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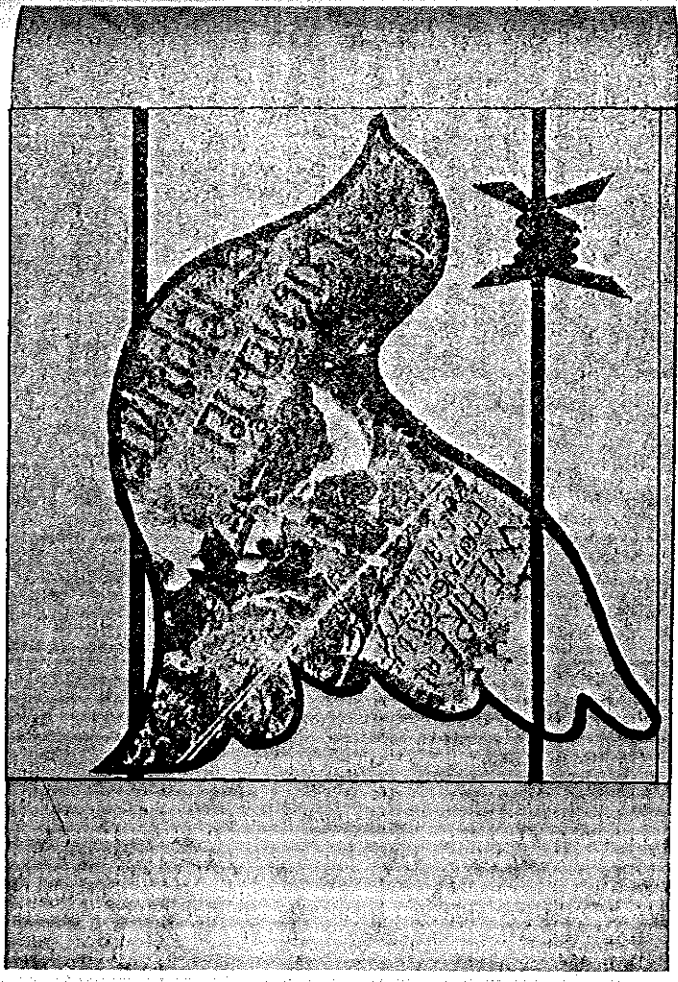
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AIR MAIL
PRINTED MATTER

Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS)
 495/44 Soi Yoo-omsin, Janran-samitwong 40 Road, Bangkok 10700, Thailand.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

Vol. 9 No. 2 April-July 1985



Human Right in Thailand Report (HRT) is a quarterly publication of the Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS).
 Address: 496/44 Soi Yoo-Omsin, Janran-samitwong 40 Road, Bangkok 10700, Thailand
 Subscription Rate: US\$ 10.-per annum

EDITORIAL

Despite all necessary delay, we have appeared before you again with the latest developments in the area of human rights and other related issues. The biggest event for all NGOs in Thailand is the all-year Peace Campaign organized by about 12 organizations committed to the question of peace. It was the prison riot at Bangkok which shocked us most when the news of violent suppression in the maximum security jail came to us at Thammasathani.

We shall do our best to keep our readers well-informed about the human rights situation in Thailand as always in our next issue. In Unity & Peace.



A POLICEMAN stands guard near a prison tower.

Bangkok: Crowded conditions and violent history

WHEN Bangkok maximum security prison was built in 1931, it was designed for only 4,000 prisoners. But today, the country's largest prison in Nonohaburi is holding close to 8,000 inmates.

The prison, which covers an area of 80 acres (200 rai), is divided into 13 sections all separated by internal barbed wire. The external barriers encasing the whole area is 2,406 metres long, 6 metres high and rooted one metre underground. Parts of the barrier are electrified.

Bangkok prison holds inmates serving long jail terms, ranging from 25 years to life sentence. There are more than 100 death row convicts jailed at the prison.

Inmates in Sections 4, 5 and 6, who staged the riot, are those mainly serving heavy jail terms.

Bangkok prison has a history of violence. In 1974, it saw one of its bloodiest incidences of unrest when inmates joined those at Lar-dyo prison in a riot to demand amnesty.

In the course of the disturbance, policemen opened fire and killed several prisoners.

In January this year, a number of inmates at Bangkok prison went on a hunger strike also to demand amnesty. But the incident ended without violence.

Ringleaders were educated inmates

MANY of the ringleaders in the riot at Bangkok prison were educated inmates and some appeared to be eloquent speakers.

Informed prison sources said that they succeeded in mustering support from some inmates who had graduated in law in planning their strategy.

One of them was Pipob Prakhongchai, a convict serving a life sentence in Cellblock 6.

Pipob was the one who braved the hail of bullets from the police and pleaded for mercy through a megaphone.

"When policemen were injured on duty, they came to us for blood donations. And many of us are war veterans in Laos and Vietnam. Why are you doing this to us," Pipob houted.

He added: "You don't know what prison is like... We respect you the policemen because you are doing your duty under the law. But please don't shoot us because we are not armed."

Pipob also called on the mass media to report on the squalid conditions in Bangkok prison. "The prison is crowded and we are eating leftovers as meals," he said.

Pipob also asked to see House Speaker Uthai Pimchatchon, Deputy Interior Minister Vira Musikapong and human rights lawyer Thongchai Thongpao.

Pipob was one of the 10 inmates who died when the policemen moved in to quell the riot.

The other nine inmates who died were identified as Now Kirsuan, Noi Chaimas, Somborn Khamnoon, Mangkorn Ausalung, Sa-ngiam Kurluang, Ya Wongprakorrkam, Chamroon Yingtanon and Somchat Charoen-porn.

The ten were alleged to be among the ringleaders in the riot.



A UNIT of commandos arriving at the prison.

PRISON RIOT AT BANGKWANG

COMBINED Police forces stormed the riot-torn Bangkok maximum security prison in Northaburi to quell the 30-hour uprising by more than 3,000 inmates. 7 inmates were shot dead and four others doubtfully committed suicide in the bloodiest prison riot in recent history.

Those who died are believed to be the hardcore prisoners who instigated the riot to demand amnesty on Sunday August 4, 85.

As rioting prisoners set fire to two living quarters at around 9.30 am, the policemen, including members of the Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) Force, opened fire. The policemen were armed with teargas, shotguns, automatic rifles and Israeli-made Uzi submachine-guns.

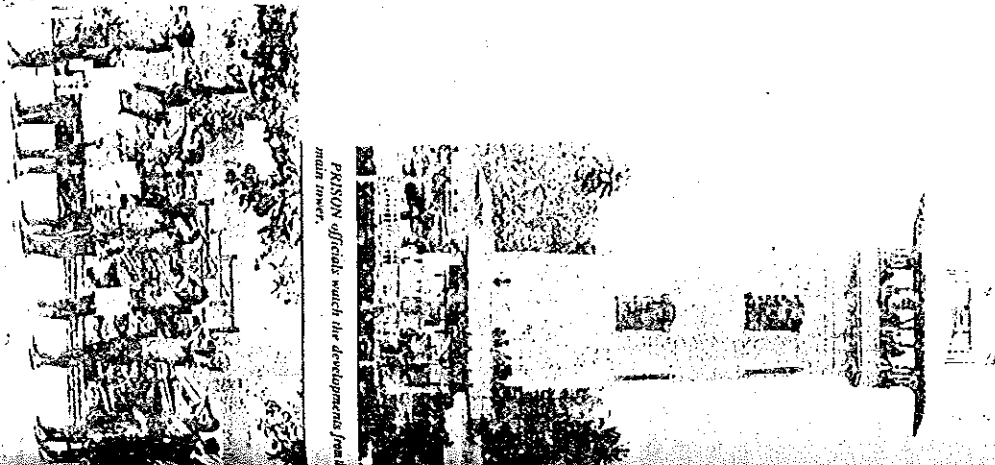
About 15 fireengines were rushed in to fight the fire which was put under control half an hour later.

The situation worsened at 10.30 am when police Director General Pol Gen Narong Mahamonda decided to order a 52-man SWAT team to move in to clear the rioting inmates in Cellblocks 4 and 5.

The inmates in the two blocks were subdued about 45 minutes later and were ordered to strip to the waist and forced back into their sleeping quarters.

The policemen encountered strong resistance from the rioting inmates in Cellblock 6 which housed the prison's most hardened criminals and which authorities said was the centre of the riot. The inmates in the block tried to set fire to another building but were scared off by gunfire.

Three of the inmates were mowed down by bullets and died on the spot. Informed sources said that the bodies of another four inmates were found hanging from the beams of the ceiling. They had apparently committed suicide.



PRISON officials watch the developments from a main tower.

INMATES in Cellblock 4, stripped to the waist, are with policemen here watch after the riot was quelled.

The three inmates who were wounded were reported dead later in the evening.

Director General of the Corrections Department Sanit Ruchinarong said among the inmates who died was Noi Kisuwan, a 40-year-old convict who had been given five consecutive life prison terms. Noi is believed to be one of the ringleaders of the riot and was one of the four inmates who hanged themselves.

All of the others killed were serving life sentences of long jail terms and were among the 100 hardcore leaders of the uprising.

Sanit said prison officials had separated about 40-50 inmates suspected to be among the ringleaders from the rest of the prisoners for investigation.

The situation at Bangkokwang prison returned to normal at around 3.30 pm when prison officials started distributing food to the inmates. The rioting inmates were denied food since morning of August 4, when they started the uprising.

An informed source said that the rioting inmates cooked their own meals with vegetables from the yards and about 200 rubbis they had raised.

Prison officials uncovered more than 3,000 pieces of weapons, mostly carpentry tools, such as chisels and hammers.

More than 500 policemen and prison officials kept an allnight vigil at the prison Sunday as the rioting inmates refused to return to their sleeping quarters.

Inmates in Cellblocks 1, 2 and 3 also joined in the disturbance beginning 7.35 am on August 5 by scaling across the walls separating making noises despite warnings from authorities.

Other prisoners smashed through the gates of their sleeping quarters and began crossing the walls.

The first shots were heard at about 8.30 am and more followed at intervals. Several inmates fell from the walls when the firing started.



Speaking through loudspeakers, prison officials threatened to use drastic action against inmates in Cellblocks 4, 5 and 6 who were also scaling the walls. But the order was ignored and the firing continued intermittently.

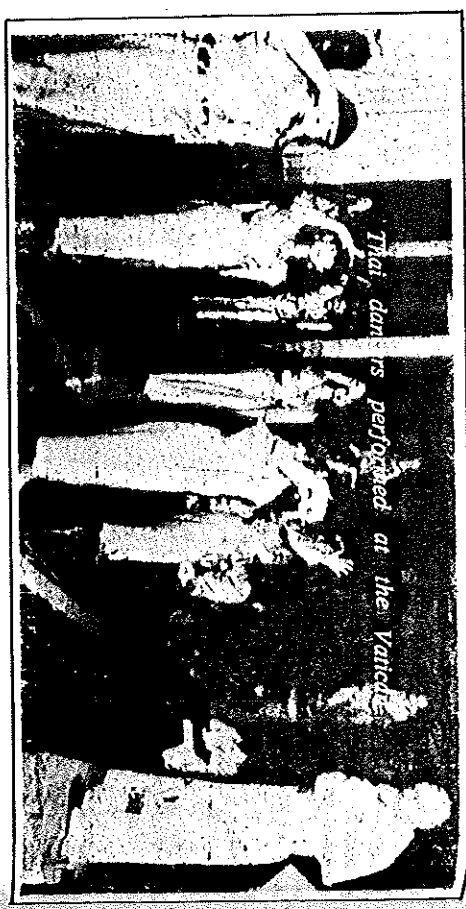
Deputy Interior Minister Chaliew Vatcharapake said none of the policemen or prison officials was known to have been hurt in the uprising.

Supreme commander Gen Arthit Kamlang-ek and Commander of the First Army Region Lt Gen Pichit Kullavanijaya also arrived at the prison to observe the situation.

The riot came on the last day of the 'Meet the Relatives Day' in which inmates were allowed to picnic with their families inside the prison compound. But only prisoners with good conduct were allowed the privilege.

Sanit said despite the disturbance, the programme will continue next year.

The riot was the worst since 1974 when about 10,000 inmates at Bangkokwang and Lardyao prisons staged a bloody uprising in which several were killed and wounded.



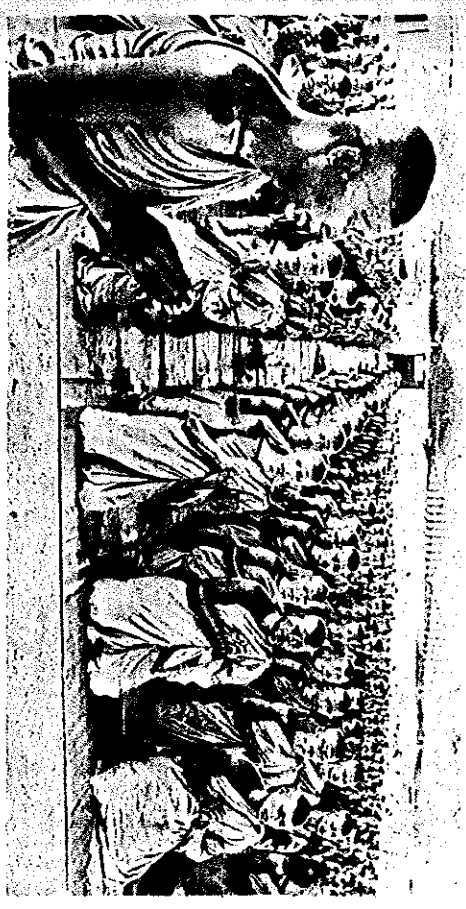
Pope gives audience to 30 young Thais

Vatican City Pope John Paul II received a group of some 30 young people from Thailand in a special audience at the Throne Room of the Apostolic Palace, the Vatican announced on April 6, 1985.

Shaking hands with each one of them, the pontiff urged them to work with their counterparts in other countries "for a better world, an authentic civilization of love and truth, freedom and peace," the Vatican said.

Recalling his visit to Thailand in May last year, the Pope asked the youths to take home his warm greetings to the entire Thai people.

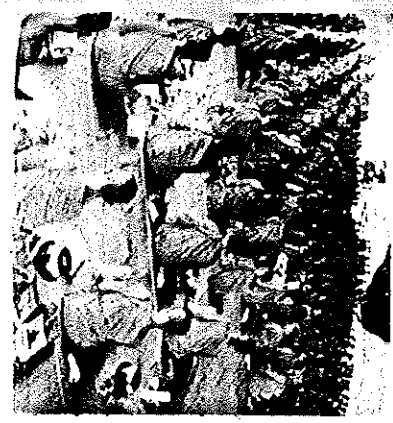
The youths took part in a Vatican-sponsored jubilee of 200,000 young people from all over the world.

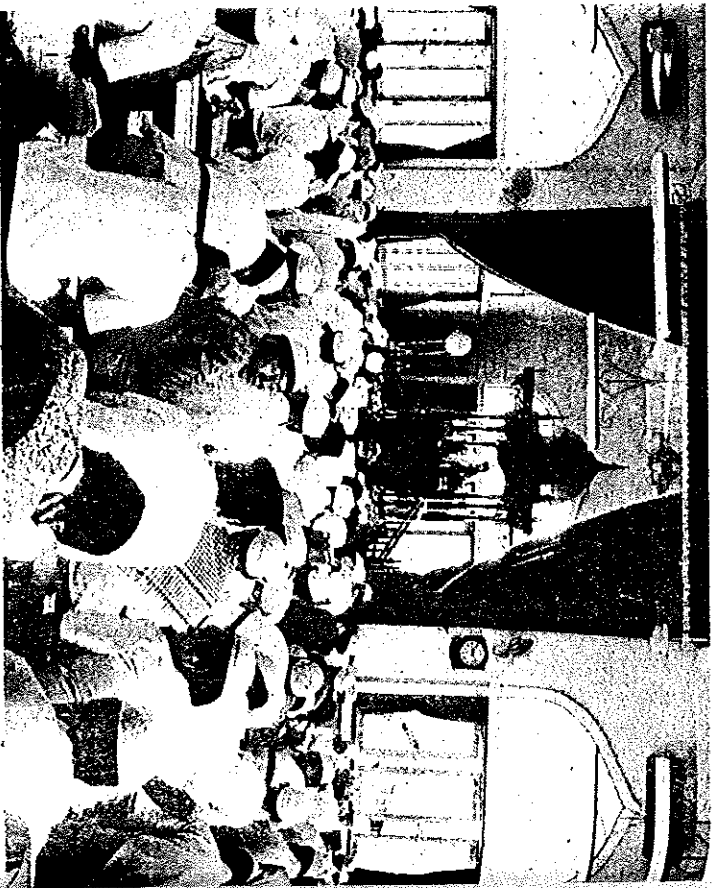


In memory of the Lord Buddha

Visakha Puja Day marks the birth, enlightenment and death of the Lord Buddha.

On this full moon day, Thai Buddhists usually offer food and alms to



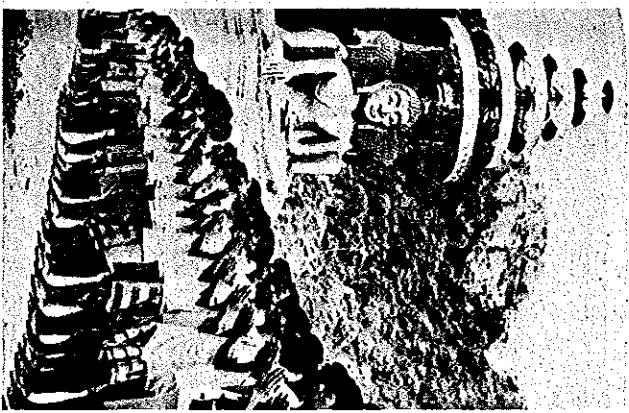


Muslims mark end of Ramadan

Muslims mark end of Ramadan

MEMBERS of the Muslim community in Klongton are seen here attending a religious ceremony to mark the end of the Ramadan fasting period at Klongton Mosque on June 19, 1985.

The fasting period began on May 20 during which the muslims took no food or drink before sunset.



The last group of addicts make a special pledge never to return to drugs after they finish at Wat Tham Krabok in Saraburi Province.

Wat Tham Krabok to close its doors

Saraburi - Plans to start a 20-million baht vocational training project for drug addicts now seem certain to be shelved with the announcement that Wat Tham Krabok will stop taking in new patients

The abbot of Saraburi Province's Wat Tham Krabok, Phra Chamdron Panjan, told the press that partial funding for the project was supposed

to come from the Catholic Relief Services.

The abbot said that the aim of the project was to develop a more complete and professional vocational rehabilitation centre for former Wat Tham Krabok addicts.

Apart from detoxification, the temple also provides training programmes, lasting one to six months, teaching former addicts skills in agriculture, motor repairs, electronics, tailoring, carpentry, metal work and music instruction.

CONTRIBUTE

Phra Chamdron said that the total cost of the proposed project was \$726,669 of which the temple would contribute \$400,000 through in-kind contributions such as manpower services, use of buildings, agricultural land and food for the participants.

Another \$163,230 was to be sought from international organisations and non-government organisations.

Various embassies were to be contacted while the European Economic Community had been approached for funding.

The German Foundation had also been approached.

Phra Chamdron said the temple is being closed because it has an eight million baht debt, four million from private loans and another four million in debts to the bank.

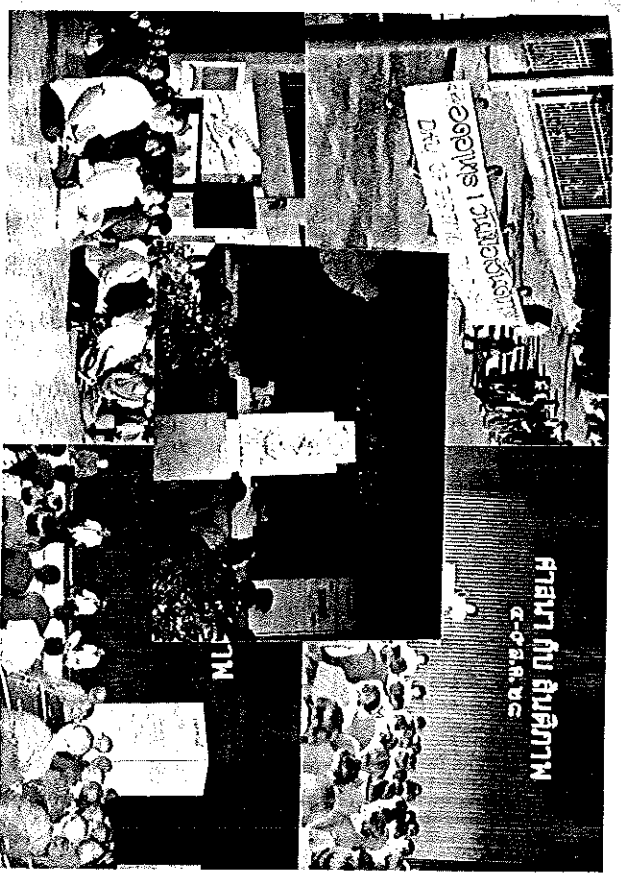
The abbot said that the bank debt was the factor which forced the temple to stop taking in new patients, adding that there are still 70 people to finish the course.



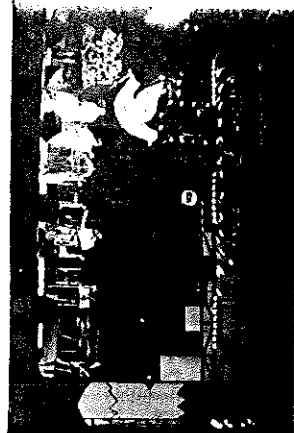
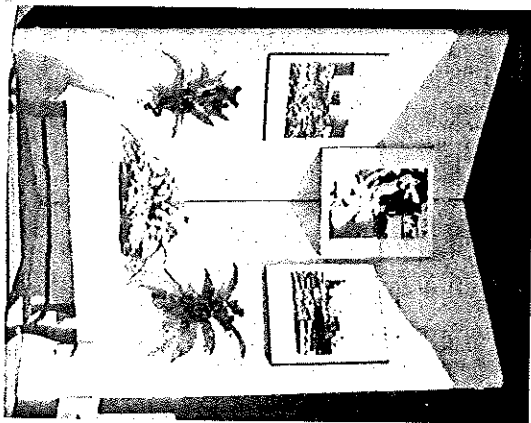
Religion and Peace Week

August 4-9, 1985
at DHAMA SATHAN
Chulalongkorn University

- Sunday-Aug. 4**
- 06:00-07:00 - A day of fasting for peace.
- 07:00-08:00 - Peace march from Victory monument to Dhama Sathan.
- 08:00-12:00 - Buddhist, Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, Bahai people all invited to commemorate 40th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- 13:00-14:00 - Unveiling of "Peace Memorial" Sculpture.
- 14:00-18:00 - Open discussion and Films on Non-Violence and Peace.
- Monday-Aug. 5.**
- 14:00-16:00 - "The Miserables" on VDO.
- 16:00-18:00 - Public Forum on "Arms Race" by Dr. Gohom Arya and other invited speakers.
- Tuesday-Aug. 6.**
- 09:00-16:00 - Panel of Discussion on "Peace, History and The Movement" by Social Science Association of Thailand.
- Wednesday-Aug. 7**
- 14:00-16:00 - "The Asures of the Snow" on VDO.
- 16:00-18:00 - Open forum on "Peace and Ideals" by Distinguished Academicians
- Thursday-Aug. 8.**
- 14:00-16:00 - "Brother Son & Sister Moon" on VDO.
- 16:00-18:00 - Public discussion on "Religion and WAR" by speakers from different faiths.
- Friday-Agu. 9.**
- 14:00-16:00 - Anti-Nuclear VDO.
- 16:00-17:00 - Poetry for Peace.
- 17:00-18:00 - Performance on "Peace & National Security"
- 18:00-18:30 - Music for Peace.
- 18:30-19:00 - Commemoration



(Clockwise) Hundreds of participants for Fasting for Peace marching to Thama Sathan. Religious prayer for the victims of bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Inter-religious Panel on Peace and Non-violence. Representatives of various faiths came together at Thama Sathan as peace-loving people. Peace Memorial Sculpture. (Below) Photo exhibit of Hiroshima-Nagasaki victims. First Peace Concert ever organized featuring best recording artists from Japan and Thai musical bands.



DEMAND



Labour want more help for disabled

LABOUR leaders of the country's four congresses on May Day issued a joint demand for the Government to ease the unemployment problem and to increase help for workers disabled or injured while working to mark the May Day celebration.

The four labour congresses - Labour Congress of Thailand, Thai Trade Union Congress, National Congress of Thai Labour and Free Congress of Thai Labour - also organized a procession from the Royal Plaza to Sanam Luang where a rally and an exhibition was held.

The joint celebration was the first to be held by the four congresses in three years, after previous efforts were marred by personality conflicts and squabbles over the sharing of government contributions for the celebrations.

The Government contributed 450,000 baht for the event, compared to the 500,000 baht given out last May Day.

TTUC leader Paisal Thawatchanant said that he expected at least 30,000 workers to join the celebrations today at Sanam Luang.

He added that the four labour congresses would issue a joint demand for the Government to quickly tackle the unemployment problem which, he said, has worsened lately due to cutbacks in government expenditure, mass layoffs and the closure of various businesses.

The labour leader also pointed out that workers who were injured or disabled while working did not benefit much from the Compensation Fund despite the fact that the Fund has a 1,000 million baht operational capital.

The unemployment problem was further echoed by Panas Thailuan of NCTL who claimed that some unscrupulous employers had resorted to dirty tricks to get rid of their employees without having to pay them severance pay as required by the Labour Law.

One of the widely-used tricks, said Mr. Panas, is that an employer will make certain demands from workers which are usually unacceptable. When the talks fail because the workers reject the demands, then the employer will simply close down his business.

LCT leader Mr. Ahmad Khamtheshong said that he would take the opportunity to call for the quick passage of the Social Security Bill which, he said, has been held up in Parliament for over a year.

The bill calls for free medical treatment for workers who fall ill whether during or outside the course of their work, child delivery fees for female workers and an increase in compensation for employees injured or disabled while working.

Mr. Ahmad said that he would not demand an adjustment of the minimum wage for the time being, but would like the Government to keep a close watch on whether employers are observing the minimum pay scale or not.

He said the main problems facing labourers in general were low pay, exploitation and breaching of labour laws by employers and some unfair labour laws.

Some police may be aiding brothel owners, Sithi says

INTERIOR Minister Gen Sithi Chiturochana said in June that some police may have cooperated with brothel operators by not sending arrested prostitutes to the vocational training centre for women.

The minister expressed surprise to learn that up to 85 per cent of arrested prostitutes are not sent to the centre.

"If figures are combined from nationwide arrests, the number should have been in the tens of thousands," Sithi said. He observed that police should have enough evidence to follow up the cases and send those prostitutes to the training centre.

"There should be investigations to establish why there was no action," he said.

Sithi said that while some names were at the centre, operated by the Department of Public Welfare, no prostitutes were sent for training.

He pointed out that the police in charge must be involved with certain officials at the centre as well.

The centre is located in Pakkred District of Nonthaburi Province, where 220 women are undergoing training. The centre has received enough to train 550 persons.

Director General of the Public Welfare Department, Pramool Chanchannong said prostitutes sent to the centre are usually those who no longer bring good prices. He disclosed that there are many ways to avoid sending arrested prostitutes to the centre.

Pramool said that when they are prosecuted, they are fined by the

court. Afterwards, investigating officials may or may not send the women to the centre. Some names are at times, sent, but not the persons.

Gen Sithi said it depends on the officials concerned whether to send those prostitutes for training. Some have decided to reap personal benefits instead of allowing the women to learn vocational skills.

He also criticized officials who allow prostitutes to return to their profession. "They might be in a worse situation. It is the destruction of human beings instead of a creative deed," the minister said.

Pramool himself said he had been pressed by an influential politician to release a 17-year old prostitute from the North. The woman, Puangphaka, alias Meo, had been arrested and sent to the centre.

"But the well-know politician asked me to release her, saying that he would find a new job for her. I am really hard pressed because lobbying and pressure came from many directions. I have insisted that whatever was done was in accordance with regulations. The lobbying died down after three or four months," Pramool said.

He said the woman is beautiful but has family problems. Her father has a minor wife. She later travelled to Bangkok to find her sister, who took her to work in a restaurant in Trat Province.

The woman became a minor wife of the restaurant owner and was forced into prostitution. "She will not return to her hometown, and has said that after the training she will find a new job," Pramool said.

THE four workers struggling for life in the mango-pickling well



Only one of the four, Thongmee, at left, managed to survive

THREE men died on July 6, after they were pulled out of a mango-pickling well in Bangkuntien, Thonburi, after electricity was suspected to have leaked from two water pumps into the well.

Bangkok police suspected that three of the four were either electrocuted or died because of lack of oxygen. The pickling process produces pungent gas which reduce oxygen in the well, they said.

Police said the incident occurred after one of the four workers, Uthai Pimporn, 18, fell into the well while walking on a wooden plank placed across the well to pick the mangoes. Three other workers, unaware of the power leak, jumped into the well, trying to help their friend. They soon drowned in the well too.

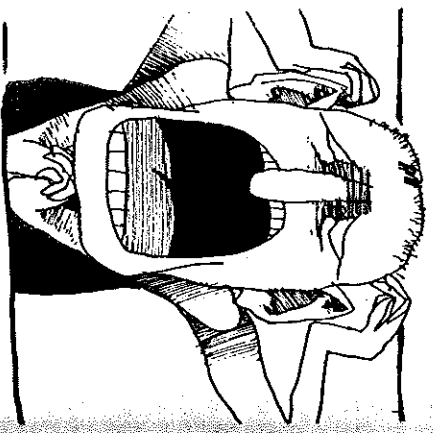
The three other workers were identified as Somchai Bunchay, 18, Poed Kaewklom, 17 and Thongmee Phonchart, 19, who was the sole survivor. He was rushed to hospital and remained in critical condition

Police charged Miss Kusuma Tantalertrnek, 31, manager of the factory, with causing death to others out of negligence.

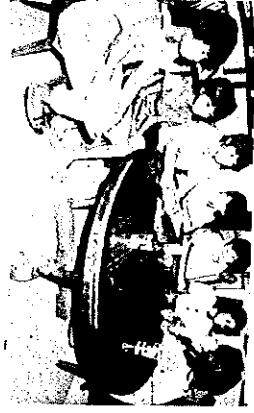
Police and rescue workers had to make a large hole on the roof of the plant and pumped oxygen over the well to disperse the intense gas produced by the pickled mangoes before pulling the four workers' bodies out of the 1.5-metre-deep well.

Two of the workers were already dead while another died upon arrival at the Somdej Phraphitkiao Hospital.

Officials of the hospital said Thongmee was still in a coma. "He smells very badly and the smell of pickled mangoes is now very strong everywhere inside the hospital building. He has not regained consciousness and his chance is slim," one of the officials said.



Escaped from hell-7 young girls who escaped from cruel job placement agency took refuge in Lumpini Park public library.



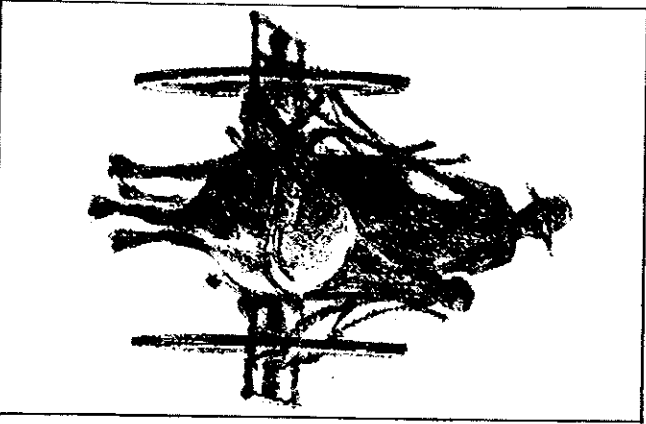
Bangkok - A group of young girls, age ranging from 13 to 16 years old, made a daring escape from their job placement agent's house in Klongtoey slum area took temporary shelter inside a public library in Lumpini Park late afternoon of May 30, 1985. They all claimed that they had all been mistreated by both their previous employers and the agent as well.

According to the investigative report filed by a staff reporter of Matichon Newspaper, the 7 young workers were identified as:-

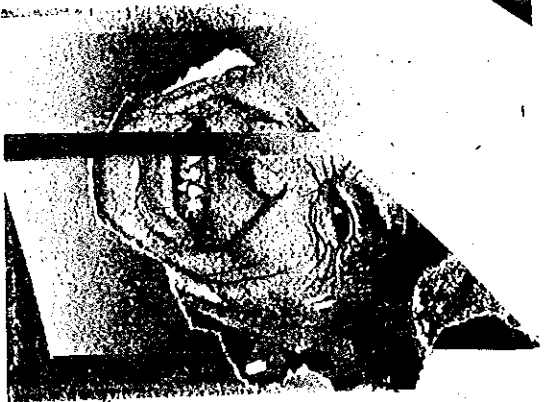
1. Joy Wongse, 14, of Nongkhai Province
2. Thongsa Laksanasip, 15, of Buriram Province
3. Chomyong Maneewong, 13, of Buriram Province
4. Sai Darbaisoong, 14, of Sakon-nakhorn province
5. Kul Sathep, 14, of Nongkhai Province
6. Ubon Mong-urmkam, 15, of Nakhorn-rajsima Province
7. Sunewien Dusadee-sranoi, 16, of Nakhorn-rajsima Province

The young girls readily told the reporter that they all had come to Bangkok under the false promise made by an agent known only as Mr. Saweng who verbally guaranteed their parents they they would be given a reasonable good job with standard wages. They had even been told that they would have a choice of employment. After their parents had given their consent, Mr. Saweng took them to Bangkok and kept them in his house for a while.

Later on, their agent sent them to different homes to work as domestic servants. But all the girls found out very soon that their employers were too cruel to work with, so they went back to Mr. Saweng for another placement. Mr. Saweng became so angry with their request and started to beat them. They had no one to turn to and no where to go. Worst of all, they had no money to go back to they home villages.



29% of unskilled workers paid below minimum wage



A RECENT survey by the National Statistics Office (NSO) found that about 29 per cent of unskilled workers in and around Bangkok are being paid below the daily minimum wage of 70 baht (\$2.50).

Secretary General of NSO Niyom Purakorn said 10 per cent of them are getting less than 60 baht a day.

He said the survey was conducted for the first three months of this year in Bangkok and surrounding provinces where the minimum wage for unskilled workers was upgraded to 70 baht a day starting Jan 1.

He quoted the survey as showing that 44 per cent of workers are paid between 70-79 baht, 29 per cent below 70 baht, 10 per cent 80-89 baht, 3 per cent 90-99 baht and 14 per cent above 100 baht.

Niyom said in the first three months of this year, there was only an increase of 3 per cent in employment among industrial and business establish ments in and around Bangkok from the period between October and December last year.

The survey also found that 59.7 per cent of the establishments paid bonuses to their employees last year.

About 31 per cent of them reported a deterioration in their business while another 11 per cent said their business had improved. During the same period last year, 54 per cent reported their business had worsened and only 5 per cent said their business had improved.

Poor farmers seek most free legal aid

POOR FARMERS in the Central Region make up the biggest group of the country's farming population which is seeking charge-free legal assistance from the Public Prosecution Department's Office for the Protection of the People's Rights, Freedom and Interests.

Office Director Sahai Sapsunthornkul said his office started to provide legal help to the farming population in the middle of last month. The office was established some two years ago to provide legal assistance to poor people.

He said it appeared from the complaints filed with the office that farmers in the Central Region faced more lawsuits than those in the other regions.

Most of the lawsuits filed against them were for indebtedness, encroachment on cultivation land and mortgages, according to the director.

Since the inception of the office two years ago, it has provided legal service to about 100,000 poor people, he said.

About 90 per cent of the cases were legal wrangles between individuals and could be reconciled outside the Civil Court, Sahai said.

He cited a case in which a girl demanded compensation from employers who had beaten her so badly that she had to be hospitalized last August. The employers, a husband and a wife, agreed to pay 70,000 baht in a compromise made outside the court with assistance from the office.

The office also provides legal knowledge to residents in poverty-stricken areas to enable them to protect their rights. The basic knowledge includes the conclusion of loan contracts, and avoiding swindles when seeking jobs overseas, according to the director.



Help sought for abandoned babies

THE increasing number of abandoned infants who are overcrowding government-run orphanages has posed a serious social problem which the Public Welfare Department believes can be solved only with private assistance.

Deputy director General of the Public Welfare Department Amphol Singhakovin that in Bangkok last year, about 900 infants were abandoned by their parents almost right after their births.

He said the number of abandoned infants has been rising in the past several years and the orphanages run by the department are being overcrowded by them.

Amphol cited the Phayathai Orphanage which is equipped to take care of about 200 infants but now has to handle 284 infants. New orphanages which were opened still cannot cope with the number, he said.

The lack of budget and personnel make the Public Welfare Department unable to take care of the infants well enough. Amphol appealed to private citizens to help adopt some of the infants either on permanent or temporary basis.

He said cash donations and volunteers to help baby-sit the infants are also welcome.

"The best thing to do is to find warm families for these children," he said.

The deputy director general said the department was given limited budget to run the orphanages where the expenses on food for these children are only 12 baht a day.

He said there are not enough personnel to look after the infants.

The orphanage at Chulalongkorn Hospital under the patronage of the Thai Red Cross Society is also facing the same problem.

Dr Srisakul Charuchinda of the orphanage said about 60 infants were abandoned at Chulalongkorn Hospital every year. But the hospital was only able to trace the parents for about 12 of them.

The doctor said about 55 per cent of the mothers who abandoned their babies said their pregnancies were unintentional or that the fathers of the children refused to take responsibility. Another 34 per cent said they were facing financial difficulties.

Others did so because of physical problems, he said.

Dr Srisakul said the orphanage has enough facilities to take care of only 50 children. "So whenever we have more infants than we can cope, we would send them to the orphanages of the Public Welfare Department," he said.

He said it is the policy of the orphanage to look after the children until they are adopted.

Though these children are well looked after, they need better environments to help them develop both mentally and physically.

Most of the infants at Phayathai Orphanage appeared excited when they saw visitors and would run toward them.

"They need love and care," an official of the orphanage said.

Couple sentenced for assaulting girl servant



On June 19, 1985 Thoraburi court sentenced a man to seven years in jail and his wife to five years after finding them guilty of brutally assaulting a 14-year-old girl servant.

The court said the couple Changorn and his wife Mrs Sunan Sarnpiak, injured Lamduan Kam-mee by beating her with bamboo sticks and the back edge of a knife.

The couple also collaborated with another servant to assault the girl with a hammer, knocking out her front teeth, and used a heated tin can to burn her face, the court said.

The charge of attempted premeditated murder was dropped.

Lamduan was hired by the couple to help prepare herbal medicines in a shop they own in Bangkoknithian.

Police rescued Lamduan from a wardrobe in May last year after neighbours heard her cry. Lamduan was hospitalized for almost a month as a patient under the royal patronage.

Lamduan, who came from a farming family in Udon Thani, had her left little finger amputated because it had been severely crushed.

The couple denied all charges. They claimed that Lamduan was injured by other servants in the house because she often went into a trance to scare other people.

Lamduan told the court during her testimony that at one time she was forced by the couple to eat the excrement of their daughter whom she was babysitting.

Lamduan's father, Sa-nga, said her daughter was paid 1,250 baht to work for the couple and he had not heard from her until the story about her torture was reported in the press.



Letting the wounds heal



UDON THANI - Lamduan Khammee as she was a year ago with the marks of the brutality she suffered

UDON THANI - Lamduan Khammee has left behind her a world where brutality was part of her daily life and has returned to where she really belongs and where she hopes to stay for the rest of her life.

The 15-year-old girl learned a painful lesson during her several months working as a babysitter for the owner of a herbal medicine store in Thoraburi. She was treated simply as a slave.

Lamduan's parents were paid 1,250 baht by a job placement agency for her to work for the couple who runs the store. During court testimony, Lamduan recalled how she was savagely beaten up by the couple.

Now Lamduan is back in her hometown at Baan Don Khilek of Tambon Baanchai in Baan Duang of this northeastern province. Lamduan has regained almost all the character of a country girl. She was shy and has almost forgotten about her past ordeal.

Her badly crushed left little finger and two missing front teeth are the most visible scars reminding her of the brutality she suffered at the hands of her employers.

Speaking with a heavy northeastern accent, lamduan said she was not aware at all that the couple who had hired her, Changorn and Sunan Sarnpiak, were sentenced to seven and five years in prison respectively for what they did to her.

When she was informed of the sentences, the only thing she asked was: "Who will take care of their kids then?"

After Lamduan was discharged from Siriraj Hospital, she spent four months learning how to weave silk cloth under the patronage of the Silapacheeq Foundation. Lamduan returned to Baan Don Khilek early this year to stay with her mother and three younger brothers after her father had died.

While neighbours have already begun working in the paddy fields, Lamduan's family has found their land taken back by her relatives upon her father's death. Lamduan and others in her family are waiting to be hired to work on the others' farms. And the most they expect to earn as hired hands is only 25-30 baht daily each.

Though most of her neighbours know about her past ordeal, they have made very little noise about it. They believe Lamduan's is just an isolated case and many continue to send their kids into Bangkok through job brokers.

Lamduan's mother, Mrs Poon, said the villagers do not worry that their children may be subject to the same kind of treatment her daughter received.

Lamduan and Mrs Poon themselves hold no grudge against the job broker who arranged for the girl to work for the couple.

As for Lamduan, she has no intention to return to Bangkok again. She admitted shyly that she is in love with a 17-year-old boy next door.

"But I have to do some work on the farm first. Besides, my boy-friend has yet to enter monkhood," she said with a smile and added: "If he really loves me, he should have the patience to wait."



(left) with her mother back in her hometown in Udon Thani today.

MP charges 'cover-up' in brothel death



Klaew...seeking justice.

POLICE in Muang District of Khon Kaen helped cover-up the torture death of a girl forced into prostitution at a brothel operating under their protection, MP Klaew Norapit alleged on April 30, 1985.

Mr Klaew, a Khon Kaen MP and deputy leader of the Social Democratic Party, said that he had learned of the alleged cover-up from Bangkok Prachakorn Thai MP, Khunying Kanok Samsenwil.

Khunying Kanok had told him that the brothel's owners had tortured the girl, after she refused to sleep with a client, by tying a rope around her neck and tightening the noose until she lost consciousness.

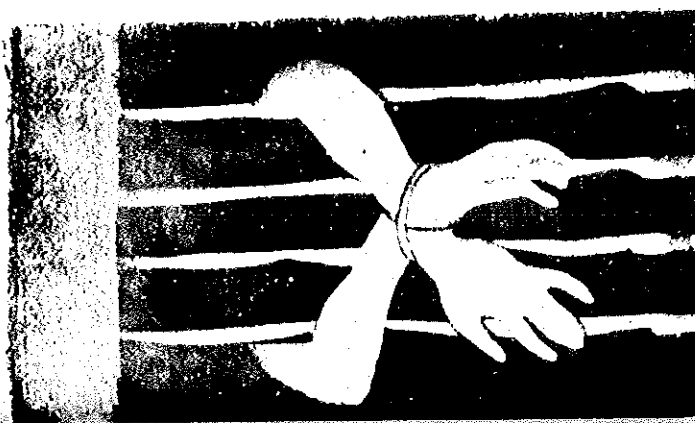
The girl died after being taken to a Muang District health centre. According to the Khunying's account, police and health officials listed the girl's death as an "accident," Mr Klaew said. Khunying Kanok also alleged that the girl was beaten up and that the brothel operated under police protection.

Mr Klaew said Khunying Kanok told him that a number of young girls were kept against their will at the brothel, in Muang District's Soi Anamai.

"After some initial checking I know that the brothel is still operating," said Mr Klaew, who vowed to pursue the case until those responsible for the girl's death were brought to justice.

"I promise that the girl's death will not be in vain," he said.

The incident had occurred "recently," he said. The girl's name and age were not revealed.



Man gets 29 years for raping baby



NAKHON PATHOM - The provincial court on April 29, sentenced a 30-year-old construction worker to 29 years in prison for raping a baby girl in March this year.

About 100 people packed the courtroom to listen to the verdict which came less than a week after Pranom Samboonlue was arrested and confessed to have raped 21-month-old Kanikar Kongmeng in a sugarcane plantation in Muang District.

The court initially sentenced Pranom to life imprisonment but commuted the term to 29 years after he pleaded guilty to charges of assaulting and raping the girl.

kanikar or Daeng was admitted to hospital in critical condition and had to remain there for 27 days.

Kanikar was also in the courtroom with her parents. Her father, Suthai, said he will bring the girl to Bangkok for medical examination because she might have contracted venereal disease from the defendant.

Pranom quit his job in Nakhon Pathom and fled to Sukhothai immediately after the incident.



The girl was brutally raped on March 22 and was admitted to the provincial hospital here in critical condition. She was hospitalized for about a month.

PRANOM Samboonlue leaves the court in Nakhon Pathom after the verdict

Kongmeng girl cries as her aunt applies medicine to her wound.



Pornography seized



POLICE on June 20, 1985 raided a major book and magazine distribution agent at Rama IV Road near Hua Lampong railway station and seized 103,000 copies of pornographic publications.

Commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau Pol Li Gen Samer Danapong said police from the Special Branch Division raid 1 Kor Sampan store, a major book and magazine distributor, and seized 3,000 copies of pornography. Then the police went to its warehouse in Soi King Perch, off Perchaburi Road, and found another 100,000 copies.

Narong assails police over 'head count'

POLICE Director General Pol Gen Narong Mahanonda in late June criticized the city police for their 'head count' practice after the court ordered the release of 220 suspected criminals who were rounded up in the current anti-crime campaign Bangkok and nearby areas.

Narong told a meeting of senior police officials at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Commission that the policemen must be careful in their investigation before making arrests. "I don't want the police to try to impress their superiors with just figures," he said.

More than 5,800 suspected criminals have been arrested by police since the general anti-crime campaign began on June 15.

The police last week took 265 of the suspects to the court to ask for permission to extend their detention. But the court ordered 220 of them to be released for lack of substantial charges.

Narong also warned members of the newlyformed anti-crime centre not to 'compete' with local policemen in cracking down on crime. The centre was set up to specifically handle the current anti-crime campaign.

Narong also said that the police must try to make the public have faith in them.



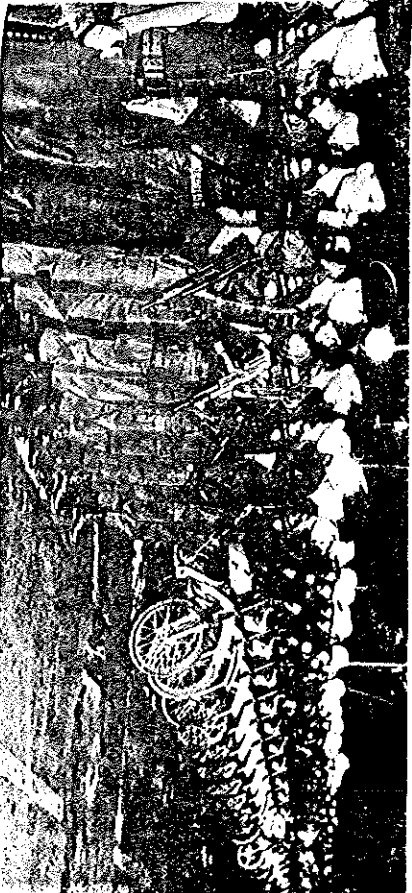
Police detain 5 young robbery suspects



POLICEMEN question the five young robbery suspects after their arrest.

POLICE on June 25, 1985 apprehended four school children and a teenager who admitted to have stolen valuables from customer's cars parked at the Central Department Store in Lardprao.

The children, aged between 11-14, were taken from their classes at Wat Don Muang School and charged with theft. Two of them



said they wanted money to go to roller-skating rinks. Their arrest came after policemen from the Children and Youth Welfare Division seized a teenager, identified as Prasarn Chaisri, while he was strolling in a miniature park in front of the department store.

Prasarn was quoted as saying that he had been stealing valuables from cars parked in the parking lot of the department store with four other friends. The stolen items included cassette-tapes, glasses and watches.

He said they sold the items to a man he identified only as "Dam" who was allegedly a drug pusher in a slum behind Don Muang police station. A team of policemen subsequently searched the slum and arrested two men with a small amount of heroin and a syringe.

The policemen also searched the house belonging to "Dam" but did not find him. They instead discovered several syringes a home-made shotgun and some drugs.

The school kids told police that they broke into cars by using skeleton keys. They said they were taught in the art by an unidentified lion dancer.



NUYA, who was lured into prostitution by a man she met at school.

Trapped in a brothel: Co-ed tells her story

A FROTH year co-ed was tricked into being a prostitute by a man she met on campus after a year of being friends. Nuya (not her real name), from Si Sa Ker Province, is a fourth-year student at Rangkhamheng University who was lured into a brothel in Pattani five months ago. She is now pregnant and staying at the Emergency Home for women and children in distress. In 1982, she was introduced to a man at a student club. At the time she thought he was also a student. They got along well for a year and she never asked what faculty he was in.

After the year, he persuaded her to visit Songkhla. Seeing that there were also a group of his friends, both male and female in the tour group, she went with them.

The group went further to Pattani, which the man claimed was his hometown. She was left alone there in a house and then pimps forced her into prostitution.

She escaped from the brothel five months later and sought help from local people to get back to Bangkok.

LESSON FOR WOMEN.

She warned other co-eds to use her experience as a lesson. "Don't trust anybody," she said. She thought that there could be similar cases at the university among students from the provinces.

She also appealed for donations for her registration fee as this will be her last semester to get a degree. She did not want her family to learn about her story.



H'mong girl sent back from Japan



A MYSTERY H'mong girl from Chiang Rai who worked in Japan for seven years was deported back to Bangkok June 28, and handed over to the Crime Suppression Division police for interrogation.

Police said they were informed by foreign Affairs Ministry officials that the girl, Maew sae Lim, 23, would be sent back to Thailand after Japanese police found her without a passport in Tokyo.

A CSD police team led by Pol Maj Prasert Charatraphat went to Don Muang Airport and took Maew to their headquarters for interrogation.

Police said Maew told them that she was the only girl in her family and that her mother was dead. She says she has no knowledge of her father's whereabouts as she last saw him

at age of 12 before she was lured into prostitution at a hotel in Bangkok by a man named Toy who lived in Chiang Rai.

She said after working at the hotel for over a year she was sold to a woman named Nao who took her to Nakhon Pathom but was not involved in prostitution. Later Nao brought her back to Bangkok, gave her a passport and sent her to Japan with a Japanese woman named Irene.

Maew told police that she was taken to a coffee shop at the Koyo Hotel in Tokyo where she had worked as a waitress for seven years before police found that she had no passport. She said her passport was taken by Irene when she arrived in Japan.

Maew claimed that she can speak Japanese and had completed the compulsory education of Pathom 4 at a school run by Border Patrol Police in her mountain village in Muang District of Chiang Rai.

CSD police said that the Thai Embassy in Tokyo had issued her with a certificate of identification to return home and asked police to trace her nationality as she had no passport but claimed to be a Thai.

Police are trying to decide what they can do to help as she has no criminal charges against her, although they initially speculated that she might have been involved in a prostitution gang run by Japanese during her stay there.

They said they may send her to an Emergency home for Distressed Women. Maew reportedly had only 5,000 yen with her when deported.



To 'hell' and back



"RATREE" (left) describes her experiences working as a prostitute in Germany at the workshop on June 9

"RATREE" must be one of the few Thai women who have the courage to tell the world of the dark side of her life. The 24-year-old woman makes no qualms about describing herself as a "former prostitute." And she certainly stunned many of the participants of a workshop on white slavery in Chiang Mai last week by appearing as a speaker.

It was Ratreer's thought that nobody can tell a better story about prostitutes than a former prostitute.

Ratreer has the honour of being elected as the "representative of Thai prostitutes" to attend a conference on prostitution to be held in the Netherlands next year and she is eagerly looking forward to the event.

The immediate reaction from many of the participants of the workshop upon hearing what Ratreer had to tell about her life was that there should be more "Ratreers" to represent the voice of Thai prostitutes.

But Ratreer might not think the way the workshop participants did. "I don't think you can find other prostitutes who would want to talk about their lives," Ratreer said, shaking her head.

Ratreer is an outspoken woman who speaks with a little northeastern accent. She is from a farming family in Ubon Ratchathani. Ratreer recalled that the first time she encountered sexual exploitation was when she was raped by her employer.

"I got pregnant and was forced to have an abortion," said Ratreer who has dark hair and complexion.

Ratreer slowly learned to survive in this cruel world by taking up a job in a restaurant as a maid. But it was at that restaurant in Bangkok that Ratreer began to get close to the life of prostitutes.

She said the restaurant business was only a cover because the customers were also offered "special service" by the waitresses. Ratreer said she finally ended up becoming one of the waitresses.

It was not long before Ratreer decided to head toward Pathom where she hoped to find an environment suitable for her job. And it was at that internationally-known beach resort that Ratreer met her first "love."

She was attracted to a German tourist who married her and took her to Germany where they had a baby. Ratreer was wrong to think that her life was going to have a happy ending.

After staying in Germany for a while, Ratreer returned to Thailand with her little son to visit her parents in Ubon Ratchathani. Her German husband was killed in a car accident shortly after she returned to Thailand. And that dealt a big blow to Ratreer's life.

It was not long after that when Ratreer met another German man whom she married. But it was this man that almost shattered her life.

She returned to Cologne with her new German husband only to find that he was only a "pimp." He went back on all his promises on how he would give Ratreer a comfortable life. He, instead, almost brought her down to hell.

Ratreer said that she was forced to work as a prostitute. "I had to take an average of almost 20 customers nightly," she said.

Ratreer found her way back to Bangkok again after finding her life to be unbearable. For the last few years, Ratreer said she worked as a "freelance prostitute."

"I would go with any man I like," she recalled. She said she was able to earn enough money to repay all her father's debts.

Though Ratreer is not a woman that can be described as beautiful, she is attractive in many ways. At least, that is what she herself believes.

"You know something? The German men like this kind of Oriental woman with dark hair, dark complexion and big eyes," she said with a smile.

She never explained why she is so attracted to German men. She said she will soon marry her third German boyfriend who is an engineer.

Ratreer said she completed only Pathom 4 education and her Thai is not very good. But she said she can speak English well enough.

Probably one attraction she has is that she is a very good cook. And in all these years, Ratreer has been a grateful daughter who would often visit her father in Ubon Ratchathani and bring him lots of presents.

Ratreer said her mother is a Kimer who has disappeared a long time ago. Her father later married another woman whom she hardly considers to be her mother.

Ratreer's dream today is to have a happy family with her new German husband. She said she wants to own a boutique.

But she has a far-reaching dream that she herself may find hard to achieve. "I just want to get together with other prostitutes to form a group to fight against the pimps and procurers," she said.



124 Babies being brought up in prison



ABOUT 124 babies and children are being brought up in jails by their imprisoned mothers throughout the country, according to a recent report by two academics.

The report "Children in Prison in Thailand" said that there are 66 boys and 58 girls, most of whom are babies, growing up in prisons. The report was made by Surchai Wankaw and Paraya Ruenkaew under the Alternative Development Study Programme, and will be submitted to Defence for Children International.

Children are allowed to stay in prisons with their mothers until they are three years old. After that they are sent to the Public Welfare Department if there are no relatives to take care of them.

These children are not living a better life than the prisoners. During the day, they are cared for by inmates who take turn working in the jail's child care centre. They sleep with their mothers in cells at night.

DONATIONS

These infants are fed by donations from humanitarian organizations and officials because the government budget is for "prisoners" only, and these children are not prisoners.

Though the children are supposedly separated from their jailed mothers at the age of three, some are reported to stay till they are six.

Prostitutes: More than just taking them away from brothels

TAKING PROSTITUTES away from brothels is no solution to the problem of prostitution. It is their rehabilitation that is important in bringing them back to the society without running the risk of returning to the "dark world" again.

Rehabilitation schemes came under critical assessment during the five-day workshop on prostitution organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The workshop was attended by experts from seven Asian nations (Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand).

The workshop stressed the need for comprehensive rehabilitative schemes that focused not only on the prostitutes as the primary target group but also on institutional structures such as the family, the community and society as a whole.

It was felt that the creation of conditions conducive for the successful integration of these young women into mainstream of society was largely dependent on the role the family and community could play as support mechanisms to facilitate the adjustment process. Furthermore, as the major factors which drove the young women into prostitution were their socio-economic conditions as well as family and community pressures, it was felt that society as a whole had an obligation to assist these young women to lead independent, productive and well-adjusted lives.



THE WORKSHOP underscored the necessity for rehabilitative programmes to take into consideration the mental and physical conditions of the young women. At a time when feelings of isolation and alienation as well as physical abuse are pervasive, the importance of sensitizing programmes to cater to the different personal requirements and needs of the prostitutes was emphasized. It was further stressed that rehabilitation should be perceived by the prostitute as an alternative choice and a means of changing lifestyle, and not as a mandatory programme forced upon her.

The workshop was of the opinion that since economic factors are the main motivating forces that lead young women into prostitution, the curriculum of rehabilitative programmes, aside from providing physical and psychological support, should focus on skills training for gainful employment in line with the human power requirements of the country. The types of skills training offered should be addressed to the needs of the economy and linked with national human resources development programmes.

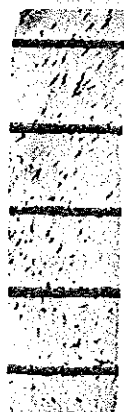


RATHER the just focusing on traditional skills, young women should be given substantial training in fields which would enable them to attain a degree of self sufficiency and independence in their work. These areas include health, agriculture, marketing and management.

To complement the rehabilitative programmes for prostitutes, it was felt that reeducation programmes for the general public should be conducted: (i) to conscientize them about their responsibility, direct or indirect, in sustaining the institution of prostitution; (ii) to change their attitudes towards the young women engaged in the trade who should be seen more as victims rather than as criminals; and (iii) to generate awareness of the public's role in ensuring the successful readjustment of these young women in society. In this way, if more understanding can be achieved, prostitutes can be pulled out of their moral and legal isolation into a dialogue with the community.

The meeting stressed that importance of the political will and commitment of governments, particularly in providing financial support for programmes to combat prostitution including those of non-governmental organizations. The co-ordination and co-operation between governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations were seen as an essential element in the successful formulation and implementation of rehabilitation schemes.

To assist the workshop in its deliberations on this agenda item, the following presentations were made by the three resource persons from Thailand and Japan.



● **Sriporn Skrobaneek (Thailand)**

Prostitution is certainly not women's oldest profession, but it is a mode of reproduction in a male-dominated society in which women's sexuality is controlled and utilized for male sexual pleasure. To consider prostitution as women's oldest profession neglects the role and participation of women in economic activities in every mode of production since human history was ever recorded.

In the meantime, the institution of "prostitution" is not limited anymore to national boundaries, but has expanded into "happiness without barriers" (as advertised by one marriage agency in the Federal Republic of Germany) - in other words "exploitation without barriers." To work in this field requires national and international co-operation.

In order to understand the institution of "prostitution," some principal factors have to be taken into consideration namely: the ideology of a male-dominated society by which women are classified as "good" or "bad"; and the socio-economic transformation at national and global levels and its consequences on employment opportunities for women. Employment opportunities for women are very limited, and often confined to occupations where "feminine" characteristics are emphasized. Women are mostly required in the service sector, in professions not far from prostitution.

Prostitution can be broadly divided into two categories; forced prostitution and "free" prostitution. Legal measures should be enforced to help young girls out of deplorable situations in forced prostitution and to penalize procurers and other agents. In "free" prostitution, legal protection is required. But solutions like registration of prostitutes would serve to stigmatize them

and make it more difficult for them to leave the profession.

When working on this issue, it is very important to distinguish between the women involved (the prostitutes) and the institution of prostitution. Otherwise, solutions may actually worsen the vulnerable situation of these women. Strategies should be directed to three levels of co-operation: local, national and global. The women in prostitution need to actively take part. Public awareness should be raised so that prostitution is not anymore "invisible" from the mass. Production of module is, therefore, required.

REHABILITATION schemes should be revised. They should not be obligatory and persons responsible for "rehabilitation" should have a better understanding of prostitution and the appropriate approaches to dealing with women in prostitution.

For international co-operation, solidarity networks with private women's and human rights groups and concerned political and state agencies in other countries should be strengthened. Legal protection for migrant women should be enforced and relief aids should be provided for foreign women in prostitution. Solidarity action against all forms of exploitation such as prostitution, sex tourism, male order bride and pornography should be consolidated.

Aids to women in prostitution are necessary and prostitution laws should be amended in the direction of decriminalization of women in prostitution, however, severe punishment should be dealt to the promoters and procurers of the institution. Furthermore, the need for more development projects for women, in which appropriate skills training is provided and where women are drawn into the main-stream of socio-economic development, should be emphasized.

● Suzuki Takazato (Japan)

Rehabilitation should be approached at two levels: one focused on the prostitute and the other on society.

The effective assistance of young women involved in prostitution demands an understanding of their individual backgrounds, particularly regarding their own attitudes and the influence of their social milieu. With the age of the victims of sexual abuse steadily declining, consideration of their plight must be in terms of their status as juveniles as well as women.

Instead of establishing women's shelters for all victims, provisions for the shelter and welfare of prostitutes should diversify and target the separate needs of the heterogeneous victims. Examples of necessary facilities include centres for the care and protection of victims of rape and incest, centres to counsel and assist young women from other countries, dormitories for unmarried or rural migrants, and homes for unwed mothers. Despite their diverse orientations, the facilities should share a co-ordinating share a co-ordinating network.

There is also a need to change societal attitudes and values regarding women's role in society. Measures should be adopted to discourage the mass media from reinforcing the patriarchal nature of society and the subordination of women are needed.

In terms of statutory reforms, strict laws are needed to punish the procurers, pimp and others responsible for promoting the institution of prostitution. On the other hand, the present laws that treat the prostitutes as criminals need to be revised. The prostitute needs to be viewed as the product of a male dominated society and as an object of male sexual abuse. Therefore, unless there are

changes in the social structure, prostitution will continue to occur in one form or the other.

In addition, laws against rape and incest must be strengthened and fully enforced to protect those women and children who are victimized. Immigration laws also need to be reexamined with a view to providing foreign women immigrants with protection and care.

Lastly, the following action at the international level needs to be encouraged.

- Network system for exchange of information, derived from investigations, studies, etc, on the social and economic factors of prostitution
- Network system for mobilizing and consolidating support and action against activities that contribute to the exploitation and abuse of women's sexuality.
- Network system for sending and receiving countries to control the international trafficking in women particularly those in forced and contract prostitution.



Revenge, drink linked to rape

THE IMPULSE to retaliate against a woman's indifference, reinforced by drunkenness is believed to be the motivation for sex crimes.

A research on sex crime motivation, performed by a group of psychiatrists, has compiled information from 137 prisoners charged with committing sex crimes.

Dr Anphorn Orakul of Maernal and Child Health Department, Mahidol University, said the prisoners were cooperative with the researchers.

The research found out that most of the prisoners charged with rape are single and 21-30 years old. Half of them are uneducated labours who earn less than 2,000 baht. In addition, they are reported to be closer to their mothers than their fathers.

Some of the prisoners, meanwhile, said they committed the crime because they were carried away by circumstances - drink and encountering the victims.

However, all of them said they knew how to gratify their sexual desires without committing sex crimes. They would not admit to having sexual problems; some said they just lacked self-confidence.

Most of them said they were driven to revenge by women's ignorance and rejection of them. They saw rape as a way to attract attention and vent their anger.

The psychiatrists who performed the research found during the interviews that half of the prisoners had psychological problems.

TK-555-3

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Address: 495/44 Soi Yoo-Omsin, Jaran-saniwong 40 Road, Bangkok 10700, Thailand
 Subscription Rate: US\$ 10.-per annum Tel. 424-9173

Human Right in Thailand Report (HRTR) is a quarterly
 publication of the Coordinating Group for Religion
 in Society (CGRS).



Vol. 9 No. 3 August - September 1985

Subscription: \$10.00
 August 29, 1985
 C. J. ...
 R. ...