NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT FORMED

Members of the Pyithu Hlutdaw elected on 27 May 1990, formed a NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA (NCGUB) on 18 December 1990, in territory controlled by the DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE OF BURMA (DAB). Prime Minister Dr. SEIN WIN said that:

"This junta (The State Law and Order Restoration Council) has no will and no way to transfer power to the people. The only option for the representatives elected by the vast majority of people is to escape into liberated areas and form a government for the people. Our immediate task is to topple the military junta. We are elected members of parliament and have the mandate from the people to set up a government."

The NCGUB "needs to be viewed only as an interim political arrangement" to remove the military dictatorship and convene the Pyithu Hlutdaw (National Assembly). "With convening National Assembly and as all political prisoners are freed, the NCGUB will cease to be government, for the Assembly will choose the government of its own."

EVENTS LEADING TO THE NCGUB

On May 27, the NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (NLD) headed by AUNG SAN SUU KYI won 392 out of the 485 seats contested, in the Pyithu Hlutdaw. The NLD won in spite of the fact that the election campaign was very restricted and the Army openly favoured the NATIONAL UNITY PARTY (NUP) which is the new name for General NE WIN's discredited BURMESE SOCIALIST PROGRAMME PARTY (BSPP). The NUP won 10 seats in the elections.

Immediately following the elections, SLOREC spokesmen including Senior General SAW MAUNG and Major General KHIN NYUNT declared that the military would hand over power to the elected representatives, as promised to the United Nations on 7 November 1988.

However, on July 27, SLORC Order No.1/90 outlined the military's plans. It called for the formation of a National Convention to lay down guidelines for a constitution which the newly elected Pyithu Hlutdaw was to draft. After the constitution was approved by SLORC, a national referendum would be held to affirm it. New elections would be held under the new constitution. Only then, would the military hand over power. No time frame was given for the entire process. SLORC Order No.1/90 also forbade the NLD from introducing a constitution on its own and forming a government.

On July 28-29, NLD members of parliament met in Rangoon and issued the GANDHI HALL DECLARATION calling for an immediate transfer of power and for the Pyithu Hlutdaw to be convened by September 1990, according to SLORC's own election laws.

On August 30, other smaller opposition parties joined the NLD in an alliance that controlled 457 seats in parliament to form the next government of Burma.

In September, SLORC did not convene the Pyithu Hlutdaw but instead began arresting the remaining NLD leaders who had not been arrested prior to the May elections. In response, about 120 MPs met in Amarapura and Mandalay to denounce SLORC Order No.1/90 and reaffirm support for the Gandhi Hall Declaration. This was later endorsed by about 260 MPs. The MPs also discussed plans to form a provisional government in October either in an embassy compound in Rangoon or in Mandalay with the support of the Buddhist monks there. 5,000 monks were to provide protection for the MPs. More than 200 MPs subsequently designated 7 MPs to represent them and take action whatever action was necessary [A910104, F910103 & P901209].
However, the plans were discovered and SLORC arrested dozens of MPs including U TIN MAUNG WIN, U CHIT TIN, U HLA TUN, DAW SAN SAN, SHWE WAH SOE, U TUN AUNG, U MAUNG KO, and NLD Central Executive Committee members, U KHIN MAUNG SWE, U KYAW MIN, U CHAN AYE, and U SOE THEIN. At least 60 MPs are now in prison [F910103 & P901210].

U KHIN MAUNG SWE and Dr. Sein Win (although he did not attend the Amarapura meeting) were being considered by the MPs as possible leaders of the provisional government when U Khin Maung Swe was arrested. U MAUNG KO was tortured ("Alert No.12") and revealed the Mandalay plans before he died [P901209].

Therefore, in October SLORC surrounded the Buddhist monasteries in Mandalay with tanks and launched a massive crackdown against the monks. At least 360 monks were arrested including U THUMINGALA, head of a renown teaching monastery [R910103].

In October, SLORC also forced all political parties to sign a statement accepting SLORC Order No.1/90. The 7 designated MPs, therefore, decided to flee to a liberated area and form a provisional government.

MEMBERS OF THE NCGUB:

Dr. SEIN WIN Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Home Minister
PETER LIMBIN Foreign Affairs
U WIN KO Finance & Revenue
U THAN KYWE Trade & Cooperatives
U HLA PE Education & Health and Information
U THEIN OO Justice
BO HLA TINT Construction and Mining & Energy Resources
U TUN OO Social Welfare and Labour

Dr. SEIN WIN, is the member of parliament for Paukkaung constituency, Pegu Division – a constituency of 66,337 voters. As chairman of the PARTY FOR NATIONAL DEMOCRACY (PND), he won 60% of the votes and defeated 7 contenders including the NUP candidate in the May 1990 elections. The NLD did not field a candidate. Dr. Sein Win had been chosen by his cousin, AUNG SAN SUU KYI, to head the PND which had been formed as a backup for the NLD in case the military abolished the NLD [A910104].

Dr. Sein Win, 47, is the son of U BA WIN, elder brother of General AUNG SAN. As a member of the GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL, he was assassinated on 19 July 1947 together with General Aung San and the entire cabinet. Dr. Sein Win earned his doctorate in mathematics from Hamburg, Germany, although the military tried to order him home before he completed his studies. He taught at Colombo University, Sri Lanka and Nairobi University, Kenya, before returning to Burma in 1984. He was a part-time lecturer at the Worker's College in Rangoon until 1988.

PETER LIMBIN, Minister for FOREIGN AFFAIRS, is the member of parliament for Pyin-Oo-Lwin (2), Mandalay Division – a constituency of 39,296 voters. An independent, he won 30% of the votes and defeated 7 contenders including the NUP and NLD candidates.

U WIN KO, Minister for FINANCE & REVENUE, is the member of parliament for Ye-U (2) constituency, Sagaing Division – a constituency of 32,752 voters. An NLD candidate, he won 66% of the votes and defeated 2 contenders including the NUP candidate.

U THAN KYWE, Minister for TRADE & COOPERATIVES, is the member of parliament for Shwedaung (1), Pegu Division – a constituency of 40,926 voters. An NLD candidate, he won 59% of the votes and defeated 6 contenders including the NUP candidate.
U HLA PE, Minister for EDUCATION & HEALTH and INFORMATION, is the member of parliament for Pyawbwe (2), Mandalay Division – a constituency of 61,031 voters. An NLD candidate, he won 56% of the votes and defeated 3 contenders including the NUP.

U THEIN OO, Minister for JUSTICE, is the member of parliament for Mandalay South-West (2), Mandalay Division – a constituency of 50,624 voters. An NLD candidate, he won 80% of the votes and defeated 5 contenders including the NUP candidate.

BO HLA TINT, Minister for CONSTRUCTION and MINING & ENERGY RESOURCES, is the member of parliament for Mogok (2), Mandalay Division – a constituency of 36,726 voters. An NLD candidate, he won 72% of the votes and defeated 6 contenders including the NUP.

U TUN OO, Minister for SOCIAL WELFARE and LABOUR, is the member of parliament for Kyaukkyi, Pegu Division – a constituency of 43,167 voters. An NLD candidate, he won 71% of the votes and defeated 2 contenders including the NUP candidate.

THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF BURMA
In order to end the 42-year old civil war with the minority ethnic groups, the NCGUB formed a new political alliance, the DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF BURMA (DFB) with the DAB. The NCGUB will seek to implement policies set by the DFB. The DFB Supreme Council consists of 7 DAB leaders and 5 members of the NCGUB. General BO MYA of the KAREN NATIONAL UNION (KNU), a member of the DAB, is the first president of the DFB Supreme Council and Dr. SEIN WIN is the Vice-President [AWSJ901221].

The 7 DAB leaders on the DFB Supreme Council also make up the War Council which will plan military strategy for the NCGUB [AWSJ901221].

NLD EXPELS EIGHT MPs
On December 19, the NLD's Central Executive Committee in Rangoon expelled eight MPs from the NLD because they had "become fugitives outside the law". Five are members of the NCGUB. However, observers question the validity of their expulsion since only 18 of the NLD's 22 top leaders are in jail. The NLD action is seen as an attempt by the remaining leaders to avoid being de-registered by SLORC.

PARTY FOR NATIONAL DEMOCRACY DE-REGISTERED
On December 20, SLORC announced that Dr. Sein Win's PND had been de-registered because "its chairman has formed a coalition government with insurgents" [Rt901228].

FORESTRY OFFICIALS DEFECT
Two Forestry officials, U THANT ZIN and U HTAY LWIN, failed to show up on Aug.27 for their return flight to Rangoon. They had been assigned to check, process and issue official documents for logs being shipped to Thailand. The two hold official 5-year travel documents and were last seen entering a taxi in Bangkok [The Nation].

United Nations Update:

UN URGES RELEASE OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI
On Dec.18, Secretary-General JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR urged SLORC to release AUNG SAN SUU KYI. SLORC said that she would be freed if she agrees to leave Burma [R901231].

MRS. OGATA NEW COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
Professor SADAKO OGATA, the UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION's special investigator for Burma was appointed the UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES on 19 December. Mrs. Ogata is a professor of international relations at Tokyo's Sophia University [F910103].
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UNITED NATIONS & INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES:
ECON. & SOC.COMM.ASIA PACIFIC
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL ORGAN.
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGAN.
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
INT'L RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Notes: * Contracts cancelled as reported in "Alert" No.s 2, 6, 7, & 11. CAPITAL LETTERS indicate direct involvement.
Lower Case Letters indicate indirect involvement, sub-contract, or joint-venture subsidiary of foreign firm.

SOURCES: [A910104] Aslaweek
[R901231] Burma Review

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