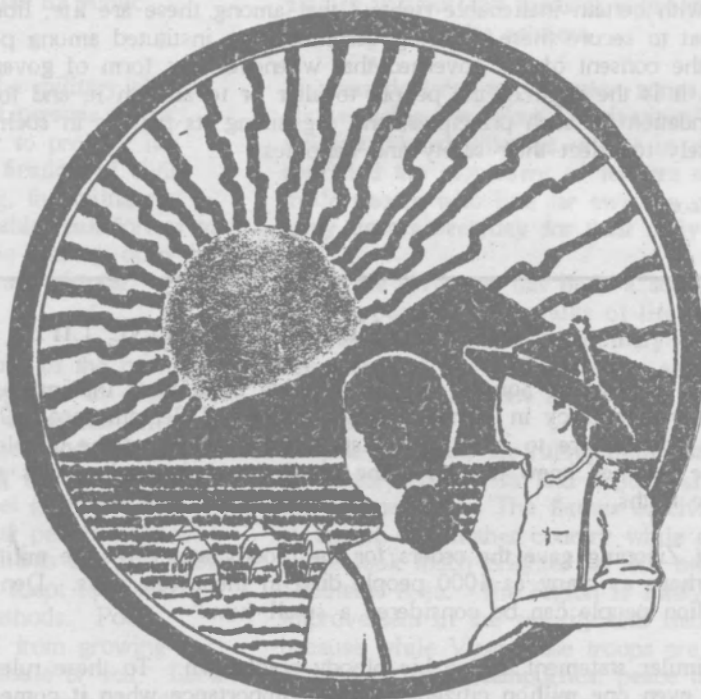


DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

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THOSE WHO LOVE POWER

FEAR THE UNITED VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

We hold these truths to be self evident: that all people are created equal: they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness.

Thomas Jefferson

THE VALUE OF JUST ONE LIFE

The recent events in Tiananmen Square of Beijing China bring back the images of our own experiences during the strikes for democracy in Burma during August and September of 1988. It is clear that in both situations, those in power were too insecure to listen to the voices of the people. Rather than talking, they resorted to violence for they knew that what the people were demanding was just and right, but they were afraid to face these truths.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping gave the orders for the bloody attack by the military against the unarmed demonstrators. Perhaps as many as 1000 people died in those few days. Deng is quoted as saying "In China, even 1 million people can be considered a small sum."

Ne Win made a similar statement during his bloody crackdown. To these rulers who claim to be serving the people, the life of even one million citizens is of no importance when it comes to preserving their own power position.

Let us say to both Deng and Ne Win, "The life of even one human being is precious, and it is your duty, if you wish to be in authority, to protect that life, even if it means that you must step down from your seat of power. **THE COUNTRY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, NOT TO YOU!**"

"DAWN", P.O. Box 1352, GPO Bangkok 10500, Thailand

OUR STAND ON THE PROPOSED PEACE TALKS

Ethnic groups in Burma started their armed struggles in 1948 when the country gained its independence but failed to find a political solution to its ethnic problems. The civil war that started then is still raging today after more than 40 years. War expenditures have taken up around 50 percent of all national budgets, and this has greatly hampered economic progress in the country. People meanwhile face drastic decline in their standard of living, health, and social standing.

The civil war also slowed down economic development because natural resources, most of which are in the war zones or in the regions of ethnic groups, cannot be fully exploited. This has in turn brought about great difficulties for the people who are hit by spiralling prices, scarcity of goods, inflation, instability of currency -- different values of kyat notes were demonetized twice in 1988 alone -- unemployment among the educated, immorality due to poverty, rising crime rate, misuse of public property and rampant corruption.

Despite such dire consequences, the military clique which represents a small group of persons keeps intensifying the civil war in order to prolong its hold on power. Since the intensification of civil war means more military spending, the military clique has wantonly sold off valuable teak forests to cover the costs. It has pushed the country onto the path of grave ecological setbacks and natural disasters.

The civil war is also the root cause of the narcotic drugs problem. It has left the populace in ethnic group regions with no choice but to subsist on the proceeds derived from the cultivation and sale of poppy. The people prefer farming soporific crops because they need little tending yet give a quick return. It is also because the local people do not have the necessary farming implements and the know-how to cultivate cash crops or to adapt to modern farming and livestock breeding methods. Poor communications also prevent them from growing crops that they cannot easily distribute or sell. Lack of regional stability and security also prohibits them from cultivating long-term and seasonal crops. On top of this, their farming activities are also disrupted by the barbaric government soldiers who come to conscript farmers as porters.

The Burmese Army has long been portrayed by the military clique as an effective combat force against narcotic drugs, but it is common knowledge that many high-ranking army officers, particularly those

in charge of the army in the poppy-growing regions, are getting rich either with bribes from drug traffickers who seek a safe passage or by smuggling the drugs themselves. Without a resolution to the civil war, the drugs problem is here to stay.

Over the past 40 years, the war at home has killed or maimed thousands of people, including youths. Throughout these years, people have been forced by the military to work as porters. Even during harvest time, farmers are conscripted to serve the army. Lately, the aged, young girls, and even pregnant women are being made to carry arms, ammunition, and war supplies for the army. Hundreds of people who took part in the struggles for democracy in March, August and September 1988 were rounded up in the cities and conscripted as porters. They were used as human shields, forced to walk in front of the soldiers in mined frontline areas. Moreover, they were poorly fed, the sick were left behind in the jungles without any medical help, and women porters were raped by the soldiers.

In areas declared as operation zones, the military clique, using the "Four Deprivations" strategy, razed villages, forced villagers to live in strategic hamlets, restricted the movement of farmers and villagers, and made people who live far away to come to the army depots everyday for their daily rice rations.

Since the civil war has been a source of misfortune for the people of all walks of life throughout Burma, everyone, but the military clique, wants to bring an end to it. The people are fed up of being made sacrificial lambs in the war.

Despite this fact, the ruling militarists have rejected the latest proposal to find a political resolution to the internal strife. The flames of civil war continue to engulf our mother country while prospects for peace look much brighter for our neighbors in Southeast Asia. The region is likely to see an improvement in the security and stability situation because while Vietnamese troops are being withdrawn from Kampuchea, peace talks are continuing between the Phnom Penh regime and the Khmer resistance factions.

Thailand, which played a contributing role in the developments of the region, recently hosted a symposium called, "Southeast Asia --From War Zone to Trade Zone." Addressing the symposium, Thai Prime Minister Chatichai said Southeast Asia, once a war zone, should be transformed into a trade zone. This is because whenever there is war, all warring

parties -- even the victors -- are the losers. He said there should only be efforts for economic supremacy in the world today because striving for military supremacy was already dated.

We of the ABSDF believe that this line of thinking that advocates peace is progressive. This is the reason why all the democratic forces and the national revolutionary organizations in Burma warmly welcomed the Thai premier's offer to mediate in the peace talks with the military clique. The talks never got off the ground because the hardheaded military clique would rather place its self-interests above those of the country and the people.

The military clique would rather continue the civil war than have peace in the country. Why? Because it guarantees a continuing important role for the military and a privileged life for the top brass while at the same time legitimizing the army's right to get involved in local politics. This way, the military, which prospered with the expansion of the civil war, can also rationalize the armed suppression of the opposition parties, students, and the masses. In the meantime, the mass media run by the military only propagandizes military success stories, achievements of the top brass, and military news aimed at attracting new recruits and at spreading militaristic thinking. At the same time, sons, daughters, and relatives of military officers are in turn being recruited as officers for the armed forces in a move seen clearly as an attempt to establish a dynastic rule for the military.

Under these circumstances, we of the ABSDF believe that:

(1) Only when civil war is brought to an end and peace established in the country, can genuinely free and fair elections, participated in by the people of all different national groups, be held on a national scale.

(2) Genuine national unity can be built only when

there is peace in the country.

(3) No economic changes can be initiated without reforming the political system. Only by establishing peace in the country can we be certain of national economic development and of establishing a new, prosperous and peaceful Union of Burma that is on a par with the other world nations.

Hence, we of the ABSDF who eternally stand for peace and the development of genuine democracy in the country would like to make the following appeal:

(1) for the opposition political parties and the students to struggle for an end to the civil war and to bring about peace and national reconciliation.

(2) for the people to oppose the militaristic propaganda in the government-run mass media; and for the youths not to let themselves be dragged into the army as new recruits.

(3) for all the people to avoid closely associating with the loathsome military circles.

We would also like to urge the democratic and peace-loving nations of the world:

(1) To condemn the warmongering Saw Maung regime, to avoid recognizing it, to sever economic links, to stop providing economic assistance, and to boycott Burmese goods as long as that bloodthirsty regime is in power.

(2) To condemn in the United Nations General Assembly human rights violations by the Saw Maung regime which has deprived the people of all civil liberties and democratic rights, and to convene the UN Security Council to consider the question of the civil war in Burma.

The Central Committee
All Burma Students' Democratic Front

STRANGE WORD PLAYS

Last month the Saw Maung military government announced that they were changing the name of Burma to The Union of Myanma. According to the government announcement, this was a move to indicate that the country belongs to all of the various ethnic groups and not just to the Burman ethnic group. Actually, in Burmese, the country has always been called Myanma. The British called the country Burma perhaps because they had difficulty pronouncing the word Myanma.

Thus, the name change means nothing to the people of Burma. The change is only an attempt by the government to try to convince the world that they are really making efforts to reconcile the people's of the country. In reality, nothing has changed. More significant changes than simply changing the English name of the country are needed if our motherland is to ever know peace and justice.

8-8-89 CAMPAIGN

A student nicknamed Bo Zoe, aged 20, from East Kandawkalay in Moulmein, returned from the border early this year. He was called several times for questioning by local authorities, and finally in early April his body was found in front of the town's largest mosque. He had injection-marks in his arm.

Freedom of the press is still a big joke in Burma. During the demonstrations for democratic reforms last August, at least 34 different publications appeared. It was a great feeling of liberation for writers, journalists and readers alike. Now, only two papers remain plus one military news bulletin. All of these are totally controlled by the government.

On June 6th, the Minister of Interior and Religious Affairs issued the following order:

1. All printed or handwritten material must be registered, and the name of the press and the publisher must be reported.
2. The name of the editor must be written clearly on the material.
3. All writing must be submitted to the censorship committee before being published.

Who will dare write under these conditions?

A journal published by the Students' Union of Mandalay District reports that on December 24, 1988, soldiers sealed off the Sin Pyu Kan cemetery and dug a large grave. Then they brought 11 young men and women students to the cemetery. Their wrists and ankles were bound with shackles that had been welded shut. The 11 students were thrown into the grave and buried alive.

On August 8, 1989, the students and working people of Burma will be holding celebrations to commemorate the 1st year anniversary of the beginning of the nationwide strike. It is a time to remember how brutally the military crushed this nonviolent movement, and to renew our call for democracy and human rights in our beloved motherland.

We call on all our true friends around the world to join with us. Write letters to the Saw Maung government raising the issues which "Dawn" news bulletin has tried to raise during the past months. Organize protests against economic and political support of a corrupt regime which does not represent the will of the people and which refuses to listen to the voice of the people. Hold church services to pray for peace in our land and the end of the killing.

Only if we are united can peace finally be realized.

EYE WITNESS REPORTS

From Manerplaw camp (Headquarters for the Karen National Union)

On June 6, four Burmese Air Force planes attacked the camp. They shot at least 30 rockets into the camp destroying one rice granary. They also strafed the camp with machine gun fire during each pass. Two students were wounded in the attack and one Karen killed. The planes were probably American-supplied aircraft.

Report from Kaw Mo Rah (New Wan Kha Camp)

"I arrived at New Wan Kha camp on May 19th from Manerplaw. On the 20th at 4 am, the Burmese military began shelling the camp. They fired artillery shells into the camp every few minutes. Sometimes five shells came in at one time. This went on from 4 am until 2 pm. Then there was quiet for one hour, but the shelling began again at 3 pm and lasted until 7 pm. During this bombardment, one student bunker was burned, but luckily no one was injured.

During the day, the Burmese military also launched attacks against the camp three times. Each time about 400 troops took part in the assault. The Karen defenders were able to drive the attacks off because New Wan Kha camp is in a horseshoe bend in the river, jutting into Thailand. The attacks must come through the narrow part of the horseshoe which makes the camp more easy to defend.

However, that night about 400 Burmese soldiers entered Thailand and set up a camp in a village behind New Wan Kha. By morning they had dug deep bunkers under the Thai houses and began firing into our camp. On this day about 3000 artillery and mortar shells were fired into our camp.

During the fighting, the Thai village burned down and finally the Burmese troops were forced by the Thai army to retreat back to Burma.

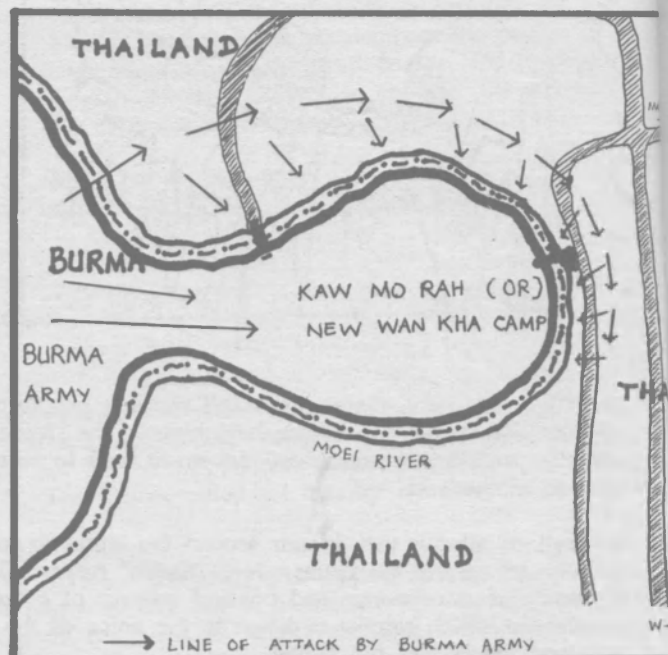
For the next two days, fighting was very light. Only 100 to 200 shells landed in our camp. On the 25 or 26, heavy assaults were once again launched against our camp. So far the Burmese troops have not been able to destroy the camp despite heavy expenditures of expensive artillery shells.

Civil war is bad. During civil war, the innocent

people are the first to die. We could end this civil war with far less bloodshed if Thailand, Japan and other countries would stop aiding and abetting the Saw Maung military. These countries are forcing us into this civil war, and because of them, Burmese must now kill Burmese.

If I could meet Gen Chavalit (Supreme Commander of the Thai Armed Forces) I would like to tell him that before I came to the Thai border I always believed that Thailand was a democratic country. A democratic country must love human rights. If Thailand is a democratic country, why do they not allow us to have temporary shelter inside Thailand? In times of conflict like this, temporary refuge is also a human right."

by Gipsy



(eye witness report continued)

Thay Bow Boe camp

"In April, we had discussions with some of the Thai officials from Mae Sot. We asked permission to build a temporary camp inside Thai territory which could house 200 or 300 hundred students in an emergency. The camp would also have a hospital for the sick and wounded. We desperately need this camp because now the Burmese military is carrying out heavy attacks against the camps in which we live along the border. We need some place to go to if our camp is attacked. Inside Burma there is no place left for us to go.

At this meeting, the Thai officials agreed to let us build this temporary camp and the hospital. It was good for us. In May, we collected wood and bamboo and crossed the river into Thailand to begin construction of the camp at the site the Thai officials gave us. However, before we could start building, Thai Border Patrol Police came and told us we could not build the camp. We were forced to go back inside Burma.

So what are we to do now? If our camp is attacked, we can not enter Thailand. We can only fight back and try to find some place to hide inside Burma. It is a difficult time for us. Even our sick students can not have a quiet place in which to receive treatment. Our democratic movement is being squeezed of its life by both the Burmese military and the Thai military."

The Economic Situation

salary increases.

Despite a large flow of foreign exchange into Burma, the daily life of the people is getting no better. Prices of food and other necessities are climbing higher every day, and the people have no resources which they can use to buy these things.

Last month the government raised the salaries of government workers by as much as 400%. Almost immediately the prices of goods increased. For those who did not enjoy this salary increase, the hope of survival went down. For example, many people now get up early in the morning to stand in line to buy a few pounds of rice at the government shop. When they get their quota, they go sell it on the market for a little profit. With this profit they purchase some dry rice powder which they cook into a soup for the family's evening meal. Only in this way can they survive.

During the past 26 years, the Burmese government could not provide the people with their daily necessities. Therefore a huge black market grew up which made up about 80% of the country's economy. This black market dealt in goods smuggled in from Thailand and China which were then sold along the streets of the cities. The government basically turned a blind eye on this market. Hundreds of thousands of people survived by smuggling in these goods.

Now the Burmese government is opening up the border with China and Thailand for legal trade. The black market is slowing down. This means that the hundreds of thousands of people who made their living from this market are now without work and without income. Their suffering is increased by the higher cost of living created by the government

The Burmese government spends at least 50% of its entire budget on the military. Now, with the major attacks being launched against ethnic and student camps, this could be much higher. Little money is left for internal development or social welfare for the people. With an official income per capita of around \$200, social welfare is important. One Rangoon resident recently said, "No one dares get sick now. There are no medicines in the hospital and no one has the money to buy them out on the street."

The country's external debt is around \$5 billion. This can never be paid off if serious attempts are not made to develop the country and end the civil war. The local currency, (kyat) is valued at about 7 per US dollar at the official rate, but on the black market sells for about 40 per dollar.

Despite these internal economic problems, the government is now selling off the country's resources for next to nothing. The profits earned go mainly to the military, leaving little hope for the people's future.

The military also seems to have little trouble getting all the help they need. A West German company, Fritz Werner Industrie-Ausrustungen, operates an arms manufacturing plant in Rangoon. Eighty eight per cent of the company's shares are directly owned by the West German firm. It is also said that some of the company's directors are West German government officials. It is through this firm that much of the ammunition is produced which is used against the ethnic minority and student camps.

STUDENT CAMPS ATTACKED

The military government of Ne Win has declared that they will "eliminate" the Karen ethnic group by the end of 1989. Now that they are receiving substantial foreign exchange from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and some other countries, they have the resources they need and are moving ahead with this "elimination" plan.

Many students who fled the cities following the September 18, 1988 military coup of Saw Maung have made their homes in the Karen State. Thus the attacks on the Karen camps also means that the student camps are attacked.

On May 5, two divisions of the Burmese army composed of 4000 troops, attacked Wan Kha camp. They used heavy artillery to pound the camp for many days. Finally, on the 16th of May, they carried out a major assault on the camp, and the students and Karen were forced to flee across the river into Thailand. Two students were killed in this attack.

Kaw Moo Rah camp was attacked on May 12. The camp was bombarded with heavy artillery at a rate of about 5 to 14 shells per minute. Another student was killed when shrapnel hit the back of his head. Several other students were wounded.

Another camp near the Thai border has recently come under heavy attack. Pha Loo is situated between New Wan Kha camp and Thay Bow Boe. Since June 13, heavy artillery has rained down on the camp almost daily.

In an attempt to attack the camp from the rear, the Burmese soldiers entered Thai territory and attacked Thai positions near by. They were finally forced to return to their side of the border.

About 2,000 Karens and Burmese civilians living in the area, fled to the Thai side of the border as the Burmese troops took over areas around the camp. The villagers fear being forced into serving as porters which is the same as a warrant of death.

As the camp is pounded with hundreds of artillery shells, some of the stray shells fall across the border into Thailand. It is not known if any Thai villagers have been hurt by these stray shells, but it is clear that the Burmese military is now not only a threat to the Karen and students living along the border, but also to the Thai people near by.

Thay Bow Boe camp, further south, is also once again in danger of attack. It houses about 350 students. Since they do not live directly on the Thai border, their camp can easily be surrounded. If that happens, they will have no escape and will be easy targets for the Burmese soldiers who have been trained to shoot without thinking.

Every country except Great Britain and the United States have now normalized their relations with the Saw Maung military regime. The economic boycott, which they informally cooperated on following the September coup which left at least 8000 unarmed people dead, has ended. Saw Maung is now getting a steady and increasing flow of cash. He is using this cash to fulfill his promise to wipe out the Karen struggle, and to destroy the student democratic movement.

The survival of the students in the camps now depends on their ability to defend themselves, and on the ability of international friends to mobilize support for a new economic boycott against Saw Maung. Without this boycott, many more students and Karen will certainly have to sacrifice their lives.

We hate violence! We have tried every way we know to avoid violence. Yet it comes to us uninvited.

The greatest violence against human beings is injustice. This must be avoided at all costs. The economic support of the Saw Maung military dictatorship through the buying of logging, fishing and mining concessions is an act of injustice against the people of Burma. They do not support these economic involvements, nor do the benefits from these concessions ever reach the people. Rather, the money earned from these concessions is used to buy weapons of death which are used against the people. This is injustice! This is violence!

Who will raise a voice against this violence? Who will have the courage to stand up and say to the governments of Thailand, Australia, Japan etc., that this injustice, this violence must end?

To remain silent on these issues is to support this violence, and therefore this silence is itself violence.



Wang Kaew village on the Thai side from which the Burmese troops tried to attack Wan Kha camp. The river marks the boundary between the two countries. The photograph was taken from the student camp during the attack. The Burmese troops were able to dig deep bunders in the Thai village and were firing mortar rounds into the camp.



Wang Kaew village in Thailand goes up in flames as the Burmese troops torch the houses. More than 100 houses and shops were totally destroyed. However, before the Burmese troops entered the village, all of the villagers were evacuated so there were no Thai injuries. Had the troops been allowed to remain in Wang Kaew village, the students would have had no escape route to safety.

Having failed to attack Kaw Moo Rah from the Thai side, the Burmese troops are now forcing civilian porters to dig underground tunnels into the camp. They are determined to destroy the camp by June 28.

Photos by Ko Ko Lay

China, Burma and the Youth

During the past few weeks, we have watched the situation in China with much concern. In spirit, we have stood by the students in Tiananmen Square as they non-violently called for democratic reforms, as they formed student unions, and as they courageously faced a heavily-armed military. We wept and grew angry with them as the military suddenly moved down on them with heavy fire power and little sympathy. We did not live this experience with them out of sympathy as many others around the world have, but out of true empathy for we lived through the same horrors less than a year ago. Only those who have faced this kind of situation can truly know what happens inside the hearts of men and women calling out for what they feel is their human rights and feeling that they are winning their just demands, when suddenly those in authority release their horrible weapons of death upon them and leave them bleeding in the streets and screaming in pain in the torture chambers.

Why is it that those in authority so much fear the ideas and unity of the youth of the country? Why is it that they must try to prove their right to authority by needlessly killing as they have in Kent State University USA, Rangoon Burma, Beijing China and many other countries around the world? Do they not realize that through dialogue solutions might be found which would not only save lives, but improve the well-being of all the people?

It is true that the youth of our countries lack experience and knowledge. However, they are blessed with creative and inquisitive minds, and they know that they must inherit the world which is now being built. They want to participate, and they want to explore new possibilities. The gun of the powerful is no way to deal with this sincere concern of the youth for the people and the country.

It can only be insecurity and a lack of confidence in the people that drives those in authority to use manipulation and violence to control thinking. It seems that in almost all countries, serious attempts are made to limit the free-thinking of the youth. In



Students from Three Pagodas Pass march in support of the Chinese students' call for democratic reforms.

some countries the youth are actively taught to work only for themselves and their chance to become a "yuppie". By creating this dream in the youth, the youth are diverted from becoming involved in the important political and social issues facing the country. In other countries attempts are made to mold the youth into obedient servants to those in power so that they dare not contradict authority and thus insure the positions of power of that elite few.

In these days of growing manipulation, it is essential for all those people who truly love justice and peace to regain the courage necessary to confront the powers of war and injustice. We must stop fearing those in power, because it is through fear that they manipulate us and control the nations. We must find the strength and courage to speak out the truth even if it means a threat to our own security. We must gain inspiration from the people of Tiananmen Square and Rangoon. It is not enough to cheer them on and claim support for them. Each of us must have the courage to confront the issues in our own country and community. If we can not do this, then we can never truly support the victims of democratic struggles elsewhere. The

policies of our own governments, the economic involvements of our own countries, and even our own consumption patterns and comfortable lifestyles help contribute to the oppression and suppression of people in other places. We must deal with these issues, for they are our responsibilities.

Each of us has the obligation to be courageous enough to face those issue for which we share responsibility. If our country is economically, politically or in any other way exploiting others, we must speak out. It is not enough to provide some assistance to the victims of that exploitation, or to try to soothe the wounds of those who are struggling against it. We must confront what we are responsible for. We must be courageous enough to take action, even if we stand alone. The actions in Rangoon last year, and those in Beijing this year began when someone said, "Enough!" That call was picked up by others until over a million were shouting. Be that someone in your own country. Take a stand, even if you stand alone, for others will follow, and soon there will be enough people to truly make a difference. United we can build a peaceful world, but we can never do it if we are afraid or interested only in our own well-being. A future of justice and peace depends on our willingness to get our hands dirty today.

The students in Tiananmen Square have our complete support. We stand with them, and recommit ourselves to the on-going struggle for human rights and justice. We know it will not be easy and that our blood must flow, but we voluntarily choose this path rather than a road of apathy and ease.

COBRA GOLD

Every year Thailand and the United States of America hold military exercises in Thailand to prepare for a future war.

A team of high-ranking Burmese army officers will visit Thailand next week (June 18) to observe these military exercises at the invitation of acting Supreme Commander Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

It will be the first time senior military officials of a third country have witnessed the Thai-US military exercises.

This year's Cobra Gold exercise will be the largest in the series involving more than 9,000 troops in ground and air assault exercises.

"It's Gen. Chavalit's policy to strengthen ties and cooperation between the two neighbouring countries at the working level," Lt. Gen Naruedol (a senior Thai military officer) said.
(from THE NATION, June 13, 1989)

The Burmese military will certainly gain some lessons from these military exercises which they can use to renew their attacks on the camps of the ethnic minorities and students. The United States, which still refuses to recognize the Saw Maung government, must be quite uncomfortable to now have a role in giving assault lessons to this bloody regim. Perhaps they just do not have enough nerve to tell Saw Maung's Thai brother that these guests are not invited.



NEWS FROM INSIDE BURMA

THE NE WIN WAY TO FREEDOM

Reports from Rangoon indicate that, since the September 18th military coup, at least 20,000 military troops patrol Rangoon. They are from the 11th, 22nd, 33rd and 55th Brigades. Rangoon Commander Brigadier General Myo Nunt has said that Rangoon is now a military area so many troops are required to provide peace.

General Ne Win himself is protected by about 3000 fully-equipped troops including one artillery battalion. These troops are stationed around his house and compound indicating his own personal fear of the people.

Another 2,000 heavily armed soldiers patrol Inya Avenue which is the home of former president San Yu and many other high ranking military officers and members of SLORC. Three battalions "protect" the Shwedagon pagoda area, and 2 battalions with 10 armored cars protect the City Hall and Minister's Office building.

Several hundred soldiers control the Rangoon University and Rangoon Institute of Technology campuses even though these campuses are still closed to the students. Aung San Stadium, Hling Stadium and Thuwana Stadium also are heavily guarded.

The Burma Broadcasting Station is patrolled by about 3 battalions of fully-equipped troops and the Ministry of War office is protected by two battalions.

Every day, heavily armed troops patrol the streets of Rangoon, looking for any signs of demonstrations or dissent. They are ready to take quick action against anything they think is a threat to their security.

The ammunition factory in Rangoon, (a West Germany project) is still producing lots of war materials with raw materials received from some foreign countries. Which countries supply these raw materials can not yet be confirmed.

This is the road to democracy and freedom in Burma. For those countries and companies which are investing money in Burma, this is the way your investments are used to "help" the Burmese people. Democracy is only a meaningless word on paper in Burma. The military still totally runs the show.

OUT OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

Doubtless because it has spent all its foreign currency earnings on weapons, the Saw Maung regime is currently suffering from a shortage of foreign money.

Reliable sources inside Burma report that now no civilian is allowed to go abroad unless they have their own foreign currency, and also that people inside Burma are not allowed to spend more than 5 minutes on the phone when making overseas calls.

from THE ALLIANCE BULLETIN, May-June 1989



FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Aung San Suu Kyi calls for trade boycott

Rangoon (AFP) - Burma's most prominent opposition leader has called on foreign countries to launch an economic and trade boycott of Rangoon's military government.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burmese independence hero Aung San, said that foreign countries should suspend all trade and economic relations with the junta "until they keep their promises" to hold free and fair multi-party elections.

Among foreign countries, she singled out Australia for criticism and reiterated earlier accusations that Canberra was "in a great hurry to establish good relations" with Rangoon.

"The Australians were the first to adopt a cooperative stance with the military government," she said.

Diplomats said she was probably referring to Australian assistance to a dairy project in Mandalay when she singled out Australia as being the first to restore relations with the junta.

Aung San Suu Kyi said that industrialised countries which established economic relations with Burma would show they were "taking sides against democracy".

Japan has also come under frequent attack by Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I have always said that it's a great pity that the Japanese should put economic considerations above human rights. A nation as wealthy as Japan does not need the petty profits that it can make out of a few months in Burma," she said.

BANGKOK POST
June 4, 1989

Burmese junta fears the China syndrome

Rangoon (AFP) - The military junta on Friday said a news blackout of the pro-democracy student demonstrations in China was imposed because coverage would benefit neither country.

"Burma, which pursues an active and independent foreign policy, will always refrain from actions detrimental to friendly relations, especially with neighbours," said a spokesman for the junta in response to questions about the blackout in Burma's state-run media on the unrest in China.

"Burma considers the student problem in China an internal problem. Publicising it on the Burmese media will not serve the interest of either country," he said at a Defence Ministry press conference.

BANGKOK POST
June 4, 1989

Thai trade bolsters Burmese military

THE world shunned Burma's military junta after it killed hundreds of peaceful demonstrators last year, but Thailand was quick to embrace the new rulers in its search for new markets.

The world community informally cooperated in isolating the Government but the boycott was broken by the visit to Rangoon in December of Army Commander Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. His mission appeared to be part of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's policy to turn regional "battlefields into marketplaces".

At the time of the takeover, Western diplomats in Rangoon reported that the country was on the verge of bankruptcy, with foreign exchange reserves down to only about \$8 million.

But while Burma's main investors suspended trade and financial aid to the impoverished state successive visits by high-level Thai delegations have secured valuable logging, fishing and mining concessions.

Diplomats say the cash injection from Thailand has helped resuscitate the Government's shaky finances and provided it with a substantial political boost.

Other Asian countries have followed in the footsteps of the Thais. Japanese diplomats say Tokyo's decision to recognise the new government was due partly to pressure from businessmen irritated by the privileged position of their Thai competitors.

Thai officials readily concede economic, not

humanitarian, considerations have guided policy.

"We are not champions of democracy. We don't propagate, we say economic relations before ideology," said deputy government spokesman Likit Hongladarom.

"Most of the places where the Thais have purchased logging concessions are in areas controlled by the Karens so the Burmese have to do something if they are going to get the money for the logs," a Thai government official said on condition of anonymity.

The rebels have also blamed recent setbacks on the assistance the government forces are receiving from the Thai Army, which they say is eager to ensure the smooth passage of timber across the border.

BANGKOK POST
June 8, 1989

Three Burmese planes attack Karen camp

Three Burmese planes bombed and machinegunned a major rebel camp opposite Mae Hong Son on Tuesday in a rare aerial attack on minority guerrillas near the Thai border, according to reports from Tak province.

The sources said the attack was targetted at the Manerplaw camp which houses the headquarters of the anti-Rangoon Karen National Union and the Democratic Alliance of Burma. The rebels' base suffered some casualties, according to the sources.

Some of the sources claimed the Burmese planes trespassed the Thai air space during the attack.

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June 8, 1989

Burmese jets attack Karen camp by Suthep Chaviwan

FOUR Burmese warplanes attacked the Karen National Union's Manerplaw headquarters and killed one person and wounded seven on Monday.

Kachin Col Zau Seng said two students were among those wounded in the 12.45 p.m. attack by what the rebels thought were American-made T-33s.

Coming in from the west, the planes dropped 25 bombs and strafed the camp with machinegun fire. The sorties, 15 minutes apart, failed to hit main targets but left a rice godown destroyed.

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Burmese troops try to clear log routes to China

BURMESE Government troops have attacked Kachin rebel forces in several areas of Kachin State opposite China in an effort to clear logging routes, Chairman of the Kachin Independence Organisation, Brang Seng, said yesterday.

Burma wants to sell its teak to China if it is able to clear Kachin rebel forces from the border area.

Meanwhile the Vice President of the Karen National Union, Saw Than Aung, said yesterday Burmese troops have intensified their attacks against Karen forces at Wangkha and Phalu camps opposite Tak Province.

The two camps are pounded daily with hundreds of rounds of artillery and mortar, he said.

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June 9, 1989

Schools reopening

RANGOON - The Burmese government plans to begin a gradual reopening this month of the nation's schools, closed since widespread student-led agitation led to a national uprising for democracy last year, a government official said.

At the weekly government press conference Friday, Col Aung Thein, spokesman for the ruling military council, said the opening of primary schools June 19 will "be followed by the reopening of middle schools and high schools and so on."

But he gave no specific date for the reopening of universities, which were the focal point of agitation between March and September last year. - AP

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