YANGON, 16 Sept-Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, President of the United Mexican States, on the-Independence Day- of the United Mexican States which falls on 16 September 1997.

YANGON, 16 Sept In the Occasion of the Independence Day of Papua New Guinea, which falls on 16 September 1997, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sir Wiwa Korowi, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Senior General Than Shwe at the 1997 Annual General Meeting of the USDA on 15 September. Excerpts from Senior General's address
The kind of democracy being used as a facade by the neo-colonialists to interfere in internal affairs of other countries and drive a wedge caused grossly awful and ugly events in recent history.

Our Three Main National Causes are our conviction which will do no harm to any race any nation or any class of people.

All members of the association must possess the strong conviction that our territorial integrity and security must never be encroached upon at all. All members must constantly fulfil the requirements of the public in health care services and in the education sector in wards, villages, and townships. The four-pillar agriculture strategy based on four crops—paddy, cotton, sugar-cane, and beans—is the key to improvement of socio-economic life of farmers.

It is essential to consolidate internal strength so as to vanquish internal and external dangers both at present and in future. Membership has considerably increased from 5 million in 1996 to over 7.51 million in 1997. Thousands of youths from among the people have shown great interest in the association. We are now undergoing a process of organizing training and educating the people. Endeavours are being made to enable the youths of Myanmar to pursue advanced studies.

(4) Outstanding students, youths of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, new veneration aviation and marine youths honoured

YANGON, 15 Sept - The Annual General Meeting 1997 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association continued for the fourth day at Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA Executives Management Training School, Central Public Relation Unit in Hmawby this morning.

Patron of the USDA Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered a speech.

The AGM (1997) of the USDA was attended by members of the Panel of Patrons of the USDA Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tin Oo, members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Prime Ministers Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lt-Gen Tin Tun, members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, members of the Panel of the Patrons of the USDA, members of the USDA Central Executive Committee, members of the Security and Management Committee, deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the National Convention Convening Commission, directors of the directorates...
of the Ministry of Defence, chairmen of State and Division Law and Order Restoration Councils, commanders of Naval Region Command Headquarters and Air Bases, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the various ministries, the rector of the Central Institute of Civil Service, members of USDA AGM (1997) Organizing Work Sub-committees, the President of Myanmar Red Cross Society, Chairpersons and chairmen of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Nurses Association, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Artiste and Artisans Asiayon, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Women Sports Federation and Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, officials of the Myanmonmyint Co Ltd, media persons, outstanding Red Cross members, outstanding Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, outstanding new generation-aviation youths, outstanding new generation marine youths, prize winners in 52nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Extempore Talks Contest, outstanding students who passed the 1997 Basic Education High School Examination with highest marks in the entire country, representatives of those who sacrificed their lives while contributing voluntary labour at Maha Pasana Cave where the Buddha's Tooth Relic was kept for public obeisance, delegates of State, Division, District and Township USDAs and other invited guests.

(5) New Thakayta Wharf will ease congestion of passengers, cargo

YANGON, 15 Sept Hailing the anniversary of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, soft opening of Thakayta Wharf of Myanmar Five Star Line was held at passenger terminal of the wharf in Thakayta Township, this afternoon.

Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt formally opened the wharf.

(6) Deputy Prime Minister receives Chairman & M D of Adorna Group of Companies

YANGON, 15 Sept Member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin received Chairman & Managing Director of Adorna Group of Companies Mr Dato John Fong and party of Malaysia at his office this afternoon.

Present also were Minister at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Brig-Gen Maung Maung and officials.
(7) Minister for NPED receives A D G of FAO

YANGON, 15 Sept-Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel received Assistant Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization and Representative of Asia and Pacific Region Dr Soetawo Hadiwigeno, accompanied by Representative of FAO (Yangon) Mr Prem Nath, at his office this afternoon.

Present also were officials of the Ministry.

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(8) Discussion with Participants of Study Tour for Heads of Forest Policy (GCP/RAS/158/JPN) held

YANGON, 15 Sept - Discussion with the Participants of Study Tour for Heads of the Forest Policy (GCP/RAS/158/JPN), under the joint programme of the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forest, the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and Vietnam, was held at International Business Centre this morning.

Present were heads of the Forest Department, representatives of the nations concerned and guests.
Director-General of the Forest Department Dr Kyaw Tint delivered a speech.

Officials of the Forest Department explained projects concerning forest policy being carried out in Myanmar with audio visual aids.

The representatives of the PRC, Mongolia and Vietnam presented forest policy adopted in each nation.

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