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Press Statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on unfounded allegations against Myanmar regarding nuclear programme

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June- Following is a Press Statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on unfounded allegations against Myanmar regarding the nuclear programme. The full text of the statement is as follows:-

In recent days, the international media reported allegations that Myanmar has been attempting to develop a nuclear programme in collaboration with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with an aim to acquire nuclear weapons.

Those reports are merely groundless allegations with political motives to exert pressure on Myanmar.

Moreover, as these accusations are fallacious information originated from media sources and individuals who are seeking to undermine the national interest of Myanmar, and are also based on a single source of some deserters, fugitives and exiles, the news reports lack reliability, objectivity and impartiality. Myanmar did not see the need to respond to these groundless accusations as they are totally far from the realities in Myanmar.

Following the adoption of US government's engagement policy towards Myanmar, the US Senator Jim Webb and Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell visited Myanmar and started the engagement process between the two countries.

At a time of resumption of engagement between Myanmar and the US, those unfounded allegations were made up by the anti-government elements in collaboration with news media with political purpose in a timely manner. Besides it was also an attempt to tarnish the image of the Myanmar government and to disrupt its on-going political process at a time when the government is exerting all out efforts to holding general elections for democratic transformation. As a result of surfacing of those allegations, Senator Jim Webb who was scheduled to visit Myanmar in early June has postponed his planned visit.

Being a member of the United Nations, Myanmar always respects and abides by resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations. Moreover, it has been actively participating in the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as a founding member of the Conference.

Myanmar is also a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and has signed the Safeguard Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1995. At the regional level, Myanmar as a member of ASEAN, acceded to the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

In its drive for the advancement of science and technology and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purpose in health and education sectors, Myanmar had had an agreement with Russia for the construction of a 10-Megawatt Nuclear Research Reactor, in addition to sending trainees to other countries including Russia.

However, the plan was suspended without implementation due to inadequacy of resources and the government's concern for misunderstanding it my cause among international community. In fact, that project was arranged to be implemented under the Safeguard Agreement of IAEA.

It is necessary to view separately with a clear differentiation between peaceful use of nuclear energy and production of nuclear weapons.

Myanmar has all along supported the legitimate rights of every state to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. While supporting non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Myanmar supports the principles of non-politicizing the NPT and nondiscrimination against developing countries in the NPT implementation.

Myanmar has constantly contributed to regional peace and stability in collaboration with ASEAN member countries. Myanmar will never engage in activities that would affect regional peace and stability.

Exerting pressure on Myanmar based on groundless nuclear accusations and making allegations with political intent to intervene in the internal affairs or with geopolitical strategic purpose will in no way contribute to the regional and international peace and stability.

Myanmar is just a developing country which lacks sufficient infrastructures, technology and financial resources to make nuclear weapons. Some experts concluded that Myanmar is not in a position to make nuclear weapons.

Based on these facts, it is reiterated that the allegations of Myanmar trying to develop nuclear weapons are unfounded and no efforts have been made to do so.

Myanmar only wants peace and has no ambition to become a nuclear power state.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nay Pyi Taw

[Source: "The New Light of Myanmar" 12 June 2010]

Press Statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Myanmar's relations with Democratic People's Republic of Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June-The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today issued a Press Statement on Myanmar's relations with Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The full text of the Press Statement is as follows:-

After severing diplomatic ties with Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for over twenty years, the Union of Myanmar decided to re-establish diplomatic relations with DPRK on 26th April 2007 in accordance with its policy of maintaining friendly relations with all countries.

Following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, Myanmar and DPRK, as independent sovereign states, have been engaging in promoting trade and cooperation between the two countries in the same way Myanmar is dealing with others.

As part of mutually beneficial cooperation, the two sides have rendered mutual assistances and have been making efforts to develop bilateral trade relations. Accordingly Myanmar provided 1500 tons of rice on 17th May 2008 and sold 10000 tons of rice to DPRK which were exported to DPRK in a series of shipments.

At a time when the mutually beneficial trade relations are growing, there had been media reports in June 2009 alleging that a DPRK cargo ship Kang Nam 1 carrying weapons was heading towards Myanmar. Such reports were proved to be groundless. They were merely news reports based on presumption with the intention to put political pressure on Myanmar.

Again in April this year, when North Korean ship Chong Gen was docking at Myanmar port for loading and unloading normal cargo, an allegation was raised that Myanmar violated UNSC resolution 1874 by allowing shipment of restricted items into Myanmar. In fact, it was normal commercial activities involving importation of cement, an unrestricted item, and exportation of 10,000 tons of rice.

When North Korean cargo ship started sailing from the port of DPRK, no inspection was made by any party along the way although there were ample opportunities for inspections of the vessel. One should not prejudge and make irresponsible accusations that the ship was loaded with weapons and heading towards Myanmar before no one could know for sure of its destination.

Myanmar has been maintaining relations with DPRK in the same way as it has been trying to maintain friendly relations with every nation.

Some countries raised accusations on Myanmar's trade activities with DPRK as violating the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1874. However they are groundless.

Myanmar Port Authorities had conducted necessary inspection on North Korean ships and gave permission to berth in accordance the rules and regulations.

Being a member of the United Nations, Myanmar will continue to observe the UNSC resolutions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nay Pyi Taw

[Source: "The New Light of Myanmar" 12 June 2010]

**Al Jazeera airs incorrect news report saying Myanmar
trying to possess nuclear weapons -
News report based only on exaggerated fabrications of some deserters, fugitives, exiles**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 June - Al Jazeera television network headquartered in Doha, Qatar, and a branch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, aired a news report this month saying that Myanmar in cooperation with Democratic People's Republic of Korea was trying to produce nuclear weapons. It broadcast the news report at 12.30 pm on 4 June, 1.30 am and 9.30 am on 6 June, 8.30 pm on 7 June, at noon on 8 June and 1.30 am and 9 am on 10 June.

In connection with the news report, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar issued a Press Statement today. The Press Statement said, during these days, some international media are accusing Myanmar of cooperating with DPRK in trying to implement its nuclear programme with the aim of possessing nuclear weapons. Actually, they are just groundless accusations made with the intention of launching political attacks on Myanmar. Moreover, these false accusations are generated by individuals and the media with the intention of harming Myanmar's interest. These baseless accusations are based solely on the fabrications of deserters, fugitives and exiles. Hence, they are not credible, correct and just.

Al Jazeera revealed that the source of the news report was from Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB). DVB is a foreign-funded news agency based in Oslo, Norway. It is surviving on the aid provided by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) which was formed by the US in 1983. The US Congress is providing funds annually to NED.

In reality, DVB is operating with NED aids. US Senator Jim Webb in his letter submitted to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated that the said accusation was broadcast by US-funded DVB. DVB is a news agency manufacturing slanderous news reports against Myanmar. It is a killer broadcasting station that is hateching evil plots and sowing hatred between Myanmar and the international community and among the Myanmar national people.

According to the exposition of the deserter and fugitive stated in the press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the unfounded allegations against Myanmar regarding the nuclear programme, they are deserter Captain Sai Thein Win and fugitive retired Major Aung Lin Htut.

Deserter Sai Thein Win was born of U Sai Than Myint and Daw Nan Mon Hsa of Kyaukme. He was appointed as a military gazetted officer on 11 April 1999. He was promoted to the rank of captain on 11 April 2002. He obtained an MSc (Power Engineering) from Bouman Moscow State Technical University of Russia in 2004 and failed a PhD entrance examination.

He is just a captain. He has been a deserter since he was absent without leave starting 28 February 2010. It is found that although he was a captain in service, he said himself he was Major Sai Thein Win in broadcasts by pretending to be a major wearing insignia of the rank of major when he joined anti-government organizations. As he is not only a deserter but also an offender having committed other crimes, plans are under way to take action against him.

Fugitive Aung Lin Htut was born to U Aye Kyaw and Daw Khin Kyi of No.26, 114th Street, Ayogon, Tamway Township, Yangon. He was appointed as a military gazetted officer on 26 January 1978. He was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 September 1999 and he retired from the military service on 20 June 2000. He was declared fugitive on 20 May 2005 after a lawsuit had been filed against him at Yangon Division Court under section-3 of 1963 public property protection law/ code of criminal procedure section-512 for mis-appropriating a State budget worth US\$ 4525 while serving as Minister Counselor at Myanmar Embassy in Washington, the United States, section-

124(A) of state discrediting law/code of criminal procedure section-512 and section-5(J) of 1950 emergency act/code of criminal procedure section-512 for affecting State security and law and order. Moreover, he was declared fugitive after he had been filed by Special Intelligence Department at Yangon East District Court under section-122(2) of criminal law/code of criminal procedure section-512 for high treason.

Although the above-mentioned deserter and fugitive made slanderous accusations in order to harm the interests of Myanmar, no authorities concerned detained or arrested their family members. There have been remarks among the people who have viewed the broadcasts of Al Jazeera that the said deserter and fugitive are being used by destructionists for money and that they should not have made such slanderous accusations in their own interests.

[Source: "The New Light of Myanmar" 12 June 2010]