

DAWN

NEWS

BULLETIN

DECEMBER 1989

NO. 23





DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE
ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Vol. 1 No. 23

December

1989

WE SEEK CHANGE

FOR CHANGE IS THE SIGN OF LIFE

Revolution is direct participation of the masses themselves in the shaping of their own destiny, fundamentally and by all possible means. It is historical, inevitable and necessary. True revolution is devoid of all forms of unrealistic dreams which are unrelated to given historical conditions and it is not blind, negative, spontaneous, or destructive in character. Therefore, true revolution is creative in the highest degree. Its fundamental objective is the emancipation of all toilers. Its basis is mass participation and its guarantee of victory mass consciousness. In other words it depends on the degree to which the toiling masses are organized and thus conscious of their own role and power.

Bogyoke Aung San

HISTORY, PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE A PROCESS OF CHANGE

Change - revolutionary change - is a process common to all viable societies. A society which is not undergoing changes is a dead society. Change is indeed a sign of life, and thus it should not be feared even though it is a difficult and sometimes confusing process.

The issues which confront us all in this process of change are: Who controls the process of change, and who benefits from this process of change?

During the past 27 years, Burma too has been changing. Burma is not a stagnant society. The people, the culture and the history are alive and vibrant. However, only a small handful of men have been manipulating that process of change and they alone have benefited from it. It is rumored that General Ne Win's accumulated wealth may rival that of Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, despite the fact that Burma is now one of the poorest countries in the world.

It is in this context that the present revolutionary struggle has been born. Revolutionary change does not mean that the people necessarily have to take up arms in order to destroy the status quo. Revolutionary change means that the process of change within the country moves out of the hands of a few elite, and into the hands of the people so that they determine its path, and that they are the ones who benefit from it.

This process of revolutionary change is inevitable because the people are still alive, and their dignity remains intact despite so many years of suppression.

"Dawn", PO Box 1352 GPO, Bangkok 10500, Thailand

ABSDF STATEMENT

December 25, 1989

On the 22nd of December 1989, U Tin Oo, chairman of the National League for Democracy party, was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment with hard labor by Military Tribunal No.5 chaired by Lt-Col Than Aung and with Maj Tin Maung Yi as member. U Tin Oo was accused of inciting unrest and attempting to divide the army.

We, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, call for all people around the world to take action against the Saw Maung military regime which acts completely against the will of 99% of the Burmese people whose only demand is for freedom, basic human rights and democracy in Burma.

U Tin Oo, an ex-military general, and one of the popular opposition leaders of the NLD, had earlier been placed under a one-year house arrest by the military on the 20th of July 1989 after being accused of attempting to divide the army.

Daw Aung San Su Kyi, daughter of national hero General Aung San, secretary of the NLD and the most popularly supported opposition leader was also placed under house by the military on the 20th of July with the same accusations as U Tin Oo. She has led the non-violent protest against the military regime since August 1988. She has also now been nominated for the "Nobel Peace Prize". She is also expected to be sentence by military tribunals soon.

U Aung Lwin, actor and Central Executive Committee member of the NLD, Daw Myint Myint Khin, Lawyer and Central Executive Committee member, Maung Moe Thu, poet, author and Central Committee member, U Tun Tin, journalist and Central Committee member, U Ko Yu, lawyer and Central Committee member and U Tin Moe, poet and Central Committee member were arrested by the military after Aung San Su Kyi was placed under arrest.

U Win Tin, politician and Secretary of NLD was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment by the military tribunal and U Ba Thaw or Maung Thaw Ka (62), author and Central Committee member was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment with hard labor by military tribunal No.2 (Working People's Daily 6th of Oct 1989). Over 1,000 National League for Democracy party leaders and members have been arrested by the military to date.

Over 4,000 other opposition political leaders, members, workers, teachers, doctors, lawyers, monks and students have been arrested by the military since July.

Bomhu Aung, chairman of the LDP (League for Democracy and Peace Party) was sentence to 20 years imprisonment by the military tribunal in Nov, 1989.

There is no hope for the people's demands for free and fair elections to be held on 27th of May 1990. The military is blatantly destroying the demands of the Burmese people for their freedom, basic rights, and democracy. They are not only ignoring the demands of the people of Burma, but also demands of the some democratic governments, such as the United State, and Sweden and international organizations, such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch.

We, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, on behalf of the people of Burma, strongly urge all democratic governments, all organizations and all people around the world to take immediate effective actions against Saw Maung's blood-thirsty military regime.

We urge you to make a worldwide boycott of Saw Maung's military regime both economically and politically through the following actions:

1. Stop all business investments in Burma and boycott those companies which do business with the Saw Maung military regime
2. Demand the release of all political prisoners immediately
3. Demand that the SLORC cancel all military tribunals and sentences already passed by these tribunals including all death sentences, prison sentences and sentences to hard labor.
4. Demand the immediate end of martial law
5. Call for a cease fire and the convening of a national convention participated in by all groups in order to bring an end to the civil war and create internal peace in the country

Central Committee
All Burma Students' Democratic Front

DECEMBER 10, 1989

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

On this day of the 41st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Sunday, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front would like to explain the situation of human rights violations in our country and we would like to call for action from all over the world on behalf of the people of Burma.

Throughout the 27 years rule of the One Party Military Dictatorship, the people of Burma have not been allowed to exercise the right of freedom of expression, the right of freedom of organization, the right of press freedom and the right for fair trials.

Anti-government movements led by students in 1962, 1974 and 1988 were militarily crushed by brutal killings, unlawful arrests, unfair trials and inhuman torture while in police and military custody.

Student-led general uprisings all over the country, demanding democracy through peaceful demonstrations in 1988 were cruelly suppressed by indiscriminate shootings of unarmed demonstrators. More than eight thousand people including monks and primary school children were killed, several thousand were arrested, tortured, and raped in prisons, and hundreds of others tortured to death.

After the military coup led by Gen Saw Maung on September 18, 1988, more than four thousand people were shot to death on the streets all over the country during a three day period.

In the months since, these actions have been repeated daily with greater degrees of violations. Opposition leaders, Aung Sun Su Kyi and U Tin Oo were placed under a one-year house arrest on the 20th of July 1989. More than 5000 political prisoners were reported to be in custody at the end of November 1989. Beatings, cigarette burns, electric shock to genitals and confinement in a dark room for over 3 days are common to political prisoners. Over 100 people have been sentenced to death by military tribunals with no right of legal defence.

Under martial law, the basic rights of the people of Burma are vigorously violated by the military regime through their instruments of military tribunals and military intelligence service. With the strict control

over public media by the military, it is impossible to know exactly to what extent these human rights are still violated in Burma.

We, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, on behalf of the people of Burma, call for immediate international actions against the military regime

1. to end all violations of human rights in Burma by the military regime
2. to end martial law and military tribunals
3. to release all political prisoners including Aung Sun Su Kyi, U Tin Oo and students
4. to boycott all governments and companies who deal economically with the military regime
5. to boycott all products of these companies indirectly because they are encouraging violations of human rights in Burma



MILITARY TRIBUNALS

Past issues of "Dawn News Bulletin" have carried lists of people sentenced by military tribunals. We produce this list once again since it is such an important issue. These people have been sentenced without the right to a fair and free trial, they have virtually no right to appeal, and rarely can see their family or friends. They are some of the victims of the present military regime, and your help is needed to help them gain their rights as human beings.

Working Peoples' Daily (28th July, 1989)

Rangoon Military tribunal No (1)

Chaired by.....Lt-Col Aung Nyunt (Air Force)
Member.....Maj Khin Kyaw (Army)
Member.....Lt-Comdr Than Htaik (Navy)

The following 3 students were sentenced to death by military tribunal No.1 on 27th of July, 1989. They were accused of the July 7th Syriam bombing near Rangoon.

1. Than Zaw(a) Nwe Thagi (27)
2. Nyi Nyi Oo (25)
3. Moe Kyaw Thu (17)

Working Peoples' Daily (29th July, 1989)

Rangoon Military Tribunal No (2)

Chaired byLt-Col Khin Maung Cho (Army)
Member.....Lt-Comdr Kyaw Yin (Navy)
Member.....Maj Nyi Nyi Lwin

The following students were sentenced to five year of rigorous imprisonment each under section 5(j) of the Emergency Provisions Act of 1950: by military tribunal No. 2.

1. San Maung
Father's name...U Tin Ngwe
Address.....Magyeedan Ward
U Kyaw Hoe Road, Kyimyindine
Town

2. Zaw Win Aung
Father's name...U Aung Thaung
Address.....No.12, Ywama 4th Lane,
No. 7 Ward

3. Kyaw Win Moe
Father's name...U Kyaw Sein
Address.....No.833, Thmadi Road, Myittanyubt Ward

Tamwe Township

4. Htay Lwin
Father's name...U Aung Sein
Address.....No. 51 Inyamyang Road
Bahan Township

5. Khin Maung Tin
Father's name...U Myint Hlaing
Address.....No.53, Thumiangala Road
No.4 Ward, South Okkalapa Township

6. Thet Naing
Father's name...U Chit Maung
Address.....No.40 Kanthaya Road,
No. 5, Mayangon Township

7. Kyaw Lwin Nyunt
Father's name...U Kyaw Nyunt
Address.....No.18(D), Seinlemay Yeitha,
No.7 Ward, Yankin Township

They are the students and they were only charged with shouting the anti-regime slogans in front of the Shwe De Gon Pagoda on 17th July 1989.

Working Peoples' Daily (26th August, 1989)

Rangoon Military Tribunal No (5)

Chaired by.....Lt-Col Than Aung (Army)
Member.....Major Tin Maung Yin

The following person were sentenced to imprisonment for life charged by section 376 of the penal Code by the Military Tribunal No. 5.

NameThet Tun
Occupation... Yadanabon Cinema projector operator
(Grad 4)

Myaenigone, Sangyoung Township
Yangon
Father....U Tun Kvi

The military accused him of a rape case on 16 August, 1989 at the Yadanabon Cinema Hall.

Working Peoples' Daily (4th September, 1989)

Military tribunal No(4), North-West Command area,
in ShweBo.
24th to 29th of August, 1989

Chaired by.....Lt-Col Kyaw Win(Army)(BC/10429)
Member.....Major Khin Maung Tint(BC/11646)
Member.....Major Kyaw Nyunt(BC/11619)
The following 11 people were sentenced to death.

1. Cho Tun
2. Bakkyar
3. Tin Maung Nyunt
4. Than Win
5. Po Shwe
6. Than Lin
7. Tin Aung
8. Kan Htaun
9. Than Tun
10. Kyaw Nyunt
11. Ba Wa

The following 13 people were sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

1. Chit Maung
2. Tin Koe
3. Than Htoo
4. Htay Win
5. Zaw Naing Win
6. Ye Naung
7. Aung Win
8. Khin Maung Myint
9. Maung Naing (a) Win Naing
10. Aung Htay
11. Tin Win
12. Thaung Htay
13. Myo Naing
14. Khawy Maung

All of them were charged with reportedly attacking and stealing fire arms from the police station in Dazei, Sagaing Division during last years disturbances; setting fire to the police station, seizing four PPF personnel, taking them away and brutally beheading them.

Working Peoples' Daily (26th September, 1989)

Rangoon Military Tribunal No. 1

Chaired by Lt-Col Aung Nyunt (Army)

The following people were sentenced to death.

1. Ma Mya Khaing(a)Ma Mu
Father's name...U Khin Pwar

2. Aye Cho Father's name...U Maung Than

3. Nan Lwin Father's name...U Tin Myaing

4. Shwet(u)Maung Maung
Father's name..U Ohn

5. Bo Lu(a) Htay Win
Father's name..U Hla Maung

Working People Daily (6th October, 1989)

The following person was sentenced to 20 years life imprisonment with hard labor accused of attempting to disintegrate the army under section 5(a) (b) of the 1950 Emergency Provision Act. The newspaper did not mention which military sentenced him.

U Ba Thaw(a) Maung Thaw Ka (62) Writer
Father's name...U Hman Gyi

The following person was sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment under section 5(e)(j) of the Emergency Provisions Act of 1950, accused of the sending of false news and rumors to the BBC.

Nay Min (a) Win Shwe (42)
Advocate

The Nation Newspaper, Bangkok (19th October, 1989)

The following three persons were sentenced to death by the military tribunal. They were accused of planting the bomb at city hall on 7th July, 1989.

1. Ko Ko Naing (32) member of Karen National Union
2. Aung Thu (21) 2nd year student, Institute of Medicine 1, Rangoon
3. Maung Maung Thin (27)

The newspaper said eight other defendants were given prison terms ranging from seven to fifteen years for allegedly hiding explosives.

Bohum Aung, chairman of the League for Democracy and Peace Party, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by the military tribunal. (We do not have the exact date and number of military tribunal of his charge).

U Ye Tun, son-in-law of a former "Head of State" (1st of August 1943), Dr Ba Maw, was sentenced to

19 years imprisonment with hard labor by the military tribunal. (We do not have the exact date and number of military of his charge).

Burmese Broadcasting Radio (Rangoon)
announcement
(On 22nd December 1989)

The following person was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment with hard labor by the military tribunal No. 5. He was charged with allegedly inciting unrest and attempting to divide the army.

U Tin Oo (63) ex-military general, chairman of the National League for Democracy party.

Military Tribunal No.5

Chaired by Lt-Col Than Aung (BC/8428)
Member....Major Tin Maung Yi (BC/1504)

Following is a partial list of the numbers who have been sentenced by military tribunals from the 27th of July, 1989 to the 22nd of December, 1989.

| | |
|--|----|
| Death sentence..... | 22 |
| Life imprisonment with hard labor..... | 1 |
| 20 years imprisonment with hard labor..... | 2 |
| 19 years imprisonment with hard labor..... | 1 |
| 14 years imprisonment with hard labor..... | 1 |
| 7 to 15 years imprisonment with hard labour..... | 8 |
| 7 years imprisonment with hard labor..... | 13 |
| 5 years imprisonment with hard labor..... | 7 |
| 3 years imprisonment with hard labor..... | 1 |
| Total sentenced..... | 66 |

A recent military press conference said that military has already sentenced more than 100 people to death since July, 1989. They have not yet released all of the names.

VOICES FROM THE JUNGLE

THE EYES OF A GEM

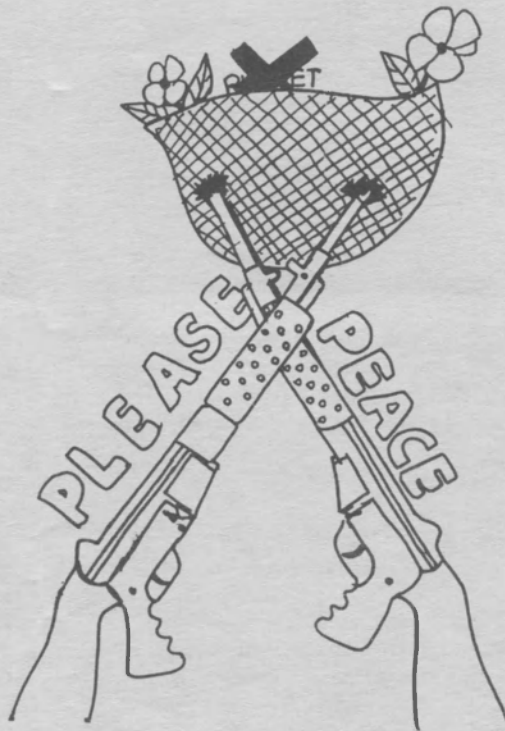
The end of his life
Was a great tragedy.

Darkness engulfed him
Like a blood-thirsty beast.
The philosophy of life,
The beauty of the world,
The asthetic values,
All were blotted out
In heaven and
On earth.

Once....
His eyes were bright
Like a star in the pitch-dark night.
His goodwill flowed
Not for himself
But for his country,
His people.
He hoped for nothing.
He who generously gave of his life,
Was only an ordinary private.

What a sad pity!
He will never know
That his eyes have become
Invaluable gems
Deposited in a Swiss Bank.

Moe Thi Zun



LABOR NEWS

A Letter of Appeal made on October 31st, 1988

"The All Burma Federation of Workers Union, including workers, teachers, doctors, scientist, technicians, artists, lawyers, government employees and intellectuals of all levels appeals to all countries which respect democracy and human rights to help end suppression in Burma by the so-called People's Army and to help restore democracy."

In the above letter, the ABFWU declared that the Ne Win government was guilty of:

1. Systematic killings of innocent and unarmed students and people.
2. Shooting of doctors, red cross workers and even monks.
3. Stamping on and destroying religious flags, red cross flags and photographs of our late national leader Bogyoke Aung San
4. Destruction of corpses and bodies of even those who were not totally dead by burning them up so as to make them unrecognizable.
5. Arrest of demonstrators and making them go through all kinds of torture.
6. Dismissing workers who had taken part in peaceful demonstrations from their jobs.
7. Government employees from all departments throughout the country were forced to sign a pledge promising not to demand democracy and even not to talk about democracy with each other.
8. Suppression of the freedom of press and expression, and the publication of fabricated news and other items by the government controlled newspaper.
9. Committing all kinds of crimes, like killing, robbery, mugging by the soldiers with the backing of the military.

Because of these and many other terrible conditions, the people of Burma are suffering deeply in various ways. This includes suppression by the military government, loss of relatives and loved ones murdered by army men, anxiety for one's children

and students who are now in various border areas, drop of individual earnings and for some, even starvation, worrying about future bloodshed, loss of human rights all over the country and snuffing out of the flickering flame of democracy.

The letter said the ABFWU believes that the reasons creating the present situation are mismanagement and selfishness of the leaders, deprivation of genuine education and knowledge, abuse of power, application of oligarchy and use of force as a substitute in place of people's belief in the system. Therefore as long as the army is in power, we will simply live under another form of dictatorship with a new name, even after the so-called free and fair elections.

The letter further appealed to the international family of nations to declared that they condemn the acts of the current military government which is destroying the Burmese people's human rights, and that they fully support the Burmese people who are participating in peaceful actions for democracy. They further called for action from the international community to carry out economic sanctions against the military government, and to create political pressure in order to guarantee that free and fair elections will be held.

During last year's uprising against the military dictatorship, almost all of the government employees, even workers from the BSPP (Burma Socialise Program Party) office, joined with the students and people to call for freedom.

After the coup on 18th September 1988, several hundred workers who took part in demonstrations were dismissed from their jobs or transferred to other towns. In May of 1989, when the military regime raised the salary of the government workers by about 400%, many of the part-time government employees, especially port workers, were automatically dismissed from their jobs. At the same time, all government employees were forced by the military to sign a statement which said, "I will never take part in any demonstration. I will never talk about politics and I will follow the orders of the military regime." They were also reportedly forced to write on paper all their involvement in the 1988 uprising. Sources from Rangoon say they have had to fill out these forms at least 3 times since the coup.



CASINO - IS IT TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

On December 18 the Bangkok Post reported that "an agreement has been signed between Thai businessmen and Burmese authorities to set up a casino on a Burmese island on the Ruak River in the Golden Triangle." Mongkol Jongsuthanaminee, an MP from the Solidarity Party apparently made this report to the newspaper.

The newspaper article further stated that Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Prapass Limpabandhu and Chiang Rai governor Banasith Salabsaeng were present at the signing. Interior Minister Pramarn Adireksam was also reported to have confirmed the casino plan.

The island which will host the casino, a 100-room hotel and a golf course is in Burmese territory which is controlled by Khun Sa who is one of the best-known drug lords in the area. Being in a sense a no-man's-land, we wonder who, if anyone, will attempt to control the flow of heroin through this complex, and if any attempts will be made to prevent the casino and hotel from becoming Burma's first brothel to welcome in the tourist dollars.

Some officials were quick to deny the casino plan. U Nyunt Swe, Burmese Ambassador to Thailand issued a statement on the following day (Dec. 19) claiming that there had never been a plan to build a casino and that gambling in any form is illegal in

Burma. Deputy Foreign Minister Prapass also immediately stated that he "has nothing to do with the activity or whatever process of the matter." (Bangkok Post, December 19.)

We wonder what is truly going on inside Burma. A few months ago the newspapers reported that the American company, Coca Cola had signed an agreement to produce and distribute its products in Burma. When the ABSDF protested this, the Coca Cola company immediately denied that they had signed such a plan. Yet, the Working Peoples' Daily of Burma showed a picture of a representative of the American company actually signing the deal.

These companies should not be afraid to openly say what they are doing in Burma if they truly believe that their investments are for the good of the Burmese people and nation. The fact that they contradict themselves so often indicates that they do not have the well-being of Burma in mind. They should realize that the Burmese people are not so easily tricked.

So the issue of the Coca Cola company, and the casino still remain unclear. However, Thai MP Mongkol still insists that a casino is included in the project.

ECONOMIC NEWS

A well-known Thai logger, Prateep Jeerakitti has won a three-year teak logging concession in Burma. He will be allowed to ship more than 50,000 tons of teak out of Burma each year of his contract. (The Nation, December 18, 1989)

"Foreign oil companies are putting pressure on the Burmese military regime to adopt reforms to end its economic recession, a Rangoon-based diplomat said Tuesday.

"A diplomat said foreign oil companies which won oil concessions in the unexploited country had the greatest interest in future investment. He added that tourism and simple manufacturing were bright prospects in the nation of 41 million people with its high literacy rate of 78 per cent."

The Nation, December 14, 1989

The Amoco Corporation and the Unocal Corporation of the US have been moving ahead with their plans for oil exploration in Burma. They are two of the 8 foreign oil companies which have already been given contracts by the military regime in Rangoon. (see "Dawn" #20 for a complete list)

We continue to protest these investments in our country, and call on all friends around the world to boycott these companies and to call for them to withdraw from our land until a truly democratic government has been established by the people.

Following the military coup in September of 1988, the military regime had little money in their reserves to continue their repression of the popular people's call for democratic reforms. Now, due to investments by foreign companies and countries, the military regime is reported to have over US\$200 million in foreign exchange reserves.

If this money were being used to develop the health and education of the Burmese people, we would not feel so strongly about the issue. However, the daily life of the people has gotten worse despite this increase in foreign reserves.

The fact is, this money is never intended to reach

the people. As these companies make their payments to the Saw Maung regime, that dictatorial regime simply invests in more and bigger weapons. These weapons can never bring about democracy in Burma. Instead, they are designed to defeat democracy and the Burmese people.

These investments must end. Large corporations always tend to put their own profits ahead of the true interests of the people, and therefore we do not expect them to listen to our call to withdraw. However, we have faith in people's power. If enough people make their voices heard - if enough people boycott - these companies will finally have to listen to popular demand.

"Mr. R.L. Blanton, President of the Amoco Myanmar Petroleum Company from the United States of America that signed a Production Sharing Contract for a joint venture for onshore oil and natural gas exploration in Block 'B' of the Union of Myanmar, gave a return dinner in honour of Rear-Admiral Maung Maung Khin Minister for Energy and for Mines. Also present at the dinner were personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Planning & Finance, Ministry of Information Office of the Attorney-General and Office of the Auditor-General, US Ambassador to Myanmar Naing-Nean Mr. Burton Levin, and officials of the Amoco Myanmar Petroleum Company."

(Working Peoples' Daily, November 12, 1989)

"Dawn News Bulletin" is somewhat shocked with this news. The US Ambassador to Burma has always spoken out against human rights abuses in our country, and has avoided some government functions in the past to express this protest. Is there a change in policy of the US towards our country? Do they now believe, as do many other countries, that the human rights situation has improved so much that it is alright to invest in exploitation of Burma's natural resources against the wishes of the Burmese people? Economic investments in Burma are not simply economic issues. These are political issues because they directly affect the human rights of the Burmese people!

Minister Rear-Admiral Maung Maung Khin who attended the party hosted by Amoco Myanmar Petroleum Company which was also attended by US Ambassador to Burma, Mr. Burton Levin, is well known to the Burmese people. During the up-rising in 1988, he is reported to have ordered troops to fire on unarmed demonstrators. Now he is selling off Burma's resources. Since the Burmese people do not benefit from these business deals, it seems that he is still ordering the death and suffering of the innocent.

MILITARY AID TO SAW MAUNG

The following informaton was collected from several articles which the ABSDF has been given recently. Although the exact source of the articles has not been given, independent sources confirm the information and therefore we share it here with you.

Fritz Werner, West Germany

The Fritz Werner company was set up in Burma in 1953 by the Burmese government when political disorder threatened their position. It is wholly own by the West German government and is under the jurisdiction of the West German Ministry of Economy.

By 1957, with the assistance of the West Germany Arms company Heckler and Koch, Fritz Werner established their first factory on the outskirts of Rangoon (northern part), and produced G.2 (Gun 2), G.3 (Gun.3) and G.4 (Gun.4) rifles, 7.62mm and 9mm small arms ammunition and a range of explosives including Claymore mines and mortar shells up to 81mm.

With these weapons, the military has oppressed the Burmese people and ethnic minority groups since 1962, when Gen Ne Win staged his military coup. During the 1988 uprising, over eight thousands people were killed by these weapons.

This factory is supervised by German engineers from the German Technical Corporation Agency (GTZ) who are expert in the manufacture of weapons and explosives.

Not only does the Fritz Werner Co. produce the vast majority of armaments required by the Burmese military, they also handle all importation of raw materials, machine parts, and chemicals for explosives, which come mainly from Belgium, Sweden, Singapore and also England, Pakistan and Israel. All of them are willing to turn a blind eye to the consequences of their trade of death in order to keep up their export sales in a declining world arms markets.

The Burmese economy was in the 1950's second in Asia only to Japan in wealth and prosperity. By the 1980's Gen Ne Win's economic policy, the "Burmese Way to Socialism" or as some critics labelled it, "Military Mismanagement", had run the country into a state of poverty and depression to the point that Burma qualified under the U.N's Least

Developed Country status. To remedy this problem the Burmese government once again turned to the Fritz Werner company to sort out the economic problem by forming a joint venture with the Burmese Ministry of Heavy Industry. They carried out import-substitution schemes such as glass and tire manufacturing and brought in the technology to make basic machine tools e.g bench drills and lathes. The limited success of this joint venture has only been possible thanks to a loan of US \$500 million that has been supplied by the West Germany government since the 1960's. This includes US \$65 million West Germany had given Burma in 1987 which was split into \$15 million in technical grant and the remaining \$50 million for "capital goods imports". Even with this money, many of the joint ventures were closed down for want of spare parts and raw materials which leads one to question where the foreign exchange went to. The West German involvement in Burma was always a highly kept secret until 1988 when greater political awareness arose to the true situation. Due to pressure brought upon the West German government by the horror of the September 1988 coup, they became one of the outspoken critics of the Burma regime. This involved the suspension of development co-operation activities with Burma which included negotiations regarding the debt cancellation (W.G Cabinet June 1988).

The West German Government also claimed that export authorization of arms to Burma had stopped. Despite denial from the West German government that the Fritz Werner Co. was no longer participating in the production of weapons and explosives (124th Parliament Session, 15th of Feb 1989) and that technical co-operation had been reduced to a minimum, the fact remains that to date the manufacture of explosives and weapons continues and three employee of the GTZ remain in the country, their true of field of expertise being kept secret.

The only effect the West German government stand had on the Fritz Werner company, apart from the angering its Directors so much that they considered suing the government for breach of contract, is a reduction in the production of ammunition.

As one diplomat noted the Fritz Werner company stands by itself and their joint venture is just something that has grown out of a very personal relationship between them and the powers that be (Gen Ne Win and his son Myo Wai Win).

This personal relationship has preserved Gen Ne Win's government's position over the insurgents and lined the pockets of a small group of German businessmen. This group includes Joachim Feist of Fritz Werner, Fritz Schlemmer a pharmaceutical salesman and Siegfried Otto, the chairman of Giesecke and Devrient group of companies.

The other side of West German government assistance to Burma is the importation of Burma's natural resources which the Burmese government is desperately selling off wholesale to bring in much needed foreign exchange. In the last five years the Burmese Five Star ships have exported a number of elephants and thousands of tons of teak-wood to West Germany.

In 1987 the Burmese government stated that the defence budget took 50% of all foreign exchange. Other observers of the government believe that the it is much higher than this figure. Since then the defence budget has risen from 1.7 billion Kyats to 2 billion Kyats while the domestic economic situation has declined even further. By now, starvation is rife throughout the poor urban areas of the major cities. One family in the suburb of Thakayta just out of Rangoon reportedly became so desperate that the

father made his 3 children and wife drink herbicide then committed suicide himself.

In the past the Fritz Werner Company supplied nearly all military requirements of the Ne Win regime and the West Germany government paid the bill. This very supportive role of the military regime was kept completely secret until 1988. At this point West Germany suddenly became a big critic of the Burmese regime as if they did not know how many Burmese people had already died at the hands of the oppressors--hands that were holding West German weapons.

Now, the West German government demands political and economic reforms, yet they still supply, through indirect means, their own armaments factory with technological expertise, chemicals for explosives and parts to make machines which produce weapons. The only difference being they no longer foot the bill. Instead they supply foreign exchange by allowing the West Germany companies to import teakwood and other Burmese natural resources thereby increasing the ecological catastrophe and providing economic incentives for the total annihilation of Burma's ethnic races! When will it end!?

Without the help of the West German assistance the military dictatorship in Burma which has a history of human atrocities against their own people would have dried up years ago.

"War weapons do not grow naturally. They are produced by human beings for the sole purpose of destroying life. Those who produce these weapons and help pay for them, even if a continent away, bear the responsibility for the suffering and death which their investments create."

A victim of a military offensive



Troops patrolling Rangoon streets.

AP PHOTO

SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS

Logging in Burma

Sir: I have read that Thailand's forests have been decimated to the point of no return. Now Thailand with the help of the Burmese junta is going to do the same to Burma. Burma's forests contain 80 per cent of the world's remaining teak. But I'm told at the rate it is being cut that the teak forests will be depleted within 10 years.

We, in America, have begun to boycott products made from teak or hardwood products labelled "Made in Thailand." I am urging Thailand to suspend all timber trade with the Burmese military government until forest conservation, and protection of the environment and indigenous rights can be ensured and verified.

Gayle Alexander
Bangkok Post, December 19, 1989

"Fifty-two US Congressmen have urged the world community including Thailand to freeze aid for Burma until a free and fair election is held. The group was led by Congressmen Stephen Solarz and Dana Rohrabacher. They asked Thailand to freeze aid to Burma until free and fair elections were held, which they thought was unlikely as prominent opposition leaders such as Aung San Su Kyi were still under house arrest."

Bangkok Post, December 5, 1989

"Thirty-eight Japanese parliamentarians submitted a petition to the Burmese Embassy yesterday protesting the Southeast Asian nation's crackdown on a pro-democracy movement and urging it to hold free elections.

"In a statement, the legislators said they "are deeply concerned about the military's suppression and murder of those who were demonstrating for democracy, freedom of speech and the enforcement of general elections next year."

Bangkok Post, December 23, 1989

ACTION-ACTION

1. Write letters to the editors of the Bangkok Post, 3rd Floor, U-Chuliang Building, 968 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500 Thailand, and to The Nation, 59 Soi Saengchan, Sukhumvit 42, Bangkok Thailand expressing your concern about Thailand's role in the exploitation of Burma's natural resources which are only benefiting the military dictatorship in its repression of the people's struggle for justice and full human rights.

2. Write, call, telex or fax the Amoco Corporation, Martin G. Pranga, Director of Foreign Affairs, 200 East Randolph Drive, PO Box 87703, Chicago, Ill. 60680-0703, FAX (312)856 3155, TELEEX 25-3731, TELEPHONE (312)856 4976 urging them to withdraw from Burma until a democratic government is finally established through truly free and fair elections. Find out what products the Amoco Corporation produces, and begin a boycott of all these products.

3. Write to Mr. Roberto Goizueta, Chief Executive Officer, Coca Cola Inc., 310 North Ave. N.W. Atlanta, Ga. 30301, USA. Asking them if they are indeed investing in Burma, and if so urging them to end this investment immediately as it only funds an oppressive military regime which continues to arrest, torture and kill innocent people.

4. Select one or more of the people sentenced by the military tribunals, and begin a letter campaign to Gen. Saw Maung, SLORC Headquarters, Rangoon, Burma. Demand that they immediately be released. Priority should be given to those with death sentences, or with long prison terms of hard labor. Please remember, these people were tried by courts made up of military men rather than people with legal training, and they did not have the right to a lawyer. Send copies of your letters to "Dawn".

THE BIRTH OF ANARCHY

On the 29th of August 1988, the All Burma Students' Federation of Burma received a letter from an army officer who asked that his name not be used. The letter said that on the 23rd of August, at Gen Ne Win's residence, an emergency meeting was held and an emergency committee called the Anti-strike Committee was formed. The committee elected Ne Win as chairman, Sein Lwin as secretary and Dr Maung Maung as joint-secretary. U Tun Tin, Gen Saw Maung, Gen Kyaw Htin, San Dar Win, Thaw Dar Win, Kye Hmone Win, all ministers and 14 top military leaders attended the meeting as members.

The letter said the following decisions were made in the meeting:

The first objective of the Anti-strike Committee is to put a wedge between the people and students and the second objective is to assassinate top student leaders.

To achieve the first objective, members of all military intelligence units will be assigned to various parts of Burma. Their duty is to carry out terrorist acts and create anarchy inside the country and fear in the hearts of the people. The masses will become so frightened that they will request the government for help. Besides, the people will think that such an anarchic situation is the outcome of the multi-party system.

To achieve the second objective, the military intelligence agents will be organized to prepare a hit-list of the political leaders who are advocating a multi-party system under democracy. They are to be earmarked for assassination.

The operation will be implemented in 3 phases:

Phase 1 will cover the period when Dr Maung Maung is in power. At that time the army, led by Gen Saw Maung, will stage a coup. The people will be so frightened because of terrorist acts and anarchism inside the country, that they will request the army for help.

Phase 2 will cover the period after the formation of the interim government and during the time when the referendum for a one-party system or a multi-party system will be held. At that time, the

army will stage a coup depending on the people's demand.

Phase 3 will cover the period when general elections are held. The army must make a coup in this period if the army has not made a coup in phase 1 and 2.

After the coup, the army will kill the student leaders, lawyers, strike leaders and actors. After that they will arrest demonstrators whose pictures appear in photographs taken secretly by the military during the demonstrations.

In summary the letter said "We believe that to achieve our goal, the most important point is the army. That is why all of the commanders must closely and continuously watch all of their soldiers and if they show signs of being against us, we need to arrest them first.

This letter also appeared in the Nation Newspaper on the 7th Sept, 1988.

I would to explain how the military intelligence units made terrorist acts and anarchy inside the country before the coup on the 18th of Sept, 1988.

On the 26th of August 1988, at 3:30 am, two Toyota pick-up trucks carrying 8 members of the military intelligence were checked by local security people at Babaedan township, No.10 ward at 19th street. While searching the cars, local security people found a whole stack of leaflets defaming Aung San Su Kyi and her British husband, Michael Aris. The leaflets contained crude drawings of the couple and slogans such as "Call your bastard foreigner and buzz off now!" and "Genocidal Prostitute!". Some hand grenades were also found inside the cars, one pistol together with ID cards showing that two of the riders were from the DDSI. One was corporal San Lwin and another one was ordinary soldier Phone Naing. Their group was led by Capt Si Thu from DDSI.

One of intelligence men from this group, Maj Nynn Lin was killed by the local security people in this area, because he tried to shoot the people. All of the rest were sent to "Thayettaw Monastery" where monks had set up a court and temporary prison next to Rangoon General Hospital. During their interrogation, they claimed that they had been sent by

the daughter of Ne Win, Sanda Win. They were arrested 6 hours before Aung San Su Kyi was going to give her speech outside the Shwe Dagon pagoda. One week later the students released all of them. Now, Capt Si Thu is working in the DDSI in a top role as a Maj Si Thu.

On the 26th of August 1988 at 8 am, a prison riot broke out in Insein Jail. Prisoners tried to burn down most of houses in the jail by using their cloths. While the prisoners were trying to make a fire, the staff from the jail tried to control the riot by shooting with guns from the central tower. At 11 am, the riot become quiet. According to eyewitness, about 30 prisoners were killed and about 80 prisoners were injured. After that, nearly four thousand prisoners from Insein jail escaped without food and money. Some of the staff of Insein Jail said that while the prisoners made a fire inside the jail, the staff asked the regional military for help. But they did not help. Jail staff said also that a few days before the prison uprising three inmates had even been quietly transferred from Insein Jail to Yay Kyi Aing. They are Tin Oo (MIS), his associate Bo Ni, and captain Kang Min Chol, the sole survivor of the North Korean bombing mission in Rangoon in 1983. After the prisoners escaped, they had nothing. The students, monks and people set up a temporary reception center at the central railway station to feed them and to prevent them from resorting to crime.

Simultaneously, similar riots occurred in 9 prisons in towns throughout the country and nearly ten thousand prisoners escaped. It was very strange because there are more than enough military troops in each town.

On the 3rd of Sept 1988, the Working People's Daily reported that "members of the Sangha (the Buddhist order of monks) yesterday stopped two suspicious-looking men near Mingun Kyaungtaik in Insein township. They fled, but one was caught and was found to be carrying a bottle containing a liquid. He reportedly claimed that it was a harmless chemical solution and he was made to drink it. He died soon after that."

On the 9th of Sept 1988, four men and one woman were caught outside a children's hospital on Halpin Road. After a rough interrogation, two of them confessed that the gang had tried to poison the water tank outside the children's hospital and they were released. The remaining three, Ma San, Po Kalar and Aung Soe, refused to say anything and the angry crowd beat them in the street and cut their heads off.

Public executions, mostly beheadings of suspected DDSI agents became an almost daily occurrence in

Rangoon. Many cases were reportedly against persons who tried to put poison in the water-pots and in the food, tried to make fires in the suburban wards at night and tried to plant time bombs. Most of them had been injected by the military intelligence with some kind of drugs which caused loss of sensation and mental ability. They did not do the crimes by their own wills. The DDSI arrested people and injected them with the drug, gave them some money and ordered them to create these problems. In one case, on the 9th of Sept, Ma San, 30 years old, was caught in Dawbon township in Rangoon, while trying to commit arson there. She had been released on 23rd August from Insein Jail, given some money by a DDSI officer and she had swallow some medicine before being sent out to set fire to houses in Dawbon. She said she did not know what kind of pills, but they made her "high" and unable to feel any pain. After interrogation, she was beheaded by the angry mob.

On the 25th of August at night, a truckload of armed soldiers had taken Kyats 600 million from the Burma Foreign Bank. On the 10th of Sept, the Custom Staff Union claimed that the military regiment No.33 led by Maj Kyaw Win arrived at their warehouse with a TE 11 truck on the 9th of Sept at 10:30am and had taken 3 motorcycles, a TV, video machine, cassette and bicycle and a total of about 250,000 kyats. Most of the cases of looting were started by the army. After the army finished their looting, the local people arrived. While they were taking what was left, the military arrived back and shot them. In the case of looting at the Institute of Medicine 1 and Basic Higher Education Department on Prome road opposite the Burmese Broadcasting Station, the military simply stood by and watched as the people took paper, books and chairs from the university.

These are only some of the cases which happened before the coup on the 18th of Sept 1988. Many more cases of terrorism and anarchism happened during this time.

Where they done with purpose?
Who created these cases?
Who is responsible for them?

On the 18th of Sept 1988, Gen Saw Maung, 59 years of age and Chief of an army of 186,000 men seized power, set up the "Peace Restoration Committee" and elected himself as chairman. He then publicly stated over the official Rangoon radio station that "In order to timely halt the deteriorating conditions on all sides all over the country and for the sake of the interests of the people, the defence forces have assumed all power in the state with effect from today."

After the military coup, over six thousand innocent demonstrators were killed by the armed forces (then called the Peace Restoration Committee or State Law and Order Restoration Council) all over the country. Almost all of them were student leaders, workers, opposition leaders and innocent people. About five thousand have also been arrested by the military (SLORC).

On the 18th of Sept 1989, one year after the coup, a Burmese Television Program showed a film about what they called 'the disturbances last year before the coup'. The film showed lootings and beheading of suspected DDSI agents. On the 3rd of Oct 1989, the government opened an exhibition on "Historic Records of the State" at the Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road. But, there were no pictures of the military shooting the people which is the true reality. One day, students painted with a spray gun on the road in front of U Wisara "Come and see Khin Nyunt's magic show".

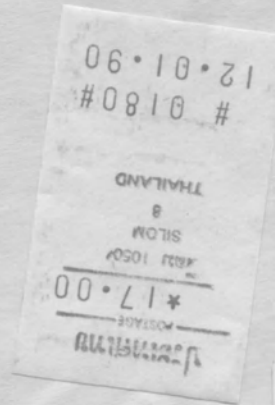
Ne Win has disgusting ideas and his son in law Brig-Gen Khin Nyunt (Chief of DDSI, and Secretary 1 of SLORC) has created those disgusting ideas into reality. They created the anarchy of last year such as poisoning the water supply, instigating the looting of the government houses, committing arson and beginning defamation campaigns against the opposition leaders and then they blamed it all on the people.

They also created the trouble between the different religions and also different ethnic groups. We have already reported some of these events in our "Dawn" News Bulletin No.19.

Even within our ABSDF, some DDSI agents have reportedly been and others most certainly still remain. They are used to destroy the unity of the our students.

In November of this year, SLORC announced that they will hold the elections on the 27th of May 1990. They have already carried out Ne Win's disgusting ideas such as arresting the opposition, banning legally registered opposition parties, keeping martial law, banning people from gathering in groups larger than four, curbing free speech, ending all free publishing and making defamation campaigns against the opposition leaders through the State's own official newspaper, the Working People's Daily. They have also distributed leaflets and cartoons, especially about Aung San Su Kyi.

They only want to hold the power and do not care to see the country progress. More of Ne Win's disgusting ideas will become reality if the people around the world continue to ignore the demands of the Burmese people for economic and political isolation of the Saw Maung government so that their hunger for freedom, human rights and democracy can at last be realized.



AIR MAIL

Ms. Lucy Komisar
100 West 12th St.
New York NY 10011
AMERICA

PRINTED MATTER