(1) Senior General Than Shwe graces Golden Jubilee of Navy

YANGON, 24 Dec-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe graced the Golden Jubilee of the Navy at the Guest House of the Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of the Office of the Strategic Studies Director of Defence Services Intelligence Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Secretary-2 Chief of Bureau of Special Operations Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Secretary-3 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Prime Ministers Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lt-Gen Tin Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyunt Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Kyaw Than, members of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers, senior military officers, the Commanders of Naval Region Command Headquarters, senior officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and guests.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and guests were greeted by Rear-Admiral Nyunt Thein and wife and senior officers of the Navy and their wives.

At the Guest House of the Navy later, Senior General Than Shwe, General Maung Aye, the Secretary-1, the Secretary-2, the Secretary-3 and guests signed in the book of records.

Afterwards, Rear-Admiral Nyunt Thein presented gifts to the guests who were then entertained to lunch.
**Myanmar-PRC Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee holds second meeting**

YANGON, 24 Dec-The Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China Economic Cooperation Promoting Committee held its second coordination meeting at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here at 3 pm today and Chairman of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt addressed it.

It was also attended by members of the Leading Committee ministers, deputy ministers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and guests.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the Leading Committee was formed on 30 January 1996.

He recalled that Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General and Madame Than Shwe paid a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China in January 1996 and during the visit leaders of the two countries coordinated to accelerate economic cooperation between the two countries. This then called for the need to further promote economic cooperation between the two countries, he said. The Leading Committee then emerged in accordance with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

The Leading Committee, he said, had already held its first meeting. He spoke of the need to discuss projects being implemented sectorwise by the respective ministries with the assistance of the People's Republic of China and future tasks and then carry on implementing the projects.

He said Senior General Than Shwe and President of PRC Mr Jiang Zemin met in Malaysia while attending the 30th ASEAN Anniversary Summit and discussed prospects for promoting economic cooperation between the two countries on the basis of existing friendship.

The Secretary-1 called on ministries concerned to implement the projects in various sectors without losing momentum with the aim of promoting economic cooperation between Myanmar and China in accordance with the discussions and coordination between the leaders of the two countries.

Next, Minister at the Office of the State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Abel reported on the projects being implemented under the economic cooperation promotion programme between Myanmar and PRC. Ministers who are members of the Leading Committee and responsible personnel then discussed tasks being undertaken by the respective departments and future tasks.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt dealt with points raised in the discussions and delivered the closing address.
(3) Deputy Prime Minister receives Chairman of Merlion Inter Trade

YANGON, 24 Dec Deputy Prime Minister Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin received Chairman of Merlion Inter Trade Co Ltd of Singapore Mr Drake Poh at his office at 3 pm today. Present also were Minister at the Office of Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Brig-Gen Maung Maung and officials.

(4) Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Exhibition continues

YANGON, 24 Dec- Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Exhibition and Competition, organized by Myanma Agriculture Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, continued at Myepadetha Garden in Bahan Township today.

Visitors bought vegetable, fruits, flowers, seeds, pesticides and chemical fertilizers at the department and private booths.

Over 6,000 people visited the exhibition today.

(5) ASEAN adopts plan to prevent and combat fires, haze pollution

YANGON, 24 Dec - Chairman of National Commission for Environmental Affairs Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw and delegation arrived back today after attending ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze held in Singapore on 22 and 23 December.

He was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Communications, Posts and

The ASEAN region especially, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore were seriously affected by haze pollution which occurred during last July to October. This haze pollution has been recorded as one of the pollution disasters in the world affecting nearly 300 million people in the region and causing impacts on health, economy, ecology. The meeting unanimously adopted the Regional Haze Action Plan to prevent and combat fires and subsequent haze pollution.

Members of the delegation including Secretary of NCEA U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy Director of NCEA Daw Yin Yin Lay, Deputy Director of Fire Services Department U Zaw Win, Lecturer U Khin Maung Lwin of Institute of Forestry and PSO to the minister U Zaw Myint Oo also arrived back on the same flight.

Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Myo Myint also attended the meeting as alternate head of delegation.
(6) Full utilization of machines in construction of roads and bridges coordinated

YANGON, 24 Dec-A coordination meeting on full utilization of machines in construction of roads and bridges under border areas development programme was held at the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Tin, acting director-general of Development Affairs Department, acting director-general of Border Areas and National Races Development Department, directors, supervisors and commanding officers of Military Engineers Battalions.

The minister spoke of full utilization of machines, completion of projects in time as scheduled, minimizing loss and wastage and use of fuel.

Officials reported on work undertaken and requirements. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

(7) Special radio, TV programmes on how to take BEHS exam

YANGON, 24 Dec-A coordination meeting on broadcasting and telecasting of lectures on examination for students who will take Basic Education High School Examination to be held in coming March was held at Myanmar Educational Research Bureau today.

The special programme was jointly arranged by Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education.

Chairman of MERB U Tin Nyo reported on project of educational TV lessons for candidates.

Professors, officials of Basic Education Department, Institute of Computer Science and Technology and Myanmar Board of Examinations took part in the discussions.

The special programmes on examination will be broadcast and telecast in January and February.

(8) Research paper reading session continues

The ASEAN region especially, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore were seriously affected by haze pollution which occurred during last July to October. This haze pollution has been recorded as one of the pollution disasters in the world affecting nearly 300 million people in the region and causing impacts on health, economy, ecology. The meeting unanimously adopted
the Regional Haze Action Plan to prevent and combat fires and subsequent haze pollution.

Members of the delegation including Secretary of NCEA U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy Director of NCEA Daw Yin Yin Lay, Deputy Director of Fire Services Department U Zaw Win, Lecturer U Khin Maung Lwin of Institute of Forestry and PSO to the minister U Zaw Myint Oo also arrived back on the same flight.

Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Myo Myint also attended the meeting as alternate head of delegation.

(9) To improve power supply

YANGON, 24 Dec Power supply will be temporarily suspended in wards of all townships in Yangon Division in turn from 5 am on 27 December (Saturday) to 5 am on 28 December (Sunday).

Power supply will remain uninterrupted in important places including hospitals and some departments.

High pressure conduits of three stations of Lawpita Hydel Power Plant will be repaired during the period.

(10) New building for Civil Service Affairs Department

YANGON, 24 Dec-A new building of Civil Service Affairs Department opened at 65, Awaiya Street in Ozward, Tarmway Township, this morning. Present were Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Maung Maung Gyi, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Director-General of Civil Service Affairs Department U Khin Maung Myint, Managing Director of Technical Services U Ye Tun, heads of departments and guests.

U Khin Maung Myint reported on new building.

Chairman U Maung Maung Gyi and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe formally opened the building and inspected it.

The foundation of the building was laid on 18 May 1996. Technical Services handed over the building to Civil Service Affairs Department on 22 December 1997.

The four-storey reinforced concrete building, 82 feet long, 40 feet wide and 45 feet high, was built at a cost of K 37.268 million.
** Commander tours reservoir, Cement Plant**

YANGON, 24 Dec- Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Thura Shwe Mann inspected the Nankathu Diversion Weir in Ingapu Township at 9 am on 19 December.

Officials reported to him on the work done. He told them to conserve water for proper use. He then inspected heavy machinery at work building the Nankathu Reservoir.

The Commander then met officers, other ranks and their families of the battalion and unit in Padaung Township. He explained to them matters related to projects being implemented day and night in political, economic and social sectors, urged them to carry out the assigned duties fully, uphold Our Three Main National Causes and keep in mind the 12 political, economic and social objectives and four points of the People's Desire.

On 21 December, the Commander visited the Kyangin Cement Plant and inspected various stages of production. He called on the manager and staff to exceed the production targets.