

DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

BURMA: Rangoon Daily

Continued from page 1

On June 21, Aung San Suu Kyi was briefly detained by police during a rally commemorating the 17th anniversary of the 1962 military coup. She was released after a short detention. A spokesman for the military government said that the detention was "on the basis of a complaint" and that she was "not a threat to the state." The spokesman also said that the military government was "not interested in the personal freedom of any individual."

The declaration of human rights by the military government in Rangoon (AFP) — Burma's most prominent political leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, 44, has been put under a law protecting the state from "destructive propaganda," a military spokesman said yesterday. Kyaw Sann, chief spokesman of the information committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), also confirmed that General Tin Oo, 69, had also been put under a law for a year with "destructive propaganda."

Only Time and Newsweek magazines, with a limited circulation, had been exempted from the ban and distribution of these two magazines was often suspended when articles were considered hostile to the government or of its leaders. In referring to the Thawadaw (armed forces) the joke here could be called a "tick" one. The Burmese say it should be spelled "lath-ma-law" which translates into English as "enough of killing."

Burma lifts ban on 2 magazines
Rangoon (AFP) — The Burmese government is lifting a ban on sales of two English weekly magazines, *Time* and *Newsweek*, and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. The state-owned *Work* newspaper named a local publisher and said it would pay for the magazines.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

3 sentenced to death for Burma bombings
Rangoon (AP) — The three youths sentenced were identified as Than Zaw, 27, Moe Kyaw Thus, 17, and Nyi Nyi Oo, 25. Moe Thi Ha said the government made the charges against him and the other organisers to use them "as scapegoats" to attack the party, the National League for Democracy. The three young organisers were sentenced last week.

Seven rights house youths jailed for
Rangoon (AP) — Seven youths were sentenced to three years in prison for belonging to a "rights house" and for "inciting the public to violence."

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

Students stage protest at Burma Embassy
About 60 Burmese students gathered in front of the Burma Embassy yesterday to protest the arrest and demand the release of opposition leaders.

July 1989



DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE
ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Vol. (1) No. 14

July

1989

WE STAND WITH OUR HANDS RAISED NOT IN SURRENDER, BUT IN LIBERATION

"Anyone who has ever been shackled with heavy iron chains, knows how heavy the load soon becomes. Every action requires tremendous effort. Thus, when the chains are finally shattered and fall to the ground, the arms automatically raise up in the air in liberation! With the heavy load suddenly gone, the arms are light and airy. They dance victoriously about for they are free. How different from the arms raised in surrender. They lift a heavy load, and stand stiff and unfeeling in the air. They have lost their right as dignified beings. Today our arms are raised in liberation for we have chosen to throw off the shackles of fear which have bound us for so long. Never again can we be manipulated and controlled out of fear and ignorance. We have become free human beings, and that gift can never again be taken away from us!"

IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO

One year ago we were marching through the streets of the cities of Burma calling out for democracy. It was an exciting time for us because we were tasting the fruits of freedom of expression once again. It is a terrible thing to have ones tongue controlled by a dictator.

The streets of the cities echoed our cry day after day. Thousands of people joined in until our numbers were more than a million. Even soldiers and policemen joined us as they too long for a free and democratic Burma.

Why did we go to the streets in such large numbers? We went because, like people everywhere, we long to be free. For 26 years we have not had the right to elect the leaders we want. We have not had the right to voice our opinions and debate the important issues of the country. We have been treated like talking dolls who speak only when the string is pulled, and say only what we are programmed to say.

Democracy is the rule of the people, and therefore it is only we, the people, who can build it. It is our responsibility! That is why we went into the streets, and that is why we continue with our struggle today, despite the hardships and lack of support from "democratic" countries around us. In time we will win the democracy we long for, and it will be the most precious thing we have ever struggled for.

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

NEWS FROM INSIDE BURMA

One of the key opposition leaders inside Burma has been Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the late Aung San who led Burma to independence. Following are some of the ideas which Aung San Suu Kyi has been sharing with the people during her organizing trips.

"We must start laying the foundation for solving the political problems in our country through political means. Solving political problems by arms and other forms of violent means is not a good sign for a country."

I might like to explain some things about organizing. Some people think that our political party goes out organizing in order to call people to join our party. I do not blame them for thinking like that because most of the political parties organize for this reason.

When the National League for Democracy goes organizing, I always explain to the people that we are here, not to get more members for our party, but rather to help the working people understand the struggle for democracy so that they will accept it and support the democratic movement. If the people understand the value of democracy, accept it, fully support it and participate in the struggle for a New Burma, then I can say that our organizing trip has been a success.

Organizing is a form of battle. Whenever we go out on an organizing trip, we must always fight for our democratic rights. Because of the Military Regime article 2/88, we can not organize freely. This article has caused the people to lose their rights to organize freely, so we go on these trips in order to help the people start to organize freely for a New Burma. This is why I accept organizing as a form of battle. If you study my organizing trip to the Irrawaddy delta, you will notice that we had to fight throughout the entire journey. If you study closely, you will surely notice that we have won in our organizing efforts. Therefore, because we are always out on organizing trips, one can not say that our central committee of the National League for Democracy is not functioning. Going on an organizing trip itself is a battle.



Members of our NLD central committee are also fighting by various means. At this time we are trying to lay the foundation for democracy in our country. To restore democracy in a country which, for 26 years, has not even had a slight smell of it, is a very difficult task.

Every day, in our party, we have to give guidance on how to work in the spirit of democracy. For me, doing this is also a battle for democracy.

Gaining democracy only through street demonstrations does not mean that the people truly understand the meaning and value of democracy in their hearts. The practice of democracy must reach the heart of every citizen in the country. If it does not, we can not say our struggle is a success. A victory for democracy is not just electing a

democratic government through free elections. We must also be able to make the democratic government firm and lasting. We must help the entire population understand the values of democracy.

Following World War II, we established the Union of Burma with a democratic system. However, it did not last long. I did not last long because the majority of our people did not understand the value of democracy. Politicians at that time did nothing to help the people understand and accept democracy. Following our independence, politics simply became party politics.

When party politics emerged in Burma, the entire population began to think that politics has nothing to do with them. They neglected it. That is why the democratic foundation in our country. Finally it was totally destroyed. In order to prevent this from happening again, we all must work very hard. Our National League for Democracy is not organizing for party politics.

Some say that everything is equal in democracy so therefore there are no followers and only leaders. This is not correct. For a system to be a success, there must be good leaders as well as good followers. The most important duty of a good follower is to be able to choose a good leader. A good follower is the only person who can give birth to a good leader. Therefore, in a democratic system, if and only if everyone works dutifully and faithfully in their particular position, can there be success.

If any problems arise under a democratic system, everyone must speak out openly and with sincerity. I say that everyone must speak out openly with sincerity because some people misuse their democratic rights. Some think they can say and act whatever they like if there is true democracy. We are not free to act and do what is not the truth. If we do things that are not good for the country, or say things that are not true, then we are misusing the rights of democracy.

According to your assigned duty, you must use your rights properly. Only through this discipline can democracy be achieved. This kind of democracy can be firm and stable. The students are very important in doing this work.

They are not only important to the struggle because they are the ones who started it. They are important because they must continue to build the country in the future. We elders of today have little time left to do this important work. If there is a sincere heart in the students, the country will be successful and prosperous. People without a sincere

heart can not build a successful and prosperous country.

In a political situation such as this, no matter how badly the people suffer, if I do not suffer, I will not care for them. I will not be able to take part in this struggle. To people who are not suffering I want to say that you can never get democracy simply by waiting for it. You have to pay a price, and you have to sacrifice for all people and for the country. The one who is willing to face trials and tribulations is indeed a noble person.

Do not think you are clever simply by keeping out of trouble. You are not clever, you are selfish. Do not think in your heart that if others are suffering, you need not suffer. If others are in trouble, you must also feel that you too are in trouble. If others lose their human rights, you must also feel that you too have lost your human rights. Remember, if others lose their human rights today, one day in the future, it will be your turn to lose your rights. If you are without your human rights and suffering, and people around you do not care, I think you will not like it.

Many politicians claim to be doing their work based on Aung San's policy (Aung San led the Burmese people to independence against the British). So, what really is Aung San's policy?

If we look carefully at what Aung San did and said, we will see that his policy is to carry out the work at the right time using the right methods. This means that there is not one "Aung San policy". If he were still alive the Aung San policy of 1917 would not be the same as the Aung San policy of 1989. His policy was always to be flexible so that his approach changed according to the specific realities and needs of the moment.

Thus, if any one wants to work by the Aung San policy, they must be flexible and willing to change their approach, without hesitation, if it is necessary. This means that the Aung San policy is whatever policy is best for the country. We must always be searching for it, for the situations change and thus the policy must change.

A policy that is good now, may not be good in the coming years. What will be good for next year, may not be good for the country ten years later. However, the common denominator in all of these policies is to do what is best for the people and the country. Any policy which is drawn up for the true good of the country and the people is the Aung San policy.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT INSIDE BURMA

June 21, 1989

On June 21, 1989, the National League for Democracy organized a ceremony at Mye Ni Gone to remember the students killed one year ago when army trucks ran through their peaceful demonstration. During this even, many other students were seriously beaten by riot police and many women students drowned in Inya Lake.

As the ceremony began, students carried the Peacock flag, which was flying at half mast, to the Mye Ni Gone traffic intersection. Here they placed flowers at the place where their colleagues had been killed a year ago, and offered a solemn salute to those who shed blood for democracy.

As the ceremony was going on peacefully, a Lieutenant Colonel, a Second Security Officer and five policemen ran up to the students shouting, "Arrest! Arrest!" They immediately arrested three of the women students taking part in the solemn ceremony.

When Aung San Suu Kyi and her group heard what had happened, they immediately went to the intersection to also place flowers at the spot where the students had been killed a year ago. They were prevented from placing their flowers on the spot by one Captain, a 2nd Security Officer and five policemen. The captain arrested another student. Suddenly a Lieutenant Colonel from the 22 Battalion shouted out an order to arrest Aung San Su Kyi.

In the confusion, two soldiers shot into the crowd. (According to a separate report from friends in Rangoon, 4 people were killed in this shooting.) Aung San Suu Kyi and her group were surrounded by soldiers, and Aung San Suu Kyi was threatened by a sergeant who then took her and her group to the Sanchon SLORC office by TE11 army truck. She was questioned by them for about 20 minutes before being released.

During the discussion, she told the officials that the NLD does not recognize the SLORC order 2/88 prohibits meetings of more than 5 persons, will not accept the Press Act of 1962 which prohibits the publication of anything without approval by government officials, and is willing at any time to sit down for discussion with SLORC.

NUP AND THE ELECTIONS

In Rangoon, our friends report that if you put up a poster of the NUP (government political party) you can get as much as 2000 kyats payment monthly from the government. A person who agrees to be an organizer for the NUP receives 400 kyats per month plus an office car which originally was used by the BSPP. They have the right to change the licence tag to that of a taxi so they can earn extra money. They also have the right to extra petrol rations.

U Thwe Han, former secretary of the BSPP, and now one of the top leaders of the NUP was reported to having made a speech in Shwetoung Township during which he said that if any other party won the elections, the NUP would stage a coup.

Peasants Tortured by the Military

Peasant farmers must sell a set quota of rice to the government at the fixed government price. This price is much cheaper than what they can get on the open market. If the peasants can not sell the government the quota which has been set for them, the peasants are often arrested and beaten by the military. Most of the peasants who have suffered in this way are from Salwin, Kyaw Tan, Kayan, Thonekwa, Kunchankon, Hlay Kun townships in the Rangoon Division, and War township in Pegu Division.

In December of last year, the peasants suffered very heavy rains which destroyed much of their crops. After harvest, they did not have sufficient rice to fill the quota set by the government. They were threatened, arrested, and detained under the hot sun by the military.

According to a friend in Rangoon, the only newspapers now printed are those of the government. They consist of one English language paper and one Burmese language paper. Since the people do not enjoy reading these papers, it is now said that the government no longer prints newspapers, but rather packing paper.

Radio stations are also heavily controlled. Our friend says that shops selling radios are now sitting around with nothing to do while people are selling their own radios cheaply in order to get money to buy rice.

ABSDF'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

NE WIN'S ANTICS!

The retired leader of Burma, and the man whom many believe to be directing the country from behind the scenes, was recently seen walking across one of Rangoon's newly constructed pedestrian over-passes. Ne Win, accompanied by his wife, and guarded by a heavy military escort, *walked across the over-pass backwards!*

The significance of this unusual action, according to our friends in Burma, is that he believes that in so doing, he will reclaim the past control he had over the country. Sadly it is not hard to believe the report, because it is widely known that Ne Win consults with astrologers and fortune tellers for advice.

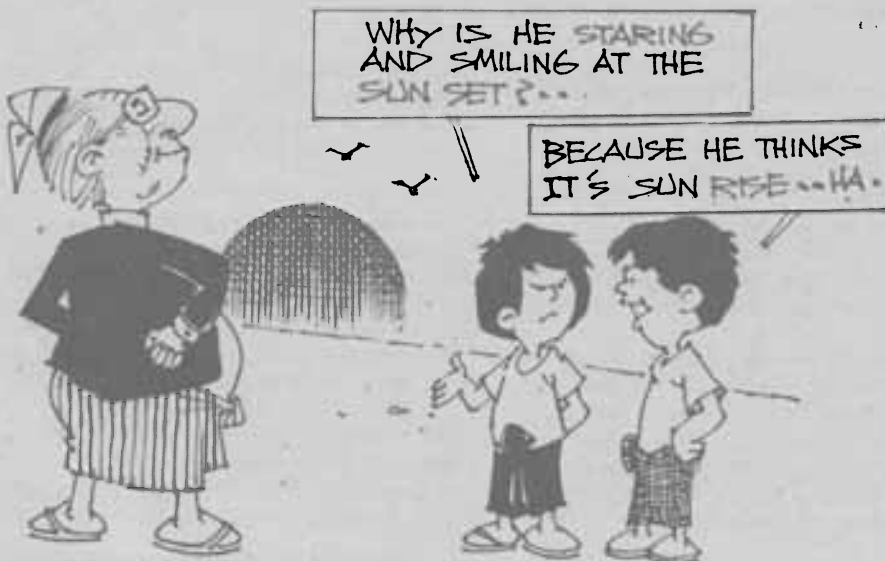
(From "Tribes and Nations Outreach", July edition.)

IS IT BURMA, OR IS IT MYNMAR?

Many people wonder why Ne Win suddenly decided to change the name of Burma to Mynmar. Although the government claims that the change is to use a name which is inclusive of all ethnic groups living in Burma, many other stories and theories float through the tea shops of the country.

One story is that according to Burmese legends, a change in the country can be averted by initiating another significant change. Therefore, the story goes, Ne Win is afraid that the Burmese people will stage another mass uprising and that this time they will successfully bring about total change to the country. In order to avert that catastrophe, Ne Win suddenly changed the name of the entire country thus canceling out the possibility that he might lose control of his kingdom.

If changing names is so important for the future of Burma, the ABSDF would like to suggest a far more important name change which should be made. The name "Ne Win" means "Bright Sun". For the good of the Burmese people and nation, this name could be changed to "Nay Wen". We feel this is more appropriate because it means "Sun Set."



FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

THE FUTURE

Rangoon told to stop selling concessions

THE All Burma Students' Democratic Front yesterday expressed concern over the threat of deterioration of natural resources following the Saw Maung Government's policy to "sell off Burma's resources at an alarming rate."

Htun Aung Gyaw, chairman of the Front, said forest and fishing concessions had been given to a large number of foreign companies from Thailand, Australia, Singapore, South Korea and India.

He said Burma had abundant resources which had been left almost untouched over the past 27 years.

Almost 80 per cent of the world's teak forest reserves are in Burma.

Thailand today!

"Huge areas of our jungles and forests remain in pristine condition. This is not only of benefit to Burma, but also to the world," Htun Aung Gyaw said.

In order to earn much needed foreign cash, logging concessions have been awarded to 21 Thai companies, he said citing a report by Kyaw Khin, head of the timber planning department, saying that almost one million tons of timber will be exported to Thailand over the next three years.

Htun Aung Gyaw said other huge concessions had been sold to Singapore and other countries.

BANGKOK POST
June 27, 1989



Burma tomorrow?

Burmese students to launch new drive

Rangoon (AFP) - Burmese students plan to launch a systematic nationwide movement if military authorities reopen Burma's schools without acknowledging students' demands for democracy and basic human rights, a student leader said here on Monday.

"The re-opening of schools without first solving the current political issues cannot assure peaceful pursuit of studies under secure conditions," Nyo Tun, temporary chairman of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), said at a press conference.

Schools have been closed since mid 1988 in the wake of student-led pro-democracy protests which paralysed the government. Generals seized power in September to quash the movement.

Thousands of students fled to border areas held by ethnic rebels to start armed revolution against Rangoon while the bulk of the protestors remained in central Burma to work with in the governmental system.

Students said the movement they were planning would involve organization, propaganda and dialogue aimed at achieving demands for revoking suppressive laws, the release of students and political prisoners as well as basic democratic and human rights.

Meanwhile, the Burmese students who fled to Karen rebel-held areas after last year's military coup in Rangoon said on Tuesday they would set up a "jungle university" on the Thai-Burmese border.

"The All Burma Students Democratic Front is planning to open a jungle university in one of their hideouts in the jungles of Burma on July 1 (Saturday)," a press release said.

The aim "is to assist the students who fled the brutal killing of the military regime to develop a clear vision of Burma's politics, international politics and organizing techniques," it added.

The site will be at Thay Baw Boe, 450 km northwest of Bangkok, where some 500 students and peasants train in military uniforms to fight alongside Karen rebels.

BANGKOK POST
June 29, 1989

Burma arrests party official, student leaders

BURMA's military government arrested a top official of the main opposition party yesterday as part of an intensified crackdown on dissent, a party spokeswoman said.

Authorities seized Aung Lwin, a member of the nine-member executive committee of the National League for Democracy, said spokeswoman Ma Theingi. She was reached by telephone in Burma's capital of Rangoon by AP.

She said authorities on Tuesday had arrested three student leaders, including Nyo Htun and Zaw Zaw Aung of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions. The federation was formed during last year's popular uprising against authoritarian rule.

Ma Theingi said more than 2,000 members of the National League for Democracy have been arrested since last September, when army chief Gen Saw Maung took power and crushed street protests by shooting and jailing demonstrators.

BANGKOK POST
June 29, 1989

Burmese teak causes concern

THAILAND will lobby the US Congress to reject a bill banning the import of teak and other products originating from Burma, amid accusations that Thailand was supporting a dictatorial government in plundering its natural resources, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Deputy director-general of the Information Department, Prachyadavi Tavedikul, said the ban would affect the Thai furniture industry as well as timber exporters, most of whom have substituted Thai timber with wood from Burma to supplement local demand after Thailand banned all logging in January.

US Senator Daniel Moynihan introduced the bill to the Senate in April to impose new trade sanctions against Burma by banning the import of teak wood and fish products originating in Burma.

The New York Democrat said he believes "such a ban is necessary to prevent the further financial subsidization of the present Burmese regime" of Gen Saw Maung who came to power last September in a military coup.

"To stay alive, the Burmese military junta is cynically selling off what Burma has left; teak wood and fish.... I

therefore urge my colleagues to support the swift passage of this legislation to ban the import of teak and fish products from Burma."

According to the spokesman, Moynihan said Washington should not support the Saw Maung regime which "is a dictatorial government that has violated human rights."

THE NATION
July 1, 1989

Burmese military rulers warn NLD

THE military government, explaining recent arrests, yesterday accused Burma's leading opposition party of "systematically creating unrest."

As part of an intensified crackdown on dissent, authorities last Tuesday and Wednesday arrested four student leaders and four politicians, including a senior member of the National League for Democracy.

"The National League for Democracy has been systematically creating unrest," chief government spokesman, Kyaw Sann, told a news conference. He claimed NLD leaders Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo have been urging people "to defy the laws as a duty" during their political campaigning.

"We warn them again that they will have to bear the consequences of such irresponsible acts," the spokesman said.

The NLD yesterday attacked the recent arrests as a "manifestation of political persecution" by the military rulers who seized control of power last September and brutally crushed a student-led, pro-democracy uprising.

In a statement, the NLD demanded the immediate release of the detainees and a league source said the party was not frightened by the arrests. Among those arrested was Aung Lwin, one of nine executive committee members of the league.

"We will continue to mount our activities, and unmask government unfairness," the source, who asked for anonymity, said

THE NATION
July 1, 1989

Burma says martial law to be used in full force

Rangoon (UPI) - The Burmese government has stressed that the country is now under "martial law", not under "military administration", so that crimes and offenses will be dealt with the full rigor of "martial law".

BANGKOK POST
July 1, 1989

Burma opposition slams arrest of party official

BURMA's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) has protested against the arrest of one of its leaders by the military rulers, an NLD spokeswoman said yesterday.

She said NLD information officer Aung Lwin, arrested on Wednesday, was surrounded by 15 to 20 plainclothes security officials on a Rangoon street who beat him, put a bag over his head and made him lie handcuffed face down in a truck.

"To treat one of the leaders of the party as a common criminal is the kind of disrespect that the authorities have towards the leaders of (the league)" she read from a statement.

BANGKOK POST
July 1, 1989

U Nu asks for restoration of freedom

Rangoon (UPI,AP) - Former prime minister U Nu chided the government yesterday for its restrictions on democratic rights, but said he believed they would be restored at least three months before elections set for next May.

"We have asked Gen Saw Maung's government for such restoration of rights and we believe he will oblige" for at least the three-month campaign period, the 82-year-old politician told reporters at the headquarters of the League for Democracy and Peace. Nu is the patron of the party.

He said his party, will contest the elections on a platform of democracy based on the Buddhist concept of morality and universal love.

BANGKOK POST
July 2, 1989

Malaysia ready to boost Burma ties

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia is keen to increase bilateral cooperation with Burma, Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Righaudeen said Saturday.

He said apart from trade other possible areas of cooperation could be in the field of air transport and shipping.

Tengku Ahmad said this to reporters after receiving a delegation of high-ranking military officers from Burma's Armed Forces Defence College at his office here.

The 24-man delegation which arrived here Friday for a week-long visit is led by the Commander of the Southwest Command, Brig-Gen Mynit Aung.

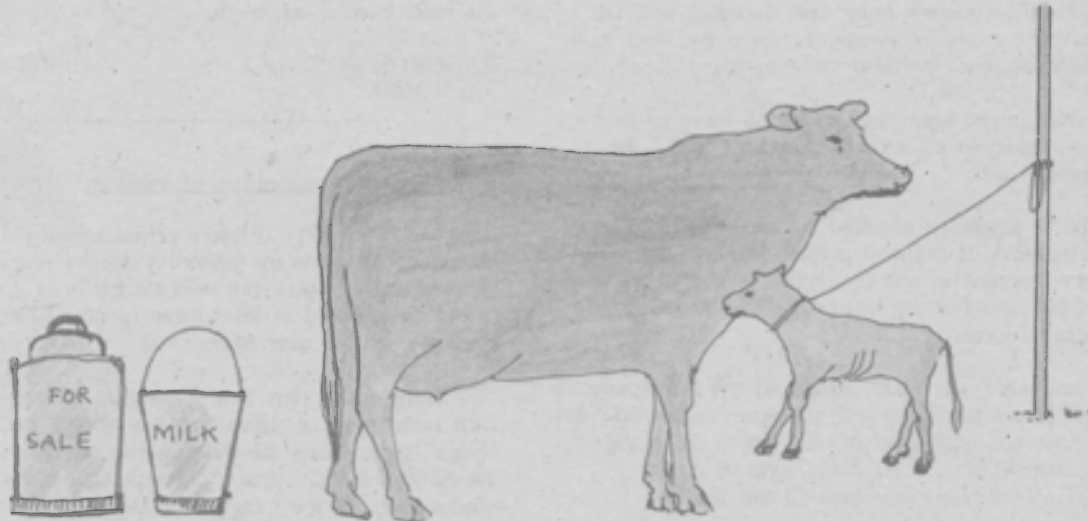
Both Tengku Ahmad and Mynit Aung agreed that there should be more such exchange of visits. - AP

THE NATION
July 3, 1989

"I want to protect our country and our traditions. If our country is too open, it will all be ruined. We must move carefully and slowly, being certain that every foreign policy we make is one which will truly benefit our country and the Burmese people. The country's resources belong to the people and must be used for the benefit of the people

In our relations with other countries, we must be able to identify those kinds of relationships which are healthy and good for our people. We must also be able to quickly identify those bad elements which will do damage to our culture and traditions. We must be selective. This is essential for a good future for the Burmese people. If we are not careful, our culture and our precious traditions will soon disappear."

Aung San Myo



"We Burmese starve even though our country is rich in resources."

ABSDF ACTIVITIES

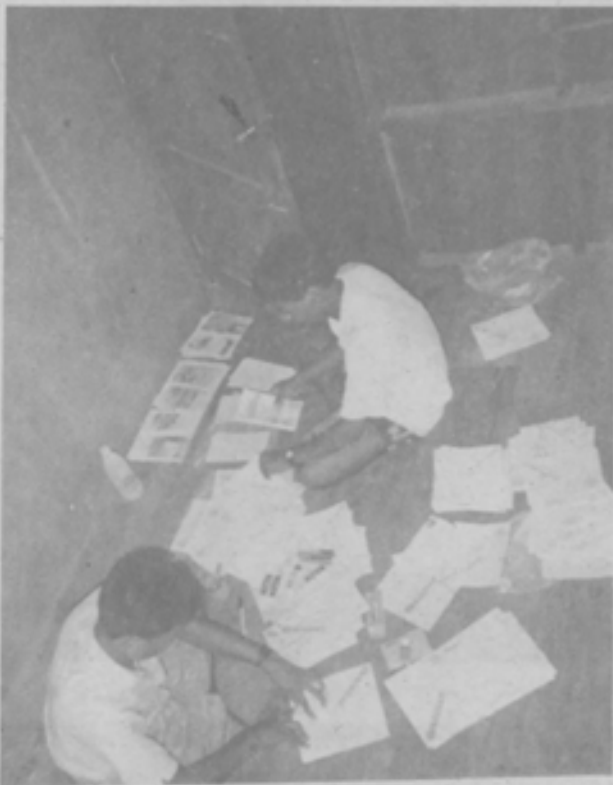
Students from some of the ABSDF camps make regular trips into the interior of Burma to visit with village people and find out about their lives and problems. It is also a good opportunity to discuss democracy, and help the village people gain knowledge and confidence. True democracy in Burma must start from the grassroots.



Information is an important part of our struggle. Since our camps are scattered along the long border line between Burma and Thailand, it is often difficult for us to get together for dialogue. Thus, the production of simple news bulletins from each camp helps in the sharing of ideas, and exchanges of information.

There is little money available for these publications, so most of the work is manual. Emphasis is on the quality of the information, not on the quality and cost of the production itself.

Many students had no skills in communications before coming to the jungle, but now have learned, through experience, how to do photography, produce news bulletins, and write press releases. This shows the value of the "Jungle University" as a true place of higher learning.



(S)ELECTIONS IN BURMA

TO VOTE OR NOT TO VOTE

When I turned eighteen, I received the right to take part in elections in Burma. As the election time drew near, the BSPP organized many meetings to prepare the people for the elections.

In my ward, the BSPP also organized these meetings, and everyone over 18 years of age was asked to come to the meetings so the BSPP could explain how they should elect their representatives. When the meeting started, the BSPP officers selected one person from the villagers to act as a representative of the people for this meeting. He was given a prepared speech to read by the BSPP officials.

After he read the speech, the BSPP officials explained the process of electing the people's representatives. When they opened the meeting for nominations, some BSPP members immediately suggested the names of other BSPP members to be candidates. This surprised me a lot because when the people talked together before the meeting, none of them wanted BSPP members to be their representatives. I felt angry and began to protest. I did not want these people to be our representatives since they were bad and did not truly represent the people of our ward.

My father immediately silenced me. He told me to sit down and be quiet. All of the villagers from our ward remained silent. So these BSPP members were chosen as our representatives.

When we got home, I asked my father why he did not try to vote following his true feelings and desires. He said that if we did not accept the persons the BSPP selected for us, they would simply put more of their members up for candidates, and the people's choices would never have a chance.

His answer did not satisfy me. I felt that in

elections we must have a choice. If we do not like one person, we have the right to elect a different one.

My father explained to me once again. "Do not try to change their selection," he said. "If you can elect the person you like, they will simply hold another election until the person they selected wins."

During the 27 years of Ne Win's rule, the country never had an election. They only had selection. After that experience, I never participated in the (s)elections again. I do not think the elections in 1990 will be any different.

Mr. A. T.



ABSDF'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

We have lived in the jungles for almost 10 months now. Most of us came from the cities and the jungle life was strange and dangerous to us. We have suffered much. Often we are without proper food, shelter and medicine, and many of us have suffered from malaria. However, our spirits are still extremely strong, and we have never wavered in our dream of democracy for our country. Although some people would like to help us achieve refugee status in Thailand, we are not interested. Our goal has been, and still remains, to struggle for human rights and justice in our beloved motherland. We have never even considered giving up this dream by becoming refugees.

The Karen, Kareni and Mon ethnic groups along the border have given us a place to live. The Burmese educational system has always taught us that these ethnic groups are insurgents and are trying to destroy the unity of Burma. When we came, many of us were suspicious of them. We thought they only wanted to use us. Many people thought that we would not be able to live together. However, as time goes by, we are cooperating more and more. Yes, there are sometimes minor disputes, but we can solve them, because we are all determined to bring peace, unity and democracy to Burma. We have learned to trust the ethnic minority groups, and they are learning to respect us and our ideas. This is part of the process of building a new Burma.

When we first came to the jungles, we had little resistance to malaria and other jungle diseases, and we had almost no experience in treating these medical problems. Now, 10 months later, we have learned how to treat these diseases, and have built up some resistance to them. Although about 40% of the students still come down with malaria, we can treat it effectively and few serious cases result in death. Most of our medical staff are medical students with little clinic experience, but they have gained confidence in taking care of the medical needs of the students, and the students have gained confidence in these young "barefoot doctors"

Although the ABSDF is made up of people from all walks of life including monks, farmers, government workers and even soldiers, most of us are students. Therefore education is still very important to us.

Two "Jungle Universities" are presently being opened deep in the jungles along the Thai/Burma border. In these "Jungle Universities" the students will study English and Thai languages, political science, emergency medical care and agriculture/animal husbandry.

Most of the facilitators for the classes will be students from the ABSDF camps. Through these classes, we will continue our education by learning those things which are truly essential to our livelihood.

During the past year, all the schools in Burma have been closed by the government. Our "Jungle Universities" prove to the people of Burma that we are more interested in educational development than the Saw Maung government is. Even while living in exile deep in the jungles, we can, and we will, continue our education.

WHAT IS IT YOU FEAR ?

Fools of power
Killers, militarists without hearts
Afraid of the people
With humble eyes
Seeking only democracy

Can you win
When all you have in your hands are
Weapons?

Can you force the people to bow
When your power only lies in
The gun?

Can the problems of our motherland
Be solve peacefully with
Bullets?

Dare you announce to the world
The true desire of the army?
Dare you say what is different
Between Justice and Injustice?

As a soldier, a citizen of our motherland,
Do you ever think on your own
Whether it is right to
Arrest
Torture
Kill?

Do you lose your own responsibility
Only because you follow the order
From the officers?

Look into you own heart to see what kindness rests
there.
We demand only democracy and the human rights
Given to all human beings.
We never demand that which is impossible.

We seek only to share in the power,
To chose our own true representatives
And to develop our living standards.

Gentlemen,
Your history is very dirty.
The people are innocent and clean.
Do not stain us with your bloody hands!
You are not suitable for us!

You use your tricks to manipulate, But the simple
people
See you clearly.

From your hands comes
Imitation democracy.
Suddenly you allow,
Dances,

Stage shows,
Parties,
All for democracy.

Is this democracy?
Can true democracy destroy
Our culture and tradition?
When will you also sell
The Myammese girl
For your democracy?

Your desire is to
Make the people forget.
We will never forget
Your cruelty!
While you play your games,
We sharpen our knives and swords.

When the right time comes,
The people will lead onto the roads.
There will once again be the smell of blood
And the sky will echo with the call for democracy!
Raised fists and clenched teeth
Will tell you the truth.

Your power is only in your mouth
And in the barrels of your guns.
The people have nothing,
Their hands are empty.
They do not even have
Food,
Clothing,
Money,
Rice,
Life,
Freedom,
Political participation,
Economic freedom,
Human rights,
Democracy,
NOTHING!

Yet, with our hands empty
And our mouths closed,
You watch us from every corner,
From every place.
What is it you fear
We will steal from you?

We have lost our fear.
No longer do your guns make us tremble.
We are not afraid,
Because we are no longer
Afraid to die.

by Myat Htut

BOOKS--BOOKS--BOOKS

JUST PUBLISHED by Review Publishing Co. Ltd

OUTRAGE

Burma's struggle for democracy
by Bertil Lintner



Fully indexed

HK\$149.00
(US\$18.95)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bertil Lintner, a veteran correspondent with the Far Eastern Economic Review, has for years specialised in Burmese affairs. In the spring of 1987 he completed an 18-month hazardous hike through northern Burma, areas which have for years been under the control of the armies of minority peoples in revolt against Rangoon's rule.



In March of 1988, 14 months before the recent struggle for democracy in China, there began in Burma a nationwide movement for greater freedom, a better way of life and the removal of its oppressive marxist government.

As with the more recent demonstrations in China, Burma's too was begun by students and grew to include the general public; and as it did in China, the Burmese movement ended in bloodshed and slaughter of the people.

In OUTRAGE, Bertil Lintner captures the very essence and spirit of the Burmese fight for democracy. As you read his detailed, chronological report of events as they occurred, you will share the exhilaration, anxiety and eventually the terror experienced by the Burmese people.

Outrage is compelling reading for anyone with an interest in Asia and in the grassroots movement of Asians towards more democratic forms of government.

Order your copy(s) today!

Review Publishing Company Limited
GPO Box 160, Hong Kong.

☐ Yes, please send me _____ copy(s) of Outrage, Burma's struggle for democracy at HK\$149/US\$18.95 per copy plus HK\$10/US\$1.25 packing and handling. Optional airmail surcharge: Asia - HK\$22/US\$2.85, Outside Asia - HK\$31/US\$4.

Name: _____ (Please print in block letters)

Address: _____

Tel: _____

☐ Enclosed _____ in payment thereof (cheque payable to: Review Publishing Company Limited)

☐ I prefer to charge _____ to my credit card (tick one):

Amex ☐ Diners ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

You may forward payment in equivalent local currency.

OUTRAGE BURMA'S STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

The events in Burma during 1988 caught the attention of the world. For a few months, everyone watched intently as the Burmese students, monks and working people carried out massive nonviolent actions, demanding democratic changes in their country. The sudden military coup on September 18 by General Saw Maung shocked international observers who thought the voice of the Burmese people was winning. Now, almost one year later, few people seem interested in this Asian country and its people's on-going struggle for justice and human rights.

For those who continue to watch the events in Burma, and for those who have lost interest, this book is a must. Through its pages you will gain a deeper understand of realities in Burma, and hopefully gain the kind of empathy necessary to join together with the Burmese people in their struggle for justice and human rights.