any violent operations and suppressions must first be consented by superior officials before being carried out.

II. Religious Relations Activities

Though the vast majority of Thais actively profess adherence to one or other of the major world religions, in general, they and their religious leaders adhere more to the form of their religions, rather than the content and the real meaning. If the conflicts in society are to be reduced, and a widescale and violent civil war avoided, it is absolutely essential that religious groups and leaders become involved in really practising their principles, and take on a social responsible role, and really become involved in tackling non-violently the evils of society.

During the three month period, CGRS carried out following activities:-

1. Panel Discussion on "The Role of Buddhist Monks in the Present Thai Society" was held on 15 February together with the student union of Mahachula Buddhist Monk University at the university. About 900 people including both laymen and monks attended the panel discussion.
2. Inter-Religious Study Group On 23 February the group had a discussion on "Christianity in Thailand" and on 15 March "Islamic Principles and the Solution to Social Problems". The study group is a small group, comprising of Buddhists, Christians and muslims, and aiming at creating mutual understanding between different religions and trying to identify common basic principles of all religions that should be applied in solving social problems.
3. Supporting Religious Groups and Leaders that are Socially Involved. CGRS has been trying to support religious groups that are socially involved in every way possible, and trying to build up a networking system amongst these groups and leaders. In addition, CGRS tries to

encourage the religions to have more social responsibility and involvement.

During March - April, a group of about 40 Buddhist monks from a Buddhist Monk university volunteer to go to various areas in the countryside to live and work with the people, trying to understand and help them. CGRS took this opportunity to encourage and support an orientation seminar for these monks, which took place in February. The orientation aimed at creating more understanding amongst the monks about the rural and social problems and their roles. And in June CGRS will support an evaluation seminar, at which, in addition to the evaluation of their past work and experience in the countryside, much efforts will be put on future plans and follow-ups.

III. Rural Development Activities

Throughout the country there are dedicated people and groups struggling to improve their quality of life, particularly in rural areas. Most of these groups are working entirely on their own, have no idea how other people are dealing with the same problems, and feel that they are alone with no one to help them.

Since 1979 CGRS has been trying to support these indigenous groups in various ways, for example, to build up a network system for them so that they could share experience and help. Along with activities done in rural areas, CGRS tries to conscientize the urban people about the problems that the rural people are facing, and encourage them to help both directly and indirectly.

CGRS has taken the malnutrition problem as a main emphasis of its rural development work. Malnutrition is currently one of the most serious problems Thailand is facing, with 60% of children under 5 years old being undernourished, and 55,000 children dying each year from malnutrition.

At the village level, CGRS has tried to identify villages facing serious malnutrition problems and seek village leadership who will organize the people to carry out the anti-malnutrition project such as the lunch for children program, self-reliance agriculture, rice bank and cow bank etc. It has also arranged for a network system for groups involved in the anti-malnutrition activities through meetings and exchange visits, so that they could share experience. In February exchange visits were made among 3 villages in the North-East and in January representatives of 4 villages in the North-East were invited to Bangkok to attend the exhibition/seminar on "Medicine for the Mass" held by pharmaceutical students of Mahidol University.

While tackling malnutrition problems at village level, CGRS at the same time has a study project - "Where has the food gone?" to study on the malnutrition problem in Thailand, its root causes and effects. CGRS also tries to conscientize the public about the problem through campaigns, direct actions, publications and so on.

IV. Other Activities of CGRS

1. Helping Refugees CGRS, as a member of the Thai Committee for Refugees, started with the Agricultural Project in Kao I-Dang (Kampuchean) refugee camp in Tapraya District of Prachinburi province in March. The project has three objectives, namely,

- a. to promote agricultural production for food
- b. to provide the refugees with agricultural techniques and knowledge and
- c. to enable the refugees to begin to be self-reliant economically.

This Agricultural Project done by CGRS, along with the Home Economic Training Project done by Friends for All Children Foundation and Foundation for Education, and the Education and Lunch for Children Project at a Thai village (Ban Kok Samakki) done by Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, were financially supported by CUSO, Canada.

(Please see details of the Thai Committee for Refugees on pp. 27)

2. Publication This year (1980) CGRS has already published two books (in Thai). The first book Torture Road is a collection of poetry and writings of a south Korean poet and peace fighter Kim Chi Ha. The second book The Story of Prophet Muhammad is meant for Thai children of any religion to appreciate and respect other religions and prophets. (Before this book was published, a book on Buddhist prophet My Buddha had been published by Komol Keemthong Foundation and welcome by children)

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

Thai Committee for Refugees

Following the seminar on Relief Program for Refugees on December 8-10, 1979 at Chantaburi province organized by Union for Civil Liberty Academic Affairs of the Lawyer Association of Thailand, and Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, it was resolved that efforts should be made in order to promote the cooperation and coordination among agencies working for refugees, especially among Thai Voluntary Agencies. A follow-up committee was formed to work through the resolution. Many Thai Voluntary Agencies and prominent persons who are concerned with the refugee problems were then invited to join efforts and to form a committee under the name of Thai Committee for Refugees (TCR).

Objectives:

1. To jointly define the policy of TCR concerning the relief for refugees.
2. To promote the Thai Voluntary Agency role in providing assistance to refugees and to promote the cooperation among these agencies.

3. To study and to disseminate facts about the refugees in Thailand.
4. To represent Thai Voluntary Agencies who are members of TCR in dealing with other organizations.
5. To follow-up and evaluate the relief programs for refugees of the member agencies.

TCR's Member (April 1980)

1. Thai Muslim Women Association
2. Catholic Council of Thailand for Development
3. Chao Surin in Bangkok Association
4. Foundation for Children
5. Foundation for Education
6. Women Council of Thailand
7. Coordinating Group for Religion in Society
8. Union for Civil Liberty
9. Holt Saha Thai Foundation
10. TRRM Foundation
11. Friend For All Children Foundation

TCR Activities

1. Child and Adult Education Project at Srakaew Camp with UNHCR support.
2. Culture and Religion Project at Srakaew Camp with the UNHCR support.
3. Survey of the refugee need at Kao-I-Dang Camp and survey of surrounding Thai villages with the CUSO support.
4. Home Economic Training and Agricultural Project at Khao-I-Dang Camp with CUSO support.
5. Education and Lunch for Children Project at Kok Samakki village in Prachinburi with CUSO support

TCR also assists Buddhist Association of Taiwan and International Muslim Association and other organizations in providing aid to the refugees.

