

# DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

NO.18

SEPTEMBER 1989





# DAWN

## NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE  
**ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT**

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1989

### **FEAR OF AN OPPRESSOR LEGITIMIZES THE RULE OF THAT OPPRESSOR**

"We must realize that there are sources of violence and there are victims of that violence. We must not only attempt to heal the wounds which afflict the victims of violence, but even more important, we must be able to identify the sources of violence, and seek effective ways of confronting those sources and changing them. Our silence concerning the sources of violence, especially those which originate from our own society, makes us abettors of that violence, and thus a true enemy of the victims of violence. As such, we can not, in all fairness to the victims of violence, pass judgement on them when they decide to take up arms to fight back."

A Becket

**Yes you can do something to stop war. The question is, do you really want to?**

Where are the sources of violence which now plague Burma? They are in the ruling military junta which is imprisoning the people, torturing them, executing them and destroying their homes and lives. It is in those countries and companies which provide funds to that ruling military junta through business contracts. It is in those companies and countries which produce and sell arms and ammunition to that ruling military junta. If those companies and countries now investing in Burma could be convinced to withdraw their economic support of the military junta, that military junta could no longer buy arms and ammunition, and thus could no longer kill the people and suppress their dream for democracy and peace.

Have the courage to confront the sources of violence which originate in your society and community. Then peace can quickly be achieved in Burma, and the forces of peace will at last have made a significant step forward. You can do something to stop war and bring about peace in Burma. The question is, **do you really want to?**

"DAWN", PO Box 1352., Bangkok 10500, Thailand

## EDITORIAL

"A man once took charge of a beautiful teak wood house. It was one of the most elegant houses in the neighborhood, and many people traveled for miles to have a chance to see its beautiful carvings and perfect workmanship.

However, the man did not take good care of the house. He let the teak wood pillars lean to the side. The floors and walls soon became termite-ridden and dangerous to walk near and the beautiful carvings and fixtures fell to the ground and rotted. The budget he was given to care for the house was used entirely for his own pleasure of wine, women and song. The once beautiful house became an eye sore to the community - one of the worst looking houses in the neighborhood.

Some of the people in the house tried to restore the house to its original beauty, and shouted out to their neighbors about the injustice going on inside the house, but the man forcefully stopped them, even driving many of them out and beating others into submission.

Neighbors began to complain. They criticized the way he took care of the house, and they complained loudly about the way he was beating and driving out some, of the people who lived in the house. Soon he became isolated from his neighbors and hungry. He feared that, if he got any more hungry and weak, the few people still left in the house might get revenge on him.

So he worked out a plan. He invested the little money he had left to buy some beautiful, wood-colored paper. With this paper, he covered the rotting walls and pillars. He shaped the paper into the original fixtures and carvings and tacked them on the walls. From outside, the house looked as beautiful as before.

The neighbors were happy. They praised the man for his restoration job, and they gave him donations to keep up the good work. He smiled a great big friendly smile, and promised to use the money to keep the house in beautiful shape where the residents could live in peace and unity.

However, the neighbors refused to take a look closely at the house. If they would have, they would have seen that underneath the cheap paper, the old rotten, termite-eaten teak wood still remained, and the house was as dangerous to live in as ever. If they would have attempted to look even a little closer, they would have seen that the man used the money they donated to lock the house residents in a small dark closet so they would not shout their complaints to the neighborhood.

In this way, the man successfully solved his problem, and his neighbors were happy that peace, beauty and tranquility had once again returned to their neighborhood."

A little over a year ago, the world was shocked by what was happening in Burma. The coup, led by General Saw Maung, was condemned by almost every embassy in the country, and aid to this bloody government was terminated.

Why then is the military regime now so strong? It is because Saw Maung has used a tactic which all dictatorial regimes use to legitimize their power.

Saw Maung has put a facade around Burma which its neighbor can look at without having to see the rot which still lies beneath. The facade is made up of cheap development and investments, and a farce called "free and fair elections". With this facade in place, countries around the world can justify their investments and business contracts in Burma even though the Burmese people do not enjoy any democratic freedoms at all.

Look beneath this facade. Look at the humanity which must still suffer under a military regime which abuses all the human rights which the world has recognized as essential to all human beings. **Listen to the call of the Burmese people, and stand on the side of true justice!**

# ABSDF NEWS

## ABSDF POSITION PAPER

### I. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Restoration of genuine democracy in Burma
- 2) Cessation of the civil war, and the creation of internal peace and national reconciliation.
- 3) Reconstruction of the new Burma to be a Well-developed nation.

### II. ANALYSIS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION INSIDE BURMA AFTER ONE YEAR UNDER THE RULE OF THE MILITARY REGIME.

#### Political Analysis;

Although the military regime has promised to hold elections, and more than 200 political parties have registered, there is no atmosphere in which genuine democracy can develop. There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of assembly and no freedom of press. Martial law still exists and Section 2/88 (which prohibits a gathering of more than 5 persons) issued by the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) has not been removed yet.

There is only one newspaper, the "Working Peoples' Daily" which is in English and Burmese. It is owned by the government. The government uses the Public Communication Institutions (radio, tv, newspapers etc) for the benefit of the army and SLORC. During the past year, they have used the mass media to make a continuous attack on the democratic forces by labelling them as communists, destructionists, terrorists and robbers. Using the violence and instability created by themselves in 1988 as their reason, they have justified their September military coup constantly through the mass media.

How can there be free and fair elections in a situation in which there is no chance to express ones opinions freely, no chance to organize others and

always being threatened and in fear of the military regime?

Nearly 2,000 political dissidents and student activists have been arrested and they are usually brutally tortured by such inhuman ways as cigarette burns, electric shock, rolling batons over the shins, hanging upside-down from the ceiling while being beaten, being forced to stand in knee-deep water for the whole night, and being detained in very small cells. Some have been tortured to death. There is no public trial for detainees. A Military Tribunal has been substituted in place of the civil court. Most detainees were summarily executed by the military tribunal. The accused have no right to defense from a lawyer, and they have no right to meet with their relatives.

Recently we have received news from a porter who fled from the Burmese army that about 500 student prisoners were sent to Lashio and then on to Numto. They were forced to carry large rice bags for the Burmese Army which is fighting against the ethnic armed forces in the Kachin area. They were tied together with a rope and had to walk for miles in the rain while naked. They were half-starved on the way. The Burmese soldiers tortured and killed the students who were ill and unable to carry the loads. Everyday, 3 to 4 students were killed due to torture by the soldiers.

We have also recently received news that at least 20 dissidents are arrested every night in Rangoon. Most of them are intellectual such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers etc, who took part in the 1988 democratic uprising. Many are also the organizers of the National League for Democracy Party. The people live in constant fear now of the military intelligence.

The most popular leaders of the NLD, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and U Tin Oo are now under a one-year house arrest. Most of the NLD offices have been closed down and it is impossible for the NLD to compete in the promised elections next May.

The Peoples' Progressive Party, Ever Green Youth Party, and the National United Front have been outlawed after being charged by SLORC of having connections with the Burmese Communist Party. Actually the Burmese Communist Party has

completely ended following an inter-party conflict between the Burmese in the Central Committee and the minority group members of the Army.

It is clear that the military regime arrests and *oppresses* any person who dares to criticize the army and the SLORC. Now, any political movement of parties inside Burma is totally clamped down. It is certain that the military regime will hold the elections when they are sure that all opposition is silent. There are elections, and then there are farces posing as elections. Ne Win is very clever and well experienced with the second type of election. We can see the cruelty of Ne Win in the 1974 Peoples' referendum for the constitution which accepted the BSPP as the only legal political party in the country. Also we can see this farce in the 1974, 1978, 1982, and 1986 parliament elections. In every election (actually we should call them selections), there was only one candidate who was chosen by the BSPP Central Committee. A white ballot box and a black ballot box were provided for the votes. The white box was for yes votes and was placed on a table at the front of the voting booth. The black box was for no votes, and it was hidden somewhere in the back of the booth. After the voting was finished, the boxes were taken to the BSPP for counting. The black box would somehow magically change to white along the way. The candidate provided by the BSPP would usually win without any competition at all. In this way Ne Win abused the Burmese Way to Socialism and totally ruined the economy of Burma until it has become *one* of the poorest countries in the world.

Now the government is once again at its old tricks. It is now abusing the word "democracy", and will certainly create the "Ne Win Way to Democracy". This is not a peoples' democracy, but simply the democracy for the benefit of the ruling party or National Unity Party, and its followers. We can foresee the trap which Ne Win is setting. That is why we do not believe in the promised elections.

We believe the following process is needed to restore genuine democracy in Burma:

- 1) ceasefire of all armed forces
- 2) the holding of a National Convention
- 3) establishment of internal peace and national reconciliation
- 4) formation of an interim government
- 5) elections sponsored by the interim government

### III. Economic Analysis

At the time of the military coup, the military regime had only about 3 million US dollars in foreign exchange. To overcome this shortage of foreign

currency, SLORC opened the door to foreign investment. He knew that profit-oriented countries are more interested in exploiting Burmese forest and fish resources rather than investing in factories inside Burma where there is no political stability. This shows that economic reform without political reform is not very effective. With only economic reforms, the military regime can misuse the natural resources of the country for their own benefit rather than developing the national economy for the good of the people.

From our information, the Military regime has received about 37 million US dollars by selling logging concessions and 18 million dollars from fishing concessions. Eighty percent of the national budget is used for the civil war against the ethnic minorities and the democratic forces.

In order to keep the government workers and soldiers happy, the military regime increased their salaries 300 percent above what they received before the uprising. This has led to serious inflation with essential commodities getting too expensive for the common people to afford. The price of rice, a basic staple food, has risen from 128 kyats for one basket in 1988 to 384 kyats for one basket in 1989. A non-government worker will earn about 400 kyats per month now.

Peasants have suffered the most from inflation and soaring prices. The government purchases rice from the peasants with a price 3 times lower than the black market price. Those who can not sell the prescribed quota set by the government are imprisoned and tortured. While the price of commodities which the peasants must buy rises dramatically, the price they must sell their farm products for remains constant.

The government prints the Burmese kyat bank notes in large amounts and exchanges them for dollars on the black market. In 1988, 1 dollar was equal to 45 kyats. Now 1 dollar is about 65 kyats. The official exchange rate is less than 7 kyats for one dollar. The government also sends their representatives to the Thai border to exchange kyats for Thai baht. In 1988 100 kyats was equal to 70 baht. Now 100 kyats is equal to 40 baht. This cruel means to build up their foreign currency simply creates more inflation. People also fear daily that the government will once again demonetize some of the currency, leaving them with worthless paper in their pockets.

In conclusion, The Burmese people are suffering from both political oppression and an economic crisis.

## COCA COLA ENTERING BURMA]

On September 22, 1989 an agreement was signed between the Coca Cola empire and the Burmese military government to produce and sell Coca Cola in Burma. The Coca Cola company and the Pan" American Enterprises are the first on <sup>ate</sup> <sup>thp</sup> <sup>IS</sup> ventures to e-business in j & ^ a ^ n r p military seS^l power in a left-wing coup in 1962 (Associated Press).

Since the bloody military coup staged by Saw Maung in September of 1988, the US government has consistently criticized the Burmese military's use of brutal force and its total disregard for the human rights of the Burmese people. Now, suddenly, two large US companies have chosen to side with Saw Maung whose hands are still covered with the 'blood of nearly 8000 Burmese people slain in cold blood. Where is the justice in this?

**Once again we see that the opportunity to make money quickly covers the human rights of an oppressed people!**

Presently, the Burmese people are facing severe hardship in finding sufficient food to feed their families. The prices of food, especially rice, have risen at a dramatic rate since Saw Maung's coup. Many people now live on soup made from ground up rice. It barely fills the stomach, but it totally fails to provide the nutritional needs of growing children.

Coca Cola, with its glittery advertising will certainly be attractive to the Burmese people, especially to the youth and children. Of what value is its sugar and caffeine to malnourished bodies? Yet this is the first American company to enter Burma. Is the intent to further destroy the bodies and minds of the future generations of Burma?

Saw Maung, will of course, gain more funds for his brutal military from this US investment. Thus, the nutritional needs of the people will be further destroyed while Saw Maung gains more funds to purchase more weapons to further suppress the people.

We ask, "What is the true intention of America towards our country and our people?" Why does the US government claim to support the human rights of the Burmese people, while a huge US company enters the country to link hands with a military dictator and support it financially?

The war in our country is growing. We desire peace negotiations in order to end this conflict with a minimum of bloodshed. Saw Maung will never negotiate if he can so easily fill his pockets by selling the precious resources of the country as well as the health of the people. We reiterate our stand that an economic boycott of the military regime in Burma is necessary if peace negotiations are ever to be possible. Any investment such as Coca Cola is now making, simply insures that Saw Maung will continue his bloody suppression of the people, and that the war will grow and expand.

### ACTION-ACTION

We call for an immediate international ~~boycott of Coca-Cola~~ and all Coca Cola products such as Sprite, all items advertising Coca Cola such as t-shirts, and all concerts or other activities sponsored by Coca Cola until such time as they cancel their contract to produce and sell Coca Cola in Burma.

Refusing to purchase these items is not enough. Letters should be written to the Coca Cola distributor near you explaining why you are ceasing to buy their products. Do not just write one letter. Write regularly as individuals or as groups in order to keep up the pressure. Also speak to your local supermarket, and request that they refuse to stock Coca Cola. The purchaser has power, and this is the time to use that power to help bring about justice in Burma.

You can also share this concern with your friends, church groups, clubs etc. Call on all of them to join in this boycott. School groups and universities could also request that Coca Cola be removed from their premises.



## WHERE DO THE WEAPONS COME FROM?

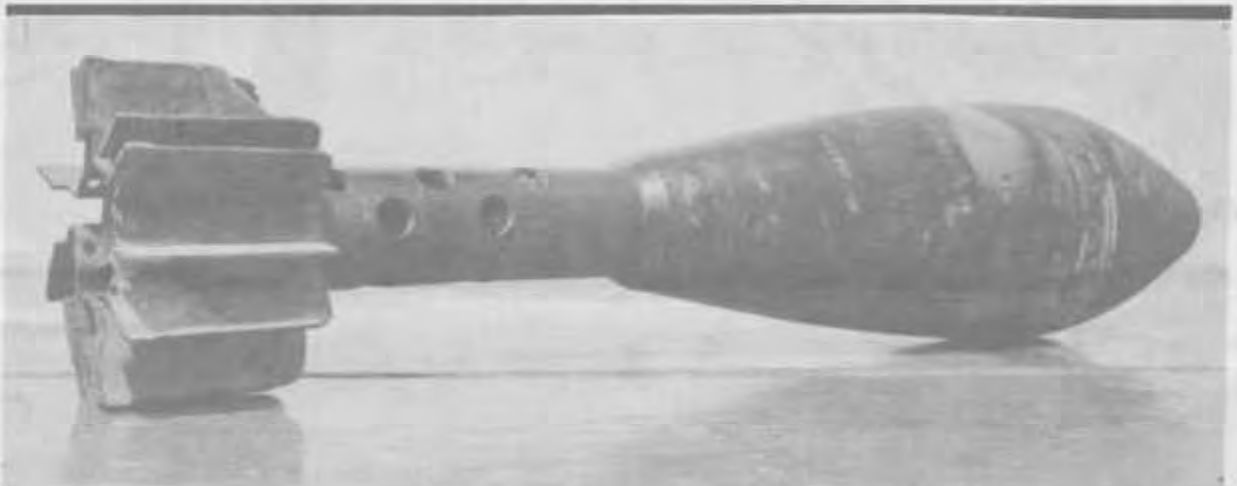
During the past months, the Burmese army has been pounding ethnic minority camps and student camps with uncountable numbers of artillery shells. Although it has always been well known that the Burmese Army could pay for all of these shells with the money earned from selling off their forests and marine life, it was not always clear where the munitions came from. Sortie new information now sheds light on this question.

In Kawmoorah camp, Karen territory, some shells have not exploded upon landing. They bear the marking, "POF" which stands for Pakistan Ordnance Factory according to Bertil Lintner in a report to *tfjpiA TODAY*, September 30, 1989.

Mr. Lintner goes on to say, "The first confirmed report of Pakistani arms sales to Burma? <sup>rn'1,\*" ^</sup> regime came in March when intelligence sources detected that a high-powered delegation had paid an unpublicised visit to Islamabad. The team reportedly included the Commander-in-Chief of the Burmese Air Force Major General Tin Tun, his deputy, Colonel Thein Win, Director of Ordnance Colonel Thein Tun

and Director of Defence Industries Colonel Htay Tint. The first deal, signed in march-end, included an initial delivery of 150 machine-guns with 50,000 rounds of ammunition and 5,000 120 mm mortar bombs. This is to be followed by more military hardware later this year."

Pakistan is not the only source of weapons for the Burmese military. The Fritz Werner Industrie-Ausrustungen of West Germany continues to operate sTmunmonsJ&toiyjTrRiingoofl. Singapore has also been a good supporter of SLORC. "In fact, Singapore was one of the first countries to come to the rescue of thlTBeleaguered SLORC on October 6, 19SFTFEER:, October 5, 1989). On that day, ships carrying arms arriving in Rangoon harbor were the Pyi Daw Aye and the Myoma Ywa of the state-owned Five Star Shipping Line. Later, on 30th August, more arms arrived aboard the Htone Ywa. The cargo arrived in Singapore on the Singapore Senator from Antwerp, Belgium, and on the Zim Osaka from Eilat, Israel.



One of the shells which fell in Kawmoorah camp and failed to explode. On some days, hundreds of these shells may be fired into a camp. The markings on the shell clearly show POF which indicates that it was produced by the Pakistan Ordnance Factory. An economic boycott by all companies and countries of the Saw Maung regime would deny that regime the money it needs to purchase these weapons which are killing students and ethnic minority people along the Thai/Burma border.

FROM BURMA

TO MYAN







## SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS

'Dawn' has often reported the rape of Burma's natural resources by foreign companies, both private and government, which only want to make a last dollar with no regard for the human rights of the Burmese people. The money which the Saw Maung government earns from the sale of these resources is used to bolster a military which is using at least 80% of Burma's national budget to wage war against its own people.

We have consistently called for our international friends to boycott all products which originate in Burma as a means of pressuring the Saw Maung government to enter peace negotiations with the Burmese people. We know that such a boycott, or in some cases even protests against these companies, can mean some sacrifice. Yet it is only when we are truly willing to sacrifice that we can make an effective movement for peace.

Recently, "Dawn" has received a copy of a letter written by the Smith & Hawken company in California USA to U Hla Pe of the Myanmar

Timber Enterprise in Burma. This letter has given us renewed hope that there is a possibility to bring about an end to the civil war in Burma quickly and with little bloodshed. The Smith & Hawken company has decided to end all purchases of teak wood from Burma which it needs to produce the furniture it sells. We are encouraged by this letter because the Smith & Hawken company will certainly lose some of their profits through this action, yet they have chosen to do so in order to stand on the side of justice.

We wish to share a portion of their letter to U Hla Pe as it is an example of what can be done if people are simply willing to take the risk.

August 1, 1989

Dear U Hla Pe,

Smith & Hawken is a mail-order, garden supplies company in the US selling several million dollars of furniture each year, including furniture made from teak. Originally, our furniture was manufactured with Burmese teak, but we can no longer purchase Burmese teak until significant democratic reforms and dramatic ecological improvements are made.

For several years, we supported the Burma Selection System as practiced by the Forestry Department. But we cannot support the type of forestry practiced by a government that claimed power by shooting unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators. No government committing such morally outrageous acts is fit to be a member of the international community, and we are determined to oppose your military regime in every way possible.

When people cannot exercise the most basic of personal freedoms, it is vital to take action until significant democratic reforms are made. We demand that you introduce proper forestry and democratic reforms immediately.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Hawken

**"Our ability to respond creatively and effectively to end war is limited only by our fear of losing our special benefits in society."**

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN), 301 Broadway, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94133, has also taken up the call for protest against the destruction of Burma's teak wood forests. Following is a part of their statement, Action Alert #40.

"The RAN board has agreed to support the World Rainforest Movement's April 17 declaration calling for a ban on all imports of tropical timber and wood products from natural forests, and urges RAN members to boycott such goods.

At the moment it is particularly critical to boycott Burmese and so-called Thai teak. The recent ban on logging in Thailand and Laos has increased the demand for teak from Burma, which has some 80 percent of the world's supply, and the Burmese government, desperate for funds to finance its brutal war on indigenous tribespeople, has accelerated its sales of teak concessions to outside interests, mainly Thai lumber companies. Burma's teak forests are being cut at a drastic rate.

Consumers should assume all teak is Burmese unless retailers can prove it to be otherwise. Don't take their word for it; ask to see written documentation, and forward copies to RAN.

Most of the teak coming in to the U.S. - including Thai produced lawn furniture -- is from Burma.

RAN believes that the ban on tropical timber should be total, with the important exception of wood products that can be proven to be from community-based, sustainably managed forest reserves that don't conflict with native land rights, and where working conditions meet some reasonable standard."

## **ACTION - ACTION**

1. Find names of other companies which are purchasing teak wood from Burma ("Dawn" has listed many of these companies in past issues) and encourage them to stop their orders of teak wood until such time as true democratic reforms are brought about. If they do not stop cooperating with the present Burmese government, initiate a boycott of the products which the company produces. These companies are mainly interested in profits, and if they begin to lose profits because of their link to the military regime in Rangoon, they will change their policies.

Your inaction will only encourage their destruction of Burma's resources and people. **Your action can make a difference.**

2. Contact RAN and ask for more information and possible actions you can take. RAN will also have the names and addresses of groups in other countries which are taking similar actions.

3. Before buying any furniture or other wooden items, find out the source of the wood. If it comes from Thailand, it almost certainly now originates in Burma. Refuse to buy these products and inform the shop why you will not buy. Encourage them to stop all orders of these wooden products as a way of protesting the destruction of human rights and natural resources in Burma.

## **STOP DRINKING FOR JUSTICE**

What is one coke worth to you? Many places sell one coke for approximately US 60 cents. That is hardly enough to make anyone take a second thought before purchasing a can of Coca Cola. But to a Burmese student living in a distant jungle camp, **the price of one coke is enough to provide medicine and food for one day.**

This means that if only 6000 people around the world would give up one coke for one day they would have saved enough money to feed all of the Burmese students for one day, as well as provide them with the medicines they need to fight off deadly malaria and other diseases of the jungle.

Think about this the next time you buy a coke and mindlessly toss the empty can in the dust bin.

Perhaps the boycott of Coca Cola is a pretty good idea after all!

## NEWS FROM INSIDE BURMA

On July 27, at 9 pm, a big fire raged through Mandalay, burning buildings from 1st Street up to 18th Street. The damage is estimated at about 60,000,000 kyats.

On the evening of July 29, monks in Mandalay distributed leaflets to the people. The leaflets said that since the city was in a very bad situation with so much vermin around, special prayers should be said to rid the city of these pests. They said that the prayers would be said in the morning.

Early on the 30th, over 5000 monks began a procession around the city. They walked, five abreast in a long line which snaked through the streets of Mandalay. As they walked, they chanted prayers. People came out to cheer, and many joined in the chanted prayers.

The military sent 6 fire trucks, armored cars, and many soldiers into the city along with their special riot police. Many of the streets were blocked to prevent the religious procession from coming through. When the monks reached the barricades, they turned down a side street.

Almost all day, the Head Abbot was talking with the military to prevent them from firing on the monks or on the crowds which gathered to participate. There was no shooting that day. Many people were overheard saying that finally the military regime would be broken by a simple procession of monks.

Many Chinese people have come to Mandalay to buy land. In the past year and a half, the price of land has increased ten times (from 300,000 kyats per plot to 3,000,000 kyats). Due to the high price of petrol, many people are buying bicycles which are imported from China and Thailand.

It is said that a bridge has already been built across the river at a point connecting Shweli China to Musey Burma. Burmese traders can now easily get

visas to travel into China as far as Peking. They take in Jade and bring back beer, clothing, liquor, cigarettes and a lot of medicines. The clothing is only sold in Mandalay since it is not very fashionable. Clothing sold in Rangoon comes from Thailand.

Traders going into India take in gold and buy threads for weaving cloth, spices, diamonds and some addictive drugs.

Traders to Bangladesh take in buffalos, and bring back US dollars. This is said to be one of the biggest sources of US dollars for the decrepid Burmese economy.

On September 26, high schools in Rangoon were finally reopened. Students in High School # 6 (formerly St Pauls) carried out an anti-government demonstration shortly after the school was opened. The military immediately came and arrested all student leaders. It is not yet known how many students leaders were arrested.

About 20% of the people in Rangoon have insufficient rice to eat, and must make do with a very watery rice gruel. The cheapest rice they can buy in the open market is 18 kyats for 1 pyi. The government sells special rice at 6 kyats a pyi, but there is a quota of 1 pyi per person per week. This quota is only available to government workers. A family of 5 will eat one pyi of rice per day. Many government workers who can get this quota will sell their quota on the open market where they can get 15 kyats per pyi.

The price of gold has increased steadily. Everyone wants to buy gold as no one trusts the kyat. Few gold sellers can now be found. In previous times, there was a constant flow of gold through the gold shops, but now there is a severe shortage. It is suspected that the government itself is buying and hoarding the gold.

On the evening of 16th August, in front of the Shweman Cinema Hall, Myanikone Township, three soldiers told a 16 year-old girl that if she followed them, they would arrange for her to get an extra quota of rice. She followed them into the cinema hall, where they began to rape her. Villagers in the area heard her screams and entered the cinema where they began pelting the soldiers with rocks. The soldiers responded with gun fire and two people were killed and one wounded.

The "Working People's Daily" of August 26, however carried a different version of the story. According to them, the cinema hall projectionist, That Tin aged 33, brought the girl into the cinema hall and raped her. He was arrested by the military and tried by the Military Tribunal Number 5. He was given a life sentence. The people in the area know that he is not the real culprit in this case, but was used by the military to cover up their own deeds.

Every morning, at about 7:30, most of the high ranking military officers can be seen going to Ne Win's house. During their morning secessions together, they probably receive their orders for the day. Ne Win most certainly continues to run the country.



## PRICES OF SOME ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

| Commodity        | August<br>1988 | April<br>1989 | June/July<br>1989 | Aug. Sept<br>1989 |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rice (1 Pyi)     |                |               |                   |                   |
| good quality     | 15 kyats       | 25 kyats      | 35 kyats          | 28-30 kyats       |
| poor quality     | 5.6            | 8-10          | 20-25             | 18-20             |
| OU (1.6 kilo)    | 50-60          | same          | same              | same              |
| Fish (1.6 kilo)  |                |               |                   |                   |
| cat fish         | 20             | 30            | 40                | 80                |
| butter fish      | 150            | 200           | 200               | 300               |
| Prawn (1.6 kilo) |                |               |                   |                   |
| medium size      | 50             |               | 60-65             | 70                |
| Meat (1.6 kilo)  |                |               |                   |                   |
| Beef             | 25-30          | 35-40         | 50                | 70                |
| Chicken          | 35             |               |                   | 85                |
| Goat             | 35             |               |                   | 75                |
| Pork             | 20-25          |               |                   | 70                |

1 US dollar is equal to 6.65 kyats on the legal market

## A YOUNG SOLDIER'S STORY

Ne Lin is a 17 year-old soldier in the Burmese Army. In August he was involved in an operation against the Karenni minority tribe. The attack was beaten back by the Karenni army, and Ne Lin was wounded in his legs and unable to walk. He made the following statement to the Karenni who found him some days later.

"During our retreat in August 27, 1989, I was hurt in my legs and was not able to walk. On the 29th my commander, Hlat Thaung, took away my gun and ammunition and kicked me down the side of the mountain. I remained two days in the forest. Later, on the 1st of September, the Karenni Army found me and , carried me to their camp. I was treated there by them very well, including medical care

I joined the Burmese Army on the 2nd of July, 1989 at the age of 16. I attended No 2/88 basic military training at the Pyinmana for about six months. After the training, I was sent to Naungkyo to the Light Infantry No 17.

Last August, when the operation was launched against the Karenni, our infantry captured as many as four to five hundred civilians and forced them to act as porters in the battle field. The porters were not fed enough food and those who were sick were beaten, tortured and then left to die along the way. Even the wounded and sick soldiers like me were ill-treated and left to die in the jungle without food and medicine. Approximately thirty to forty porters died in the jungle during the operation. We were also ordered to destroy by burning all the granaries and houses of the Karenni people.

Our officers told us that in the rebel (ethnic minority areas) societies there is no law and order. We were told that the ethnic minority groups are terrorists and barbarians who chop off the heads of prisoners. Therefore I was terribly scared when I was captured by them, but it was not so. The Karenni treated me kindly. Now I have recovered, and am comfortable in the Karenni camp." -- September 11, 1989

(Although Ne Lin was enlisted into the military at the age of 16, Burmese law states that a soldier must be at least 18 years of age. Ne Lin also told us that his salary was 550 kyats per month when at the front lines. Before the coup soldiers received only 180 kyats per month. Higher salaries are now used to attract young boys like Ne Lin to serve in the oppressive military regime. -- ABSDF)



Name.....Ne Lin  
 Age.....17 years  
 Father.....U Pee  
 Mother.....Daw Nyaing  
 Religion.....Buddhist  
 Race.....Burmese  
 Birth place.....Pa Kale village, Kyaito  
 No.....Private No. 694511  
 Previous work.....Gardener



# SLORC DICTIONARY

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Since Saw Maung established the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) following his military coup on September 18, 1988, a whole new vocabulary must be learned by the Burmese people. This can basically be termed as SLORC-SPEAK. "Dawn" wishes to introduce the readers to some of the terms of SLORC-SPEAK and their definitions as we understand them.

1. State Law and Order Restoration Council -- In Burmese - Ne Win Yat, Na-Wai-Tae-Taung-Tat. In English -- They don't know how to run the country without Ne Win's command.
2. Burmese Way To Socialism -- Any system which benefits Ne Win and his close followers.
3. Democracy -- Any system which benefits Ne Win and his close followers.
4. General elections -- The election of Generals
5. Disruptive and Destructive Elements -- People like Aung San Suu Kyi who want to rebuild the country.
6. Military Tribunal -- The government's shortcut method of issuing the death sentence without having to waste important time finding evidence, or proving their charges.
7. Fabricated rumors — the truth
8. Anarchistic acts -- blocking roads
9. Burma Communist Party — What everyone Ne Win does not like belongs to, even though it no longer exists.
10. Directorate of the Defence Services Intelligence (Burma's secret police) -- Disruptive and Destructive Services of the Unintelligent



SINCE 1962, NE WIN HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH BODYGUARDS. HE IS EVEN AFRAID TO LEAVE HIS HOUSE. IT SEEMS THE PEOPLE HAVE PLACED NE WIN UNDER HOUSE-ARREST.

- ① NE WIN & SANDA WIN'S HOUSE
- ② BUNKER
- ③ DAW NI NI MYINT'S HOUSE
- ④ MAIN GATE
- ⑤ CAR PARK
- ⑥ TROOP STATION

-  MILITARY CAMP
-  MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HEAD QUARTERS
-  ANTI-AIRCRAFT
-  ELECTRIC WIRES 1 FEET ABOVE WATER

