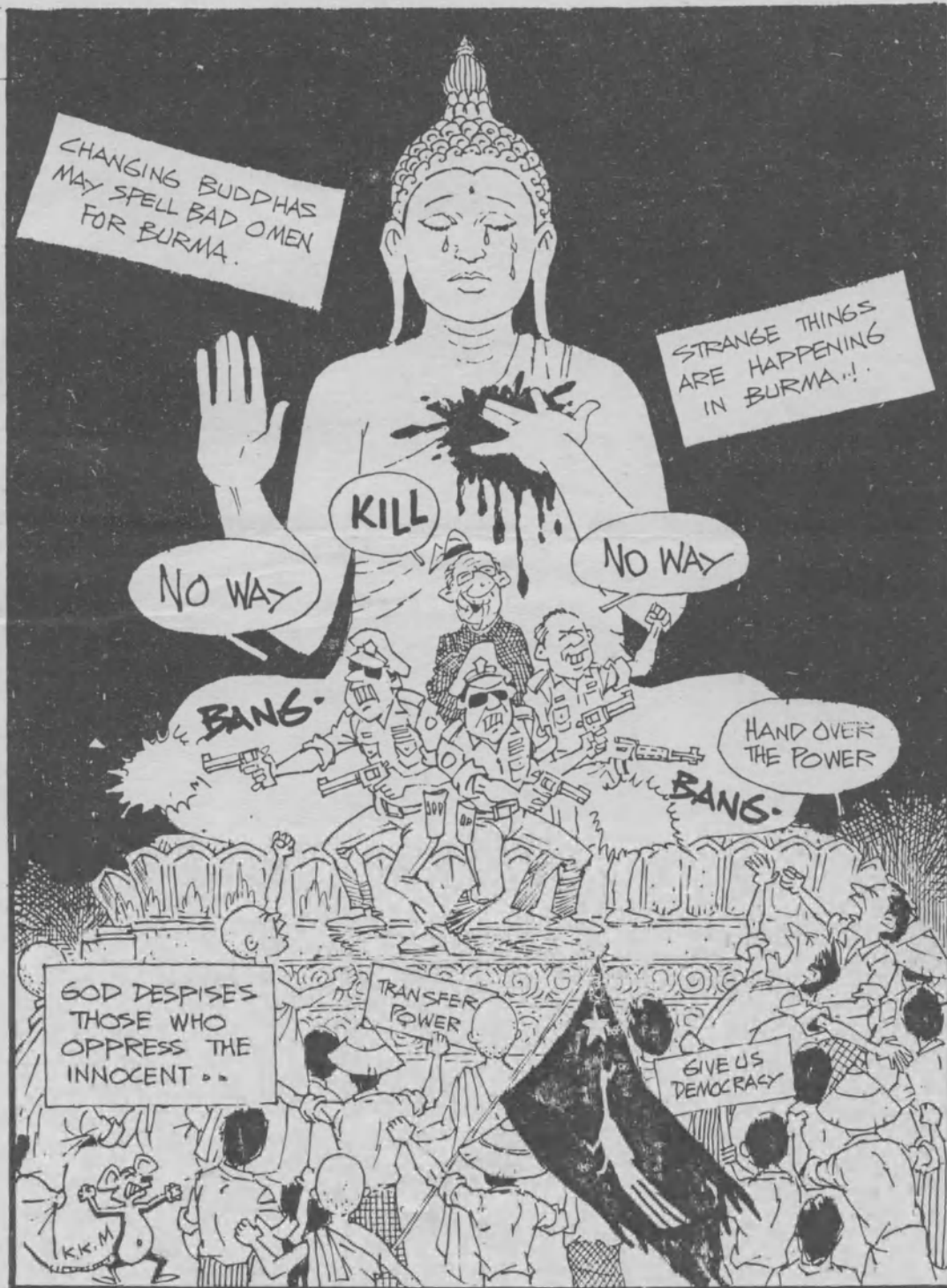


August 1990

Vol. 2 No. 16

## THE CRYING BUDDHAS





# DAWN

## NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE  
ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Vol. 2 No. 16

August

1990

### Who gives the orders?

Who sacrifices?

#### THE PRICE IS TOO HIGH!

On August 31, Rangoon military commander Maj-Gen Myo Nyunt announced that 28,500 Burmese troops were killed and 50,000 wounded within the past two years of their military operations against the Karen at Mae Ta Waw, and against other Burmese ethnic resistance in the Shan State.

The ground troops of the Burmese military are estimated to be 80,000 fighting men. With a total of 28,500 killed, and another 50,000 wounded, they have had to almost totally replace their ground troops within the past two years. All of this just to take a little land which traditionally belongs to the Karen.

The price is high, too high. The soldiers who sacrificed their lives are, for the most part, young and poor. They need work. Their families need money to pay for food, rent and other necessities. Using the poor economic situation of the country as a tool, the military attracts these young, poor youth to serve as their cannon fodder by offering good salaries, at least good compared to what they can earn in other jobs.

With an armed force which is loyal only because of serious financial needs, the military leaders send them in waves, caring little how many lives are sacrificed. The leaders of course, sit back in safety, raking in the profits of the logging trade which these military offences open up.

The benefits to the military leaders -- pockets stuffed with money earned from the sale of teak and other resources. The benefits to the common soldiers -- absolutely nothing but hardships and death.

The people of Burma do not want to fight each other. The present civil war is only the tactic of the military to divide the people so that the military can retain a complete control over the country.

The tremendous number of lives which SLORC is willing to throw away for nothing indicates how little they really care for the people of Burma. Their interest is only their own power and their own economic gain. This is what the people of Burma are fighting against, and this is what friends throughout the world can help put an end to. Economic and political isolation of this military junta is a move towards recognizing the basic human rights of the people of Burma.

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

## REPORT FROM INSEIN PRISON

The following report was received from inside Burma, giving another stark example of how SLORC is trying to force the people into submission. However, the report also indicates the tremendous spirit which those in prison still keep alive, and it is this spirit which will finally bring an end to the military regime and peace to Burma.

Torture and suppression of detained students at Insein Prison (on the outskirts of Rangoon) have increased alarmingly as of the 2nd week of April.

It has become apparent that SLORC has singled out students as their main enemy. Thus students are being arrested without any charge and are brought to the military tribunals where they are arbitrarily sentenced to 3 years, or up to 8 years imprisonment.

The arrested students are hand-tied and blindfolded before being taken before the military tribunals. They have no right to self defense. After sentencing, they are usually tortured severely. Yet they continue fighting for their rights.

March 13 marked the 2nd anniversary of the death of former Rangoon University student, Ko-Phon-Maw in 1988. His death triggered the widespread student revolt and agitation for democracy. On this 2nd anniversary, student prisoners in Insein staged a hunger strike. The students who organized this hunger strike were later put in solitary confinement. Still undaunted, on March 27, the student-prisoners shouted anti-military junta slogans and observed the

45th anniversary of anti-facism. Following this incident, the student-prisoners have been forbidden to speak to each other nor can they eat and walk together.

Earlier, in January of this year, many students were transferred from Insein prison to Tha-Ya-Wa-Di prison. Among this group, 94 were tortured severely for five consecutive days. The warden of this prison, U Bo Kyi, supervised this torture. Later he was promoted to chief jailer and transferred to Insein Prison. U Bo Kyi was later awarded with the Kyaw-Thu-Ra title according to announcement No. 22/90. This award was made public in the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, the only official newspaper in Burma, of April 14.

It is reported that U Bo Kyi has ordered his staff to use torture on the prisoners, but to use a kind of torture which will show no scars. He is urging his men to use torture and not to worry if the victims die, as long as there is no scar for evidence. He has sworn to torture a student to death as an example, and has repeatedly shouted at students that if they do not behave, they will be leaving the prison on their backs rather than on their feet!

## ECONOMIC NEWS

"A new company to watch is Myanmar Economic Holdings Co Ltd, established earlier this year by Rangoon's military regime with a registered capital of Kt10 billion (about US\$1.5 billion at the official exchange rate). What's unusual about this creature? Only military personnel have been invited as shareholders in the "private" firm, whose mandate is far from clear.

In an apparently related development, officials decided to grant a tax holiday (with a May 15

deadline) on declared income and earnings not explainable as "legitimate" income. The amnesty attracted some 28,000 people -- many of them reportedly military personnel -- with total "illegitimate" earnings of Kt5 billion. *Insight's* guess? They may have been declaring their ill-gotten gains for investment in Myanmar Economic Holdings."

From *Insight Indochina*  
June 20, 1990

## REPORT FROM GENEVA

In August, the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, met in Geneva Switzerland for their 42nd session. Several papers were presented on the situation of the ethnic minorities in Burma, and DAWN would like to share small portions of some of these papers with our readers. We appreciate deeply the strong support which many organizations are giving to those who are suffering the most in Burma, and we feel certain that one day soon the human rights of all the people in Burma will be realized.

### World Conference on Religion and Peace

"General elections were held in Burma on the 27th May of this year, when the opposition party, the National League for Democracy or NLD, won more than 80% of the seats, and the military backed party, less than 3%. Now, almost 3 months later, there is no sign that the ruling military regime, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC, is taking concrete measures to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people. The strict limitations which the SLORC has placed on a constituent assembly, more fully described in the ICJ's intervention, and the requirement that the resulting constitution must be endorsed by the SLORC, reduce the drawing up of a constitution to an exercise in window-dressing"

"Mr. Chairman, these election results and the failure of the SLORC to transfer power, deprive the regime of any internal legitimacy they may have claimed. As for external legitimacy, the current practice of the international community, to recognize states rather than governments, means that the recognition of Myanmar by the UN is in no way an approval or legitimation of the military regime."

"The army's recent actions and statements suggest that they are retreating from the democratic course they had undertaken, and intend to delay handing over power, perhaps indefinitely. There is great danger that such a delay will lead to increasing frustration among the people, as illustrated by recent clashes where several people were killed."

"With regard to this war, now in its 42nd year, the ethnic groups, under the umbrella of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, or DAB, are calling for a cease-fire and political negotiations towards a federal union of Burma, along the lines of the Panlong agreements of 1947. The SLORC, however, is seeking a military victory."

This statement is made on behalf of:  
World Conference on Religion and Peace  
International Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Article 19  
World University Service

### Anti-Slavery Society

"Two years ago this Working Group was assured by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Burma, Mr U Mya Than that:

*In Burma, it is not only through the enforcement of law that we ensure the respect for human rights. It is more than that. It is also by traditions and customs....*

Regrettably, the Anti-Slavery Society is compelled to state that this fine rhetoric has not been supported by governmental actions that further the cause of human rights in what was, and justifiably, known as the "rice bowl of Asia". It is not entirely scurrilous to note that Burma is increasingly becoming known as the "rice hole of Asia" to the majority of its indigenous peoples. Currently, Burma's foreign debt stands at around US\$5 billion, the country enjoys Least Developed Country status yet continues to squander money on an internal and avoidable war against its own people. More deaths have been caused by the army in Burma, whose population numbers some 38 million, than occurred in Beijing's Tianamen Square. Curiously, the latter caused more international condemnation and concern."

"On 27 February this year the Burmese Representative assured the Commission on Human Rights that:



*Anything being done in Myanmar is in strict accordance with the laws of the land. The government is looking forward to the day when they would be able to hand over power to the duly elected government.*

The military regime in Rangoon has been in a position to do that since last May when it was overwhelmingly defeated by the National League for Democracy. Yet it took over a month for the election commission to confirm the poll result and the most popular political figure in the country, Aung San Suu Kyi, is still suffering the house arrest imposed on her before and during the election."

"In order, at least ostensibly, to replenish its national coffers, the military dictatorship has sold huge teak logging concessions to the Thais, who have felled all but a small percentage of their own tropical forests. The teak that is being logged is in Karen traditional homelands. It is a resource that has been managed efficiently and ecologically. It is also a resource that has helped to finance the Karen's opposition to Rangoon. Now, if the emerging Rangoon-Bangkok axis succeeds in winning the battle for teak, not only will the trees be destroyed, as they have been in Thailand, but the homelands of the Karen will finally be obliterated. It will not come as a surprise to this Working Group, for it is a familiar tale repeated endlessly wherever indigenous people depend on forests for their livelihood, that the agreement with the Thai timber companies was reached over the heads of the Karen people."

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#### International Human Rights Law Group

"The International Human Rights Law Group has been watching closely events in Myanmar since 1988. The new military government enacted, among others, laws and orders relating to the electoral process. Some of the new laws and orders violated internationally-accepted minimum standards for a free and fair election by grossly restricting freedom of speech, association and assembly. For example, Order No. 2/88 prohibited outdoor gathering of more than five people, and Order No. 3/90 required governmental review before television or newspaper access."

"The Law Group is gravely concerned with the lack of further progress since the elections. The SLORC has delayed unreasonably the peaceful process of transfer of power. The SLORC has demanded as a precondition to transfer of power the drawing up of a new constitution by the Pyithu Hluttaw subject to the approval of SLORC. The SLORC plans to set the timetable for convening of the Pyithu Hluttaw and a national conference to include participation of

those ethnic groups who will renounce armed conflict. Party leaders, including NLD leaders Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, and other political activists, still remain under house arrest, detention or imprisonment. Martial law still continues and further cases of arrest, detention or torture have occurred. Recent reports indicate that killings of peaceful demonstrators by the military continue."

"The press release issued with Declaration No. 1/90 by the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations on August 3, 1990 mentions that the SLORC "will not accept or tolerate any idea of interim government or a make-shift constitution." In addition, the Declaration appears to assume a suspension of the 1974 Constitution under martial law and grants to the SLORC continuing exercise of legislative, executive and judicial authority. The Declaration states that elected representatives of the people cannot get power "just because a Pyithu Hluttaw has come into being." For support, the Declaration refers to the independence period of Burma when a constituent assembly was formed to draw up a constitution prior to transfer of power through the granting of independence from the United Kingdom. To deny the rightful government authority of the elected representatives of the people by declaring the 1974 Constitution null and void flouts the rule of law and the universally-recognized standard that the authority of the people is the basis of government."

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Following is a part of the statement made by Ambassador U Aung Thant, Permanent Representative and Leader of the Observer Delegation of the Union of Myanmar.

"My delegation is not unaware of the allegations newly fabricated to the effect that the democratic process is too slow, that transfer of power is deliberately being delayed and what not. As I have explained at length, the fact of the matter is the democratic process in the Union of Myanmar is going ahead firmly, steadily and systematically. The precise momentum with which the process is going on may or may not be to the liking of certain observers, particularly to those who obviously have an axe to grind politically and economically. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, if any assurance is necessary at all, that the people and the government of the Union of Myanmar are determined to forge ahead towards building a truly democratic society and market oriented economy. They shall never waver from marching forward along the set course and at the set pace or momentum guided by their own history, culture and national circumstance. While we shall never be impervious to reason,

goodwill and wise counsel - no matter from which ever quarter they come, any attempt to dictate us or impose upon us as to how far, how fast and in what manner we should move forward politically and constitutionally will be highly undesirable, to say the least. For, it is a matter of life and death for a country. We know from our own experience that it cannot and should not be done lightly or easily or hastily."

"The general elections and the constitutional process to follow thereafter are only one instance where most well-conceived activities of the Union of Myanmar have been vilified with ulterior political motives."

"The implementation of our high priority plans for urban resettlement and city development, the war relentlessly waged by us against the menace of narcotic drugs, and a comprehensive programme of integrated rural development for remote frontier regions are conveniently forgotten by many."

"While on this subject, I must reiterate what my Delegation stated in the course of its intervention in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on 1st August. The individuals who represent no one but armed insurgents and terrorists are appearing more and more brazenly in and around this hall. Their source of finance, guidance and help, if revealed, should speak volumes about their true characters. Their presence here is the clearest manifestation of political motivation that underscores all the allegations against us. These individuals enjoy no support whatsoever even among the people whose cause they claim to be championing. My Delegation would like to lodge a strong protest here and now on record to the presence of these shady characters amidst us in the UN forums. It will indeed be a bounden duty and legitimate right of the government of the Union of Myanmar to suppress these insurgents so long as they are engaged in armed attack against the people, the government and the state."

## A FEW COMMENTS

A few comments need to be made, especially to the paper presented by U Aung Thant.

It is not only a few international organizations who are calling for a more speedy transfer of power to the elected government of the people. The Burmese people themselves, whom SLORC suggests they represent, have been calling for a swift transfer of power ever since they expressed their desires so clearly through the May elections. This desire for a new and representative government has been shown through continued street demonstrations, political meetings, and general distain for the martial law which covers the land. SLORC has attempted to quieten these voices through arrests, torture and even killings. However, the voice of 38 million people can not be silenced so easily.

The people of Burma are calling for SLORC to hand power over to the NLD NOW. for they have trust in their elected leaders - something they have never had in the military junta.

Concerning SLORC's "high priority plans for urban resettlement and city development", readers of DAWN should by now be well aware of what the people of Burma think of this kind of

"development". The people have suffered too much under these plans. Urban resettlement should not be forced on the people. Housing is a human right. To deprive people of this right in order to strengthen a power base, is a crime against the people. These programs are not forgotten by many as U Aung Than suggests. They are well known, and they have been condemned by the people of Burma as well as the international community.

A final comment must be made concerning the so called "insurgents" which U Aung Thant feels the SLORC must suppress. The "insurgents" are actually ethnic groups who have lived in Burma for many many generations, and who have their own unique way of life. They are not engaged in armed attacks against the people, the government nor the state. They are trying to protect their homeland from the destructive attacks of the Burmese military which would like to eliminate them in order to gain control of the rich natural resources in these lands.

These people surely have the right to life, and they surely also have the right to attend a UN forum where they can express their true situation and desires. This is what a UN forum should allow for otherwise, how can the truth ever be fretted out?

## THE CRYING BUDDHAS

Strange things have been happening in Burma.

On the 21st of August 1990, the NATION newspaper reported that "Changing Buddhas may spell bad omen for Burma".

The report mentioned that hundreds of pilgrims are flocking to sites across Burma where images of the Buddha are said to be showing mysterious signs believers say auger ill for the political future.

Reports say the images appear to bleed, weep or change in shape, persuading superstitious Burmese that their two-year battle of wits with the military government will not end happily.

Diplomats said the manifestations may simply be a climatic oddity but for Burmese, facing an army determined to keep power despite an opposition election victory three months ago, they are an unprecedented portent of ill.

"Burmese take it very seriously. They see it as the worst possible omen," said one diplomat.

They quoted eyewitnesses as saying images of Buddha in a temple of a town north of Mandalay had begun swelling last week and the phenomenon had spread to Rangoon and other cities. There was no clear scientific explanation for the swelling, said to appear in each image's left breast. In some cases the images- made of ivory, wood or marble- were reported to ooze fluid from the swelling or from the eyes, diplomats said.

We have also received reports of unbelievable things happening in Burma. Some of the Burmese dissidents in Bangkok have received letters or phone calls for their families or relatives in Rangoon and other towns of Burma saying that even the Buddha images in their homes bleed and weep suddenly. One of them said that the left breast of the Buddha image in their home was slightly swelled, and in other homes, the blood ooze from the fingers of the Buddha images and tears drop from the eyes of Buddha images.

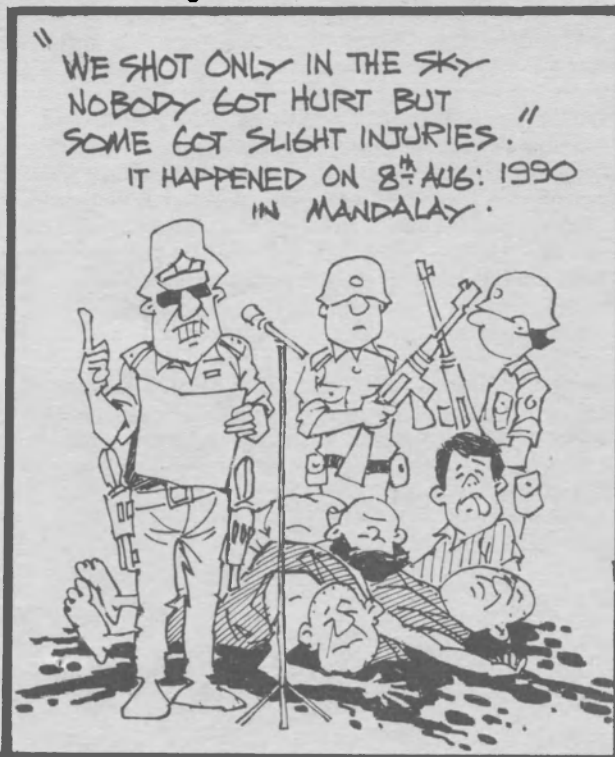
One Burmese dissident who recently arrived in Bangkok said he saw a Buddha statue cracked at the chest and some fluid oozing out from that area. Many people, even township SLORC, come to pray to these Buddhas. He said that when he looked at

the faces of the people at that time, all the people are surprised, say nothing and then return back to their homes. One of the Pagodas near Kyaitkasan play ground was swollen in the left shoulder. Some Buddha images were even cracked on 2 sides. This generally happens in the Buddha images make by jade.

This phenomenon has spread throughout the country and the people have become more worried about the future. The military authorities in the country have stopped giving news about this event.

Burma is a very religious country. 92% of the total population are Buddhist. In the whole country, pagodas and monasteries are in abundance.

This is not the first time something like this has happened in Burma. Two years ago, the Buddha image in Sula pagoda in Rangoon suddenly changed in shape. At that time, some monks said that "there will be something very bad happen." This was just before the uprising in Burma, 1988. A few day later, the reflection of Shwedegon pagoda appeared a few seconds above the sky of the Shwedegon pagoda. It was upside down. The people believe that these are signs of bad times ahead.





## AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was born on the 19th of June 1945 in Rangoon. She is the third child of Gen Aung San, Burma's national hero and Daw Khin Kyi, former Burmese ambassador in India. She was two years old when her father was assassinated on the 19th of July 1947. Like her father, she loves the nation, loves the nationalities, is honest and loves the truth.

She received her primary education in a convent school in Rangoon between 1949 to 1957. Then, from 1957 to 1960, she studied higher education in Metthadic School in Rangoon. In 1960, her mother was appointed as Burmese Ambassador to India. She had to go to New Delhi with her mother. In 1960-61, she continued her education in Jozat and Mary Convent School in India. In 1961-62, she studied political science in Lady Shri Ram College in New Delhi, where she always was at the top of her class.

Her mother continued to build up her political career at this time. Since she was young, she could observe and learn from her mother's diplomatic community.

In 1964-67, she furthered her studies at St. Hugh's College in Oxford and earned a BA in philosophy, politics and economics. In 1968, she worked as an Assistant Researcher at East and Africa Observation Department and Political Science Department in London University. In 1969-71, she worked for the United Nations Secretariat Office as an Assistant Secretary at the Administration and Religious Affairs sub-advisory committee.

In 1972, she married a British national, Dr Michael Aries, a research expert from Oxford University for Social and Cultural history of Buddhism (Mahayana), a renowned British Tibetologist. They have two child, Alazanda (a) Myint San Aung, 15 years old and Kin (a) Htin Lin, 10 years old. In 1972-73, they went to work in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan as research officers under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Thimpu and returned to Oxford in 1975.

In 1975-77, she worked in the Bodleyan Library in Oxford University to catalog Burmese books. In 1985-86, She worked as a research expert in the South-East Asia Observation Department in Kyoto University, in Japan.

In 1987, she did research in the Advance Research Political Science Department in Shimla University in India as a research expert. In 1987, she wrote a paper called "Between 1910-1940, the Burmese Intellectual and Literary traditions, new appearing and Nationalism" for the Department of East and Africa Research in London University.

While she was just starting a postgraduate thesis at the School of Oriental and Africa Studies in London in April 1988, her mother suffered a stroke. Her mother's condition was getting worse and worse, and she, her husband and her 2 sons returned to Rangoon in April 1988 to look after her mother. Unlike her mother, she had never been politically active. But she had regularly visited Burma, maintained her Burmese citizenship, and sent her sons to become novices in monasteries at home. She had also written a children's guide book to Burma in 1985 titled "Let's Visit Burma". She wrote a book, "UQP Leaders of Asia Series" also in 1984. In 1990, she wrote her 3rd book, "Burma and India, Some Aspects Of Intellectual Life Under Colonialism" which was published by the Secretary (Administration and Finance) for India Institute of Advance Study, Shimla.

Unintentionally, she herself came to play an important role in that future. While the uprising was gathering force she had stayed neutral, but after the August 1988 massacre, pressure was building up that she should take an active role in resolving the crisis. Thousands of protestors had carried portraits of her father in demonstrations all over the country: his name was almost mythical and symbolized all that Burma was not but should be--free, democratic and prosperous. Aung San Suu Kyi continued the legacy of her father and appeared on the political stage in Burma in August 1988.

On the 26th of August 1988, she gave her first speech to the Burmese public at the Shwedagon pagoda and at least 500,000 people of all ages came to listen. She said to the people that "A number of people are saying I've spent most my life abroad and I am married to a foreigner. I could not be familiar with the ramifications of this country's politics. I wish to speak very frankly and openly. It's true that I've lived abroad. It's also true that I'm married to a foreigner. But these facts have never, and will never, interfere with or lessen my



love and devotion for my country by any measure or decree. People have been saying that I know nothing of Burmese, how devious Burmese politics can be and how much my father had to suffer on this account."

On the 27th of Sept 1988 after the military coup, she was elected as General Secretary of the National League for Democracy Party. Then, she travelled throughout the country where she received tremendous support from the people in the whole country. The results of the multi-party general elections, i.e. a landslide victory for the NLD, is proof how much the people support for her.

She was put under house for one year on the 20th of July 1989 by SLORC. She was charged with trying to weaken state power, putting a wedge between the army and the people, and disrupting stability in the country. Even after her prison term was extended on the 20th of July 1990, no official reason has ever been given for her detention.

The SLORC should understand that the more they harass her and try to stop her activities, the more the people will support her and the more angry they will become at SLORC.

## SUPPORT FROM FRIEND

Students in Kyoto University printed postcards with the script of opposition leader Aung San Su Kyi, secretary of NLD's Party which won 392 seats out of 485 in the cabinet in the first multi-party election, who is under house arrest since on the 21st of July, 1989.

With the address to General Saw Maung, it is urged that military regime has to make first step toward the transfer of power to the victorious NLD.

There are many creative ways in which people's consciousness can be sensitized to the suffering others. We thank the friends in Japan for all their hard and creative work.

今すぐスー・チー女史を釈放せよ!  
Release her RIGHT NOW!



彼女は民主主義への希望なのだから

Her name is "DEMOCRACY"

Yours respectfully,  
敬具 (署名)

Japan

Dear Sir,

I appreciate that your government allowed the people to vote freely in May 27th general election. However, your government has been rejecting dialogue with the NLD, the main opposition party, which won a landslide victory. And it shows no sign of releasing prominent opposition leaders including Aung San Su Kyi, the secretary-general of the NLD, who is still under house arrest. This clearly means your government obstructs the peaceful transfer of power, and ignores the will of the people who overwhelmingly support NLD.

Therefore, as a first step toward the transfer of power, I urge you to:

(Please turn over)

ソウ・マウン將軍閣下

私は今年5月27日総選挙で、貴政府が国民の自由な投票を許したことに感謝しています。しかし、総選挙で野党NLDが圧勝したにも関わらず、貴政府はNLDとの対話を拒否し、軟禁状態にあるNLD書記長スー・チー女史をはじめ、主要な野党指導者を依然として拘禁したままです。これは明らかに野党への平和的な政権委譲を妨害し、NLDを圧制的に支持するビルマ国民の意志を無視するものです。

したがって、貴政府の取るべき政権委譲への第一歩として、次のことを要求します。(裏へつづく)

TO:

General Saw Maung  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Ministers  
Yangon (Rangoon)  
Union of Myanmar (Burma)

## NEWS FROM THE BORDER

Date...12th August 1990

We have received information that new students have arrived to the some of our camps at the Thai-Burma border.

During the last 2 weeks, about 60 students from Ye, Mawlymane, Yowe, Mudon, Paung, Kyaitmayowe, Yaephu and Chaung Som in Mon State arrived at the Three Pagoda Pass camps. All of them are male and some are high school students and some are University students. Also 40 students arrived to the Minthamee camp and 80 students arrived to the Moe Thaung camp at the same time. They are from Pulaw, Margue, Tavoy, Kan Paut, Yae Phu and Laung Lonn in Tansserium Division.

Some of the students who arrived to these camps left from their home towns before the elections on 27 May 1990 and arrived to the villages near the border with Thailand 3 months ago while some left more recently. Now, all of them have already arrived at the 3 camps.

All of them have the same reasons for coming to the student camps at the border. They said that they have no safety in their homes. They can be arrested at any time. They can do nothing for the country. There is no freedom. If they do something for the country, then the SLORC authorities take action against them. There have been no changes since the elections. Beside, the situations is more worse and worse.

We received news that new students have also arrived at other camps, but we have not received detail information about them.

Humanitarian aid from international relief agencies is now crucial to us. We need more food, medicine and other supplies. We need to build more barracks for housing during the rainy season. We would like to call on relief agencies to give more humanitarian aid. We urge peace loving people to help us to end SLORC's military oppression in Burma.

### Border Situation:

The practice of forced repatriation has been applied against refugees along the Thai-Burma border secretly while the more publicized cases in Bangkok receive good consideration for human rights concerns because of media attention.

On the 5th of July 1990, at noon, 45 Burmese detained at Kanchanaburi prison were sent back by bus to Three Pagoda Pass opposite Sangkraburi.

In the group were 6 females (2 Mons, 1 Karen, 2 Tavoyans and 1 indian) and 39 males (7 Tavoyans, 29 Mons, 2 Karens and 1 Indian). They had been detained in Kanchanaburi prison for many months.

The bus was escorted by Thai BPP (Border Patrol Police) and it was driven directly to the Burmese military post in Three Pagoda Pass. It was met by a Burmese battalion led by Lt.Col. Thiha Thura Sit Maung which took over the area after the fall of the Mon headquarters last February.

The detainees were photographed and handed to the Burmese military officials. One Thai official said to the Burmese military officials through a translator, "We came here to hand over them as you have demanded before".

All people were thoroughly interrogated by Burmese soldiers and out of 45, 13 Mon females were conscripted as porters and dragged to the frontier line not far from Three Pagoda Pass.

Soe Paing, 23, a young Tavoyan who is an active member of the Tavoyan nationalist movement against the Rangoon regime was identified and beaten. He was severely tortured by the military soldiers and was sent to a medical clinic at Three Pagoda Pass.

At the clinic, he was helped by one villager to sneak back into Thailand on July 7, 1990.

All other males were sent to the front line to work as porters.

## THET OO

Thet Oo, an 18 year-old member of ABSDF from Three Pagoda Pass, camp 102, passed away at Sankhalaburi hospital on the morning of 13, August 1990, after suffering from sever malaria. He left from Manugn Nei-yet, Molemine after the 18th Sept 1988 military coup. He arrived to They Bow Bo camp and then went to Three Pagoda Pass during May 1989 where he suffered malaria several times while he was living in the camp.

He is a high school student from Moly mine. He was transferred to the Sankhalaburi hospital from the camp medical clinic by the medical staffs in his camp after he became too serious for them to treat. He was carried by boat about one and half hours, 30 minutes walking and a few minute by taxi to reach the hospital in Sankhalaburi from the camp.

After that, his body was carried to the Karen monastery and kept one day there. During this time, some monks and the students prayed for him according to the Buddhist law. His body was cremated in the Karen monastery by the his comrades.



## SLORC AND 8-8-90

In military press conference 102, the SLORC spokesman accused that Directive No 24 of the National League for Democracy Party is responsible for creating unrest on the 2nd anniversary of the "Four Eights" day (August 8, 1988 when mass uprisings began in Burma).

Following is a short note of Directive No 24 of the NLD that was mentioned by SLORC's spokesman in this press conference.

"The 8th of August, 1990 is the anniversary of the mass movement for democracy which began on 8 August, 1988. So, to remember this day, plans for holding ceremonies to commemorate the day are to be presented to State/Division organizing committees and ceremonies are to be held in townships where conditions are favorable. Ceremonies are not to be held in townships where condition are not favorable and instead statements sent by the headquarters are to be distributed to the members in honor of the "Four Eights" mass movement."

This statement was signed by U Chit Khaing, Secretary, Central Executive Committee, NLD. Directives were sent to State/Division/Township headquarters, central work divisions and central work committees.

The SLORC charged that making statements like, "do like this when conditions are favorable and do like that when conditions are not favorable to honor four Eights' mass movement", have deep meanings. According to SLORC, "If we think deeply, we can know that they amount to instructing their men to cause disturbances."

The SLORC complaint indicates that the person or party (NLD) is getting support from the people. On the 8th of August 1990, the people of Burma want to hold the 2nd year anniversary for the "Four Eights". It is not only a remembrance ceremony for 8-8-88, but also it shows that the people are still struggling against the military regime. We have not yet achieved a total victory in our struggle for freedom, human rights and democracy since 8-8-88.

## FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

On the 17th of August 1990, the "MMA FINANCO, INC, a wholly owned subsidiary of M. Marshall and Associates of the United State of America" signed a contract with Burma Fisheries Enterprise of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries in Rangoon for production, procession and marketing of offshore fish and marine products.

In the Notification No.19/90, dated 17th August, 1990 issued by the Ministry of Trade it was stated that the following persons from the Myanmar Fisheries Enterprise of the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries and MMA FINANCO, INC shall be the first members of THE MYANMAR AMERICAN FISHERIES COMPANY LIMITED:-

- (a) From the Myanmar Fisheries Enterprise of the ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries:  
Managing Director,  
Myanmar Fisheries Enterprise,  
Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries,  
Yangon.

- (b) From MMA FINANCO, INC, of the United State

Philip J. Rivkin  
Senior Managing Director,  
MMA FINANCO, INC.,  
M. Marshall and Associates  
United States of America.

The authorized capital of the company is Kyats 3,000,000, ( US \$ 428,571.43) divided into 600 shares of Kyats 5,000 (US \$ 714.28) each. Of the total shares of 600, 300 shares are held by the military regime and the remaining 300 shares are held by the MMA FINANCO, INC and shall be subscribed in foreign currency.

The MMA FINANCO, INC is the fourth America company that has invest in Burma. Two oil companies, Amocol and Unocal as well as Pepsi Cola, have already invested.



## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

A report was recently received from the ABSDF students from camp 102, who have gone to villages in the Mon territory for the rural development program.

On the 3rd and 7th of July 1990, about 200 fully armed Burmese military troops from regiment Nos. 61, 106 and 101 attacked a village called Ah-ru-taung in the northern part of 'Ye' township in Mon State, while about 20 students were living together with the villagers to help them. The Burmese military troops started to shoot with many artillery shells into the village at 13:00 hours and they stopped at 16:00 hours. After that, the students and the New Mon State members decided to leave the village, otherwise the whole village would be destroyed by the Burmese military. Only one student received an injury in his leg.

After the students and Mon left the village, the military troops occupied the village and set fire to 5 houses in that village. They ordered all villagers to gather in the monastery, and then, they destroyed the doors of the all houses in the village. After that they took everything from the houses, even clothing with a total value of about 308,000 kyats. One nurse in the village was threaten with a beating and the soldiers forcibly took off her earrings and necklace. Five of the Burmese soldiers were wearing ABSDF student uniforms when they entered the village and they changed their uniforms in the monastery.

On the 26th of August 1990, 120 Burmese military troops from 61 Infantry Regiment attacked Arutaung village in Mon State, while 30 students from ABSDF camp 101 and 102 were giving medical treatment and training to the villagers in this village.

In the early morning of 26th August, the military troops started to shoot with heavy artillery into the village until about noon time. Although many of the villagers tried to flee from the battle, many of them were wounded from the heavy shelling.

Five students from ABSDF-- Ko Paie, 28, from Molmein, ex-army soldier from Light Infantry Regiment 2 of Light Infantry Division 44, Khin Soe, 30 and Kyaw Soe, 28, worker students from Hin Thada town in Irrawaddy Division, Min Lu, 16, a high school student from Moulmein and Nynn Lin Aung, 20, 2nd year Math student from Rangoon University (Hlaing Campus) -- were killed by the military troops.

Three other students, Nay Myo Htite, San Ni and Ko Myat Soe were seriously injured and Ko Toe is missing.

The Burmese military is preparing for their dry season offensive which will start in a month or so. During this dry season, they will probably launch extremely brutal attacks against villages along the Thai/Burma border in an attempt to eliminate the ethnic minorities from the area.

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On the 11th and 13th of August 1990, two cargo ships, Myoma Ywa from 5 Star Shipping Company owned by the military regime, and a Chinese ship, arrived in Rangoon. According to a source from Rangoon, the two ships carried a lot of ammunition from China including rockets, launchers and many other war weapons. We do not know details about what kind of war weapons and how many were bought from China.

The source said many military trucks carried these ammunition to Mingaladon military base in Rangoon during curfew hours (between 10 pm to 4 am).

It is also reported that the Chinese government has sold F6 and F7 aircraft to the military regime this year. The military regime bought these war weapons shortly after they made contracts with several foreign oil companies. During the middle of October 1989, 23 high ranking military officers led by Army Commander-in-chief Lt-Gen Than Shwe went to China on a 12 day friendship mission.

The people in Rangoon are extremely angry with the military regime. The reason the military bought the ammunition from China is only to crush the people's desire for democracy. This totally ignores the demands of the people and is a threat against any possible move by the NLD and people.

Even after the election results were announced 3 months ago, the military continues to refused to transfer the power to the people's elected government.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Tin Than Oo, a member of the Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) was badly treated by the prison authorities and one of the ribs on the left side of his chest was broken. For this reason, the rib is suffering osteochondritis.

3 students from DPNS were sentenced to 5 years imprisonment each with hard labor by a military tribunal in Rangoon.

Zaw Myo Aung, 22 year-old, 4th year RIT student who was arrested on the 20th of August 1989 and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment with hard labor by a military tribunal in Rangoon and put in Insein prison, was tied to a chair and beaten by MI agents in Insein prison. He was accused by MI agents that he secretly wrote the letter to his friend who is outside the prison about the situation in the prison. After he was badly beaten, his hand was broken. He was not allowed to take proper treatment and cannot see anybody after that. Now, he has been put in a solitary confinement cell in Insein prison.

Recent reports from Rangoon mention that a total of 470 students in the whole country were arrested between 8-8-90 and 25-8-90. About 150 students from Mandalay were arrested by military authorities in Mandalay after continuous demonstrations on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of August 1990.

Reportly, 4 monks, one girl and one boy student were killed and many others received injuries after the military opened fire on 9 August 1990 in Mandalay. After that, most of the students in Mandalay have decided not to go to the schools. Many high schools have been closed down by military authorities.

Many of the high school student who were arrested are from Rangoon division, Monywa township, Pakutku township, Magew division, Maketilar township and Molemine township. Three high schools from Tawmwe and Latha township in Rangoon were closed down since 8-8-90. Many of the high schools in other townships were closed down also by military.

Name.....Mi Mi Thin  
Age.....23  
Education.....3rd year Physics, Rangoon University  
(Main) Father name.....U Than Myint  
Address.....No.222, 93 street, Kandawkalay,  
Mingalar Taungnyunt Township  
Date of arrest....during 2nd week of April 1990  
Cause of arrest...connection with the students at the  
border  
(the military did not mentioned  
this in the  
newspaper)  
Sentence.....3 years imprisonment with hard labor  
by  
military tribunal in Rangoon  
during 3rd week of  
April 1990  
Prison.....Insein prison (until 18th August)

### Short biography;

During the pro-democracy demonstrations in Rangoon, Mi Mi Thin was helping the All Burma Federation of Students' Union, financially. After the coup, 18th Sept 1988, she become a Central Committee member of ABFSU. Because of her

activities in ABSFU, she was arrested on the road by MI-7 agents at the beginning of April and she was questioned in their headquarters. She was released on the same day. But, after one week, she was arrested by military authorities at her house and they said to her parents that they just wanted to ask her some questions and they would send her back after a few hours. But, she did not come back to her house since that time. Her family received the news about her from a military authority that she was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment and her family can visit to the prison twice a month. Her mother has been suffering from a heart disease, so nobody gave her this news. I is known that she has been in Insein prison until 18th August, 1990.

## FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

We have received a report from Rangoon that one of the our ABSDF members, Dr Min Thein, from Saw Hta camp, opposite Mae Seriam Thailand, died on the 11th of June 1990 after ill-treatment by the military intelligence in Rangoon.

He arrived at the Thai-Burma border, Karen territory, Saw Hta camp after the military coup, 18th Sept 1988. He had served as a medical doctor and he had given basic medical training several times for some other students inside the camps and some Karen villagers. According to our strategy for rural development programs, he had to go to many villages, some are under the Karen control and some are not, to look after the health conditions of the villagers and give basic medical training for some villagers.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of the May 1990, he and about 20 other ABSDF members were confronted with Regiment No.8 of the Burmese army near Bilin town, while they going to villages for the rural development program. At that time, the 3 students from Sarim camp, Maung Myint Oo, Maung Soe and Than Tun were killed by the Burmese army, 5 students were seriously injured and Dr Min Thein was captured by the military.

On the 12th of June 1990, the Working People's Daily carried an announcement in Burmese by his family, concerning his death and burial. His family said he had been returned to his home in Rangoon by the Burmese military at the end of April. He was allowed to live at his home with no problems.

However, at the beginning of June 1990, the military intelligence came to his home and called him away for questioning. He was questioned at the Yae Kyi Aeing, military intelligence headquarters by MI agents. One week later, he was released and he said the military intelligence did nothing to him but ask questions and forced him to drink three bottles of water just before his release. One or two days after he was released from prison, he suffered from severe stomach pains. He asked to be taken to the hospital (Rangoon General Hospital) where he died on June 11.

His funeral was held on 13th of June. While his family were holding the funeral at Kyantaw cemetery, about 6 strangers arrived to the funeral with video cameras and took the pictures of his

funeral including his family and all visitors who attend the funeral ceremony. Nobody knows who they were or why they came, and they did not ask permission from his family to take the pictures.

He was 31 years old. He graduated from the Institute of Medicine (1) in 1988. His father's name is U Thein Tin, Director of the Survey Department. His mother's name is Daw Hla Ohn.

The following is the translation of his family's announcement about his funeral in the "Working People's Daily".

Dr Min Thein  
(M.B.,B.S)  
Age(31)

Son of U Thein Htay (Director of the Survey Department) and Daw Hla Ohn who live in Thuwasna, Thnthumar street, building No.3, Room No.4, Thingangyunn township, Rangoon, younger brother of Ma Tin Mar Htay, J.A.T, No 18 High school, North-West Mandalay and (Ko Kyaw Tin) and elder brother of Dr Win Thein (House Surgeon), Worker's Hospital in Rangoon, Maung Myint Thein(G.T.I), Insein, Ma Hla Hlay(3rd year Vet.) and Ma Mya Mya Thein (HSH 1. Dagon, Rangoon), was passed away on 11-6-90 in Rangoon General Hospital. His funeral will be held On 13-6-90 (Wednesday), at 2pm and burial in Kyantaw cemetery.

The buses will leave from the above address at 1:30pm.

(Remark; We, the members of the ABSDF feel the same grief as his family. We always solute all our comrades who have sacrificed their lives for freedom and peace in Burma. We would like to inform the parents and the people that every time one of our comrades dies, our commitment becomes more. We will constantly struggle for freedom and peace in Burma and we are ready to sacrifice our lives like our brave comrades who have already sacrificed. We will never give up. We are looking forward to the truth.)

## VOICES FROM THE JUNGLE

### A HARD SCAR

A seed sprouts!  
It can touch the air and sunshine  
Only when it breaks through the hard earth.

A creature in an egg!  
It escapes into life  
Only when it breaks open the shell.

You prefer to live quietly,  
Bowing your head under the hard earth  
Unwilling to see the true events outside.  
You are like a rotten seed  
Afraid of the air and sunshine,  
or like a lifeless one in a shell,  
Wanting only to be still and alone.

Does living merely mean death?  
Perhaps death is the beginning of living.  
Living can not be forbidden.

Struggle and defy!  
Through this you get life.  
And for this  
You can congratulate yourself.

Soe Paing

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