

Title: Medical Beliefs in Culture, Social Structure, Internal and External Group Relationships in North Thailand

Principal Investigator: David H. Marlowe, Ph.D.

Objective To describe and analyze the relationships between culture, social structure, and behavior organized around concepts of health illness and disease in a hill tribe, S'kaw Karen, in North Thailand. Further, to describe and analyze intergroup relationships with particular emphasis on the role played by concepts of health, illness and disease.

Description The description remains the same as in the preceding annual report with the exception of the expansion of the use of questionnaire and survey techniques for data gathering in this third and terminal year of the project.

Progress The past year has seen the termination of resident field work in Tambon Borkeo, Amphur Samoeng, and will encompass as well the termination of resident field work in Tambon Ban Luang, Amphur Chomtong. In addition to the resident field work carried out by the principal investigator, indigenous interviewers trained by the principal investigator have carried out the following surveys:

1. March and May, 1967: Base social, economic and medical contact survey of 2000 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong, Mae Chaem, and Samoeng.
2. July and August, 1967: Land use and agricultural economic survey of 600 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong and Samoeng.
3. September, 1967: Genealogical survey of 600 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong and Samoeng.
4. October, 1967: Migration survey of 600 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong and Samoeng.
5. November and December, 1967: Harvest and agricultural productivity survey of 600 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong and Samoeng.
6. January and February, 1968: ~~Illness incidence and mode of treatment survey of 600 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong and Samoeng.~~
7. February and March, 1968: Indigenous medical systems questionnaire given to 450 S'kaw Karen families in Amphurs Chomtong and Samoeng.
8. Finally, a second data base questionnaire concerning social and economic data and medical contacts to reach 1500 families was initiated in March 1968 and will be completed in May, 1968.

Preliminary analyses of some of these data have been undertaken and are reported in the presentation and publication cited below. Much of the rest of the time of the principal investigator has been devoted to the translation of questionnaire and survey responses from Karen to English and the transcription of these responses on recording forms. Full scale analysis of the materials gathered must await the termination of the field phase of this project (June, 1968).

Summary Building on a base of data collected during the two prior years of intensive study, several extensive surveys of S'kaw Kasen have been initiated and completed. One survey still in progress will be completed in May, 1968.

During the past year the principal investigator presented a research paper based upon this project at "The First Symposium on Hill Tribes and North Thailand" sponsored by the Tribal Research Center, Chiang Mai. This paper "Upland--Lowland Relationships: The Case of the S'kaw Karen of Central Upland Western Chiang Mai", will be published by the Tribal Research Center Chiang Mai and SEATO. (A Thai translation is also to be published this year by the Ministry of the Interior, Royal Thai Government).