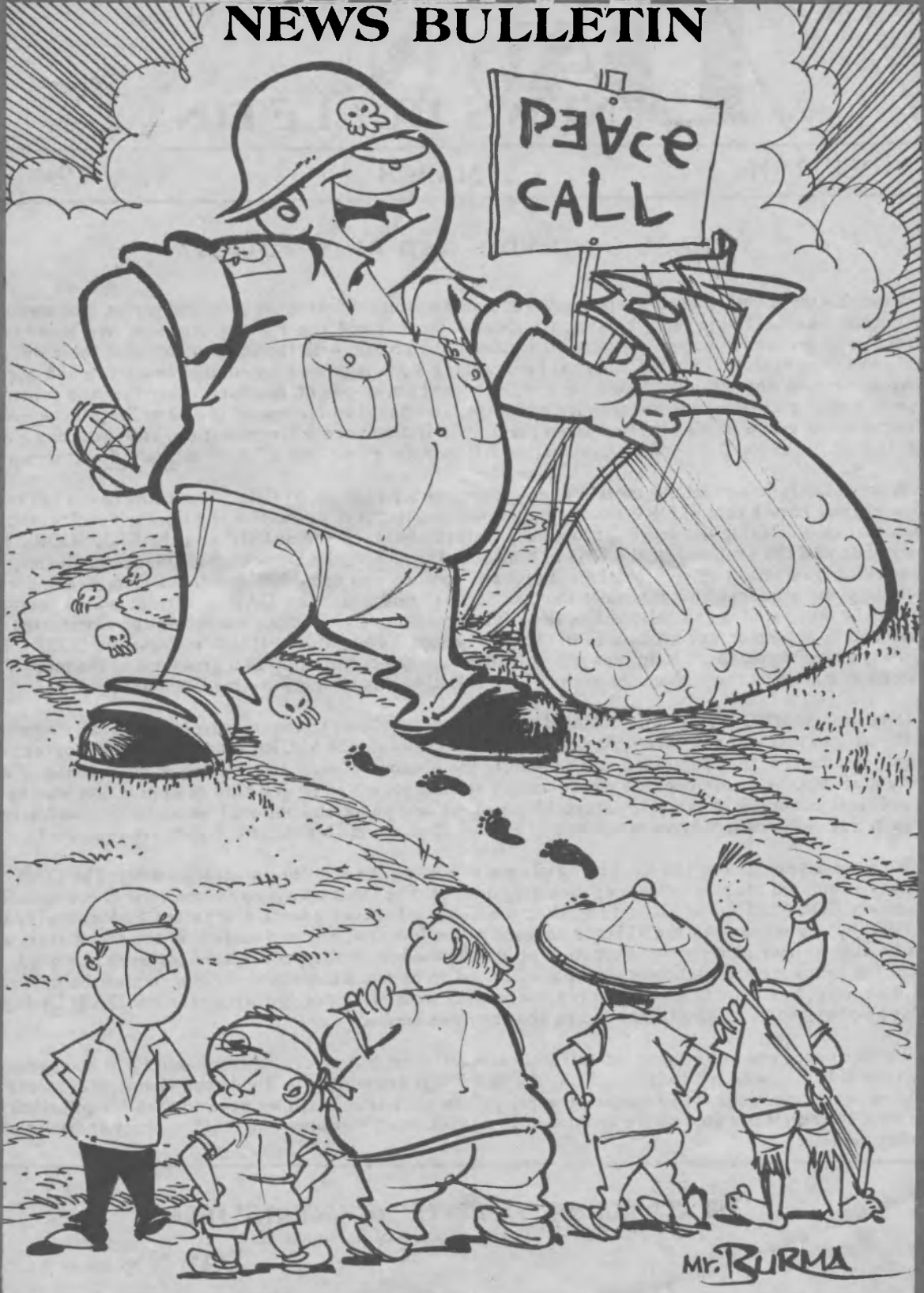


DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN





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PEACE OR DIVIDE AND RULE POLICY?

Meanwhile the SLORC continues to be engaged in various schemes of dividing the nationalist groups, even employing drug lords like Lo Hsing Han, Kokang Nationalist Group, and the Pheung brothers, Wa Nationalist Group, who pioneered heroin refining in Northern Shan State, with the tacit approval of their well-established drug business. SLORC also has been waging a propaganda campaign of cease-fire and border development. We have not yet found any kind of border development, however, other than the construction of roads in these areas for military purposes. The Sai Htin faction of the Shan State Progressive Party, a small group of Ma Htu Naw from the Kachin Independence Organization, and the Aung Kham Hti faction of the Pa O National Organization fell into the magic trap of cruel military dictatorship.

We absolutely do not believe these are real peace initiatives of the SLORC. According to our informed sources, it is known that SLORC usually only raises the issues of cease-fire and border development in each dialogue. During the secret preliminary dialogue between the SLORC and the KIO, SLORC had bluntly denied the proposal of the KIO to hold a dialogue with the Democratic Alliance of Burma, the umbrella organization of eleven ethnic nationalist groups and ten other groups of Democratic forces including the students and Buddhist monks. SLORC said that "the DAB is a front which includes politically motivated organizations like the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma, and the All Burma Young Monks Union, etc". As the SLORC is a military government, there is no reason for it to discuss the current political problems of Burma." This statement manifests the insincerity of the SLORC and its unwillingness to restore genuine peace.

In reality, SLORC is practicing a "Divide and Rule Policy" and trying to organize the weak fragments of the nationalists and democratic forces in order to formulate the SLORC guided National Convention. We do not believe that genuine peace is merely the absence of war. In addition to an absence of war there must also be an atmosphere where people are not subjected to any kind of oppression whether it be political, economic or racial in nature. How can genuine peace and national reconciliation be fostered in such a situation where gross violations of Human Rights and Democratic Rights are rampant?

We have never ignored the means of dialogue in solving the current political conflict. The DAB has already stipulated the principles for peace negotiations. The DAB always opens the door of conversation based on EQUALITY and DIGNITY. But, the DAB will never accept a separate dialogue with the SLORC by any member of the alliance because we believe that any nationality or any social class will not be able to truly gain its own liberation as long as the rest of the people have not been liberated. As such, the following are preconditions that will need to be met beforehand: Dialogue must be held in a third country; Dialogue must include representatives from all opposition groups in the DAB; Dialogue must be observed by international bodies and the news media.

We love peace and are longing for national reconciliation, but we cannot live passively as slaves under the rule of brutal military dictators. Now, the SLORC is attempting to divide the democratic forces by holding secret meetings with separate groups. This is not a time when we need to seek for solutions on our own. Rather, it is a time where we must have revolutionary vigilance and build up unity and solidarity among ourselves.

PUBLISHED BY
THE ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT
"Dawn" PO Box. 1352, Bangkok 10500, Thailand.

DAWN NEWS BULLETIN

Nomination For The Liberal International Prize For Freedom - 1991



The Indian Liberal Group is pleased to nominate Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy, Burma for the 1991 prize for freedom.

In complete accordance and agreement with the opinion expressed by L.I Vice-president Bengt Westerberg that prize for freedom be awarded to individuals courageously struggling for freedom, liberty and human rights, Aung San Suu Kyi singularly qualifies for that prize.

Under Aung San Suu Kyi's leadership the National League for Democracy (NLD) has bravely struggled against Burma's ruthless military regime. It has gained strong support throughout the country. All demonstrations have been peaceful. But under orders from the military government the army has repeatedly fired on unarmed demonstrations. Thousands of civilians have been killed and tortured. Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since 20 July 1989.

The national elections on 27 May 1990 resulted in a landslide victory for the National League for Democracy - this, despite the fact that the country was in the grip of martial law, meetings of more than four persons were banned and talking to journalists strictly forbidden. The NLD won over the 80% of the votes but the military government refused to accept the overwhelming mandate of the Burmese people. The brutal repression continues. And Aung San Suu Kyi remains in detention.

Through all this Aung San Suu Kyi has refused to be intimidated. In her determination for and dedication to the struggle for her nation's freedom, she has made great personal sacrifices. Not only is she confined to living under house arrest, but she has to endure separation from a happy family life with her husband and two sons. Moreover, she remains in very real personal danger with hostile army personnel encamped in and around her own home.

Aung San Suu Kyi is Burma's best hope, leading its people in their valiant struggle for democracy against the military might of the government. She has been and continues to be the source of strength and inspiration for the Burmese people.

In January 1991 the European Parliament awarded Aung San Suu Kyi their Human Rights Award - the Sakharov. Aung San Suu Kyi has been nominated for the Nobel Peace prize for 1991.

It would be fitting indeed if the Liberal International awarded her its Prize for Freedom in recognition of her courageous struggle for her country's freedom.

Shirin Panthaki
Indian Liberal Group

This Congress of the Liberal International:

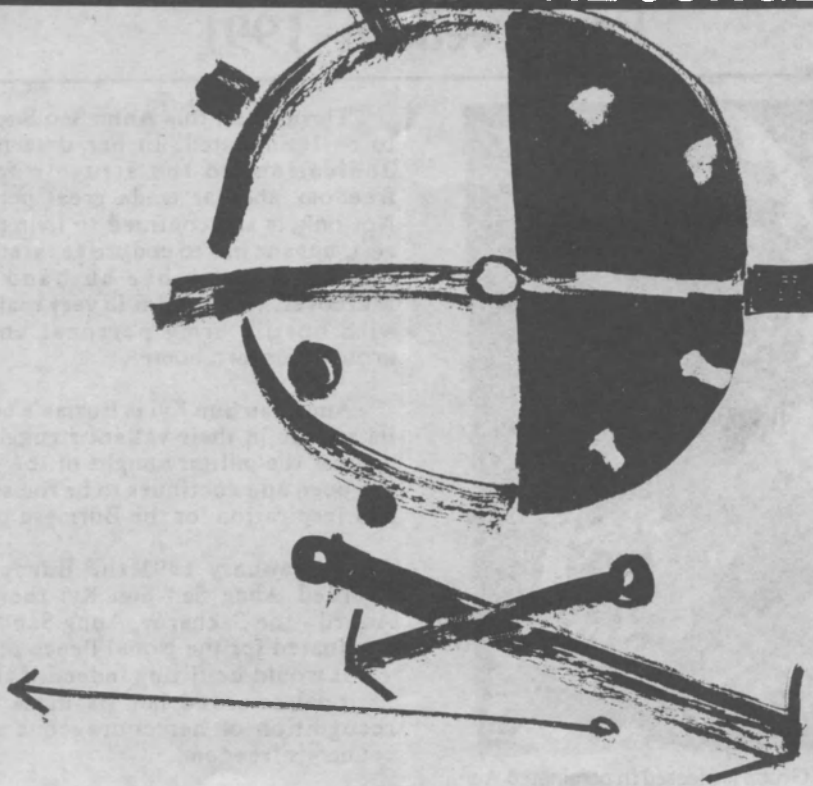
- applauds the great courage of the Burmese people in their protracted struggle for human rights and political liberty - the courage that led them to vote against repressive militarism in the elections in May 1990 which resulted in a landslide victory for the National League for Democracy;

- commends Aung San Suu Kyi, the founder of the National League for Democracy, for her courage, determination and dedication in leading the struggle for her country's freedom, and who, despite the massive support and confidence of the Burmese people, still continues to be held under detention by the military authorities;

- calls upon all member parties of the Liberal International to persuade their governments to urge the military authorities in Burma to;

- release immediately and unconditionally Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political detainees;
- recognize and implement the overwhelming electoral mandate of the Burmese people;
- enter into a meaningful dialogue aimed at a speedy transfer of power to the National League for Democracy.

REFLECTION FORM THE JUNGLE



Eyeless Generation

- After the lamp was extinguished,
Devoured by the darkness,
Gropingly....
Amidst the wilderness
Of stubs, thorns and bamboo spikes,
There is a craving for the passing
Of the night of their lives.
- Alas!
Covering the sun with a blanket,
A pack of evil souls
Has plundered and stowed it away.
- Hours have disappeared,
And in this phenomenon
Of undistinguishable day and night,
Everything has gone wrong.
- As time passes by,
Man will slide into
And dwell with mistakes
And when the children are born in this darkness
Even though their lives start anew,
They will not be endowed with eyes.

Mann Latt



EDUCATION AND A.B.S.D.F

All the members of the All Burma Student's Democratic Front (ABSDF) are either University or High School students. And as students we cherished education, our affinity for learning is great, we love our class-rooms, and our attachment and love for our teachers are tremendous. But, it is now already more than two years that we had to abandon all that we loved, cherished, and revered.

We were guinea pigs used in the various educational experiments, which the military dictatorship carried out in the country, with the sole intention of keeping their bureaucratic machinery running. And yet, an educational system, which could give us an insurance in our future carrier did not emerge. Besides, of the 40 million population in Burma, 70 percent is in the rural area. Under the one party dictatorship, the chances and access to education for the rural population are scarce. The frontier regions where most of the ethnic groups are dwelling, access to education and chances of getting literate is almost nonexistent.

The 1988 Revolution, which was led by the students, with the participation of all the people in the country was crushed in the most cruel and brutal manner, by the military dictatorship. Students' leaders were hunted down, arrested, tortured and killed. We had to leave our class-rooms and schools and headed towards the border areas.

While the military junta is in power, there is no hope of an educational system in which the students can peacefully attend their classes and continue their education. This is evident from the recent facts of events that took place in Burma

during the last few years. Thus, the military dictatorship must be completely removed, and its remains cremated, before we can lead a peaceful life again. With this conviction, we have struggled against the military regime. On the other hand, to have community in education, and to prevent a break in the links of the educational chain, we are trying our best, as far as the circumstances allow us to continue our learning process. At the Second Conference of the ABSDF, a department for education has been created with the following objectives.

1. To continue the education for the students on the border.

2. To open schools in collaboration with the local communities, where basic education will be taught to the children of people living in the border areas.

3. To use the expertise of the ABSDF students, who are capable of teaching the pupils of basic education level systematically.

3. To design an education system that is in conformity with the federal system of government.

While the military junta is in power, there is no hope of an educational system in which the students can peacefully attend their classes and continue their education.

Table showing Number of Teachers and Students in ABSDF Schools.

No.	School	Teachers	Students
1.	Maw Kae Refugee Camp (P.S)	9	157
2.	Wet Don Village (P.S)	2	40
3.	Moe Taung Camp (P.S)	4	15
4.	Salween Camp (P.S)	4	47
5.	Pann Yunn Refugee Camp (P.S) (Pa O Area)	1	50
6.	Way Pu Ge Refugee Camp (P.S) (Karenni Area)	15	240
TOTAL		35	549

Note:

P.S = Primary School



*The opening ceremony
of ABSDF Primary School
in Wed Don village,
Kyar Enn township.*



*A Primary School
in Aung Ham Rai Camp*



*The students
(Shan, Wa, Karenni)
of Aung Ham Rai
Primary School.*

EDUCATION AND ABSDF

*A class is in progress
(Way Bu Ge High School).*



*The students of ABSDF
are working for the
educational development
in the liberated area.*



*Primary School
in Moe Taung Camp*



(Continued on Page. 8)

SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On March 8, U Peter Limbin, Foreign Minister in the National Coalition Government of Burma, Dr. Em Marta, Democratic Alliance of Burma Foreign Secretary and Dr. Kyaw Than, representative of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (Europe), met with members of the European and Belgian Parliaments from the Christian Democratic Group, the Greens, the Liberal Democratic Group and the Social Democrat Group. On March 6, they attended a meeting of the Liberal Group chaired by Giscard d'Estang. Mme Simone Veil was also present and an official of the European Commission hosted lunch. After their visit, European adopted the following resolution in support of the Democratic and Human Rights Movement of the Burmese people.

(d) Joint resolution replacing B3-0407 and 0479/91.

RESOLUTION

On Human Rights in Burma (Myanmar).
The European Parliament

A. having regard to the resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 26 February,

B. shocked by the report of the death in Insein prison in Rangoon of TIN MAUNG WIN, a Member of Parliament, following that of MAUNG KO in military custody, both of whom are suspected of having tortured,

C. alarmed at the military regime's persistent

refusal to accept the outcome of the free, general elections of May 1990,

D. indignant at the fact that opposition leaders are still being prevented from performing their duties,

1. Expresses its support for the elected representatives of the Burmese people in their aspiration towards democracy;

2. Calls again on the Government of Burma (Myanmar) to respect human rights and to release all political prisoners;

3. Calls again on the government to respect the results of the elections held on 27th May 1990;

4. Calls for an immediate study of ways in which the EC and the Members States can make a substantial contribution to the development of Burma in the region of South-East Asia;

5. Believes, however, that in the event of a persistent refusal to respond to the demand of the elected representatives of the Burmese people for democracy, the policy of deferring non-humanitarian aid, discontinuing arm supplies and substantially reducing commercial and economic relations will need to be continued;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, European Political Cooperation, the Government of Burma (Myanmar) and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(Continued from Page. 7)

Way Pu Ge Refugee Camp has a High School with 6 teachers from Regiment #303, and 9 teachers from KNPP.

For continuation of education, the members of ABSDF opened a Jungle University at Thay Baw Boe Camp in July 1989. But, the University was destroyed by the Burmese Military offensives in January, 1990. An attempt was made to reopen the university at another site, but was not successful due to lack of teaching aids, funds and security.

For ongoing education for our members, weekly courses are designed. The first weekly course was

successfully completely and are now preparing for other weekly courses to follow.

For the education of rural children on the border, the ABSDF has opened five primary schools and one high school, in collaboration with the local people.

While struggling against the military junta to liberate the people from the tortures and repressions, the members of ABSDF are trying their best to establish the infrastructure of our motherland by educating the children who are the hope of our future Burma.

Toe Zann

A BRIEF HISTORY OF STUDENT'S MOVEMENT IN BURMA

By Moe Thee Zun

Background History

Burma is in South-east Asia and has an area of 261,228 square miles. Its neighbours are: Thailand on the East, Laos and China on the North-East and North, India and Bangladesh on the West, and the bay of Bengal on the South. It has a population of 42 million, and most of them are Burmese, with other indigenous races. The religion of the most population is Buddhist.

The political movement and the fight for national liberation and independence had a unique character in Burma. The intellectual students mobilized and led the peasants and workers in their fight for freedom against their colonial rulers. The student movements are inseparable from the historical struggle for the independence of the country.

The political movement in Burma took a nationalistic character with founding of the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) in 1906, which follow the model of the Young Men's Christian Association. The founding in 1920, of an organization with a wider political base known as the General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA), at the national was of great importance and most of the leaders were young intellectuals. Newspapers and journals that aimed to raise the consciousness of nationalism appeared in the country soon after.

The students were always in the forefront of these movements. The Act of 1920, which placed the Rangoon University under the University of Calcutta, without taking the consensus of the people was the triggering mechanism that led to the students strike of 1920. This strike drew the support of all the people of Burma, and heightened the patriotism of the Burmese people.

This momentum gained further impetus, as U Ottama, a Buddhist monk who returned from India, propagated the nonviolent movement of Mahatma Gandhi, through which the enhancement of the consciousness for nationalism and independence occurred.

Again, in 1930 the Peasants' Revolt led by Saya San, although short lived, was a significant milestone in our fight for independence. The elite among the students started their study of Marxism that was in English then. The Sanfane movement of Ireland, Marxism-Leninism, writings of Nheru and Sun Yet Sen were the literature that influenced the political awakening among the intellectuals of Burma.

During the Pre-Second World period, the patriotic youth and students founded the "Doh Ba Ma Asi-yone". As the Burmese, who were a subjugated nation, had to address the English colonialists as "Thakin", which can be literally translated as "Masters", the leaders of this organization decided that only the Burmese were the rightful "Masters" of the country, and started putting the prefix "Thakin" in front of their names. Then, many political parties sprang up.

the focal point of the political hub and the independence movement was the Rangoon University Campus of the time. In the 1930s, Rangoon University students such as Thakin Nu and Thakin Aung San became recognized political leaders of the country. their leadership in the Rangoon University Students' Union, not only encompassed cultural, social, arts and sports activities, but political as well.

In 1936, the authorities expelled the president of the Rangoon

University Students' Union, Thakin Nu from the University, for criticizing them. Thakin Aung San the then editor of the Students' Magazine "OHWAY" suffered the same fate, for publishing an article that was critical of the university authorities. These incidents led to the Second Students' Strike of the Rangoon University. The people of the country always supported the students in terms of funds and provisions for these strikes, and as a result the students strikes started a wider political agitation and mobilization of the people.

Two years after this strike, in 1938, the "Revolution of the Year

Thirteen Hundred" (Burmese Era) of the Oil Field's workers took place. The workers were fighting for their rights, and when they faced a stalemate there, they prepared to march to Rangoon. The students participated in support of this movement and two of the student leaders led their march to the capital.

In 1939, before World War II a group of young leaders formed a body for the salvation of Burma with the use of arms. The group became known and distinguished itself as the "Thirty Comrades" and took military training in Japan. They led the Japanese into Burma in 1947, and no other way, they formed the Burma Independence Army (BIA) at Bangkok. They fought their way back to Burma, and many young patriotic Burmese joined the BIA.

The head of the BIA was Thakin Aung San, the student leader.

Finally, when they found out the real motives of the Japanese the young leaders planned to revolt against them, by forming the Anti-Fascist Freedom League (AFPFL), and on March 27, 1945, the resistance against the Japanese started. Under the leadership of the AFPFL, the people revolted and fought against the Japanese.

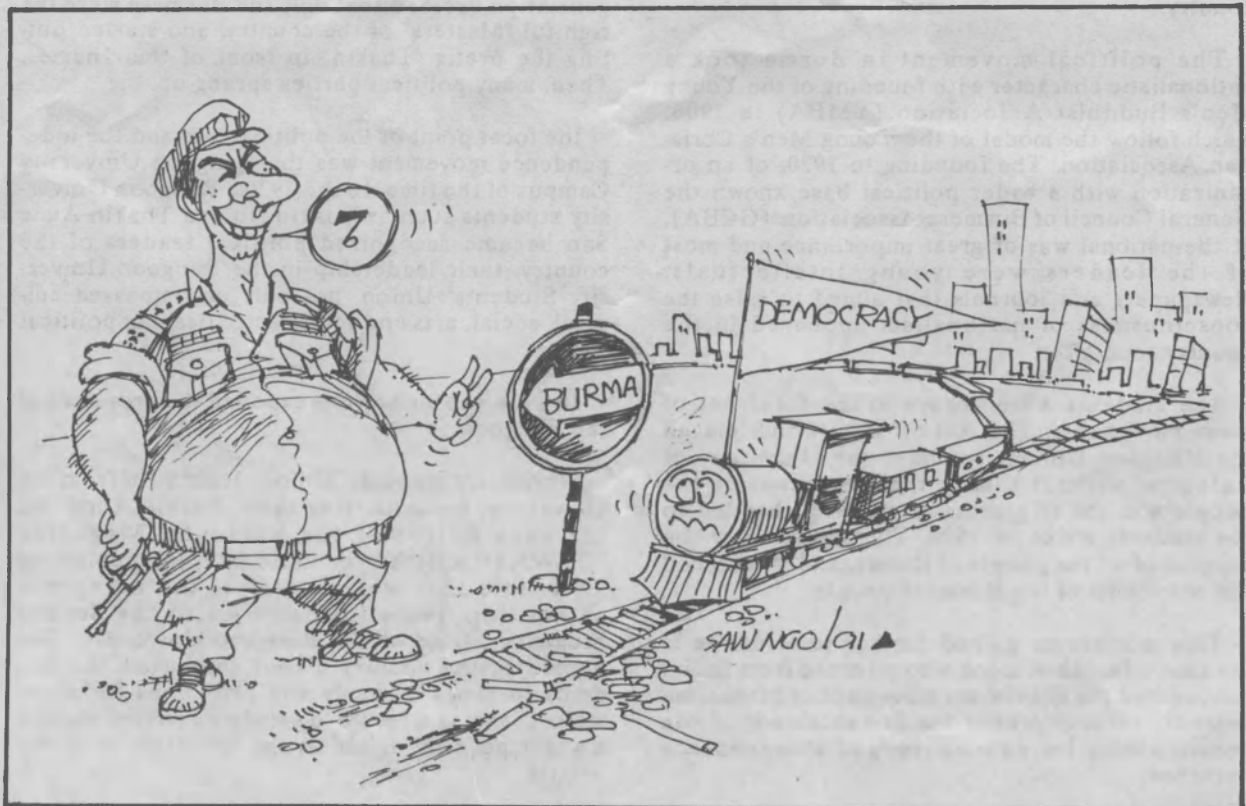
After the Second World War, the AFPFL that fought the Japanese had gained much political influence among the people and Thakin Aung San became the national leader. The White Paper declaration of the British, aimed to continue governing the country as a colony. The people united under the leadership of the AFPFL, fought back by calling a general strike, and prepared itself for an armed revolution. Thus, there was no way out left for the British (who had not fully recovered from the effects of the war in spite of their victory), except to grant full independence to Burma. The country became independence on January 4, 1948.

The Decade after Independence (From 1948 to 1962)

Parliamentary democracy became the guiding principle to govern the country. During the post war period, the assassination of General Aung San took place in 1947, after his successful negotiation for the independence of the country with the Labour Government in Britain, just a few months before the country became free. U Nu, the former student leader, had to take the responsibility of leading the country. Due to the weakness in the fledgling democracy in the young country, and because of intervention by foreign countries in matters of economics, class problems, and racial conflicts, the country plunged into chaos and plagued by multiple uprisings.

Soon after independence in 1948, insurgencies of the Burma Communist Party, the Karens and Mons started. The military took advantage of the situation and took over the country on a coup in 1962.

To be continued.



REFUGEES, STUDENTS AND THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN KACHIN STATE

Since September of 1988, the international media and humanitarian organizations have documented the plight of thousands of Burmese citizens leaving their homes in the towns, cities and government administered rural areas of Burma to escape torture, imprisonment, forced labor and other forms of oppression and exploitation by the current SLORC regime.

Because the large majority of those people found their way to the Thai-Burma border areas, nearly all of the attention and humanitarian assistance given to the refugees and those struggling for democracy in Burma has been focussed along the Thai-Burma border. This is unfortunate, however, because there are many refugees, internally displaced families and students who need both moral and material support in areas along Burma's borders with Bangladesh, India and China.

The "generation" of refugees and the internally displaced from rural areas by the military government of Burma began long before September of 1988, however.

In 1987, the Burma Army under the leadership of General Ne Win launched an intensive offensive against the Kachin resistance movement in Kachin State, northern Burma. As a result of the offensive and consequent fighting, tens of thousands of civilians had to flee from their homes. As many as 26,000 people fled to the Sino-Burma border regions to seek refuge. Thousands more were internally displaced, fleeing from their rural homes to even more remote areas within Kachin State away from the marauding soldiers.

After the brutal massacre of innocent civilians by the SLORC in the fall of 1988, many thousands more fled to the border areas as mentioned earlier, including to the Sino-Burma border.

After four years, there are still over 5,800 refugees along the border and over 1,100 students. Among the tens of thousands who have returned to Kachin State, most still have not been able to return to their original homes due to continued threat from the Army. Because of this, the majority of families have no regular means of income generation or food production and are consequently suffering tremendous deprivation and hardship. Food shortages both at the household and community level are common and rates of malnutrition among both children and adults are thought to be very high. There are minimal, and often non-existent, health facilities and services

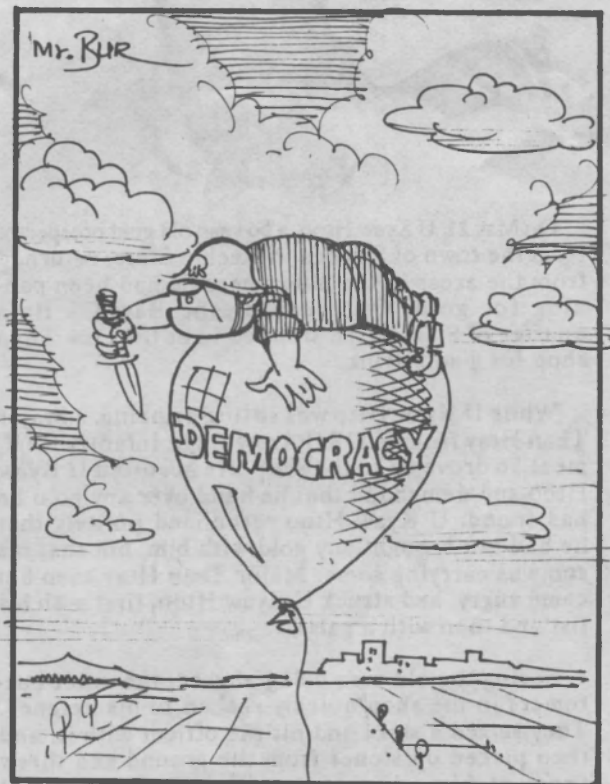
available to these populations. Markets are almost non-existent and to purchase even the most basic goods often requires a journey by foot of several days. The camps and villages are mostly populated by women, children, the elderly and amputees. As elsewhere worldwide, it is these specific demographic populations that tend to be the most vulnerable to environmental insult and

to have the greatest physical problems and physiological needs (for good quality food, regular medical attention for

infectious and chronic diseases, shelter against the elements, etc.). Yet very little assistance is reaching these populations.

These people will probably continue to be isolated and suffer deprivation until the civil war has ended and democracy restored. In the mean time, however, organizations helping those struggling for these ideals along the Thai-Burma border should seriously consider allocating aid to those in the less accessible areas.

Bawk Ja



[illegible]

Form The Eastern Yoma News Bulletin

On May 21, U Kyaw Htoo, a 56 year-old gold prospector from the town of Shwegu in Kachin State, returned from the areas in the hills where he had been panning for gold. On reaching the Baw Ga Bala quarter of Shwegu, he stopped in at the Daw Than shop for a soft drink.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS AND BURMA

By Dr. Thaung Htun

Burmese people have had to live under the suppression of one party military dictatorship rule for 26 years and, during that time, their eyes and ears were absolutely closed. They were also isolated from the international community by the xenophobic, isolationist policy of the military rulers. There seemed to be no outlet to expose their situation, loss of democratic and human rights, to the rest of the world. In contrast, the majority of the International community knew Burma as a country rich in natural resources with fertile lands where contented and joyful people lived. Only after the emergence of the 1988 democratic uprising and bloody crackdown by the military junta, the miserable lives of the people and the essence of the military junta under the cover of "Burmese Way to Socialism" was exposed to the international scene. Gross violations of human rights in Burma became the issue which drew the international attention at the UN meetings.

For the first time, I got a chance to attend the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in February, 1990, as a representative of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front to raise the voice of the oppressed Burmese people. It was a heavy task for me, to draw the attention of diplomats and various NGOs who already have their own interests in respective international issues, to the Burmese issue as a young man who never have the experience of lobbying. But luckily, I was encouraged by the many individuals, NGOs and diplomats who sympathize with the students and people struggling for democracy and human rights. With their help, I met the delegations from various countries and presented the human rights situation in Burma. The NGOs also held a joint meeting on Burma and heard my presentation. At this session, Sweden, Canada, the United States of America, Japan, Norway, Australia, the European Community, the International Commission of Jurists, the Amnesty International, the International Union of Students, the World University Service, the World Council of Churches, the International Organization for The Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Pen, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, the World Conference on Religion and Peace, and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship expressed their concerns about the human rights violations in Burma under agenda Item 12.

The main issues of concern were alleged arbitrary arrests and detention of persons by reason of their political opinions and expressions, ill-treatment and torture of the detained, unfair trials and summary executions. Participants also talked about the serious restriction placed on freedom of expression and assembly, arrests of thousands of people for their non-violent criticism of the SLORC and detention of the majority of them without charge or trial. Some expressed their doubt on the freeness and fairness of the general election under the prevailing conditions where some of the prominent leaders including U Tin U and Daw Aung San Su Kyi were detained. Serious concern was also expressed over the alleged forced recruitment of civilians to serve as porters for the armed forces under deplorable conditions.

Based on the presentations at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Commission, those at the 40th session (1988) and 41st session of the Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission decided to keep the human rights situation in Burma under review and appointed a special reporter to observe the human rights situation in Burma at a closed meeting on Feb, 1990.

According to the comments of diplomats, it was the significance of Burmese issue which could be able to put up into 1503 confidential procedure and reached to the decision of the commission to keep under review and appoint a special reporter within a short duration while the UN system usually takes a long time to pick up an issue.

Mrs. Sadako Ogata, independent expert of the UN Human Rights Commission, visited Burma and observed the human rights situation in November, 1990. Her trip was of tremendous importance to the Burmese people who have been suppressed for such a long time. Her trip was severely restricted by the SLORC so that she was not able to get a chance to listen to the voice of the people directly. However, we, the democratic forces of Burma, kept a keen interest in her report which would be submitted to the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Political developments in Burma reached a new stage during the period between the 46th and 47th session. The NLD gained a landslide victory in 27th

May general election but SLORC refused to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people. Instead, SLORC issued the unjust order 1/90 and mounted indefinite suppression on the people's representatives, students, monks and those people demanding for the immediate transfer of power. In this prevailing condition, some elected representatives escaped to the liberated area and established the National Coalition Government.

To present this new situation, we travelled to Geneva for the 47th meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Feb, 1991, as a delegation of the National Coalition Government.

The tremendous expression of the will of Burmese People to end the military's rule and their longing for democracy in the 27th May general election, awoke the international community. Whatever excuse SLORC gave for delaying of the transfer of power, their willingness to hold onto power was conspicuous in the scene of international community. The delegation of the NCGUB gained more and more sympathy and support from various government delegations and NGOs. During the session, we were accepted to meet the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippine, Senegal, Sweden, Ukkarain, USSR, USA, Luxemborg, Yawanda, Srilanka, Tanzania. We also got the chance to present the human rights situation of Burma at the joint NGOs meeting. India, the United States of America, Australia, Japan, France, the European Community, the International Human Rights Law Group, the Friends of the Earth (International), the International Council of Voluntary Agency, the World Conference on Religion and Peace, the International Educational Development, and the Amnesty International expressed their concern about the human rights situation in Burma under agenda item 12. In their presentations, the main concerns were the mounting arrests and detention of the opposition, Buddhist monks and student activists after the election. Negligence of the will of the people and delaying of the transfer of power were also focused upon.

Peter Limbin, minister of Foreign Affairs made an intervention under item 12. He said that "nine months after the election, however, neither he nor his colleagues from the opposition alliances, who had won 82% of the contested seats, had been able to take up their seats". "The military regime, the SLORC, has refused to respect the wishes of the people of Burma and to hand over power to its elected representatives". "Over 4,000 people are in prison for political reasons". "Most of them have been detained without charge or trail", he explained. Many, as widely documented by diplomats and human rights organizations, have been subjected to torture. Buddhist monks and other people demanding the transfer of power to elected representatives have been brutally suppressed. Buddhist monasteries in upper Burma were raided by soldiers and monks were driven out and arrested. There are now over 400 in prison. The NCGUB has called on the international Community to recognize the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma as the legitimate government of the country during which they declare the UN seat of Burma vacant and to exert maximum political and economic pressure on the SLORC.

At the closed door meeting, Mrs. Sadago Ogata, the independent expert of the UN, tabled a report. Excerpts:

VISIT TO MYANMAR- The independent expert's repeated request to meet with detained or restrained leaders of the NLD, including...

U TIN OO and DAW AUNG SANN SUU KYI, were turned down. So were her requests to meet with ex-prime Minister U Nu, said to be restrained, as well as her requests to visit prisons and other detention facilities.

PERSONAL FREEDOMS- In spite of the Government's affirmation that peace and tranquility has now been restored...and that law and order now prevails, it is evident that the restriction on personal freedoms have not been lifted and that the situation adversely affects a large number of people in all walks of life. A curfew is still imposed in the cities ...No outdoor gatherings are permitted...

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS- An issue of special concern is the timing of the transfer of power from the military to a democratically elected government. The independent expert was repeatedly assured that SLORC is devoid of any

(Continued on Page. 17)



US Senate Condemns Burma Junta

A Human Rights group yesterday welcomed a resolution passed on April 11 by the US Senate condemning human rights violations in Burma and also called on the United States government to act quickly in imposing economic sanctions against the military junta in Rangoon.

Asia Watch in a press release said the US Senate vote was very important but more had to be done by the US government.

The Bush administration should lead an international effort to impose economic sanctions against the military junta in Burma, which has killed, imprisoned and tortured thousands of peaceful dissidents," said the group.

The resolution sponsored by Senator Alan Cranston, was passed by a unanimous vote in the US Senate, and a similar resolution is pending in the House of Representative.

The US Senate resolved that the US Congress carry out the following:

- Calls upon the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) to cede legal authority to a civilian government as mandated by the elections in May 1990;
- Condemns the arrest and detention of Burmese citizens for the peaceful expression of their political views;
- Condemns the Burmese government's disregard of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Urges the US President to impose additional economic sanctions upon Burma as specified in

Section 138 of the Customs and Trade Act of 1990;

- Calls upon the United Nations Human Rights Commission to seek greater access to Burma for its expert on human rights, and to continue and expand its scrutiny over the human rights situations in the country.

- Urges the United States, through the Secretary of State, to affirm its support for the resettlement of Burmese asylum seekers who are without other safe and reasonable alternatives; and,

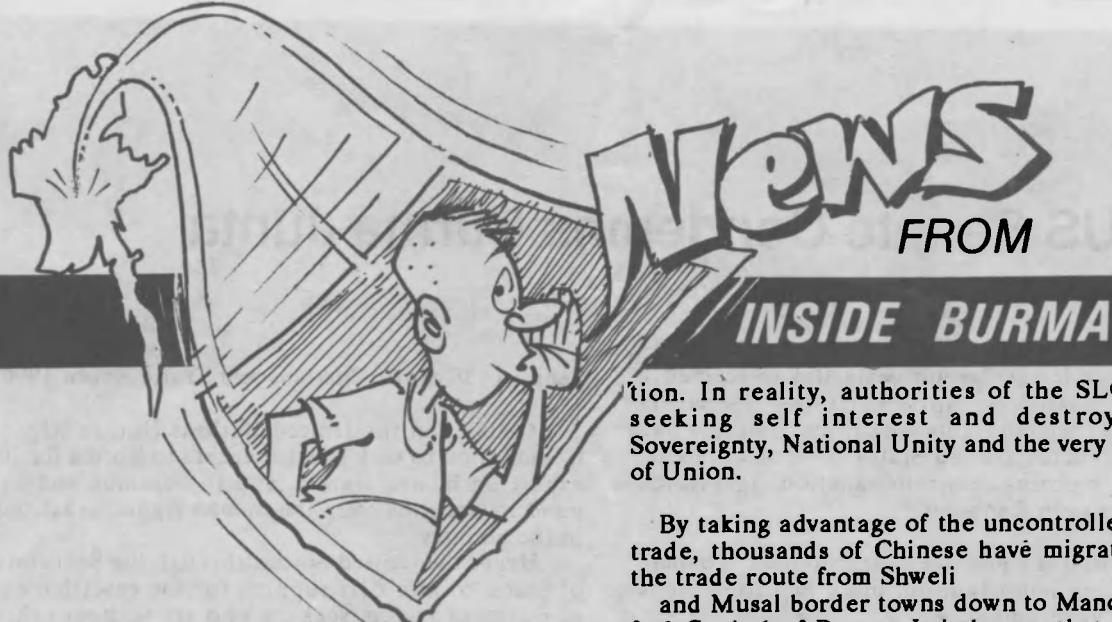
- Urges the government of Thailand to accord all displaced Burmese and Burmese asylum seekers temporary haven, protection against return of those who might face persecution or other threats to their lives or freedoms upon return to Burma, and access to procedures for third country resettlement for those Burmese refugees who are without safe and reasonable alternatives.

Asia Watch said it believed the Burmese military government would be vulnerable to a comprehensive trade ban if Burma's regional trading partners - namely Thailand, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan, agree to take part in it.

Burma imports vital spare parts and raw materials from these countries, it said, and pays for them by selling off the country's natural resources, such as timber, fish, oil and minerals.

"Economic sanctions are always a last resort but Slorc has been steadily and universally condemned for its human rights abuses for over two years now to no effect," said Asia Watch.





INSIDE BURMA

Questionnaire Of The SLORC

The informed sources said that the State Law and Order Restoration Council has distributed 301 silly and funny questions like 'Is Burma like Britain?, Does Burma resemble the United States of America?, Do you want Burma to be governed by the KNU (Karen National Union) or the KIO (Kachin Independence Organization)?', etc to the elected members of parliament and political parties.

33 other questions like 'Are you in favour of losing independence?, Do you want CIA intervention in Burma?, etc are also applied to the civil servants.

Skyrocketing Of Prices

Since the inception of the SLORC's takeover, the prices of commodities and basic foodstuff have been going up. The latest prices of the basic foodstuff are as follows.

An egg	5 kyats
A pyi of rice	18 kyats
A viss of chicken	120 kyats
A viss of pork	100 kyats

At the black market, the exchange rate of US\$ to Burmese kyat also has soared up from 73 kyats (US\$ 1) to 80 kyats. (The official rate is only 7.6 kyat for a dollar).

Those Who Destroy The Country In Mere Return Of 500 US\$

Now the SLORC dictators headed by General Saw Maung have been overstating the three main tasks; existence of National Sovereignty; Protection of National Unity; Protection from disintegrated

tion. In reality, authorities of the SLORC are seeking self interest and destroying the Sovereignty, National Unity and the very existence of Union.

By taking advantage of the uncontrolled border trade, thousands of Chinese have migrated along the trade route from Shweli

and Musal border towns down to Mandalay, the 2nd Capital of Burma. It is known that these immigrants can easily get Burmese Nationality Cards by with a bribe of only 40,000 Kyats (US \$500) to local SLORC authorities. As the Chinese immigrants have been hurriedly purchasing houses and lands at very high prices, the prices are going upward beyond the limit and capacity of local people.



Drug Kingpin Bought A Grand Estate In Mandalay

Wa Drug Kingpin Phong Kya Shin bought a grand estate in Mandalay, which was previously owned by the famous wealthy woman called Naga (Dragon) Daw Oo (The owner of Dragon Brand Cheroots Production). In Burma, it has been the

law that anyone who buys a house or land has to declare the source of the money used to make the purchase. If it is found that the money was obtained illegally or through the black market, the money and property are confiscated. We know that the source of Phong Kya Shin is directly from the transport and sale of drugs. Why has the SLORC turned a blind eye in this case?



(Continued from Page. 14)

political ambition and is ready to hand over power to a strong and stable civilian government. The Myanmar authorities, however, could not provide her any timetable for the transfer of power. Instead, they presented a (four steps) procedural frame work. Apart from the first step of accounting by the election commission and the work of the Election Tribunals, the independent expert could not detect any preparation for the succeeding steps to follow. The continued detention and imprisonment of NLD members are extremely worrying as they undermine the bases of the very political parties that should actively contribute to the process outlined by the authorities.. The formation of a democratically elected government is of central importance to the promotion and protection of human rights... The opening of the Universities would also appear to be crucial step towards restoring the normal life of Myanmar Society, a step which must be regarded by the people of Myanmar as long overdue.

The human rights commission adopted a resolution strengthening the mandate of the independent expert and called for SLORC to:

- (a) take steps to accelerate the transition to democracy, in particular the convening of the parliament elected in May 1990,
- (b) lift the internment and interdiction measures affecting political leaders,
- (c) permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisons and detention facilities to verify prison conditions, and
- (d) become a party to the International

The SLORC's troops shot the crowd and looted the properties at a Taung Pauk village Cremation Ceremony

A student unit of the Front deployed in the Mergui area informed the Information Department that the SLORC's Light Infantry (31), (32) and (62) fired mortar shells into the crowd celebrating the Cremation Ceremony of a deceased monk at Taung Pauk village in the Mergui Township and plundered the properties of the people.

In 27th of February, the three military columns of the SLORC that were returning back from the Three Pagoda Pass area assembled and laid in ambush near Taung Pauk, Mergui Township. At the same time, the Cremation Ceremony of a deceased monk was being held in the village. The abbot of the village, knowing the presence of the armies, requested them to not disturb the ritual and gave 100,000 kyats to the officers of the three infantries.

Despite the request, at about 4:00 a.m, on 28th, the troops fired mortars and small arms into the crowd, pretending that the rebels were doing so. Light Infantry (31) and (62) did the shooting and Light Infantry (32) invaded into the ceremony and plundered gold, money and other valuable property from the people.

Because of the shooting, one monk and 6 villagers were killed, 11 others were wounded and a child was run over by a bullock cart, and another monk and a novice were seriously wounded.

In the mean time, the SLORC's troops raped two village girls, stabbed them to death and covered them with straw. Only two days later, the villagers found the dead bodies of the girls. According to the witnesses, the wounds and symptoms on their bodies varified that they were forcibly raped and slain.

According to further news, some villagers were conscripted and were forced to become porters. For their release, they had to pay 3000 or 4000 Kyat to the military. Even so, a villager was shot to death on the mountainside, said the escapees.

Covenants on Human Rights and other main Human Rights treaties.

The decision of the UN Human Rights Commission and the concern of the international Community will greatly encourage the people of Burma to continue the struggle for democracy and human rights. It also proved the correctness of our analysis on the significance of our democratic movement "OUR MOVEMENT CORRELATES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS." which was mentioned in political lines of the ABSDF adopted at the 2nd Conference. In the future, by continuing our efforts within the framework of the UN system, we must try to gain more international support and recognition on "JUSTIFICATION" and "LEGITIMACY" of our movement.

To be continued

NEWS FROM INSIDE BURMA

Arrest Of The Burmese Students Returned From The Border

The students in the following list had fled to the Thai-Burma border and taken refugee after the 1988 democratic uprising was cracked down by the Burmese Army. They were sent back to Burma by force during the Tak Repatriation Programme jointly operated by Thai and Burmese military authorities in December, 1988.

While living peacefully without involving in political activities at their native, KaNgayutkwin village in the Phu Township, Pegu Division, they were imprisoned according to the following terms.

1. Ko Tu	20 years	imprisonment
2. Ko Min Aung	20 years	-
3. Ko Zaw Moe Tun	20 years	-
4. Ko Thein	20 years	-
5. Ko Kyaw Oo	18 years	-
6. Ko Aung Win Naing	18 years	-
7. Ko Aye Lwin	18 years	-
8. Ko Rayu	18 years	-
9. Ko Kyaw Kyaw	18 years	-
10. Ko Than Nu Win	18 years	-
11. Ko Maung Soe	18 years	-

SLORC's Troops Extort Money From The Villagers

The SLORC's troops usually determine the quota of porters which a village must supply according to the population of the village. If a certain village can not supply the required quota, the villagers must collect money from among themselves to give it to the army instead.

This has been the troops mode of operation to extort money from the villages in their operational zones. The following translation simply explains how the army collects money for porter fees from the villagers.

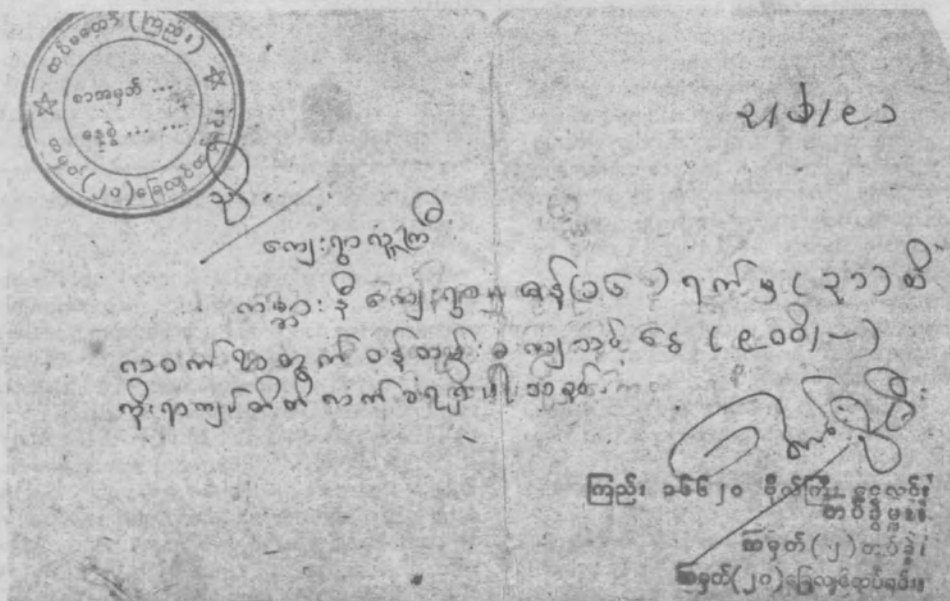
The following is the translation of an acknowledgement sent to the Headman of Kabani village from Captain Ngwe Lin of Regiment 28.

Attention: Headman
Kabani village

Acknowledgement

Received the amount of 900 kyats porter fee from
Kabani village for half of the month of June (16 to 31).

Signed:
Captain Ngwe Lin
B/C 16620
Company Commander
Company-2
Regiment-28



RICE CRISIS AND OPPRESSION OF FARMERS

As soon as the SLORC seized state power by military might, the most pressing problem they had to face was a rice crisis in Burma. The rice crisis surprised the unprepared SLORC while they were trying to suppress the dissidents by means of killing, arbitrary arrests, summary executions and inhuman torture. Since December, 1988, aiming to tackle the rice crisis, which is fast becoming a major problem of Burma today, they attempted to cooperate with the merchants by forming local Commodities Price Lowering Committees since December, 1988. Their efforts proved fruitless, however, so finally, Col Abel, the Trade Minister of SLORC, had to admit their failure.

The current price of rice is between 22 to 25 kyats per pyi. In 1962, when the rule of the BSPP (military dictators) began, the price of rice was 60 pyas per pyi. Since 1962, the price has been steadily rising. In 1988, just before the beginning of the democratic uprisings, the price was between 7 and 8 kyats per pyi in Rangoon. In this short period of time in which the SLORC regime has ruled Burma, the price of rice has skyrocketed and reached an all time high of 25 kyats per pyi. As the people of Burma can testify, the prices of many of the commodities, including rice, have risen as much as 30 fold. With a rise in the price of rice, which is the staple food, the entire population has had to face increasing hardship and deprivation. In some places people have even had further supplies of rice completely cut off. Even the very farmers who grow rice face starvation. In a press interview, U Musale, a farmer from Kalagon village, Irrawaddy Division said that farmers suffered too much because they had to sell rice at a low price and buy it back at the high price of 24 kyats per pyi when they face shortage (21.2.90, Working Peoples Daily). U Saw Aye Gyaw, a farmer from Kawkalo village, Irrawaddy division, who owns 19 acres of rice fields, said that even though prices of rice are rising, he and other farmers are not reaping any financial benefits because the prices of other basic commodities which they must purchase are also rising. The price increases would be very good for the farmers if the prices of basic food and commodities used by the farmers stayed the same. (21.2.90 Working Peoples Daily).

U Hla Win, a farmer from Kungyangon Township who owns 11 acres of rice fields said that landless agricultural laborers faced even more hardship last year as a result of the rice prices. They were compelled to mortgage their farming implements and household utensils to obtain enough money to buy adequate rice just for survival (20.2.90 Working Peoples Daily).

Farmers are unhappy with the soaring of the price of rice because prices of other commodities are rising faster than that of rice and even the farmers themselves have had to face famine conditions as a result of a rice shortage.

How have these problems resulted? SLORC is printing more and more bank notes in the prevailing condition of high prices. This has led to the skyrocketing of prices. Moreover, SLORC is hungry for foreign currency since they seized power at a time when Burma's foreign exchange reserves were at an all time low and the country had just been given LDC status. Burma relies heavily on the export of rice to earn foreign currency. The BSPP earned 397 million kyats by exporting 9200,000 tons of rice in 1973-74. This was the maximum amount exported during the past 13 years. In 1981-82, even though the BSPP was only able to export 8200,000 tons of rice, they earned 1509 millions kyats because of increased world market prices for rice. SLORC thinks highly of their predecessors for being able to earn money from exporting rice and are now seriously considering following in their footsteps. They realize that they will have to be accountable to the people and face possible unrest, however, because the shortages and price increases of rice have already lead to starvation in some areas of the country as early as 1988-89. Although they themselves are the root cause of the current high rates of inflation and the soaring prices, they are making propaganda to the farmers that the rise in rice prices is not good as they want to buy the rice at a low price. While they have used appeal tactics to the farmers to sell rice at low prices they also threaten them. On 22.10.89, Myo Nyunt, the commander of Rangoon Military Command, tried to persuade farmers to sell their rice cheaply by saying that farmers should have understanding for the government since the government is working mainly for the sake of the farmers. But the next day on 23.10.89 he threatened the farmers by saying that farmers should realize the fact that what they can produce and sell is only one product while they need to purchase many products, and that if they increase the price of farm produce, they will have to purchase other things at high prices.

During the period of BSPP rule, the government set a ceiling on the price of rice, which was to be not more than 1000-1500 kyats per 100 baskets of paddy. In 1989, the period of soaring prices, SLORC increased the maximum price to 2000 kyats. Even with this increase, it is still unjust for the farmers because of the prevailing high prices of other commodities. Under the BSPP rule,

farmers who had borrowed money from the government for farming expenses had to repay the government loans with rice. BSPP usually prescribed the baskets of rice as a quota in duty that farmers had to sell to the government. The method of prescribing the quota in duty is that first, high-yielding paddy fields were harvested as the model and the average yield per acre was recorded. This production rate per acre was then regarded as the standard for the whole area and duty quota was prescribed according to this standard. Even after the farmers had sold their duty quota, local BSPP authorities very often searched the barns of the farmers and forced them to sell the extra paddy.

Under the rule of SLORC, conditions are worse than they were under the BSPP. The lies of Col Able in saying that SLORC prescribed the suitable price of paddy for the farmers in order to cover the expenses and enjoy the appropriate profit, and their miscalculations are clearly seen by analyzing the following data.

SLORC miscalculation

Expenses for direct sowing paddy field	
expenses for one acre -----	780 Kyats
production per acre -----	50 baskets
profit -----	2400 kyats (4800 kyats per 100 baskets)
Profit -----	1620 Kyats

Note- 20 baskets of rice can be gained by grinding 50 baskets of paddy. If the rice was sold 7.50 per pyi, 2400 kyats will be earned.

Expenses and profit for transplanted paddy field

expenses per acre -----	1384 Kyats
production per acre -----	70 baskets
profit -----	3360 Kyats (4800 Kyats per 100 baskets)
Profit -----	1946 Kyats

Note. 29 baskets of rice will be gained by grinding 70 baskets of paddy. If the rice was sold 7.50 per pyi, 3360 kyats will be earned.

The above mentioned data are merely the creation of SLORC to justify their prescription of the rice price of 4800 Kyats per 100 baskets. In the current environment of skyrocketing prices, 780 and 1384 kyats for the expenses for working one acre of paddy field is clearly a deceptive miscalculation of SLORC. In reality, the cost per acre is between 2450 kyats to 3000 kyats while the rate of rising prices is between 33 to 35 times. It might be more than this if we based our calculation on the general difficulties in farming and practical lives of farmers. If we based on productive rate per acre as 50 baskets, the nearest expenses for 100 baskets would be round about 6000 kyats. But SLORC government has prescribed the price of rice in 1990 as follows:

Ngasein Group-----	4600 kyats per 100 baskets
Eaemahta Group-----	4800
Mytone Group-----	5000

Meanwhile, merchants are giving 6000 kyats to 7000 kyats for 100 baskets of paddy. So SLORC has been making propaganda by releasing the above miscalculation to cover their buying of paddy from farmers at low price and accusing the merchants of being profiteers. In such a situation, merchants from Irrawaddy Delta finally gave up paddy trading and diverted to other crops which made SLORC happier.

In a press meeting, U Than Naing, a 67 year old farmer from Samalauk village, Ngaung Don township said that a price of 6000 kyats would be profitable enough for the farmers and also economical for the consumers. (4.1.90 Working Peoples Daily)

This price only meant for 1st and 2nd month after the harvesting period. In 3rd and 4th month, SLORC unavoidably had to increase the price to 6000 kyats so as to increase their purchasing power but the local market price was 8000 kyats at that time.

In the Working Peoples Daily published by SLORC, it was acknowledged that Myanmar Farm Products Trading Corporation purchased 22,000,000 baskets of paddy in 1988-89. It also mentioned that SLORC would purchase 26,900,000 baskets in the year of 1990. So it is evident that SLORC also purchased paddy two years successively just like BSPP. Later, SLORC disclosed the fact that 800,000,000 baskets were purchased in the year of 1988-89. As a propaganda, SLORC declared in their newspapers that it will purchase only 7-8 baskets from a farmer. However, not soon after the declaration, the news of paddy purchasing with the rate of 12-14 baskets per acre, in Raykyi, Irrawaddy Delta, was also mentioned in their news paper. This news clearly showed that their actions were inconsistent with propaganda.

In a village, a farmer showed his paddy field to the local SLORC authorities and explained that it had been destroyed by insects and so he would not be able to sell his quota of paddy to the SLORC government this year. Instead of sympathizing with the farmer for his loss, he was arrested and tied up to a wooden stand in front of other villagers and threatened with death by the gun.

Trading and carrying of paddy by the people has been severely restricted and all boats, sampans and ships moving in the rivers and streams of the Irrawaddy are thoroughly searched by the army at regular check points. Even the old aged people who are found to be carrying one or two pyis of rice are punished and forced to "dive or squat and stand". The youngsters are punished in more cruel ways.

SLORC was not satisfied with purchasing 12 baskets per acre and farmers were forced to sell 8 baskets per acre more in the name of Township Co-operatives.

There are even more means of paddy purchasing than this. SLORC purchased paddy also in the name of Joint Venture Corporation No.(2). It used two means; the form of contract before the harvesting season and purchasing in the form of rice.

Co-operatives used the means of contract system and buffer system, exchanging rice for the products from other

non-paddy growing townships.

SLORC went down to the villages and forced farmers to sign the contract of paddy sale by threatening violence. In some villages, farmers could not bear it, and refused to sell their paddy. The Army summoned those farmers and asked if there was anybody who would not like to sell their paddy to the co-operatives. Finally, the pitiful farmers had to sign the contract.

Generally, 50% of the paddy production from the Irrawaddy delta, flows into the hands of the SLORC in some way or another. As farmers have to not only sell paddy to SLORC but repay the debt loaned to them before harvesting season by paddy, they finally face the situation where even that paddy allocated for their own family's consumption have to be sold. Farmers are short of money most of the time. They see actual cash only after the harvest when they sell their crops and when withdraw money from the farming expense loans. They even must borrow for their necessary food and beverage needs from big shops and repay the debt later with paddy or sometimes, with money at high interest rates. The interest rate for 100 kyats was up to 20 kyats in 1988-89.

SLORC engaged in persistent propaganda of their fertilizer supply promoting it for increasing yields and therefore overall production and thus the potential for improving farmers incomes. In reality, most of the fertilizer reached only the smuggling markets. Since the time of BSPP, its handpicked Peasants Asiayone (Organization) has monopolized fertilizer and abused its position by sending their supplies to the black market. They never distributed adequate amounts of fertilizer to the farmers. Farmers only got about four pyis per acre of fertilizer from the government. They had to buy the remaining needed fertilizer in the black market at a price of 100-150 kyats per package. After 1988-89, SLORC increased the official price of fertilizer by reasoning their so called declaration of Free Production and Trading of Crops. According to their statistics, in 1988-89 the SLORC could only distribute 31% of Urea, 26% of T.Super, and 21% of Potash of that distributed in 1985-86. It was also found that SLORC could not supply enough insecticide and good quality seeds to the farmers.

SLORC often makes propaganda that it usually distributes rice at suitable low prices for those laborers who are poor and live from hand to mouth. They claim to have lost 2364 million kyats last year and 3927 million Kyats in 1986-87. But they never disclosed the fact that paddy was purchased in domestic notes printed in large number by themselves as well as at the low prescribed price and sold it in foreign currency and earned huge profits. Let us see the domestic rice distribution of SLORC. They bought the rice from farmers with the maximum price of 7.50 Kyats per Pyi in 1990. (The price was less than this before 1990). Even when they distributed rice as a propaganda tool at the time of rice crisis, Government Trade Corporation and Township Co-operatives sold rice at the price of 11.50 Kyats per pyi while they ordered from and paid the Rice Mill Owners Association the price of 8 Kyats per pyi. The price for common people was even more than that of the government employees.

Joint-venture Corporation No (2) played an important role in purchasing the paddy from farmers (actually robbing and sucking the life blood from farmers) for the SLORC. In this effort, this corporation joined with the Rice Mill Owners by forcing them to buy shares in the joint venture. SLORC was very angry with the competition of rice traders in the domestic rice market after their declaration of freedom on production and trading of farm products. For this reason, the Trade Ministry issued the order 8/89 on 21.9.89 which prevents the freedom in grinding, carrying and trading.

This order prohibits the grinding of rice by rice mills freely except those owned by Myammar Farm Products Trading Corporation and those run according to United States of Burma Foreign Investment Act. It even has abrogated the registration of Rice Mills according to declaration 6/85. The action of SLORC affects the domestic small rice mills and the farmers suffer a great deal. This law prevents farmers from grinding the paddy for their own consumption at the domestic rice mills in the villages. Instead, the paddy has to be sent to the big rice mills which are very far away from the villages. As the carrying of paddy is severely restricted, it is not so easy to pass through the army check points. Eventually, farmers have to husk the paddy by traditional hand grinders.

In reality, most of the rice mills in Burma are outdated models from War World II and there is a real shortage of spare parts. In this situation where the government owned-rice mills have to rely on joint foreign investment, SLORC will never be able to supply the spare parts needed by private rice mills. It is just a dream of SLORC to earn foreign currency by selling the qualified rice ground by these outdated mills to foreign countries.

It is sure that SLORC will try by using various cruel means--power, guns, army, etc.--to get the amount of rice they want. But SLORC will not be able to do anything to lower the prices, overcoming the rice crisis for the sake of people, and getting life assurance for farmers. But SLORC usually puts the blame on the political parties and threatens the owners of small domestic rice mills and local rice traders for the rice crisis. Col Abel even accused the people of deliberately raising the rice price by saying that it goes up because people buy the rice at any price due to a fear of shortage. Actually, it is unavoidable for the people to buy rice at any price if they want to avoid starvation. The root cause of the rice crisis and the resulting problems--high prices for rice, local shortages of rice, sufferings of the people, starvation of the farmers who grow rice, etc--is no other than the SLORC. The SLORC is the instigator of high prices and inflation because of their countless printing of new bank notes. The vicious circle of high prices of basic foodstuff, high price of rice, and poverty will be continuing. Because of SLORC, greedy for foreign currency, farmers have to suffer more and more, and the rice crisis will be persistent among the people.

JUNTA 'BOMBS CIVILIAN KARENS AND STUDENTS

All week the sound of jet engines and exploding bombs have filled the jungle around Salween and Saw Hta camps. Lines of villagers have been fleeing down to the Thai border, some carrying the wounded. In the Karen hospital further down the river lie many victims of the offensive, including three Burmese students. One of them is Tin Kyaw, whose gruesome head wounds bear witness to the savageness of the attacks.

On the first day only the drone of the planes had been audible, the slow moving specks barely visible on the horizon. Now the Yugoslavian made G4 fighter-bombers are easily identifiable as they roar past only a few miles behind the camps. The stillness of the jungle has been shattered by the dull "boom" of the exploding bombs to the west and constant pounding of the SLORC artillery in the south. Intermittently comes the roar of the long-tails boats carrying the wounded and the fleeing villagers down the Salween river.

The attacks are closer and more violent than they have ever been. For the first time the junta is within striking range of the Karen Headquarter of Manaplaw. The students and villagers along the Salween are being forced to pack their few belongings and evacuate. The whole area is a bustle of activity. Baskets, boxes and cloth-tied bundles litter the riverside. Women with babies slung in front balance pots and pans on their heads. Children strain under the weight of baskets full of chicken. Others frantically try to pull along unwilling pigs and goats. The river teems with all manner of vessels-wooden canoes, bamboo rafts, passenger and cattle boats-all heading for the opposite bank.

On the Thai side the bamboo huts that had sheltered them during last year's attack are in varying stages of decay. The leaf roofs are broken and full of holes, the floors collapsing under the slightest pressure. If they are lucky they only have to stay until the rains come. If the military continue to advance, they could be stranded here indefinitely. (Burma Relief Centre, News Letter No.4)

According to our sources, four P.C 7 planes, flew four missions a day and bombed Paw Tar hill as well as the surrounding villages daily from 16th March till 30th March. (with no bombing on 27th March- The Burmese Army). Unexplored bombs and rockets have chinese marking.

The following villages were bombed during the air raid.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Paw-tar village | (2) Paw-di-der village |
| (3) Toe_nyoe village | (4) Klaw-Kho village |
| (5) Bwar-der village | (6) Paw-ka-kyo village |
| (7) Saw-mo-lay-kho village | (8) Saw-wai village |
| (9) Twi-mi-kwi village | (10) Saw-Lai-der village |
| (11) Kyit-thu-pu village | |

Three villagers from these villages were killed. (Saw Ko Ri, age 36, his son Saw Doe Too, aged 7, and another man, name not known, and 17 (including the wife of Saw Ko Ri) were wounded.

Some 4,000 villagers from these villages as well as surrounding villages fled from their villages and some crossed into Thailand.

*Note- Paw-tar is situated 32 kilometers north west of Manaplaw.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED