

สารนิพนธ์

THESIS ABSTRACTS

Assistance to the Northern Hill Tribes Provided by the Border Patrol Police

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One-fifth of the total geographical area of Thailand, bordered by Burma and Laos, and consisting of mountains and valleys with elevations of from 2,000 feet to over 8,000 feet, is known as the North. Within this rugged mountainous vicinity covered with great stands of teak, a priceless natural resource of the nation, where may be found the origin of the Chao Praya river, there live a variety of ethnic minority groups which play an important role in the national security.

According to a socio-ethnological report by Gordon Young, there are 1,146 known villages where live about 200,000 mountain people. According to Young, these people can be divided into twenty tribes and subtribes which can be roughly classified into three major groups : Tibeto-Burman, including the Akha, the Lisu, the Lasu and the Karen with their subdivisions ; Main Chinese, represented in Thailand by the Meo, the Yao and the Haw ; and the Wa, consisting of the Lawa, the Htin, the Kha Mu, the Kha Huw and the Phi Tong Luang.

No one tribe is restricted to a given area. Although these peoples are a small minority their ways of living present some crucial problems for national security out of proportion to their numbers. Some of these problems are examined briefly.

1. Even though they have as a whole many things in common, most of these tribemen are of different ethnic backgrounds. Each tribe possesses and preserves its own language, customs and religion from generation to generation. As a result, they are isolated from the Thai People.

2. The villages, in which they live, are situated in such remote and almost inaccessible areas that various public services cannot be extended to them. Thus, development to improve their education, health and agriculture is difficult.

3. The hill tribes earn their living by the so-called shifting type of cultivation, clearing forests for planting and moving on when the top soil becomes less fertile and productive. In the process, extensive areas of the forests are destroyed, causing damage the water sheds and affecting the natural supply of water to the cultivated lowland.

4. Some tribes dwelling in the inaccessible mountain jungles engage in the production of raw opium in opposition to the government ban on such activity.

5. With little recognition of international territory, some of these ethnic minority people migrate freely between Thailand and its neighbors in the North. This presents a grave problem to national security, particularly in relation to Communist subversion.

The foregoing problems are interrelated and can become more serious, unless definite action is taken by the government. There was no program to deal with these problems at all until 1955. The Border Patrol Police was the first governmental authority to realize the need for such a program to raise the standard of living of these people as well as to augment the national security. They began activity in the field in 1955 and now operate under the control of the Commission for Assisting the Hill Tribes.

In brief, the objectives of the assistances are threefold; to promote their well being, to win their loyalty to Thailand and to increase the national security.

The program is, to some extent, a combination of three kinds of organized activity, including social welfare services, community development and civic action. The author deems it appropriate to conduct a pilot study for two main reasons; to present a vivid picture of the operation of the Border Patrol Police assistance program,

and to give suggestions for administrative changes in order to remedy the present weaknesses.

The study concerns itself exclusively with the hill tribes in four Northern Changwads, i.e., Meabongsorn, Chiengrai, Cbiengmai and Nan. The method used is descriptive, and the sources of information are the author's own experiences as an officer in charge of the program, various books, official documents as well as international organization reports, and a number of interviews and questionnaires.

Upon the completion of this study, the author concluded that from the administrative point of view, the Border Patrol Police do not lack plans, but rather essential administrative experience, practical knowledge, skill and money. It is believed, however, that the Border Patrol Police are the proper officials to carry out the program. The following recommendations are made for the purpose of eradicating weaknesses.

1. The government should amend the Royal Decree on the Organization of the Police Department, the Ministry of Interior B.E. 2503, concerning the Development section of the Border Patrol Police.
 2. The program should be given greater priority in the annual budget.
 3. Due to the limitation of manpower and insufficient funds, the present works should not be extended until satisfactory results are indicated.
 4. The Border Patrol Police should provide further education and inservice training for personnel involved by seeking cooperation and support from various institutes in the country and from abroad.
 5. In development these people their culture and individuality should be respected and preserved. This calls for careful acculturation through the cooperation of the cultural anthropologist, the agriculturist, the doctor, the social worker and the military expert.
 6. Since several public and private agencies now deal with the hill tribes, the Changwad Sub-Commission for Assisting the Hill Tribes should function as a
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coordinating center in each Changwad. Moreover, in order to avoid friction, overlapping and duplication between the Border Patrol Police and the Public Welfare Department, there should be a territorial division of work between these two agencies. For the sake of security and due to the system of communications and logistics, the Border Patrol Police should work in the villages close to the frontier, while the Public Welfare Department should operate in the villages which are not too inaccessible.

7. Most of the hill tribes villages are obviously remote and inaccessible but they are not so officially designated. In consequence, certain Border Patrol Police, particularly those functioning as school teachers, have no right to receive the additional monthly allowance for remote area service. The government should correct the Regulation of Additional Monthly Allowance for Remote Area Service B.E. 2506 so that these areas will be included.

8. At present, the police constable has no right to receive the special rate per diem when working with foreigners. This is in contrast to the principle of fair and equitable pay and should be corrected so that the status of the police constable is identical to that of the non-commissioned officer.

Finally, the author stresses that whereas communist infiltration and subversion are obviously a real threat to Southeast Asia, it is doubly important that these ethnic minority people not be ignored. The collapse or failure of the Border Patrol Police civic action program would mean the creation of gap in the national security. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

จากวิทยานิพนธ์เรื่อง การสงเคราะห์ชาวเขาในภาคเหนือ

ของตำรวจภูธรชายแดน

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