

TH-555-5

**AIR MAIL
PRINTED MATTER**

Coordinating Group for Religion in Society (CGRS)

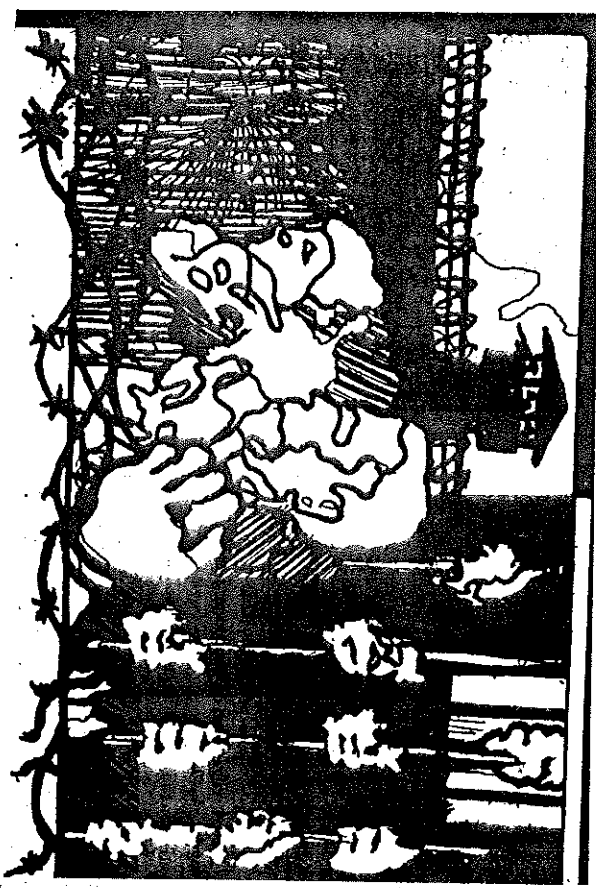
495/44 Soi Yoo-Omsin, Jaran-sanitwong 40 Road, Bangkok 10700, THAILAND TEL. 424-9173

OCTOBER 14th DEMOCRATIC UPRISING REMEMBERED! P.2
 PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR OCTOBER 14th? P.3
 INTERNATIONAL PROSTITUTION RING P.4
 RAPIST OF 3 YEAR OLD GIRL ARRESTED P.5
 CITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST GARLAND CHILDREN P.6
 UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE P.8
 AMNESY INTERNATIONAL AND THAI POO P.10
 ABUSE OF POWER IN THE NORTHEAST P.11
 CLEMENCY PLANNED FOR THAI THAMES P.11
 ARGUISH BEHIND BARS P.12
 CHILD LABOUR P.13
 CITY AND VENDORS P.14
 CGRS AND THE TREATMENT OF RIOTERS P.16
 CGRS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES P.16

In this issue:

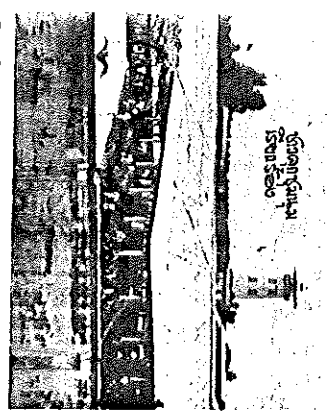
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND REPORT

VOL. 9 No. 4 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1985



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

Address : 496/44 Soi Yoo-Omsin, Jaran-sanitwong 40 Road, Bangkok 10700, Thailand
 Subscription Rate : US\$ 10.00 per annum Tel. 424-9173



Bangkok Maximum Security Prison in Bangkok - a view from outside world



Fire of rage inside Bangkok on August 4, 1985



Police reinforcement called in for special assignments at Bangkok



Police Commandos - taking their position for the final order.



The first group of inmates to obey order from the authorities before the shooting starts.

SPECIAL REPORT ON PRISON RIOTS IN THAILAND

From August 4, 1985 to New Year's Eve, 3 bloody riots broke out in 3 Thai prisons which ended with bloodshed and death.

On August 4, 1985, about 3,000

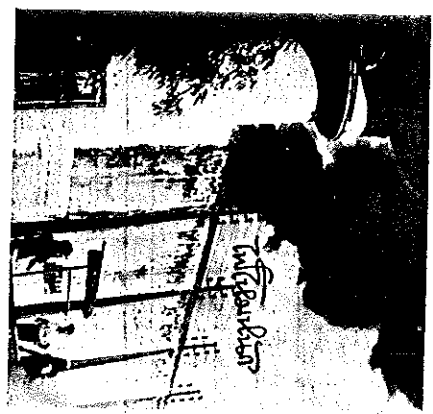
inmates at Bangkok maximum security prison staged a sit-in protest to demand that the government commute their jail terms.

TROUBLE BEGAN

It all began inside the 4th, 5th, and 6th Zones when several hundreds of inmates assembled in the prison yard around 10.30 a.m. The prisoners started to demand a general amnesty that would reduce their jail terms. Dining tables were propped up against the prison walls dividing the zones to allow protesting inmates to cross from one zone to another.

The number of protesting prisoners quickly multiplied after they found they could move freely from their zone to adjoining ones. Official sources said the protest was apparently well-planned. The inmates reportedly had

megaphones and had stock-piled food before the trouble started.



Fire and smoke billow across the wall of Bangkok.

Over 100 foreigners serving time in Bangkok for drug offences also joined the protest, it was reported.

In their attempt to negotiate with the government through intermediaries of their own choosing, the protesting prisoners asked to meet political and government leaders including Social Action Party leader M.R. Kukrit Pramoj and Interior Minister Sitchai Jitranote. But their request was flatly rejected.

Director General of the Corrections Department Santt Ruchinarong told the

press on the same day that the department had requested an amnesty on the April 9 cremation of the late Queen Rambhai Bhairi, but this was turned down by the government. 7,119 inmates were serving jail terms of at least 20 years at Bangkok Penitentiary at the time of riot.

SUPPRESSION

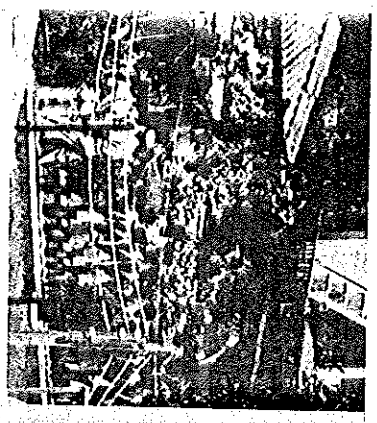
Hundreds of heavily-armed police commands and prison guards were ordered to surround the prison as the inmates in the 4th, 5th and 6th zones staged the protest. 6 fire engines and an equal number of trucks equipped with flood lights were also on standby order. All guard-towers were fully manned by guards and policemen armed with machine guns.

Police chief Gen Narong Mahanont told reporters after an emergency meeting with senior police and Corrections Department officials that police and prison guards were instructed to shoot in case the inmates attempted a jailbreak.

Despite repeated orders by prison authorities for the protesters to dis-

perse, at least 2,473 inmates from 3 zones were reported outside their cells, the protest went on all night with tension mounting constantly.

At dawn, other inmates from other zones joined the protest in support of demand for general amnesty. By early afternoon of August 5, the inmates were forced by sharpshooters and machine guns to return to their cells leaving 7 inmates died of gun-shot wounds and 3 others of undisclosed causes.



Forced to take off their shirts, hands tied behind their backs and then line up for the counts, inmates are seen in long line waiting to march back to cells.

CRIMINOLOGIST CALLS FOR PENAL REFORM

The Director of Mahidol University's criminology program, on August 5, 1985, blamed the riot in Bangkok prison on "A

major flaw in the clemency system" which, unless solved, could lead to more violence in the future.

Quoting research on prisoners issued at the time of the 1979-1980 Royal amnesty, Dr Sobha Chupkitchai said the present parole system favours inmates with submissive personalities who are on good terms with warders.

More aggressive inmates with a lot of pride and not well-liked by warders are more or less forgotten when clemency is given to reduce sentences, because clemency is considered on the basis of behavioural records. "Warders naturally are fond of those who submit to them," she said, pointing out that this group of prisoners normally constitutes those imprisoned for minor offences and serving sentences of under three years.

The study showed that the majority of convicts serving lengthy sentences for offences such as murder are first timers. "They are very aggressive with very short tempers and a lot of pride, but they are not born criminals," she added that this group very often came

from good families and social backgrounds.

Dr Sobha described this group of prisoners as "hopefuls" for effective rehabilitation which would allow them to lead normal lives after their release. She noted, however, that a long stay in jail for some of these "hopefuls" may corrupt them and turn them into hardcore criminals.



Inmates are seen putting up hand-painted signs demanding amnesty. Top sign reads 'Long Live Your Majesty and the one below, We're willing to die if amnesty is not granted'.

But as this group is generally not well-liked by warders, she said they have very little chance of having their jail term reduced substantially when acts of clemency are granted. As a result their attitudes harden as their time in prison eventually lead to outbreaks of violence.

Describing clemency as a necessary incentive for good behaviour, she called for a change in the penal system, saying she believed that "First timers" should be given priority when clemency is being considered.

However, Dr Sobha admitted many prisoners are "Born criminals who may never be successfully rehabilitated."

She said warders should understand more about the attitudes of prisoners which could improve their relations with them while at the same time improving the corrections system.

She admitted that some inmates may have been treated brutally, but noted that strict rules and discipline are sometimes needed to govern prisoners who are hard-core criminals.

Meanwhile human rights lawyer Thorngpai Thongpao said he was moved by the outbreak of violence in Bangkok. He said he thought a peaceful solution might have been possible but admitted that he did not know the real situation.

He said there were still many "wrongs" in the corrections system that

needed to be corrected. The inmates are treated badly and restricted far too much, he said.

ANOTHER VIEW FROM CRIMINOLOGIST

A leading criminologist of the Justice Procedure Division of the Social Welfare Science, Thammasart University, Natchi Chitsawang partially blamed the system of amnesty which sometimes gives convicts false hopes that an amnesty would come automatically not long after they are put behind bars.

He quoted an often-said statement by warders to newly-arrived convicts: "Just wait for a while and behave yourself. Soon you will be amnestied."

Therefore, it was natural that many inmates serving heavy sentences as long as 25 years at Bangkok prison became restless when the prospect of an amnesty was nowhere in sight after the last general amnesty three years ago.

He recalled the riot by about 10,000 inmates at both Bangkok and Lardyao prisons in 1974 (in which one

inmate was killed and over 30 others injured) which he said was a result of their frustration over the delay in amnesty.

Natchi said the inmates have taken it for granted that amnesty is one of their "rights."

"We have created a tradition of granting them amnesty so often that they have a feeling this is the only way to get out of the prisons," he said.



Hundreds of relatives and friends of Bangkok inmates waiting for the news in front of the main entrance.

"And any delay in amnesty again in the future will definitely cause the same problem again," he said.

He dismissed claims by some prison officials that the inmates started the riot because they were denied visiting privileges. Most of the inmates in-

volved in the riot were in Cellblocks or Zones 4, 5 and 6 which are reserved mainly for convicts serving long jail terms. They were denied visiting privileges during the "meet the Relatives Day".

Natchi quoted a study as showing that most inmates serving long jail terms have no desire to see their families. "What they want most is to get out," he said.

The study also pointed out that because of the amnesty system, some convicts with a 25-year jail term will actually spend only 5 years behind bars before they step out to freedom again.

He said most convicts serve only 25 per cent of their sentences because of the frequent amnesties granted.

The criminologist, who used to work for the Corrections Department, noted that most of the inmates who took part in the riot were the so-called hard-core criminals who were serving either life sentences or very long jail terms.

Th-555-5

"These people hoped to gain a lot from the success of the riot", he said. "And some knew that if they failed, they would die."

Informed sources said that the inmates had prepared a list of people seeking amnesty which was to be smuggled out of the prison but it was aborted.

Some senior Government officials were quick to attribute the cause of the riot to the fact that the prison is overcrowded. But they were apparently careful not to mention other conditions in the prison which combined to drive the inmates to the breaking point.

Associate Prof Prathan Vattanasarnich of the Law Faculty of Thammasart University quoted a research as showing that inmates in most prisons are denied many of their basic human rights.



Protesting inmates trying desperately to avoid police gun fires, many of them jumped off the roof to save their lives.

He said the inmates have extreme fear of the warders who sometimes tend to treat them inhumanly.

Because of the harsh conditions in prisons and maltreatment from warders, the inmates have developed a feeling of what Prathan described as "prisonisation." He said the inmates harbour hatred against both the regulations and the warders.

According to CGRS sources, inmates are always under constant pressure. Every inmate must stop to "salute" warders they come across. And the inmates have to sit down on the floor when they talk to warders because they are not allowed to be on the same level with them.

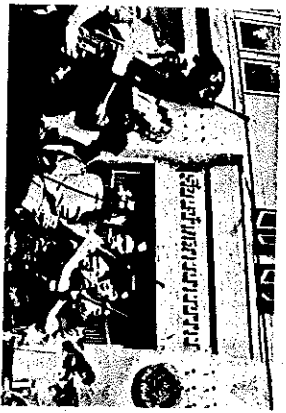
It is common for inmates to be beaten up for minor disobediences, the sources said.

Inmates who have proven to have good conduct are often assigned the duty to supervise other inmates. They are officially known as assistant warders. And there are occasions when they abuse the privilege against the inmates.

One of the achievements that the Corrections Department is openly proud of is the annual sales of handicraft produced by prison inmates. Informed sources disclosed that many inmates were made to work around-the-clock just to produce enough handicraft for the occasion. And the assistant warders normally are exempt from such work.

The Corrections Department says that a part of the revenue from the sales of the prison products go to the inmates. But many inmates have complained that they hardly enjoy the fruits of their hard labour. Some said they receive only 60-100 Baht at the end of the year.

These are some of the prison conditions which are never officially mentioned.



Another unit of police commandos marching off to their new position to cut off all possible escape routes.



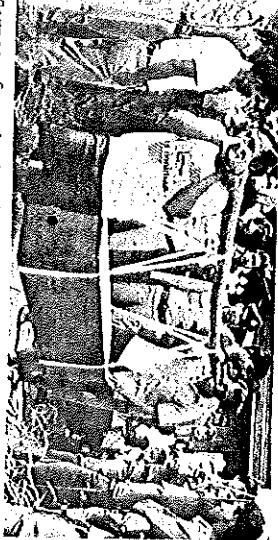
Other unit running to form a tight ring around the outside perimeter of the prison



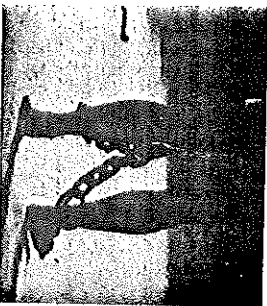
Inmates surrendered to the authorities are lined-up for body search under tight security.



The main workshop for handicraft is completely burned down.



Corpse of a rioting inmate was carried away from the death gate to waiting relatives.



Typical leg-chains used for inmates in Thailand



Another line-up for body search and roll calls.

Th-355-3

CHRONOLOGY OF BANG KWANG RIOT

From a protest by 200 inmates at Bang Kwang Prison's Zone 6 during "Family Reunion Day" on Sunday, the incident grew to include 3,000.

Violence ripped through the tense atmosphere which prevailed on Sunday night resulting in the death of 10 inmates. The incident was the worst in Bang Kwang's history since rioting there and in Iard Yao in 1974.

Events leading to the end of August 4-5 incidents are as follows:-

7.40 a.m. - About 3,000 inmates resume their protest after spending the night defying an order to return to their cells in Zones 4, 5 and 6.

8.35 a.m. - Inmates in Zones 1 and 2 (some of whom are hard core, convicted criminals awaiting executions) break through the roof of their cells in a bid to join protesting prisoners.

8.37 a.m. - About 100 rounds of rifles were heard from inside the prison.

8.45 a.m. - More heavily armed local policemen are deployed at the prison.

8.53 a.m. - Police Department Deputy Director-General Gen Swan Rattanauchuen

arrives at the prison.

9.04 a.m. - Some prisoners started climbing over the wall and returned to their zone after spending the night at zone 6.

9.14 a.m. - Some of the hard core convicts in zone 1 and 2 tried to force open walls between their zones. Their attempt was successful about one minute later.

9.16 a.m. - Prison warders announce through megaphones instructing those not involved in the riot to refrain from coming out and stay out of firing range of police sharpshooters and warders.

9.32 a.m. - Inmates set fire to a building in Zone 6.

9.37 a.m. - Thick smoke billows from Zone 6 and could be clearly seen by bystanders and relatives of inmates outside the prison.

9.38 a.m. - Policemen and warders were ordered to fire at prisoner attempted to escape.

9.44 a.m. - More fire engines are sent into the prison - about 15 of them were sent from nearby districts.

9.50 a.m. - Prison authorities used

megaphones to talk to rioting prisoners while the fire at Zone 6 spread. More smoke billows from the prison. Some prisoners reportedly attempted to escape through the prison's northern wall.

10.00 a.m. - Police chief Gen Korong Mahanond arrives.

10.20 a.m. - A team of SWAT members arrive along with about 30 special task force and patrol policemen from Bangkok. They were immediately sent into the prison.

10.55 a.m. - Commandos of the Police Crime Suppression Division lead other units of policemen to storm Zone 4. There was no resistance. About 100 prisoners are rounded up, their hands hurriedly tied behind their backs and herded to face the wall. The action could be seen by reporters and photographers who climbed up high buildings outside the prison wall to observe activities inside the jail.

11.10 a.m. - Police commandos storm Zone 6. About 200 police cadets assemble outside the prison plus another 40 men from the SWAT squad.

11.13 a.m. - Police commandos storm Zone 5.

11.30 a.m. - Zone 5 is cleared.

1.05 p.m. - Authorities announce to inmates of Zone 1, 2, and 3 that their counterparts in Zones 4, 5 and 6 have already cooperated with officials and are receiving food and water.

1.10 p.m. - Inmates of Zone 1 take off their shirts and lie face down on the lawn

2.00 p.m. - Police start clearing Zone 1, 2 and 3 herding inmates to their cells.

2.10 p.m. - Por Teck Tung Foundation authorities move in to pick up the bodies of the 10 dead inmates.

2.30 p.m. - Authorities regain full control of the prison.

PRISON INCIDENTS IN 1985

January 9, Bangkok
More than 1,000 prisoners went on hunger-strike to peacefully demand for amnesty which would reduce their jail terms. The protest ended without any violence.

January 16, Bangkok
Restricted Zone with storage of finished products made by prisoners was burned down after 40 minutes of fire. The cause, the extent of the damage and the result of official investigation were not made available by the prison officials.

January 29, Bangkok
30 cases of food poisoning were reported after regular dinners had been served to the prisoners in jail. One prisoner died in his cell from food poisoning.

February 21, Bangkok
Tuberculosis was wide spread with 5 prisoners reportedly died during January and February. 20 TB patients were under treatment with 30 more with TB symptoms.

February 24, Bangkok
An inmate identified as Chand Soekthong died of TB.

March 17, Nakhon-Rajasima
An inmate was put in leg-chains for quarrelling with warders. He reportedly went on hunger-strike for 4 days in protest of ill-treatment. He was left to die in chains.

May 6, Bangkok Military Court
An Army Second Lt. escaped from Military Police guards in front of the court building. Upon his arrival, he

broke free from his guards and escaped in a waiting motorcycle.

June 13, Bangkok
Police investigative officers found 30 straw-load of high grade heroin hidden in the desk of a prison official. The estimated local selling price for such amount of heroin was 50,000 Baht.

May 11, Bangkok
23th case of TB. died in prison with 50 other prisoners under treatment for Tuberculosis.

May 24, Bangkok
One prisoner serving long jail term died from an unknown cause. He was reported to have vomited a lot of blood shortly before his death.

August 4-5, Bangkok
More than 3,000 prisoners staged a peaceful protest which ended with violent suppression. 10 prisoners were killed, 7 on the spot while the other 3 reportedly died of body injuries. An undisclosed number of prisoners were wounded by gun-shots and/or beatings.

August 11, Bangkok
 Wooden coffins for dead prisoners were found too small and too badly made from cheapest wood. Relatives of dead prisoners were told by the prison officials that the budget for coffins was only 200 Baht each.

August 12, Bangkok
 A prisoner was found dead in the prison. No cause of death was disclosed by the officials.

September, Bangkok
 Prisoners accused of involvement in the August 4-5 prison riot were prosecuted in court.

October 14, Choburi Prison
 5 prisoners took prison officials for hostages and demanded for weapons and getaway vehicles in an attempt to escape. The authorities applied violent measure resulting in 5 prisoners and 2 officials died of gun-shot wound and hand-grenade. A number of others were injured from shooting and explosion.

December 21, Bangkok
 One prisoner identified as Warden Richaporn reportedly hung himself in his cell ending his 3 long years of solitary confinement.

Another prisoner named Tulyavith Bua-orn was found dead in his cell. Cause of his death was registered as Leukemia and loss of blood.

December 31, Sakon-Nakhorn
 13 prisoners took prison Commander and 4 other prison officials for hostages and demanded for weapons and getaway vehicles from Sakon-Nakhorn Provincial Prison.

All 13 prisoners were killed by police sharpshooters. 5 officials were wounded in the shooting.

PRISONER-MADE PRODUCTS SALES EARNED \$ 17 MILLION

According to the official figure released from the Corrections Department, it collected more than 17 million Baht from selling prisoner-made products during the first week of a ten-day "Meet the Relatives Days" which ended on August 4, 1985.

Director-General of the department Sanit Ruchinrong disclosed on August 3, 1985 that the sales of the prisoner-made products which were shown on the lawn outside the Klong Prem Central Penitentiary exceed those of the previous year.

In 1984, the department earned 25.3 million Baht from the sale during the ten-day family reunion period. Director of the Corrections Department also disclosed to the press that there were about 85,000 prisoners around the country.

RELATIVE OF DEAD PRISONER SPEAKS OUT.

Chalor Uathaiung, 36, whose younger brother Mangkorn died in the riot, denounced the authorities' handling of prison revolt.

"I am sorry officials used violent measures when they could have used other ways to restore order," he said.

He said his brother was condemned to death for murder 9 years ago but his sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.

Chalor said his brother had become a drug addict after being sent to prison and said he thought he knew how his brother obtained heroin in jail.

PRISONERS FACE POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT

According to the Director-General of the Corrections Department Sanit Ruchinrong, hundreds of inmates may

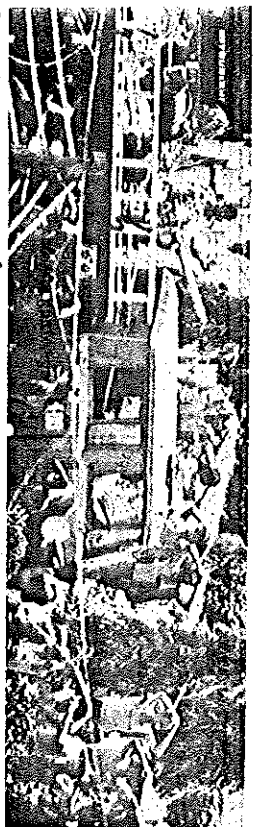
be penalized for their involvement in the prison riot at Bangkok.

"We will urgently consider penalizing inmates implicated in the riot by degrading their status. We classify prisoners by their behaviour into very bad, bad, fair, good and excellent. The classification affects the date of their release from prison," Sanit said.

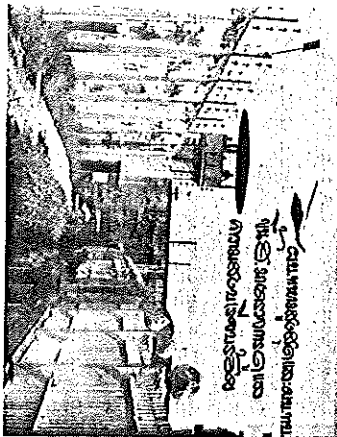
Bangkok Prison Commander Sanit Sansern also disclosed to the press that Nonthaburi police would be asked to take legal actions against 259 inmates who took part in the riot. He said that 250 of them were believed to be rioters while eight others were arsonists.

Commenting on reports about cracks in coffins containing inmates killed in the riot, Sanit said that the coffins were too small because the budget to buy a coffin was restricted to only 200 baht.

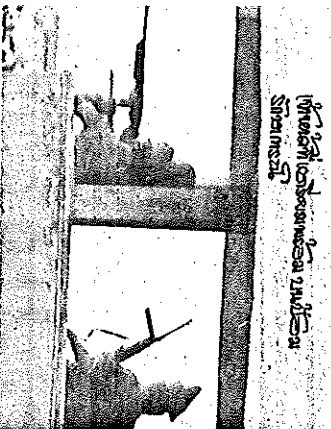




Surrendered at gun points, Bangkang inmates are lined up with their hands on their heads.



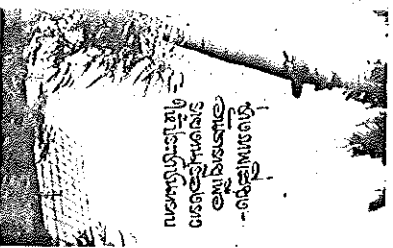
The Supreme Commander and the Army Commander in Chief arriving by helicopter.



Police and prison guards manning the tower with their rifles at ready.



High-ranking police officers seem to be satisfied with the situation.



A photographer risking his life for the best possible angle.

WHY DID THE PRISONERS REVOLT?

"Inmates in here are going to revolt, Dad."

"Don't you mess around with them."

"I've got to join them or I'll be killed. Maybe I will die and the revolt will succeed. But I am willing to die if the jail will be improved."

That was the conversation inmate

Mangkorn Usalaong, 35, had with his father, Boonma, 73, at Bangkang maximum security prison a week before the riot which ended in the deaths of 7 inmates shot dead and 3 others of unknown causes. He was believed to be one of the leaders of the revolt.

Confined in Cell Block 6 of Bangkang prison, Mangkorn reportedly held a varder hostage with a piece of sharp metal when the riot started. The varder later managed to escape.

Mangkorn's father recalls his last visit to the prison. His son looked "stern, furious". He was worried, says his father, about the health of his aging parents and he was "furious" because his plea for amnesty had been refused.

Mangkorn was afraid that he might not get another chance to see his parents alive if he remained in prison. Had he been granted amnesty the same way that others who had been convicted for a similar offence, he would proba-

bly have had to spend another three years in prison at most. But he had been told that he would not be granted amnesty for at least another two years, which meant that he would have had to spend another seven years in prison.

Mangkorn was also afraid that he would succumb to tuberculosis while in prison.

Mangkorn had already served ten years in prison for murder. He was originally sentenced to be executed but had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment. Later, during the Bangkok Bicentenary celebrations, his sentence was further commuted to 33 years behind bars.

Mangkorn had contracted tuberculosis three years ago and had recently asked his father to give him 3,000 Baht for treatment at the prison hospital. "He was getting better. But when we met for the last time on July 28, he was brooding and looked grim."

"We stayed together for two hours and he asked me to bring him salted fish and pork as he could not eat the food provided by the prison," says Boonma.

In his last letter to the family, Mangkorn asked his younger sister, Pramee, who is a teacher, to visit him. Pramee accompanied their father to the

TM-555-5

prison on July 28. "Before dad left, he asked him not to worry and not to be frightened...He knew it all (about the revolt) beforehand. He knew what was going to happen in there," recalls Prance.

But why did Mangkorn, after serving ten years in jail, decide to revolt now? The poor living conditions in the prison could be one of the factors that influenced him. "He always said he wanted better food and he complained that the water was terribly dirty. He also wanted sick inmates to be separated from the rest. He only smiled and nodded at dad's warning not to get involved in the revolt," says Prance.

Her brother had not received the medicine that he had requested his father for and which his father had sent him. That was something else that made him furious. Moreover, any money that his parents had sent him had been "taxed". His family at first could not understand why he had to spend so much money living in prison. They learned later that he had to pay for practically everything in prison.

In a letter written in May, Mangkorn asked his father to bring him money so he could pay his debts. He said he was still coughing as a result of his illness and was unable to eat any prison food. He had borrowed money from a fellow inmate but that person could no longer

lend him 20 Baht for each of his meals because of his own expenses. Mangkorn also asked his father for other items such as soap and toothpaste.

Chalor Usaloong, 42, the inmate's brother, says that Mangkorn had been making handicraft at the prison workshop but was not paid for his labour. Chalor says he once heard from friends that Mangkorn was a heroin addict. Mangkorn told Chalor that heroin was available in prison but that he did not use it.

Most inmates at Bangkok prison are hardened criminals. They follow a strict daily routine that begins at 6 am. After a morning shower, the inmates gather to sing the national anthem. From 8 am to 11 am, the inmates work, making such products as rattan furniture and clothes and growing vegetables. There is a lunch break from 11 am to 1 pm and then the inmates continue in their jobs until 5 pm.

The prison is divided into six cell blocks with the inmates distributed according to the severity of their crimes. The hardcore prisoners are confined in Cell Block Six (Zone 6) while those prisoners who are considered least prone to violence are confined in Cell Block One.

The prisoners in Cell Block One reportedly receive more privileges such as cooking their own meals and having their own television sets and video recorders.

Newcomers to the prison are required to be shackled for the first 15 days. They even perform their compulsory daily exercises with their shackles on.

Behind the prison building is an area planted with trees and flowers. A signboard along the path that leads to the area reads: "The point where all suffering ends". This is the execution zone and flowering plants in post painted black and white line both sides of the path leading to the execution spot.

The execution spot itself is surrounded by glass and black curtains.

An inmate at Bangkok prison for ten years told Vithoon Pungprasert of The Nation that the inmates could survive in prison but could never find peace of mind there.

"We are only hiding our time and waiting for relatives to visit. We look forward to these visits and to hear that our families are doing well. Some inmates do not get visited by their families for months and those inmates suffer great mental stress. They are the ones who could very easily become violent," he said.

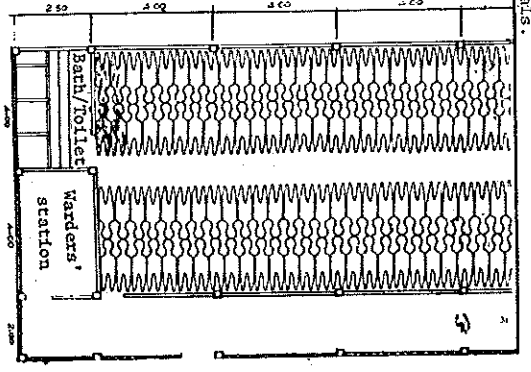
There are different penalties for inmates who cause trouble or start fights in prison. The most severe penalty is 'Khang daeng'. Inmates who are punished in this way frequently die from it. 'Khang daeng' requires an inmate to be locked up in a cement cell

that is so small, there is no room for any movement other than breathing. The cell is completely sealed off except for a small hole to allow air to circulate.

Inmates whose offences in prison are less severe are confined to a slightly bigger cell which allows them to sit up. This cell is called 'kangsai'. Inmates caught taking drugs or alcohol are put in solitary confinement in cells similar to those found at police stations.

The inmates' main diet in prison is unpolished rice, vegetables and squid. Only the inmates in Bangkok prison's Cell Block One are said to be supplied with white rice. Some inmates who do not have relatives to depend on, work as servants of rich inmates, cooking and washing clothes in exchange for better meals.

16.5 X 11 Metres Prisoners' Cell



Dormitories are over-crowded. In Cell Block Six, where the prison riot started, a thousand inmates sleep in a dormitory designed for 800. With space so limited, inmates who can afford to pay up to 300 baht for the privilege of a more spacious cell.

PSYCHIATRIC CARE URGED IN PRISON

Lack of psychiatric care and unequal treatment of prisoners are some of the reasons for the outbreak of riots in prisons, a senior psychiatrist at Sorndej Chaoophya Hospital said in an interview to The Bangkok Post on September 1, 1985.

Deputy Director Dr Chutis Panprecha said the Government should pay more attention to psychiatric care in prisons if violence such as the one in Bangkok in August was to be prevented.

He said discussions with prisoners and penal officers revealed that prison conditions were unsatisfactory.

He said that prisoners were treated unequally with those considered wealthy getting special privileges while those that are poor were treated badly.

"Given the circumstances, the prisoners are already under a lot of stress and pressure. And when they are treated unequally this further worsens their psy-

chological condition. This has led to outbreaks of violence," Dr Chutis said.

He said in other countries these problems were addressed to some extent by the availability of psychiatrists and psychologists for prisoners to talk to as well as those with legal expertise to give prisoners legal advice.

Dr Chutis said the Government should arrange for all prisons and provincial health authorities to extend better health and psychiatric care to prisoners.

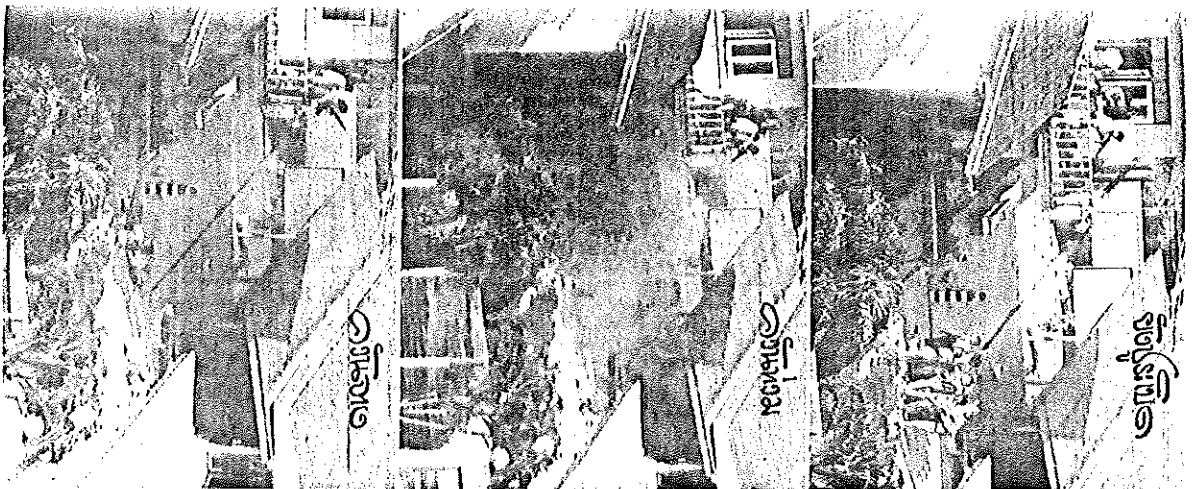
THE SECOND VIOLENT INCIDENT WITHIN THAI PRISON WALLS IN TWO MONTHS.

JAILBREAK SHOOTOUT KILLS 7 IN CHON-BURI CENTRAL PRISON

On October 17, 1985, five inmates and two warders were killed and 10 police officials were seriously wounded in a daring attempted break-out at Chon-buri prison.

The tense two-hour drama ended in a hail of gunfire and a scramble for cover during which an M26 hand grenade exploded as police and prison guards opened fire on five convicts who were holding four warders and three policemen.

The hostage drama was the second violent prison incident in 1985. The

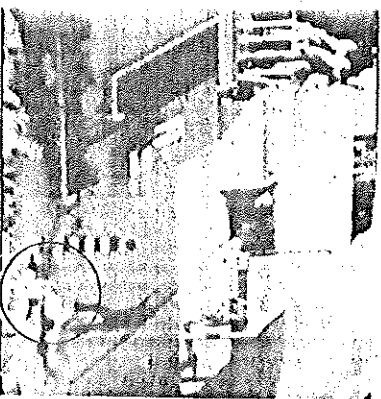


Brandishing a hand grenade to demand for weapons and getaway car out of the prison, the inmates are seen using hostages as shields from police sharpshooters on the balcony on the left.

Second sequence shows the explosion and rifle fires from the balcony.

Third shot shows the jailbreakers and their hostages lie on the ground while rapid fires from police officers still locked on the targets.

Immediately after the smoke was cleared up, one warder came running to the ill-fated inmates, one of them appeared to be alive, and started to beat him with the long warder's stick without mercy.



Incident began at 1.30 pm at the prison's second dormitory while inmates were taking a shower. Six inmates armed with two hand grenades and sharpened steel rods took four warders hostage.

The convicts then approached the prison's inner gate with the hostages in front of them and demanded officials open the gates and prepare a truck to take them to the Kampuchean border.

Armed guards at the inner gate refused the demands as about 200 police reinforcements and troops from the 21st Infantry Regiment, armed with automatic rifles, arrived at the scene. The commotion also drew several thousand people to the front of the prison.

After their demands were rejected, the convicts took the hostages into the prison's registration and documentation office where they captured three policemen.

The inmates then demanded that the truck be ready for their flight to the border within one hour. Prison chief Somboon Sitrak turned their demands down. One of the convicts then hurled a grenade at the gate and others started wrecking radio equipment and destroyed documents in the office.

The inmates were told to lay down their arms and return to their cells.

During the stand-off, one of the inmates, Wanhal Chacharoen, obeyed.

Deadline

When the deadline ended at 3.30 pm,

the five convicts, led by ex-marine Warrant Petty Officer Samroeng Keramee, 25, who had been convicted of several counts of robbery and murder, began walking toward the gate again. This time, they rounded up the hostages in semi-circle and bound them with ropes which the convicts were holding.

A few metres from the gate, Samroeng started brandishing a grenade as policemen and armed guards were setting their sights on the inmates. Another convict ran towards the gate to negotiate. Seconds later, police and prison guards shot Samroeng, who released the grenade, which exploded.

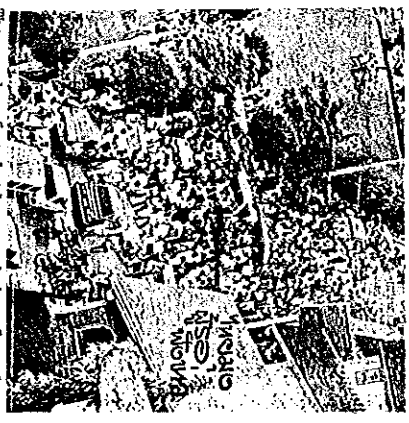
Several more volleys of gunfire were heard over the next few minutes until all five rebel inmates were killed. Some warders were seen charging the fallen convicts and beating their heads with long sticks.

One of the hostages, vander Vatchara Sitracharoen, was killed instantly by grenade shrapnel. Six other hostages and five policemen at the scene were wounded in the explosion.

They were taken to the provincial hospital where another warder, Yongvuth

Chokeprapasorn, succumbed to his wounds. Corrections Department Chief Sault Ruchinarong was at the scene until the incident was over.

The four other convicts killed were identified as Samwey Plandert, Amnuey Suanthien, Ong-art Saengwan, and Somsak Pandee.



Thousands of relatives waiting for the news from inside prison
Hard line police

Prison violence and the attempted jailbreak at Chon Buri Central Prison in mid October in which five inmates and two warders were killed and a score of others wounded was a stark example showing the public that the potential threat of violent outbreak is always there.

Corrections Department Chief Sault Ruchinarong who had then witnessed two bloody prison revolts within two months of his short tenure said the shootout

should serve as a lesson for all inmates contemplating such a violent act. He was certain that the incident in Chon Buri Central Prison would automatically become a deterrent for any future uprising because it showed that authorities were prepared to shoot and kill, even at the risk of harming the hostages, to stop jailbreaks or riots.

The hard line expounded by the corrections chief was, in fact, the department's long-time policy in handling such a situation. Warders are empowered to shoot and kill inmates during a riot or an attempted escape.

Life is cheap behind prison walls

A veteran warder said about one week after the second riot in October that a murder in jail may cost as little as a pack of cigarettes, showing the overwhelming power prison officials have over inmates. Of course, that rule does not apply to the "Kha Yai" (literally means the Big Leg) who are rich and influential inmates. These people can buy all the comforts and privileges they want.

A voice from the prison

Former political activist Pol Le-Coi Avant Senakhan who is still serving a jail term for ISE MAJESTE conviction at Iardyo prison once told a weekly magazine in an interview, which was kept

from the eyes of warders, about the mal-treatments inmates are subjected to for committing minor offences and the appalling living conditions inside the overcrowded and dirty detention cells.

He also accused warders of making money on the plight of inmates by smuggling in narcotics for sale. The accusations he made sound all too familiar.

The beat-ups and drug and sex abuses have long been the prevailing stories by those who are involved in the prison affairs one way or another.

Most striking was Col Anant's remark that inmates can never be turned into good and law-abiding citizens once jailed. Worse still, those who are serving sentences on minor offences or what he called "innocent convicts" would become even more inclined to commit more serious offences after coming out of jail.

He said many first-timers caught on petty offences learned the trade in their imprisonment and later turned into hardcore criminals. Others pick up drug addiction there which complicates their problem even further.

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CALL FOR 1987 PRISON AMNESTY IN THAILAND

On December 7, 1985, various human rights groups in Thailand called on the Thai government to grant amnesty

to prisoners, including political detainees, on the occasion his Majesty the King's birthday in 1987.

The groups met at Thammasart University prior to the Human Rights Day on December 10. The discussion was held under the banner of the Coordinating Committee for Human Rights Organizations in Thailand (CCHROT).

The meeting noted that human rights violations were still prevalent in Thailand in various forms, ranging from forced prostitution, torture and beatings of criminal suspects in police custody to slave labour, sexual abuse, child labour and the lack of social security for rural inhabitants.

The meeting also pointed out that the Labour Law had many loopholes which allowed employers to take advantage of employees and there was very little the government could do to assist abused workers.

Suspects held on communist charges were often deprived private access to lawyers and were also prohibited from reading newspapers or listening to radio broadcasts, the groups charged.

The human rights campaigners suggested that the King's 60th birthday in 1987 would be an appropriate time for the government to pardon certain inmates as well as political prisoners who were not involved in attempts to overthrow the democratic system.

THIRD BLOODY INCIDENT IN 5 MONTHS ATTEMPTED JAILBREAK IN SAKHON NAKHON

On December 31, 1985, elite military commandos and helicopters were sent to the provincial prison after 13 convicts armed with hand grenades took the prison commander and four warders hostage in an attempt to break out of jail on the eve of new year celebration.

It was reported that the prison authorities almost immediately requested reinforcement from outside. Negotiations between the authorities and the inmates lasted till January 1, 1986 with the leaders of the armed inmates demanding guns and getaway cars.

Special warfare military commandos from Nam Pung and Army helicopter from the Second Army Region were sent to assist local policemen and prison officials.

This new year's eve incident was the third outbreak of prison unrest in 1985, starting from Bangkok riot in August and Chon Buri attempted jailbreak in October.

Local officials said the 13 prisoners in Sakon Nakhon prison attempting to break out of jail were serving life sentences for serious criminal offences.

The group, armed with two hand grenades, took prison chief Bancheerd Plabluang, 48, and four warders hostage

at about 10 am, according to prison officials.

The four warders, one of them a female official, were identified as Mr Sak Nanthaphan, Mr Sompong Charoenlert, Mrs Laddawai Chakkratrong and Mr Veerathap Promsakha na Sakon Nakhon.

The officials said that the group broke into the ground floor room of the prison office before taking the officials hostage.

They demanded that the prison authorities open the main prison gate and provide them with guns and cars to make their escape.

Police officials disclosed that negotiations dragged on till about 10.15 am, when the convicts tried to escape and set off the two hand grenades. The policemen and crack unit members then stormed in.

The official sources also said the six hostages, including the commander of the prison in Muang District of the Northeastern province, were also wounded.

Armed with two hand grenades, the convicts made a desperate escape attempt but were trapped between the prison's first and second entrance gates with their hostages. Police said the convicts then set off the grenades while policemen and army marksmen began firing at them.

"The prisoners broke through the first gate and were trying to get pass the second one when the army sharpshooters shot from a prison tower," Samran Plabpleng, wife of the prison chief, Banherd, was quoted as saying.

Police said all the six hostages were injured by gunfire or grenade shrapnel. One warder was seriously injured with multiple wounds.

Governor Pira Bunjang said authorites did not shoot at the convicts. But police said some of them were cut down by the fire from the policemen and soldiers.

The convicts held two M-26 hand grenades, reportedly with their safety pins removed, to the hostages as authorites tried unsuccessfully to convince them to surrender.

They also handcuffed all of their hostages, who included a female prison official, and tied them up with pieces of clothes.



(left) hand grenade on his left hand, an inmate holding prison commander hostage while (right) another inmate using sharp steel rod as weapon.

The jailbreak attempt was reportedly masterminded by the ring leader identified as Somkat Srisan, who was serving a jail term for murder and robbery. The inmates were seen holding 3 hand grenades, some carpentry tools, knives and steel pipes which they used as weapons.

The convicts demanded a getaway car, some additional weapons and a clear passage out of the prison.

After some tense negotiations, the inmates began to get impatient with the answer from the authorites. One of them lobbed one of the grenades at a team of policemen who arrived to handle the situation. But it failed to explode.

As the authorites tried to bide time, about 200 policemen and soldiers from the Second Army Region, who included members of the Nam Pung crack unit, ringed the prison to block all the possible escape routes. Two police helicopters also hovered over the prison to observe the situation.

One of the convicts reportedly tried to set fire to some furniture but it was quickly put out.

Police sources said that another prisoner was reportedly killed by the convicts after he refused to join in the escape bid.

Negotiations were stalled as authorites moved in ambulances and fire-

engines in anticipation of violence.

Prison authorites were reportedly ordered by the Interior Ministry not to give in to the convicts' demand and there were reports that they might try to storm the prison before dusk.

But the stand-off continued into the night as authorites waited for the arrival of Director General of the Corrections Department Santt Ruchina-pong.

Santt, who arrived after midnight, talked to the convicts at about 8 am. and tried unsuccessfully to convince them to release the hostages.

About two hours later, the incident ended with some of the inmates were believed to have been killed by gunfire from the authorites.

Six hostages including the prison chief were wounded with Mr Sompong Charanlert reportedly listed in critical condition.

The police said no casualties were reported on the police and commands who stormed the prison.

It was also reported that the convicts repeatedly declared during the negotiations that they were prepared to die if their escape attempt failed.

CGRS SEEKS FULL JAILBREAK PROBE

On January 3, 1986, the Coordinating Group for Religion in Society or CGRS formally asked the Thai government to investigate a report that at least 2 of the convicts who joined in the attempted jailbreak in Sakon Nakhon were killed after they surrendered.

CGRS also questioned the violent methods used to suppress the three prison disturbances in the past year.

CGRS's statement was made in a letter sent to Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanonda.

It said it was doubtful whether the violent approaches would deter prisoners from making more jailbreak attempts in the future.

The group also made the following points:

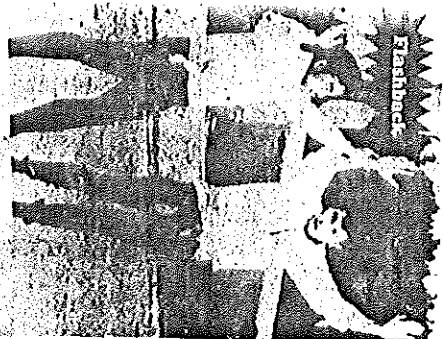
1) The prison riots were caused by bad living conditions in the prisons and an administration system based on violence.

2) In most cases, authorites tend to punish those who attempt to escape with death. There were also reports of torture of surviving collaborators afterwards.

The group claimed that at least 2

Th-555-3

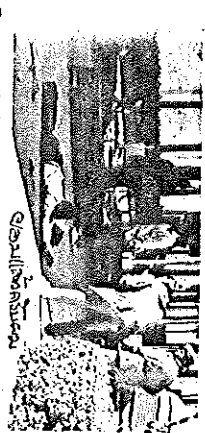
of the convicts in the prison disturbances in Sakhon Nakhon on New Year's Day had raised their hands as a sign of surrender but were killed.



Authorities have claimed that the convicts tried to escape.

CGRS thus urged the government to launch a full investigation into the incident and let the public know the truth.

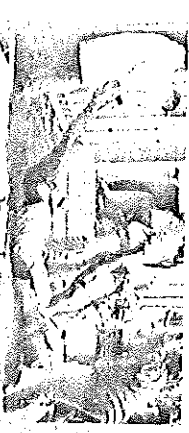
On January 10, 1986, a panel discussion was organized by CGRS at Thammasart University on violent suppression in Thai prison. Photos and Video tape on the three bloody incidents at Bang Kwang, Chon Buri and Sakhon Nakhon prisons were part of the exhibit to hundreds of concerned citizens.



Two surviving inmates were forced to face down the ground at gun point pleading for their lives saying "We have surrendered!"



Another wounded inmate was forced to answer some questions by an officer.



Two inmates who had surrendered minutes earlier were dragged out of the inner gate and pronounced dead.



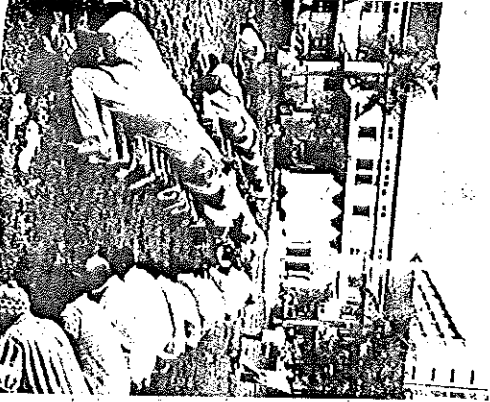
Some of the 13 corpses after the operation in Sakhon Nakhon Prison.

MUSLIMS DECRET SCHOOL POLICY

On November 8, 1985, about 100 Muslims from the south rallied at the Education Ministry to protest against the ministry's policy that requires Buddhist images to be installed at schools in the region.

The protesters from Satun said the policy violates their religious belief. They said the problem might escalate if the policy is not reviewed.

Deputy Education Minister Samphan Thongsamk told the protesters that he had already ordered the officials concerned to look into the matter.



(Caption) Some of the protesters say Muslim prayers during the rally.

NP MAY QUIT OVER BUDDHA IMAGE ROW

On the same day that a large group of Muslims from Satun province staged a protest in front of the Education Ministry, a Democrat MP threatened to resign if Education Minister Chuan Leekpai, also a NP from the south, failed to resolve the controversy over the ministry's plan to install Buddha images at all schools in five southern provinces.

Speaking at a press conference at the office of the Chularamontri, the spiritual leader of Muslim minority in Thailand, Satun MP Chirayut Naorakate warned that the plan would lead to conflict and misunderstanding between Buddhists and Muslims.

The project was said to be part of the ministry's efforts to promote moral education and to serve as a tribute to His Majesty the King who will turn 60 in 1987.

Mr Chirayut claimed that some local officials in Satun Province had installed Buddhist statues in Kuan Kalong District to rise up against the Muslims who in October staged a demonstration at Kuan Doan school to protest against the installation of a Buddha image at the school.

Mr Chirayut denied that the Buddha images plan was instigated by the Democrat Party. He said, however, that since the problem was caused by Minister Chuan, also

a Democrat MP, he also had to bear the responsibility.

Meanwhile, Prasert Mahamad, the Muslim spiritual leader, accused local authorities of failing to honour an agreement with the office of the Chulalongkornrajavidyalaya that no Buddha images would be placed in schools in Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Satun and Songkhla provinces where there are large numbers of Muslim students.

Mr Prasert called upon the Education Ministry to drop the plan to prevent the controversy from intensifying.

The Chulalongkornrajavidyalaya maintained that Thai Muslims were as loyal to the King as followers of other religions. "We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the Royal Family," he said.

He said it was a grave sin for Muslims to pay respects to a Buddha image, pointing out, however, that Muslims did not look down on Buddha images. "The point is we simply cannot join in the worshipping ritual," he explained.

MINISTER CHUAN ACCUSES PLOTTERS IN BHUDDHA IMAGE DISPUTE

In response to the protest over the ministry's plan to install Buddha images in predominantly Muslim provinces in the south, Mr Chuan Leekpai on No-

Th- 5555



The Chulalongkornrajavidyalaya spiritual leader, Prasert Mahamad.

vember 13 claimed that a "certain group of people" was trying to turn Muslims in the south against the Democrat Party.

The Democrat minister said the group was making a political issue out of a ministry regulation requiring elementary schools in the south to display Buddha images.

It is the policy of the National Cultural Committee and the National Primary Education Committee to install Buddha images at all schools to promote moral education and to serve as a tribute to His Majesty the King who will be 60 in 1987, the minister said.

Mr Chuan said in an interview on November 11 that instructions had been given to the authorities to take special care on the installation of images

in schools where there were students of other religions.

"It is the right of any one to adopt whatever religion they like and this right cannot be denied," he said.

Mr Chuan also claimed that there had been attempts to use the regulation issue to turn Muslims against the Democrats.

The minister added he had told officials to foster understanding among Muslims about the real intention of the regulation.

"We have made it clear that the ministry has no policy to force anyone to take up Buddhism," he said.

STUDENT ACQUITTED OF Lèse MAJESTÉ

The Seventh Army Court in Chiangmai province dismissed lese majeste charges filed against a Ramkhamhaeng University student on December 20, 1985.

Chak Patcharapattanaachai, a former student at Chiangmai University and a Bangkok resident, was charged in July 1984 with publishing and distributing 22 copies of the book The Background of the Establishment of Chakri Dynasty.

Prosecutors said copies went to a number of people, including Pilot Officer Sraphol Pachroem, Supakorn Pattanayak

and Vibool Keenthao in a district of Chiang Mai under martial law.

The book allegedly contains statements derogatory to members of the Royal Family.

During the trial, state witnesses PO Sraphol, Mr Supakorn and Mr Vibool said they knew nothing of the books and said the material did not belong to the defendant.

PO Sraphol said police forced him to testify against the defendant.

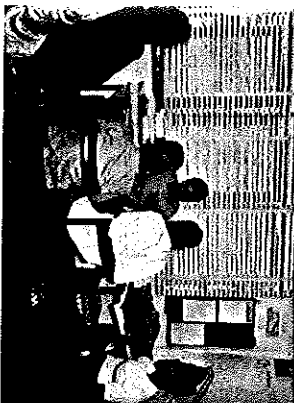
Chak Patcharapattanaachai was cleared after public prosecutors failed to produce witnesses to back allegations that the student published and distributed documents deemed derogatory to the Royal Family.

Mr Chak Patcharapattanaachai was arrested from a rented housing estate in Tambon Suthep, Muang District on July 28, where police said they found a large quantity of documents on a verandah.

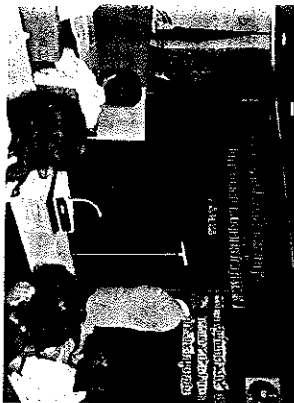
The prosecutors failed to produce witnesses to support charges that Mr Chak Patcharapattanaachai was responsible for the documents.

Other tenants used as state witnesses confirmed the documents had been left in the rented house long before Mr Chak Patcharapattanaachai moved in.

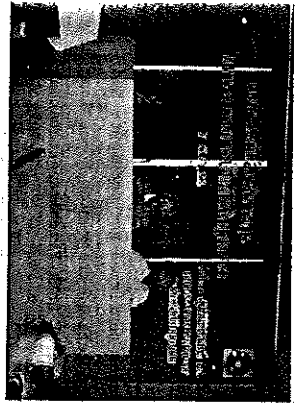
Th-555-5



(Caption) Farmers from Nakhorn-Sawan Province seeking help and advices from CGRS in Bangkok.



(Caption) Opening Ceremony for "Guarantee of Citizen Rights and Due Process" presiding by Deputy House Speaker, Mr. Piyarat Vacharaporn.



(Caption) Panelists at the seminar (from l to R) Asst. Prof. Kalce Prueksongswalee, Prof. Samet Jamarik, Asst. Prof. Kietachorn Wachanasawad from Thammasart University.



(Caption) Distinguished participants at the seminar including (2nd from l) Police Lt. Gen. Chamras Mangklarut, Mr. Xan Kasornusud, Mr. Piyarat Vacharaporn and Prof Somyos Cheurthad.



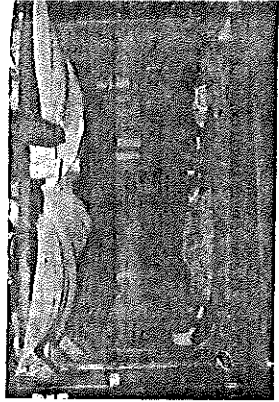
(Caption) Some of the participants at the seminar on "Guarantee of Citizen Rights and Due Process of Laws" at Thammasart University Faculty of Law, Bangkok on December 7, 1985



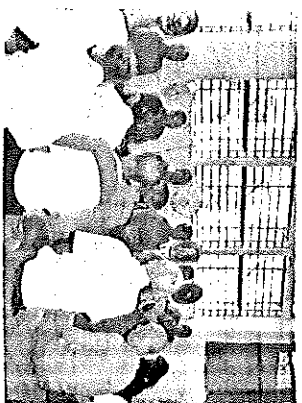
(Caption) Illegal Aliens at Bang Kaen Special House of Detention in Bangkok.



(Caption) More Illegal Aliens on the day of visit by CGRS team at their detention house at Bang Kaen.



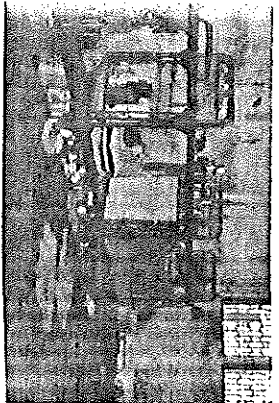
(Caption) Details of the living condition in the cell showing signs of unhealthy living condition.



(Caption) A religious service at the Special House of Detention sponsored by CGRS.



(Caption) CGRS team together with the inmates serving lunch to the monks after the religious service.



(Caption) Another look at one corner of living space in the cell.

Th-555-5

CGRS ACTIVITIES
 HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

As basic democratic rights and the rights of citizens are often denied or violated by the authorities, CGRS and its Human Rights Section deem it necessary to launch a campaign to educate the general public of their rights guaranteed by the existing laws of the land.

During the period of October - December 1985, the Human Rights Section launched a campaign which aimed primarily at citizens as well as those officials who were supposed to safeguard the rights of the people. The police too should be reminded of their duties and obligations in carrying out their tasks under the laws.

It must be noted also that the citizens have the rights to demand for justice and certain guarantee that the law-enforcement officers shall not discriminate choose to apply certain laws and use them as license to kill, inflict injuries, and damage private property of any citizen. Power-abuse and over-exercise of authorities must be condemned by the government.

STRENGTHEN CAPABILITY OF
 THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AID

On November 9, 1985, CGRS organized a special meeting for the Center for Legal Aid to strengthen the capabilities of the center in coordination work among its members. Participants of this meeting came from 9 governmental agencies and NGOs including representatives from Thammasart University Law school. As a result, one coordinator was later recruited to function as full-time coordinator and liaison officer for the Center.

Another development resulting from the meeting was the planning for a seminar on "Coordination Work for Legal Aid Service" scheduled to be held on February 21-22, 1986. Working relations among these organizations and agencies shall be the basic topics for discussion at the seminar.



SEMINAR ON "GUARANTEE OF CITIZEN RIGHTS AND DUE PROCESS OF LAW"

To consolidate the strength of local human rights groups in Thailand and to raise the level of understanding of the issue among concerned individuals, CGRS joined the effort with the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Thailand (CCHROY) by co-sponsoring a special seminar on "Guarantee of Citizen Rights and the Due Process of Law" on December 7, 1985 at Thammasart University.

70 participants were invited from both NGOs and governmental agencies related to human rights issue such as the Public Welfare Department, National Women Council, Labour Department, Police Department and Corrections Department. Even some leading Professors from various law schools were cordially invited to offer their expertise in the discussions. But the most important participants at the seminar were some Members of Parliament who were outspoken on human rights violation cases.

Press conference was held at the end of the seminar to publicise the event and to call the attention of the public to the issue.

LEGAL WORKSHOP

On December 14-15 1986, CGRS with the Center for Legal Aid - Maha Sarakham Chapter jointly organized a kind of people's workshop on basic laws to members of local organizations and community leaders. The workshop was held at the Maha Sarakham Teachers' College with about 80 participants.

The main objective of the workshop was to educate people at the community level of basic understanding of the laws concerning their daily lives. It was notable that the participants came from all districts of Maha Sarakham Province.

This 2-day workshop and its program were officially supported by provincial judges, officials from the Provincial Forestry Office, Provincial Excise Office, police inspectors and public prosecutors who gave lectures on special topics concerning their areas of responsibilities. Even the local leading lawyers were invited to give talks on basic laws.

It must be noted that all concerned government officials were given good opportunities to present their views and their authorities under the laws while

the local lawyers educated the audience of their rights and obligations to the laws as citizens.

This workshop was not intended to create any form of confrontation, but rather to let the attendants of the workshop hear opinions from different interpretations of the laws. It was all agreed that if the citizens know more about their basic democratic rights and human rights, the better would be for all concerned.

REGIONAL MEETING IN THE NORTHEAST

On November 23, 1985, CGRS called for a meeting for the Center for Legal Aid representatives of the Northeast.

This regional meeting was held in Roi-Et Province with the following objectives:-

1. to introduce network coordinator.
2. to make assessment of the human rights situation in the region.

20 local lawyers and development workers from Roi-Et, Khon Kaen and Maha-Sarakham Provinces attended the meeting.

It was reported to the meeting that

many poor and uneducated farmers in the region had been involved in lawsuits against overseas employment agents who had had lured them and/or allegedly had promised them of high-paying jobs in the Middle East.

Forced by economic hardship in the countryside and little employment opportunity in the cities, the peasants and farmers in the Northeastern Region were easy victims of placement agents who normally charged them for services in applying for passport, health certificate, and other fees. On top of this, the prospective employees had to pay for their air fares and other expenses.

Many of them also were discouraged by the court fees if the agents had been arrested by the police. Time-consuming legal process was another factor involved when the farmers decided not to seek legal advices or consultation for prosecuting the agents in the court of justice. They preferred the law of the jungle and used violent means to settle the disputes. Some agents had reportedly been killed because of such off-court settlement.

PRISON VISIT TO ILLEGAL ALIENS

On December 19, 1985, CGRS team went to the special detention house at Bang Kaen to visit 33 detainees awaiting deportation. 9 Buddhist monks joined the visiting team to helplight the detainees' spirit and soothe their sufferings with religious rites and service.

Special luncheon was served to the inmates. It was a feast for them. Many of these old and sick illegal aliens had been detained awaiting deportation for almost 12 years. The average time which they had spent behind bars was 8 years. The average age of these detainees was about 60 years old with majority of them were of Chinese and Vietnamese origins.

They had been kept there for one main reason - no government or third country had recognized them or accepted them as legitimate passport-holders or legal citizens.

Some local Chinese benevolent society or social welfare association and other private foundations had previously proposed to the government that they would sponsor them in old people's homes and provide them with proper medical care. But only 26 of them were under consideration of the authorities on humanitarian ground. The other 7 detainees had been denied of special consideration for they were originally charged and convicted of serious crimes such

as possession of illegal drugs, involvement in prostitution ring or luring girls for prostitution purposes.

At the end of the day, new blankets and other basic necessities were given to them as consolation gifts. It was a touching moment for them since they had been forgotten detainees for many years by the outsiders. Many of them had lost all contacts with relatives and friends. CGRS could only bright some light to them at the moment.

RELIGION AND NON-VIOLENCE SECTION

Hiking for Self-Awareness Camp Project

After the first and second camps had been successful in February and April, CGRS organized the third Hiking for Self-Awareness Camp during December 4-11, 1985 in Huey Kha Khung Forest, U-thai Thant Province. This third camp was jointly organized with the cooperation from the Coordinating Committee for Basic Public Health Organizations.

28 young people joined the project to experience new approach to self-awareness and self-discipline. This project enabled them to be in close contact with the nature in the forest. The natural surrounding offered an organic condition for them to become one with nature and also become one with their inner peace. In such peaceful and natural setting, the young people

could peacefully contemplate on many questions in their minds. Self-discipline was the basis for them to prepare themselves for future social commitment and to examine various issues with clearer conscience.

During the process, they were disciplined to respect nature, environment and human nature within themselves. They also discovered that their desires and anxieties were exposed from within.

Not only that they had learned from nature and about themselves, the young participants also had good opportunities to share their views, outlook, ideas and experiences among their peers. This project, in a sense, had offered them a chance to be truthful to themselves and to others.

Although the participants were programmed to live and discover themselves for only a short period of time, they all agreed, at the end of the project, that this type of project should continue.

BHUDDIST MONKS AS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FORCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

As Buddhist monks are generally recognised as one of the three main pillars for Buddhism in Thailand, their roles and contributions to the social development process are inevitably questioned, from time to time, by many concerned Buddhists. CGRS, in 1985, deemed it necessary to conduct a general survey on the significance of Buddhist

Th - 555-5

monks as institutionalised social and cultural force in relations to Thai society, especially in this rapidly changing social conditions of this era.

On November 27-29, 1985, the Religion and Non-violence Section of CGRS organized a 3-day event at Thammasart University to disseminate its findings on the history, potentiality, contributions, limitations and problems of Buddhist monks as an institution in terms of their roles and contributions to the social and cultural development of present Thai society.

Exhibit, slide presentations, lectures and discussions were main activities organized jointly with the Thai-Inter Religious Commission for Development (TICD) and the Religious Study Forum of Maha Chulalongkorn Royal Academy (for monks only). More than 100 monks participated in the event with thousands of interested people.

TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MONKS IN CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

With growing interest for social program among Buddhist monks, a number of socially concerned monks, on many occasions, had expressed their wish to work with children and development related programs. CGRS thus enthusiastically supported their ideas and saw some great potentials in a prospect of involving monks and children in the development process.

A training workshop on children development was subsequently sponsored by CGRS for monks who were very serious about getting involved in children development programs.

In view of the fact that monks, with their strict disciplines, may have some advantages in understanding some aspects of children over others, CGRS and its supporters warmly welcomed the possibility. However, some of the monks may have to adjust themselves in relating to the problems of children in the cities. First of all, they have to work very closely with children who are not novices. It is, therefore, very important for the monks to understand the real conditions of life outside their temples. Particularly the ways in which children from different social backgrounds are brought up in the cities could present some special problems to deal with. An orientation program or basic training workshop for monks were considered useful and appropriate to encourage the monks in this initial stage of integrating the monks in the development process.

The workshop initiated by CGRS, involving 25 monks from Maha-Chulalongkorn Royal Academy, became a reality in October 1985. The series of workshops ran from October to February 1986. Twice each month, discussions were held on topics such as Ru-

ral Children and Education Opportunity, Malnutrition and Children, Child Labour-Space Age Slaves, Roles of Monks and How to deal with problems of children, and Children Development.

This project also involved some children development programs where monks paid visits to see many different activities for various programs.

On individual basis, monks could be highly active in some children development programs run by NGOs or governmental agencies. However, a number of participants had some reservations about joining other established programs, they preferred to organize their own programs appropriate to their strict disciplines. One strong possibility was to organize a kind of temple-sponsored children development program in which the monks could supervise the activities very closely without leaving the temple. Temple ground or part of it could provide big enough space for various activities if a special permission was granted.



(Caption) Offering foods to the Buddhist Monks by inmates at the detention house.



(Caption) Consolation gifts to the inmates before the visiting is over.



(Caption) Another position in training course for young people at the camp in Chalyaphum Province.



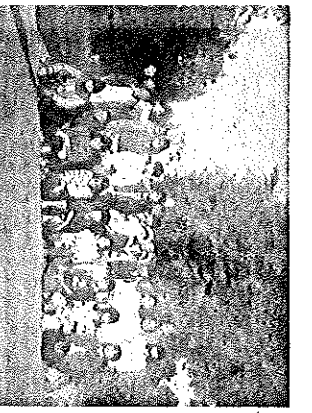
(Caption) Buddhism and Young People Project - a training camp for practical study of religion in Chalyaphum Province.



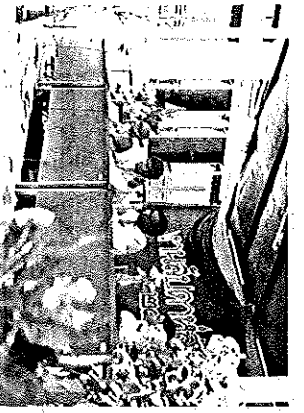
(Caption) Physical training for young people participating in the camp activities.



(Caption) Buddhism in rural areas and the new experience for the young people from the city.



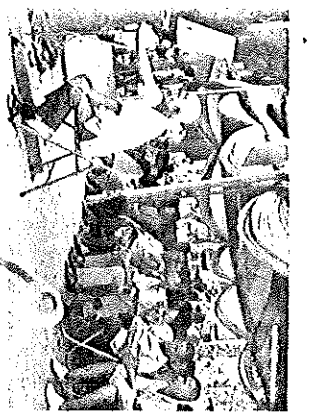
(Caption) Buddhist monks and young people at the training camp.



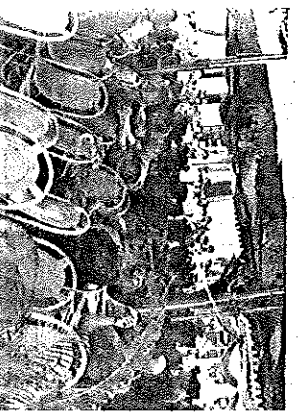
(Caption) Buddhism and social development process - a topic for panel discussion at Mahachat Temple in Bangkok.



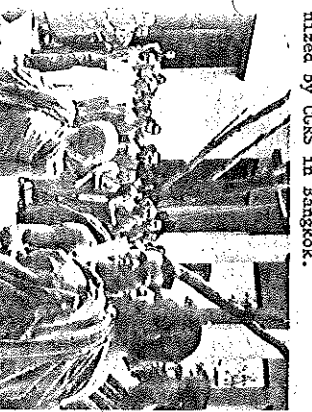
(Caption) Popular music with non-violence and peace content - another attraction.



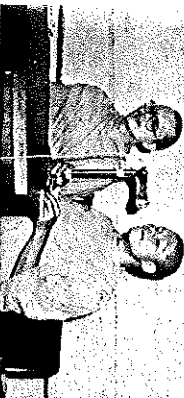
(Caption) Buddhists, young and old, came to the event and listened to the discussion.



(Caption) Student monks from Maha-Chulalongkorn Royal Academy at the event organized by COBS in Bangkok.



(Caption) Student monks and novices waiting to view the exhibit and displays at the event in June 1985.



(Caption) Question and answer session at a religious teach-in for peace and non-violence.



(Caption) Young monks at the teach-in in August 1985.



(Caption) Monks at workshop for children development organized by CGRS.



(Caption) Orientation for monks in children development workshop during December 10-11, 1985



(Caption) Discussion in children development program for monks to work in.



(Caption) Village monks, headman, teachers, CGRS Field Officer with villagers in joint meeting for development plan in Ubon-rachhand.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECTION

The Center for Agricultural Tools and Services Project



(Caption) First model of huller designed for bicycle on experimental basis in early 1985.

The last 3 months of 1985 were productive months for the section in 2 different directions:-

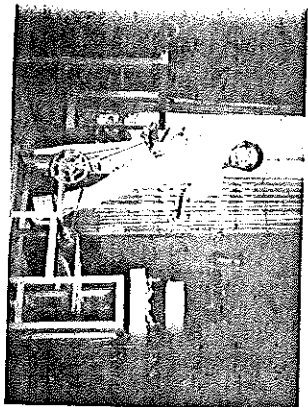
- 1) Technical Development Program
- 2) Educational Radio Program

1) Technical Development Program

For the first program, the section was very much involved in developing a family-size grain huller. This program was motivated by the fact that malnutrition was wide spread in remote villages of the Northeast. This problem was basically caused by the deminishing natural sources of food and the availability of packaged foods. The situation became so alarming when the farmers who grow rice began to consume commercially hulled rice with less nutritious values than locally hulled grains.

Even though the vast majority of the population in the rural areas are peasants and farmers, but they normally consume rice hulled by commercial hull houses. As the result, nutritious values from rice are lost by a big portion. The agonizing fact is that a high percentage of protein, mineral salt, B-1 vitamin, etc. are usually wasted in the process.

In addition, hull houses almost always take advantage of the farmers by keeping about 20 kilos of husk and another 25 kilos of broken grains while the farmers only take home about 55 kilos out of 100 kilos of grains. If the farmers could only hull their own grains, they could easily keep about 78-80 kilos of rice for themselves with higher nutritious values. With CGRS revised huller, the farmers could benefit qualitatively and quantitatively.



(Caption) Single-seater model of bicycle-powered huller built by CGRS in 1985

The Center for Agricultural Tools and Services had worked closely with community technicians and developed an bicycle-powered huller on experimental basis. This model was an adaptation of Under Runner Disc Huller with a reduced scale. From the first phase of development and the first experimental model, it worked well enough but further development was still needed. Some additional mechanism were under test to reduce the amount of broken grains from the process.

Another adaptation from Japanese model was being developed at the end of the year. It was also suggested that this type of low-tech development should continue on in 1986.

72-55-2

2) Agricultural Education Program

The second main program of the Rural Development Section was based on the need for extra-income earning occupations among the rural poor. The villagers had no better alternative due to the lack of investment and no access to new knowledge of modern technology.

One solution for them in the rural communities was to find ways and means to improve their agricultural methods with very little investment and basic agricultural know-hows to deal with modern-day problems in the rural areas. Their earnings from agricultural occupation could be increased if only proper information and knowledge could be provided and disseminated to them. They also realized that job-hunting in the cities is not the answer for them any longer. The two main farming methods used by the villagers were:-

a) Traditional Method - The villagers who are not exposed to modern farming methods and techniques or lack of capital funds for fertilisers have to depend basically on dry land, bad soil and rainfalls.

b) Modern Method - The villagers have

to depend heavily on commercialized fertilisers and products of high technology from the West. For example, fertilisers and pesticides are very expensive and too costly for them to invest, while increasing the amount of fertilisers for the same field become necessary to produce the same yields. Worst of all, such concept of better farming through chemicals have caused serious effects on the ecological balance in the countryside.

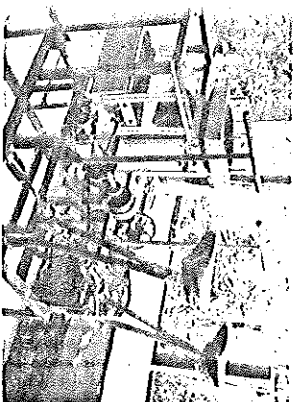
The Rural Development Section was seriously concerned about the income-earning occupations of the rural villagers. It was then decided that the best answer to the present situation is to concentrate on income which the farmers can earn from their agricultural occupation. However, the main emphasis must be put on the farm products for their own consumption in the communities or vicinity rather than for markets controlled by exporters or multinational corporations. In addition, more attention and concern for ecological balance in the rural areas must be on

agenda at each discussion on the program. The villagers themselves are the ones who have been most affected by ecological imbalance, after all.

Nevertheless, the most important question with long-term impact on development process is how to promote group activities and collective responsibilities among the poorest peasants in the country.

A 30-minute radio program was then sponsored by CGRS with full cooperation from the government-run Research Center for Nutrition based in Udon-rajthani.

This educational program was aired regularly on every Wednesday featuring subjects on nutrition, agricultural knowledge, news and information with popular music to suit the local taste.



(Caption) Two-seater model of bicycle-powered huller built by CGRS in November 1985.

Cattle Raising

As a pilot project, 6 goats purchased by CGRS were raised in Charoon-samakki Village on experimental basis towards the end of the year. This was an attempt to demonstrate to the poor villagers in the rural area that goats are easy to raise and suitable for the dry climate of the Northeast. Besides they can earn extra income without leaving the farms for the city jobs.

Within a period of 6 months, goats could gain up to 20 kilos and they could graze on almost anything in the field. The important point was that the villagers could also benefit from high protein content of goat meat and regular supply of milk in the near future.

Children were assigned to tend the first flock which almost immediately drew much attention from the adults in the community. According to CGRS staff stationed in the area, the majority of the villagers expressed much interest in raising goats and would try to raise some of their own early next year.

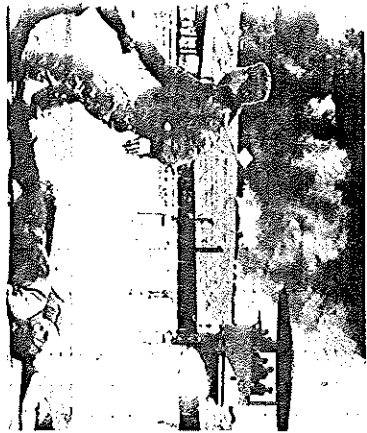


(Caption) Goat introduced by CGRS Rural Development Section to the villagers in 1985 as part of cattle-raising program.

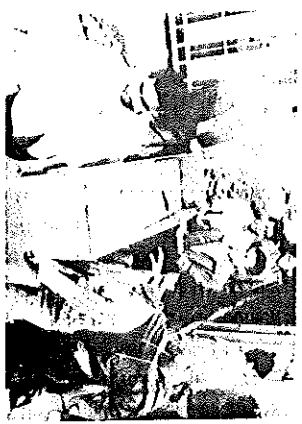
Field Trip on Integrated Agriculture Program

Apart from the introduction of cattle-raising project, 20 villagers, 5 village teachers and 5 monks from different villages in Amarr-charoen District were organized for a field trip for observation on integrated agriculture and fish-raising project in Surin Province about 250 kilometres from the district. The purpose of such field trip was to motivate and expose them to the idea of integrated agriculture development program.

Even though they seemed to be quite excited with what they had seen in the program, only one villager, upon his return to home village, actually started his fish pond as a first step to earn extra income and to an integrated program in the future.



Life is cheap behind walls.



Another 200 Bahc coffin for dead inmate.

EDITORIAL NOTE

As human rights situation in Thailand has become one of the burning issues for a large number of people, both in the 1970s and some related governmental agencies, CGRS has been relatively active in working with various organizations to deal with some problems at hands.

However, some of our activities in the rural development and religious relations may also offer some concrete examples of our commitment to long-term development of the society.

CGRS is planning to celebrate our 10th Anniversary in April 1986 with some future plans in the making. We hope we could enjoy your support as ever.

In solidarity and friendship
CGRS, Bangkok