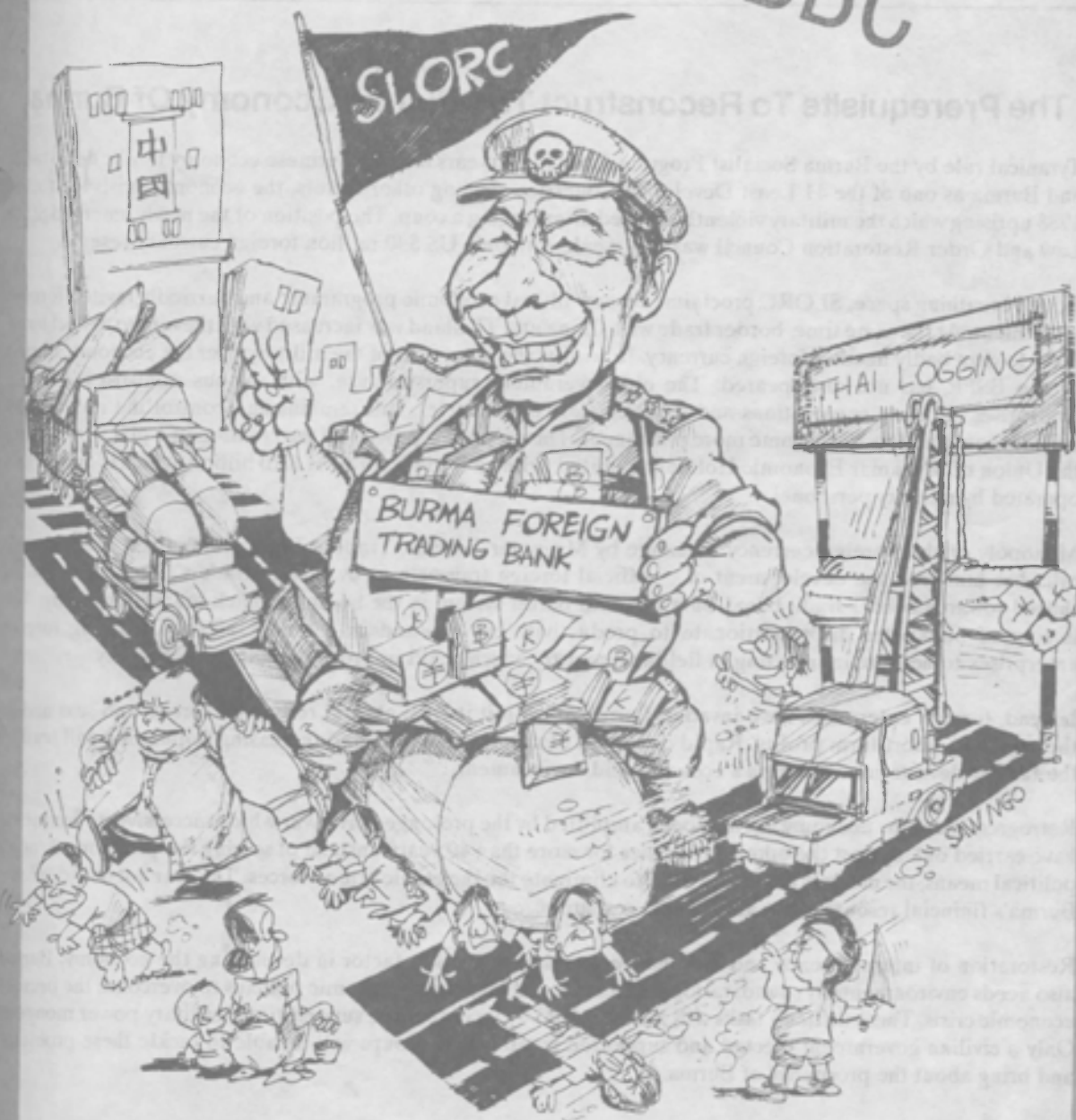


DAWN

JUNE 1991

BBC



The Prerequisite To Reconstruct The Ruined Economy Of Burma

Tyranical rule by the Burma Socialist Program Party for 26 years left the Burmese economy totally devastated and Burma as one of the 41 Least Developed Countries. Among other factors, the economic crisis led to the 1988 uprising which the military violently crushed after staging a coup. The position of the newly emerged State Law and Order Restoration Council was very weak, with only US \$30 million foreign currency reserve.

To get breathing space, SLORC proclaimed a new liberal economic programme and hurriedly invited foreign investment. At the same time, border trade with China and Thailand was increased with the aim to collect more taxes to gain badly needed foreign currency. In reality, the monopoly of the military over the economy, started by the BSPP, has not disappeared. The old government superstructure, with various ministries, 50 state enterprises, 11 state corporations and thousands of co-operatives, still remains and control the economy by military commanders has become more prominent. This trend was proved by the creation of a giant enterprise, the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, with an initial capital of K10 billion, which is owned and operated by military personnel.

Monopoly of the Foreign currency exchange by Myanmar Foreign Trading Bank, which fixed the exchange rate, has hindered the development of official foreign transactions by private traders. They have instead shifted towards border trade based on a bilateral barter system in the booming black-market economy. The issuing of banknotes disproportionate to productivity has resulted in a rising inflation, causing foreign enterprises to hesitate in investing in fields of industry which could improve the national economy.

Instead, foreign enterprises have invaded Burma to exploit its rich natural resources, forests and seas and in the search for short-term profits. Rapid depletion of natural resources and increasing population will lead to the further devastation of Burma's economy and environment.

Retrogression of the economy has also been amplified by the prolonged civil war which successive governments have carried out against the ethnic minorities for more than 40 years. Instead of solving the problems through political means, the military has vainly tried to eliminate the the ethnic armed forces. This war not only depletes Burma's financial resources but also human resources.

Restoration of internal peace and national reconciliation is a key factor in developing the economy. Burma also needs environmentally sound, rational and balanced long term economic policies to overcome the present economic crisis. These difficult tasks will not be solved by incompetant, superstitious, military power mongers. Only a civilian government elected and supported by all ethnic groups will be able to tackle these problems and bring about the prosperity of Burma. ●

SLORC - Created Democracy

BBC

The military regime which took power in 1962 animated the Burma Socialist Programme Party and thus succeeded in manipulating the Burmese people for some time. A decade later in 1974, the time when people became aware of the apparant danger of the military, the BSPP drafted a constitution and had it approved, but without the concensus of the people. Thus, a "legal" government came into being. It's aim, however, was to perpetuate the army's hold on power.

After the 1988 uprising, the Socialist veil was removed and the government crumbled. Following this, the true face of the military thugs was revealed when they staged a coup on September 1988 as they did in 1962. Now again, the military has fit a new mask entitled "multi-party democracy" so as to retain its grip on power.

What is the SLORC-created Democracy?

1. By creating anarchy among the population by releasing and paying common criminals to create widespread civil disturbances and making drugs and drink widely available, the military legitimized the coup to "restore law and order". It attempted to show that the unrest was a result of "democracy".

2. Responding to the peoples demands, the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) allowed over 100 political parties to be formed, which no country in the world ever had, and thus distorted the image of multi-party democracy. The aim was to create

divisions and conflict to undermine the parties.

3. Never intending to transfer power, to appease the people the SLORC opened the channel for the multi-party general elections. It fully expected its puppet, the National Unity Party, to win the elections. However, the political awareness of the people disrupted the aim of the military; the SLORC was not able to form a puppet government.

4. The aims of the DAB (Democratic Alliance of Burma), after the abolition of the military bureacratic mechanism, are:

- (a) to restore true internal peace,
- (b) to convene a national convention,
- (c) to draft a new constitution and
- (d) to elect a government which will truly work for the people.

The SLORC is trying to imitate those goals, but without scrapping its military power. Instead,

(1) The SLORC is trying to give an impression of internal peace by or-

AUNG HTOO

ganizing weak factions of the armed resistance in terms of cease-fire and reconciliation talks. It has propagated, so as to gain respect in the diplomatic circle, the fact that it is legitimate, that it encouraging business as a manifestation of peace in the country. All this while political prisoners and other civilians are still being violently oppressed.

(2) The SLORC is preparing to call a national convention, which should bring the true desires of all the people to a possible reality, but it does not intend to listen to the people. Internal peace can be restored only when the military mechanism is destroyed and a true national convention is held.

(3) The military regime is endeavouring to reproduce a constitution like that declared in 1974. But unless there is a true national convention, with the desires of the people at heart, there will be no democratic guidelines for the drafting of a new constitution. No matter how many great lawyers and experts Burma has, the existence of a just constitution will be questionable.

(4) The SLORC has arrested most of the representatives, elected in last years general elections, or has driven them out to the border areas. It is attempting to make itself free from any opposition and thus to impose its own selfish desires on the people.

In conclusion, the SLORC-created multi-party "democracy" is completely devoid of meaning. Therefore, there will be no freedom, no human rights and no democracy. Economically, the plight of the people will worsen. Only when the military dictatorship is destroyed will Burma be prosperous and free. ●

Release All Political
Prisoners Including U Tin
Oo And Daw Aung San
Suu Kyi

Some Current Environmental Issues In Burma

China-Burma Border

In order to pay debts the SLORC has incurred in the US \$ 900-1,500 billion arms deal with China and the other substantial arms purchases from Yugoslavia, Singapore, Russia, Pakistan and elsewhere, logging, opium cultivation and mineral extraction activities have been markedly stepped up in the north of Burma. Aspects of concern are:

- The granting of logging concessions by the SLORC to some groups, notably former BCP and SSPP factions who have agreed to the SLORC ceasefire terms, high ranking army officers and militia drug traffickers like Lo Hsing-minh, the brother of the infamous Lo Hsing-Han.

- The pressuring of the KIO to lift its logging ban and open its forests to Chinese timber workers. Kachin State, of great conservation value and the largest remaining unexploited forest tract of Burma, is now being logged.

-Increased opium cultivation sanctioned and encouraged by the SLORC regime is leading to further forest loss. Subsequent deforestation will no doubt be blamed on "slash and burn" cultivators. The ethnic Wa minority that comprises the largest armed force in Burma other than the SLORC army, has been given assurances by the SLORC that the growing and refining activities that take place in the area will not be interfered with. This policy is designed to ensure the coopera-

tion of the warrior Wa, and to ensure an increased supply of opium for the refineries of Lo Hsing-Han whose Chinese agents reportedly are the main buyers of the Wa opium. According to Wa sources, opium is now being grown openly in the sight of SLORC soldiers, and the areas under cultivation have expanded dramatically since the ceasefire agreement. The Americans reported that an estimated 175,000 acres was under poppy cultivation in 1985 and this shot



up to an estimated 290,000 acres in 1988. This was equal to an increase in the opium yield of 350 metric tons to 1,280 metric tons. (source: GAO Report to the Congress on "Drug Control: Enforcement Efforts in Burma Are Not Effective, Sept 1989)

The next two years harvests have been the biggest ever, almost doubling again up to 2,000 tons. This is partly due to the virtual cessation of control measures in certain areas, good growing seasons and presumably further increases in the area cleared for cultivation.

-Exploration activities by multinational oil companies, particularly AMOCO which has a concession area of roughly 23,000 square kilometers in the Sagaing Division and Kachin State, are opening up virgin tracts of ancient forest. Methods reportedly include use of dynamite to blow up large forest trees and of heavy bulldozers to cut roads into exploration areas. Large numbers of trucks bearing logs for export to China are said to be coming from the Sagaing Division which is where these roads are being cut. It is highly likely that military backed or owned timber conces-

sionaires are exploiting the new access routes and thus contributing to Burma's extraordinarily high deforestation rate- the third highest in the world in a country roughly the size of France. All of central Burma is being exploited through such oil concessions including the Pegu Yomas, the main area for sustainable logging of teak. Many areas of the ethnic and tribal groups are also covered by these concessions.

-The UNDP- and UNESCAP-backed "Border Area Development" and Trans-Asia Highway Programmes have contributed to road making in the Shan State and promise to lead to more. As well as helping the SLORC in its military activities and in the transport of drugs, these have also made access easier for Chinese,

Thai and Burmese timber operators. Major dam construction has been agreed on between the Slorc regime and its counterpart regime in Thailand. In the 1950's the UNDP had advanced plans to make a series of dams on the Salween and Moei Rivers. These seem to have been revived by the Thai government which has met with fierce resistance from Thai villagers, academics, some scientists and the Thai environmental movement. Thailand is hungry for power, the Slorc is hungry for foreign exchange and international recognition. It is also greatly desirous of crushing the ethnic guerrillas, dissident students and the National Coalition Government who occupy an area near the proposed dam site. A large road is currently being cut, at seemingly great expense, towards the river site. The road is marked on 1981 maps as a proposed subroute of the Asia Highway network, and it appears that the dam plans have been scaled up to encompass 7 dams with a reported electricity generating capacity of 2,000 megawatts.

TENASSERIM DIVISION:

Deforestation, over-fishing, illegal wildlife trade, oil and mineral ex-



-Landsat (satellite) photography shows that vast tracts of the Shan State are already deforested, par-



plottation, planned dam construction.

-50% or more of Tenasserim Division has been logged in a very short period. East of the Tenasserim river the estimated deforestation is 70% (source: Karen Divisional Commander)

-There has been extensive uncontrolled logging by Thai concessionaires in the SLORC controlled areas, extending as far as 50 km beyond concession areas (source: The Nation quoting the Slorc dominated Myanmar Timber Enterprise director)

-Logging is also reported on several of the islands of the Mergui Archipelago by local "Law and Order Restoration Council"(SLORC) members, guarded by Slorc troops and with timber being shipped out on Singaporean. Thai concessionaires have been stripping other islands in the south of the archipelago as well as on the mainland. There have been reports of Sirin Technology operating on Lampi Island, an FAO proposed Marine National Park, although these have not been confirmed.

-Illegal logging is practiced by Thai companies, most probably the Chaophraya-Irrawaddy company, in Pakchan, a site proposed as a natural reserve and said to be the last area of moist tropical evergreen rain forest (other possible remnants are where the oil multinational AMOCO is operating in Sagaing Division and Kachin State) that retains conservation value. The western (SLORC controlled) areas of the coastal Bilauktang Ranges have been stripped in parts according to eyewitness accounts.

-Local fishermen report that the seas of the Forest Channel (ie,

around the southern islands of the Mergui Archipelago, including Lampi Island), up until the last few years highly productive, can no longer produce worthwhile catches of fish. Many indigenous and other local fishermen have become unemployed as a result.

-There are around three hundred SLORC-licensed Thai fishing boats and even more unlicensed boats operating along the coasts. According to KNU and student sources, licenses captured from boats caught dynamiting the coral reefs (and subsequently sunk by the KNU) show that fishing is not permitted within the twelve mile coastal limit. Fishing concession areas are north of the Archipelago not within it areas. Nevertheless, illegal fishing is so extensive that it has severely depleted fish stocks and local long liners and indigenous Mon fishermen can no longer make a living.

-There has been very severe destruction of the coral reefs due to the widespread use of dynamite and bottom trawling methods. The fact that pieces of the fuselage of a south Korean airliner that had crashed were pulled up in the net of a Thai trawler is evidence that these methods are used. Karen sources state that 3 Thai boats caught using dynamite have been burnt and sunk after release of their crew (prior to the well publicized scuttling of the "Daengsiri", the pride of the Thai fishing fleet, by the ABSDF students).

-Illegal poaching of wildlife has severely reduced wildlife stocks. Elephant poaching has been clearly documented in Tenasserim in the FAO nature conservation and national parks project (NCNPP21/83). The poachers are reportedly Thais in this area. In

some parts of Tenasserim, local populations have been completely decimated by poachers. The Karens have two Thai poachers in their jail. They reported finding a female (tuskless) elephant dead from gunshot wounds (Sept.'90). Ironically the Karens have been accused of killing around 50 elephants per week for the Thai wildlife product trade. These allegations have since been thoroughly discredited.

-Thai fishing boats allegedly make trips to Rangoon to buy wildlife products that are readily available in the market there. These include tiger skins and bones (and those of other felines-Burma has 8 feline species listed under the Convention on the International Trade in endangered species) including the rare coloured leopard).

-The well-known Thai trade in endangered species which has recently resulted in a Western boycott on all wildlife products from Thailand, is fed by large numbers of skins, bones, tusks, horns, live animals and birds from Burma. Thai-Chinese wildlife traders offer temptingly high prices to indigenous hunters for wildlife products as well as to Thai villagers. Local people become involved in the traffic resulting their being blamed for it.

-Fast, well-armed Thai boats reportedly travel to the Arakan Coastlines where the mangrove swamps harbour a population of saltwater crocodiles. (The Tenasserim river may still have a remnant population but no data is available--FAO, NCNPP 1983). The boats formerly used dynamite to harvest skins, but this has recently changed to the taking of eggs for hatching in Thai crocodile farms (Source: Arakanese Revolutionary-NUFA chairman)

-Tin dredging concessions covering 200,000 Rai (44,000 hectares) were granted to a Thai company off the coast of Bokpyin which has important fish breeding grounds in the mangrove areas on the eastern coast of the mainland and the coral reefs on the islands of the Archipelago. "The coral reefs of the Andaman sea are exceptionally species rich" ecosystems and "the best development reefs are therefore around the remoter islands of the Mergui Archipelago" (FAO, NCNPP 1983). Tin dredging creates large plumes of muddied, silt laden water that can settle on and kill the coral. The turbid water also effects fish breeding which is

already disturbed by the over-fishing, dynamiting and the logging. The tin dredging should be stopped.

-The Mergui-Tavoy costal area is also being eyed for offshore oil exploration.

-Forced labour is being used for mining activities on Kabusa Island. Details are scarce. But it is possible that foreign investment is involved.

-From Three Pagodas Pass to Thanbyuzayat near Amherst, a road is being constructed along the proposed route of the 500 Km.

natural gas pipeline to Thailand. The road is being built to facilitate the transport of goods from a proposed Singapore-built container port at or near Amherst and for the protection and construction of the gas pipeline. Two thirds of the road is being built by a Thai logging company and the Amherst end of the road by a Singaporean company. In view of the Thai military and timber company assisted attack by the SLORC on Karen and Mon positions in February 1990 this could pose a great threat. ●

Steven Thompson



INTERVIEW WITH DEFECTED SOLIDERS



Name - Win Hlaing
Parents' names - U Aye Thaung & Daw Khin Hla
BC - 692933
Position - Private of the Regiment 28
Age - 24
Address - Phinsu village, Thapyaygone village tract, Myan Aung township, Irrawaddy Division

I joined the army on 21.6.88, just before the uprising started. When the demonstrations began to break out on 8.8.88, I was in the Regiment 28. At that time, we heard that Burmese Tadmaw (army) was shooting innocent students and people mercilessly. I felt very sorry because I was born as a soldier from the people. Even so, the military elite, unsatisfied with it, arrested many demonstrating students, workers and farmers and sent them to the Mae Tha Wal area as porters, where fierce battles were being fought. When I saw it, I was upset.

Having seen the military oppression against the people, I realized that I was wrong and decided to join the resistance group in the

liberated area. After my arrival here, the army dismantled my house and took everything away. Besides this, my wife and children were detained by the SLORC. I was angry first and then sorry for the fate imposed upon my family.

I was welcomed by brothers here and given food, shelter and clothing. From now on I will devote my time to topple the oppressive military regime.



Name - Zaw Lwin Oo
Parents' names - U Htun Myaing & Daw Tin Nu
BC - 742681
Position - Private of the Regiment 75
Age - 19 years
Address - No-17, Tat Thein quarter, Pagan-Nyaung U

I joined the army on 22.12.89.

Before I joined the army, I saw soldiers of the Burmese army kill many students and people on 8.8.88. When I joined the army, I learnt that there is an appalling order for every soldier to obey, that is, if there is a demonstration inside or outside of the army, soldiers have to shoot the

demonstrators even if they are their parents or brothers and sisters. I despise this and decided to defect to the resistance group who welcomed me warmly.



Name - Khin Zaw
Parents' names - U Htun Aung Kyaw & Daw Kyar Nyo
Position - Lance corporal of the Regiment 28
Age - 29 years
Address - Panbetan village, Myaik U township, Arakan State

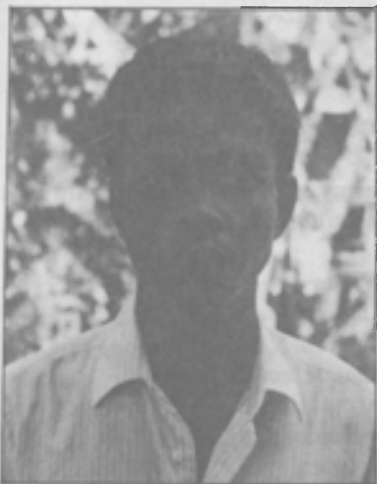
I joined the army on 23.10.84.

While I was in the Regiment 28, always saw with my own eyes the military's brutal oppression against the innocent civilians. If the officers sensed that they needed, say, 5 porters, they would recruit 10 people from the villages. Then the extra porters would be released on payment.

The people are very poor and know that if they are taken as porters, they will have to spend 5/6 months in the jungle. Porter service is very vulnerable; very often, porters die from disease, of starvation or can be killed in the cross-

fire. But the poor people have to give what they have to the army so as not to be conscripted as porters. Moreover, the officers will not feed them with the supplies provided for them from the government. Rather, our supplies have to be shared with them. We gave them too little food and thus they are under fed. If there is shortage of rice for the army ration, the officers will take away that of the villages. Out of fear, they give away what they keep for themselves.

Because I do not want to see anymore of the unjust acts the Burmese military has been committing, I have defected to the liberated area. People here do not take me as an enemy; they treat me as an old friend. From this time onward, I will commit my life to overthrow the military regime.



Name - Chit Aung
Parents' names - U San Yin & Daw San Mya
BC - 725043
Position - Private of the Regiment 28
Age - 30 years
Address - No-627, Enngyin St, North Okkalapa, Rangoon

I joined the army on 6.7.89.

I attended the military training for 6 months. Afterwards, I was sent to the Regiment 28 based in Hlaing Bwe town.

In 1988, the Burmese army blocked and killed many innocent people who were demonstrating peacefully. It also arrested and tortured hundreds of students, monks and people.

While I was serving in the Regiment, I found that the new comers were ordered to be on the lookout all day and when we told to change the shift, we were kicked or beaten up by the officers and sergeants. We were sent to the villages to loot or steal the properties of the villagers, disguising as insurgents or robbers. Using the word "military order" as an excuse, the officers oppress the rank and files.

I will tell you a true event. One day, our unit was ordered to go to Hti Lon village to conscript the villagers as porters. The commander of our unit ordered us to round up 3 porters per soldier. Three of us refused to obey the order while the rest finished their quotas. The commanding officer slapped my face, gave me a heavy blow and a kick for not obeying the order. The extra porters were released later after their money had been stripped of. And when I got married, I was locked up for 21 days because I could not repay 1,000 Kyats--marriage loan to the army.

Having seen the injustice, oppression and torture and fed up with killing machines, I decided to defect to the liberated area. Besides, I am a family man and want to live with my family peacefully without any threat from the military regime.

I left Kaw Wun camp on 23.1.91. I thank the people in the area for welcoming me, providing me with necessary things and backing me up.



Name - Nyunt Thein
Parents' names - U Chan Hla Phyu & Daw Bayda
Position - Private of the Regiment 28
Age - 20 years
Address - Shwe Long Tin village, Ya Thay Taung township, Arakan State

I joined the army on 25.1.91.

I attended the military training in the Regiment 97. Then I began to serve in the Regiment 28 of Hlaing Bwe town in the Karen State. When the 8.8.88 uprising broke out, I heard that the Burmese army killed many innocent students and civilians. Due to difficulty for my livelihood, I joined the army. From the very beginning of my presence in the army, I had been in touch with the military oppression over the civilian populations without any good reason. For this, I felt very upset. Eventually, I made up my mind to come over here to the liberated area after I clearly sensed that I should no longer work in the

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SLORC Human Rights Violations

SLORC Atrocities From Kachin State

On 17 June, 1991, about 100 soldiers from a military column of SLORC from Mugawng town, 30 miles Southwest of Myitkyina, came to Shingbwi Yang village, near Mugawng town, and killed 3 villagers. 4 other villagers managed to escaped and 6 others are still missing. Nobody knew what had become of them.

Two Returnees Arrested Upon Arriving Home

Students from Minthamee camp informed the "Dawn" that, on 30 May, two students, namely, Aunt Kyaw Soe and Ye Naing, who returned home on the requests of their fathers were detained by the Military Intelligence Branch of the Light Infantry Regiment 25 in their hometown. (See Dawn--May)

According to sources in the southern Burma the SLORC township officials have issued orders to the parents to bring their sons and daughters home, who are members of the ABSDF. The SLORC has threatened that if the parents are not able to bring their offsprings home, they will be taken "tough actions" against, and as a part of the threatening order, SLORC is building makeshift camps with barbed wire outside the towns saying that "the camps are meant for the parents who do not obey the order or for those who can not bring their sons back into the legal fold".

If parents in the rural areas have their sons and daughters in the ABSDF, they must inform the SLORC officials of any progress made within two weeks, i.e, twice a month, which takes 4/5 days each to towns and thus, affects their business fairly.

The attempt by the two parents, the former a goldsmith and the latter an owner of a photo studio, was part of the SLORC order to persuade their sons back home with repeated promise of "safety".

To their amazement and anger, two students were taken away by the military intelligence personnel upon arrival at their homes for so-called questioning. Sources in Tavoy said the two students have been held in the jail for their participation in the so-called insurgent activities. They have been badly treated by the MIS personnel, sources said.

NLD Member Held For Stamping Anti-SLORC Slogan On Bank Note

Soe Myint Aung, an NLD member from Myin Mu town, was detained by the military intelligence for stamping anti-SLORC slogan on the 1 Kyat bank note.

At About 11 P.m on 27 June, 1991, military intelligence from Monywa conducted a surprise check at the house of Soe Myin Aung in Myin Mu town, Sagaing Division. They found a 1 Kyat bank note stamped with the slogan "Be prepared to overthrow Facist-Nazi SLORC".

Maung Thaw Ka (a) U Ba Thaw Died In Detention

21 June, 1991 - Rangoon

Maung Thaw Ka (a) U Ba Thaw, a writer, ex-Navy Commander and NLD CEC member died in a hospital in Rangoon, reported State run Working People's Daily on 21th of June. But the military authorities did not mention why he had died.

He was arrested in the night of 23 July, 1989, by the Military Intelligence. He was later sentenced to 20 years imprisonment with hard labour. While he was in the prison, he wrote four moving poems, namely, "Play Director, A Match Stick, Not Dead- Not Crushed and Brutalized On Purpose."

Continue from Page(9)

army without meaning and that I should side with the people.

When I was in the army, the officers propagated that the KNU (Karen National Union) executes the defectors from the Burmese army. But When I saw them, they welcomed me as if I were their brother.

I promise that I will devote my life to bring down the ruthless military regime along with my brothers here. I will also remind fellow soldiers under the military junta not to trust a handful of generals, not listen to the propaganda tools of the SLORC and to uproot the military dictatorship. ●

Victims Of Repatriation

When the then newly-formed State Law and Order Restoration Council began to track down the pro-democracy demonstrators throughout the country after the bloody crackdown on 18 of September, 1988, thousands of students and the people found their way to the border areas where the ethnic minorities make their home.

Out of unimaginable hardship imposed upon the city-born students, hundreds of whom took refuge in the neighbouring Thailand while several thousands of students remain in the jungle. The (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as it is its commitment, gave assistance to the influx of refugees from Burma. Despite, Thailand, the host country, does not recognize them as refugees, rather as illegal immigrants. Therefore, the Thai authorities have carried out the deportations from the very beginning.

During the deportation programmes from April to June alone, (62) students have been pushed back to Burma, some of whom ended up in the hands of Burmese military authorities, while others passed themselves off as ordinary workers or traders.

In the recent deportation programme on 20 June, about 100 people including 6 students were repatriated back to Victoria Point (Kaw Thau town) in the south of Burma. The following is the account of what happened to one of those students, recognized as "person of concern" by the UNHCR. On 20 June, the 6 students were accompanied by Thai immigration

officials to Ranong on the Thai/Burma border. The following day, they were required to give thumb-prints and then, with all the other immigrants, were put into a boat. The boat was escorted by two others, one with police and one with immigration officials and soldiers. When the convoy neared the Burmese side of the river the Thai escorts turned back, after waving acknowledgement to their Burmese counterparts. The lone boat of immigrants was met by police, soldiers, immigration officials, plain clothes police and the Volunteer Fire Brigade. The immigrants were ordered to sit down on the bank of the river and then told to get into trucks in pairs. They were taken to the People's Hall and an official verbally abused them, saying, "Charges will be brought against you for leaving the country without permission ... you will be fined 1,500 Kyats!"

The people were ordered to give their name, address, occupation, parents' names, and then their blood was tested for AIDS and other possible infections. After paying the fine to the judge, 5 of the students;



Nyi Naing (a) Ye Htay

ed and taken to the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Service.

When Nyi Naing (a) Ye Htay, a primary school teacher and a poet



Aung Maw

from Bassein Town, confessed to being a student, the four others were released. Reports indicate that he was badly treated by the MIS. On 28 June he was sent to Insein Prison, Rangoon. The one student who escaped, by passing himself off as a trader, was Aung Maw, an ABSDF student from the Institute of Agriculture, Pyinmana. The immigrants unable to pay the fine immediately were kept in the Peoples Hall day and night for a week and were constantly abused. Those unable to contact relatives to pay the fine were sentenced to six months in prison.

The Thai authorities have been repatriating illegal Burmese immigrants and UNHCR registered refugees since early 1989. The refugees, in the main having escaped political persecution, face a bleak future if captured by the Burmese army. Most face either execution or long prison sentences with hard labour. The Thai military authorities should recognize the refugee status given to these people and realize that they are in Thailand because they have no alternative. They have no where else to run.

The ABSDF Central Committee Meeting Held

The third regular meeting of the ABSDF Central Committee was held at the ABSDF headquarters in Mernaplaw from 18.6.91 to 2.7.91. Present at the meeting were the representatives from all camps along the borders.

Discussions on the report of the Central Executive Committee, Central Department reports and reports from the camps were conducted, and decisions on the new strategies and future planning were made. ●



First National Health Conference Held



The first National Health Conference sponsored by the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) was held at the Mernaplaw Hall from 5.6.91 to 7.6.91. 132 doctors, nurses, medics, academics and ob-

servers from (NCGUB), All Burma Students' Democratic Front, Karen National Union, New Mon State Party, Kachin Independence Organization and representatives from DAB and NDF were present at the conference.

During the meeting, Burma Medical Association was formed. It aims to solve the medical problems existed under the rule of the military regime. ●

NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

All nationalities of Burma have been gradually losing their basic rights to state health care due to the repressive rule of the military dictatorship. Only 1.4 to 1.6 % of the national budget has been allocated to the health sector during this period of military rule. The consequence of this policy has been the suffering of many ailments by the majority of people and unnecessary loss of lives. People are not able to escape the vicious cycle of poverty, lack of knowledge and poor health. Modern medical care has been enjoyed by just a handful of military elites, while the majority of people have had to rely on primitive traditional medicine.

As a result of abuse of position and corruption of various levels of authority, most of the medical aid provided by international health organizations has not reached the people. National health planning has failed due to the mismanagement of the military's bureaucratic machine and the standard of health has therefore fallen sharply nationwide.

Instead of solving the political problems by political means, military dictators have been intensifying the civil war. The majority of the people living in remote areas have become victims of the war and have to live in extremely poor conditions with no medical facilities available to them.

For this reason, the National Coalition Government organized medical professionals in the liberated area and called a national health conference to find a solution to the health problems which have persisted for decades. The



The Members of Burma Medical Association

conference was held from 5.6.91 to 7.6.91. Doctors, nurses, medics, academics, academics and observers from National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, All Burma Students' Democratic Front, Karen National Union, New Mon State Party, Kachin Independence Organization and representatives from Democratic Alliance of Burma and National Democratic Front were present at the conference. During the conference medical professionals collectively submitted and discussed research papers on primary health care in the liberated area of Burma, The possibility to organize Red Cross Society in liberated area, Malnutrition in the liberated area, Anti-tuberculosis programme in refugee village at Thai-Burma border, Current health problem of Federal University students and teachers, Malaria in revolutionary areas.

The participants of the conference unanimously decided to create the

following institutions in order to implement projects designed to improve the standard of health according to the policy of primary health care, necessary due to conditions inside Burma.

- (1) National Health Committee
- (2) Burma Medical Association
- (3) Burma Red Cross Society

In order to successfully implement the health programme, the institutions will mobilize the available financial, technical and manpower resources in the liberated area with the assistance of international health organizations and NGOs. Majority participation plays an important role in practicing democracy in a society.

Hence, the conference called on the active participation of the entire people for the promotion of national health by raising the slogan, "Health for the people by the people." ●

Illegal Exchange Rates On The Borders

Rangoon - June

According to sources inside Burma, the unofficial and only exchange rates available on the border are: 1 Bangladesh Taka = 3.05 Burmese Kyat; 1 Thai Baht = 3.33 Kyat; 1 Chinese Yon = 13.50 Kyat; 1 US\$ = 80 Kyats.

The official exchange rates are: 1 Taka = 0.25 Kyat; 1 Thai Baht = 0.25 Kyat; 1 Yon = 0.741 Kyat ; 1 US\$ = 7.6 Kyats.

The difference in the exchange rates is due to the huge trade deficit with bordering nations, source said.

SLORC Alarmed By The Presence Of US Aircraft Carrier

Maungdaw, Arakan - 17 May, 1991

Reliable sources said the SLORC's troops deployed on the Bangladesh-Burma border were alarmed by the presence of a US Aircraft Carrier "Tarawa", carrying 30 helicopters, in the Bangladesh waters near Maungdaw in Arakan State, a western town bordering Bangladesh.

The carrier was there as part of relief duty to provide food and medicine and other necessary aid to the victims of cyclones in the southern mainland and islands. Bangladesh was struck twice by cyclones last May which left thousands of people dead and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Because the carrier was anchored near the border, SLORC troops were unnerved and frightened by their surmise that the US troops

Anniversary Of Democratic Victory Held



Germany

On 25 May, the International Network for Democracy in Burma (INDB) Germany, in cooperation with the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma, Germany, and German-Burmese Association (GBA) held the commemoration of the Burmese people's democratic victory day on 27 May, 1990, as Burma-Action-Day Worldwide, at the Bonn-Centre(Munster-Platz) in Germany.

About 20 Burmese and German staged a hunger strike for an anniversary and strongly condemned

the Burmese military regime for ruling the country under unconstitutional and illegitimate law. The group also appealed to the Federal Government of Germany and the Government of the European Community saying that Burmese people are "the 40 million hostages" in their own country. Burmese people are now suffering from a nationwide local disease known as "SLORCivora" (a new German word for "eating democracy alive"), which comes from the acronym for the SLORC, the awesomely thick-skinned coterie of military men who has ruled Burma for over 30 years ago.

might contact pro-democracy activists inside Burma. The SLORC troops, therefore, tracked and reported to military headquarters the daily movements of the carrier, the sources said.

Australian Geologists To Examine Burma's Gold Mine

14 June, 1991

Reliable sources said Michael

Roger, an Australian geologist, accompanied by three members arrived Mandalay in from Rangoon and were staying at the Shwe Nyaung Hotel.

The group was to examine the Pha Yaung Taung gold mine in the Pa Thein Gyi Township in Mandalay Division.

Junta "Punish Others To Pressure Suu kyii"

Bangkok post - 1 June, 1991

Political prisoners are having their jail terms extended by the Burmese junta in an attempt to pressure Daw Aung San Suu Kyi into leaving the country and forsaking politics, sources in Rangoon told the AFP news agency.

The latest to have his sentence increased is U Tin Oo, former chairman of the NLD and three-year sentence has recently been increased to 17 years.

U Kyi Maung, recognized as the interim leader of the NLD after the elections, has had his 10-year sentence doubled, and acting secretary U Chit Khaing has had his 7-year term increased to 14 years. The reports that follow earlier this week indicate that other NLD leaders will also have to spend more time in prison.

Several previous attempts have been made by the military regime including using a Buddhist

abbot to act as go-between, to persuade Aung San Suu Kyi to pack up and go. To this, she agreed, but laid down such stringent conditions for her departure that she knew the junta would not accept.

Earlier this month Maj Gen Khin Nyunt made a public appeal for Aung San Suu Kyi to join her family.

Deported Burmese Given hard Labour

Bangkok Post - 2 June, 1991

About 50 Burmese illegal immigrants were given hard labour after being deported to Burma, military sources said.

They were among 57 Burmese rounded up by Thai authorities in a recent campaign against illegal asylum seekers at Maesot border town.

An estimated 15,000 illegal Burmese immigrants have been cut to 7,000 by the campaign. About 1,500 illegal immigrants have left Maesot town to seek refuge in displaced persons' camps along the Thai-Burmese border.

Burmese Junta Obstructing Medical Care Of Civilians

The Nation - 2 June, 1991

Burma's military government is systematically obstructing medical care of injured civilians and routinely detains medical personnel, a US physician who recently travelled to the country has reported.

Hospitals have orders not to treat wounded demonstrators and infant mortality in the Thai-Burma border, an area of guerrilla conflict, is more than twice the national average, according to the report.

The report is based on eyewitness accounts and interviews with doctors, medical students and members of the karen, Karenni and Shan peoples. A delegation led by Dr. Howard Hu of the Harvard School of Public Health visited the Thai-Burma border and Bangkok.

The team concluded that health care personnel have been a target of a bloody government crackdown that has all but silenced Burma's op-

position in a campaign of arrests and intimidation since the popular uprising was crushed in 1988.

The report said the military has closed main hospitals in areas where there has been long-scale shooting of demonstrators, ignored requests political prisoners for medical care, blocked ambulances and removed Red Cross insignias from clinics, often the only way a medical facility can be identified.

International Red Cross workers have been physically restrained from attending to seriously wounded individuals who were then taken in government vehicles directly to prison, according to the report.

Deportations Cause Labour Woes In South

The Nation - 5 June, 1991

While authorities in Tak province started crack down on illegal Burmese immigrants yesterday, Thai agro and marine industries in the South are complaining about a severe shortage of cheap Burmese labour due to

similar government operations there.

According to the secretary-general of Chumphon Chamber of Commerce, the crack-down has aggravated the labour shortage in the province which depends heavily on cheap Burmese workers who have replaced their counterparts over the past several years, and this labour shortage has raised production costs, damaging local industries and construction projects and deterred new investments.

Burma Illegal Rounded Up As Deadline Passes

The Nation - 5 June, 1991

Thai officials yesterday rounded up 192 illegal Burmese immigrants in Maesot as deadline May 31 expired, and repatriated 85, handing them over to Burmese authorities in Myawaddy. The other 107 immigrants were transferred to Bann Huay kalok refugee holding camp, where they will be detained, according to Col Thammanoon Chitwashira, the head of the operation.

Elected Representative Of NLD Quits In Protest At Party

The Nation - 6 June, 1991
Tin Maung, an elected representative of the Na-

tional League for Democracy from Yesagyo constituency, has resigned from Parliament charging that party officials lack respect for the law, the state-owned "Working People's Daily" reported. The paper said he resigned because it might affect his dignity if these officials continue to commit such acts, which did not specify.

Pakistan Selling Arms To Burma

The Nation - 8 June, 1991

Pakistan recently provided artillery and ammunition to Burma, and Pakistani military advisers are training Burmese troops, according to a Rangoon-based diplomatic source. The arms deal included howitzers, mortars and spare parts but did not mention whether the arms package was intended mainly to help Burmese forces to launch attacks from mountainous regions onto rebels strongholds in the lowlands and also to boost their air-to-ground combat capabilities.

At the same time, a small Pakistani military delegation is in Burma giving lessons in paratrooping to three Burmese battalions and commando training to the Burmese army, sources said. Both Pakistani and Burmese

authorities deny the charge.

The diplomatic source also said China's military presence is growing in Burma. Four Chinese jet fighters--two equivalent to the Soviet Union's MiG-19 and two equivalent to the MiG-21--were recently spotted at the military airfield in Moulmein which is under construction and due to be completed soon. Chinese influence in Burma has been especially pronounced in northern Shan State down to Mandalay in the wake of the thawing relations between the two countries. Burmese residents in Lashio, Kalaw, Maymyo, and Mandalay say many Chinese business have acquired official Burmese identity cards through under-the-tables, the source said.

3 Burmese Arrested At Rangoon University

The Nation - 9 June, 1991

Three young men have been arrested for distributing anti-government pamphlets at Rangoon University two other schools that were recently reopened by the military regime, reported "Working People's Daily". The paper said the three were taken into custody between May 27 and 30 but did not say whether Ko Ko Gyi, 24,

Thura Aung, 25, and Win Zaw, 27, were students. Burma's universities have traditionally been centres of protest against government. "If someone goes astray and causes disturbances, schools will have to be closed down again," the country's Health and Education minister said in a televised speech May 13.

Wichian To Rangoon

The Nation - 13 June, 1991

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watanakhun will head a Thai delegation on a three-day visit to Burma later this month, informed sources said. He will be meeting with leaders of the Rangoon military junta but names and topics of discussion have not yet been revealed, the sources said.

Foreign Minister Arsa Sarasin told that Thailand did not have a policy of forcibly repatriating Burmese students who had sought political asylum in Thailand but would only deport illegal immigrants using students' names to work in Thailand illegally.

The Thai government approved the Department of Technology and Economic Cooperation's Bt 21 million for development projects in

public health, education and human resources as a part of aid package for developing countries.

Interior Ministry Ordered Aid Cut To Burmese Refugees'

The Nation - 8 June, 1991

The cut in the monthly allowance of Burmese refugees under the protection of the UNHCR in Thailand was initiated by the Interior Ministry to discourage anti-Rangoon activities, aid workers said.

About 50 Burmese refugees demonstrated in Support of Refugee Assistance Programmes in Thailand to protest the "discriminatory" cut in their allowance (by Bt 500 to Bt 2500).

Kachin Move To Initiate peace Talks With Rangoon Junta Fails

The Nation - June 11, 1991

Attempts by the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) to initiate peace talks between Burma's armed ethnic resistance and the Burmese junta have failed over the past year because of Rangoon's stance that it would only negotiate with individual parties.

The negotiations broke down because of wide differences between the two parties. The SLORC could not accept the KIO call for a nationwide ceasefire and direct peace talks with the DAB, said Brang Seng, who chairs the KIO.

He said that three earlier bilateral peace negotiations in 1960, 1970 and 1980 failed because Rangoon insisted on total surrender of the armed ethnic movement.

Brang Seng accused the Burmese junta of intransigence, noting that the last round of talks, held between October 1980 and May 1981 between himself and Burmese strongman Ne Win had only reached a deadlock.

Burma's Muslims Flee Persecution

Bangkok Post - 15 June

Thousands of Burmese Muslims known as "Rohingyas" are entering Bangladesh illegally each month to escape alleged persecution by the Rangoon military regime.

The worst persecution was reported from Maungdaw, Sittwe and Buthidaung in Arakan State on the Bay of Bengal next to Bangladesh, where "even mosques were demolished for making new military barracks".

Burmese soldiers allegedly raped a 18-year old Muslim girl, after she was forcibly taken away from her home last November and she died a week later.

Bangladeshi intelligence sources said 200,000 Muslims had been forced their homes by Burmese soldiers in the past six months.

Burmese Film Star Banned Amid Cultural Revolution

Bangkok Post - 14 June

A Burmese film actress has become the first victim of a mini-cultural revolution being launched in the city against "decadent

Western culture," the state-run Working People's Daily reported. Actress and singer Khaing Khin Oo who has won several top Burmese awards including one for best supporting actress several years ago, has been banned from acting and performing for five years for "having dressed up in alien and decadent attire while entertaining the public" the report said.

According to the newspaper, Khaing Khin Oo was not only barred from performing on state radio, television and films, but would not be allowed to pose for magazines, journals or calendars.

Khaing Khin Oo was one of a host of popular artists taking part in a special state-sponsored show, in aid of the recent Meikhtila fire victims, currently being staged at the open air theatre, a gift from the Chinese.

Observers said the mini-cultural revolution appears to have been launched following a June 1 speech by Rangoon military commander, Maj-Gen Myo Nyunt.

During the speech to students who had successfully undergone a session on studies in Buddhist culture, Myo Nyunt deplored the decadent mode of dress among artists as contrary to Buddhist culture and warned that effective action would be taken.

He added that the educating and organizing period was over, and that action would have to be taken under martial law.

"We can not allow our national culture and religion, which we have safeguarded since time immemorial, to disappear during our time," Myo Nyunt.

Burma To Get Japanese Debt Relief Grant

Bangkok Post - 15 June

Japan has agreed to a 3,000 yen (\$ 21.7 mil-

lioin) debt relief grant for Burma military government. The grant was Japan's third to Burma since 1988, when the Burmese military brutally crushed a nation-wide uprising for democracy.

Burma's foreign debt was estimated at \$5 billion in 1990, most of which was owed to Japan. Western diplomats said interest payments alone on the debt to Japan totalled some 12 billion yen (\$87 million) a year.

The first relief grant of 3,654 million yen (\$26.5 million) was extended in June 1988 and the second, of 3,500 million yen (\$25.3 million) in July 1990, the Working People's Daily said.

Burmese Army Captures Three Khun Sa Outposts

Bangkok Post - 15 June

A band of nearly 2,000 Burmese troops attacked and seized three forward positions some 50 kilometres north of drug warlord Khun Sa's HQs, border sources said.

Border sources noted that the fierce battle between Khun Sa's Maung Tai Army and Burmese troops from the Eastern Command represented the closest in proximity ever from the Rangoon side to the MTA head-

quarters in Huo Muong, opposite Mae Hong Song.

Burma has become a party to the 1988 United Nations convention against trafficking in illegal drugs, an official said.

Most of the world's heroin comes from the so-called "golden triangle," the lawless, warlord controlled area where Burma, Laos meet northern Thailand.

Burmese Junta Bars Entry To UN Investigator

Bangkok Post - 26 June

Burma's military junta has barred a visit by the UN human rights investigator who is supposed to check on detained opposition leaders and allegations of torture of political prisoners, Asian diplomats at the United Nations said.

Only a few countries have ever refused to permit the visit of a UN human rights investigator, including Iran, Afghanistan and Chile under Gen Augusto Pinochet.

The government of Burma, which has renamed the country Myanmar, has become under sharp international criticism for its human rights record since troops fired on pro-

democracy demonstrators in 1988, killing hundreds. No official investigation was ever held to assign blame for the shoot-to-kill orders. The military government held free national elections in May 1990, resulting in a landslide victory for the opposition National League for Democracy. However, the military has refused to turn over power and has detained or jailed many opposition leaders.

Burma has refused entry to a Japanese professor, Yozo Yokota, who was appointed by the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Commission to prepare a confidential report on the country's human rights situation, said the diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Burmese junta instead proposed that a Filipino diplomat, Kee Sum Bing, prepare the report, the diplomats said. She is currently working with UNICEF in Thailand.

Diplomats said that the Burmese believe Mrs Bing might prepare a more favourable report than the last Japanese human rights investigator, Sadako Ogata, who visited in 1990. Mrs. Ogata was later appointed UN High Commissioner for Refugees by the Secretary-

General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The diplomats said the Human Rights Commission is sticking by the appointment of Yokota, and has suggested that, if necessary, it will adopt a report on Burma without sending an investigator.

Mrs. Ogata's 1990 report criticized Burma's military junta for detaining opposition members and failing to turn over power to the democratically elected civilian officials.

She was not allowed to inspect Burma's prisons, so her report noted that "numerous allegations of torture and other degrading treatment" of detainees could not be investigated.

Mrs Ogata wrote of the "muffling of political parties." A government minister told her that "criticism of the government was a violation of the law if that criticism was more than slight."

Military Junta Arrests Dissident Politicians

Bangkok Post - 26 June

Burmese military authorities have arrested two dissident politicians for having alleged links with insurgents, official Rangoon radio said. The two men, identified as

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NEWS FROM INSIDE BURMA

Karen National League for Democracy Leaders Warned

Pa-an, Karen State

Reliable sources said 5 Members of the Karen National League for Democracy, including chairman and general secretary of the League, were called in and warned to strictly follow Decree 1/90 issued by the SLORC's Central Election Commission on May 9, 1991.

8 Seconds Salute Banned

Mokoke town, Mandalay Division

Sources inside Burma said, at a meeting of opposition political parties held on 20 May at the Mokoke township Na-

Continue from Page (18)
Ne Win, 26, and Maung Maung Htwe, 37, were arrested at a security checkpoint near southern Burma's Mudon township on 23 May after agents found illegal documents in their possession, the radio said in a dispatch monitored by AFP in Bangkok.

Both were members of the outlawed All Burma Workers Solidarity Organization (ABWSO) which last month joined

tional League for Democracy office, an 8 second silence, given in memory of the fallen heroes of the democratic movement, was banned by Major Aung Myaing, township SLORC chairman.

About 15 representatives from the NLD, the Lahu National Solidarity Party, the Union Nationals League for Democracy, the Palaung National Democracy Party and the National Unity Party were present at the meeting.

20 Families Flee SLORC Prosecution

Prawn Creek village, Butheetaung township, Arakan State

The Butheetaung township SLORC has

up with the People's Democratic Front (PDF), an underground anti-government insurgent group based on the Burma-Thailand border, it said.

The radio said Sein Mya, founder of the PDF and former home and religious minister under former strongman MNe Win in 1972, was hiding on the Burmese-Thai border, while ABWSO leader Zaw Nyunt was in Bangkok.

threatened 20 families who fled into Bangladesh in fear of the army's prosecution, saying that they would be declared persona non grata and would face tough action if they returned.

10,000 Muslims Protest In Maungdaw

Maungdaw town, Arakan State

Muslims from Myoma Tanyingone village near the 4th quarter rallied in protest against the ban over a big mosque being built on state land. 30 policemen were stationed at the protest site to control the 10,000 muslims. The crowd dispersed dissatisfied and many wept, said eyewitnesses.

NLD Social Welfare Meeting Held In Bassein

Bassein, Irrawaddy Division

A meeting of Bassein township Social Welfare Department of the National League for Democracy was held at their office in West Bassein township on the 5th of this month. In the meeting, a decision was made to provide food, clothing, shelter, education and social care for

families whose fathers and husbands, or the ones responsible for the only source of income, have been detained for political reasons.

In addition, it was decided to raise funds for that purpose and collect donations from party members. Present at the meeting were U Htin Kyaw, chairman of the Social Welfare Department, U Myo Myint, a former township education officer, and elected representatives of the May election from the constituency (1) of west Bassein township. Also present were U Khin Maung Win, the township organizer and the treasurer and other party members from Bassein township and neighbouring areas.

Students Driven Out Of Monasteries

Mandalay city

SLORC officials have been conducting surprise searches in monasteries in Mandalay city of the students from provincial towns who are staying there. Students have been driven out of the monasteries under suspicion of cooperating with the monks in an attempt to instigate unrest once again. Since 18 June, Abbots from

monasteries at Ngwe Taung, Ma Soe Yein, Ruby, Thameetaw, Shan pwe, Zetawun, Kingwun, Thiri Wayponla, Shwe Enn Pyin, Ahmataw and Withoakdayon have been warned by SLORC authorities not to give shelter to 20 High School and university students.

Normally, students from provincial towns who cannot afford expensive boarding houses are given

assistance and shelter by the monks in Burma. Before the 1988 uprising, most monasteries allowed up to 20 students to stay without charge.

SLORC Extends Military Strength In Arakan State

SLORC recently has deployed 4 more regiments and a special military intelligence branch in Arakan State,

western part of Burma bordering with Bangladesh as a precaution to a threat from Muslim resistance, source on the border said. In addition to the previous forces in the region, regiment 232, 233, 234 and 263 have been extended on the border area and special intelligence branch 18 is assigned for the western part and 10 southern towns. In late April, troops ordered 12

villages including Ko Ta Lote Kya village, Pauk Pin Gwin village, Kyi Ya Pyin village and Mi Chaung Ye Thauk village to assemble at night and move away to the new village site. Houses and monasteries were ordered to be demolished.

On 30 May, villages in the area of Sit Chaung, Yi Chaung and Taw Pyha Chaung to that of Ro Da Pyin. Reports of rapes and conscription of women by the soldiers in the villages where their military operates was widespread.

Students And Parents Warned

1 June, 1991

10 students and their parents including Maung Myat Ko Ko and his father U Myint Swe were summoned and warned to stay out of politics by the headmistress of the No-12 Middle School of Mandalay northwest township. Both students and parents had to pledge and sign the necessary papers to behave properly in the future.

School authorities and the parents have been warned by the military regime that if anything goes wrong, "harsh measures" will be taken against the party concerned.



End The Civil War

End the civil war...

It is this war that...

**Induces the shocking sight of blood,
The piles of corpses from the firing of guns,
The fretful cries.**

It is this war that...

**Separates Mother from Father,
Wives from husbands.
Lovers long for reunion,
Friends lose good times.
It is a tragic story.**

It is this war that...

**Threatens our culture,
Crumbles our business,
Impoverishes our people.
It poses a danger.**

It is this war that...

**Has no width or length,
Brings oppression among us,
Sheds blood among fellow countrymen.**

Now Comrades!

**End this civil war,
Push open the new door, of Peace!**

End this civil war!

Ahrhainie



ARAKAN DAY BY DAY

The intention of the frequent visits of SLORC high officials to North Arakan is now clear to everyone. Thousands of Burmese Armed forces, employing all latest weapons in their arsenals, have suddenly stationed at Buthidaung with many more weekly joining them creating panic in the area. Tanks and armored vehicles manned with brute soldiers are seen in battle gear for the first time in the border area. They claim that they are not answerable to their higher officers nor to the law of the country for their acts against the Rohingyas. "Even we do not oppress you yet to the extent we are ordered to do, the better is you leave the country immediately" a petty army officer who do not like to be identified told a Rohingya villager.

In fact, with the arrival of this brute force the condition of the Rohingya abruptly turns worse of the worst. Their villages are uprooted, their houses destroyed, their mosques demolished, their men-folks tortured and arrested and their womenfolk raped and dishonored. The Rohingyas have also to provide forced labour and money for the construction of roads, shrimp culturing dams and building of army camps and brigade HQS, with house materials. They are in jeopardy with no right to complain for redressing their inhuman sufferings. Hundreds of blood-thirsty hounds of the Rohingyas, many of whom are drawn from local Magh youths, are trained and inducted into rank and file to terrorize the Rohingyas. Followings are a few instances:

Mohammed Salim S/O Habibuz-zaman Chowdhury of Ali Chaung village, 4 miles off the Buthidaung

township was brutally killed by an armed Magh gang, patronized by the administration, in the night of 15th May, 91.

At about 10 P.M, in the night of 2nd June, 1991, a 12 men section of Burmese army forcibly entered into the house of Kala Meah of Kan pyen(Fansh Karibil) of Buthidaung and committed gang rape. On the desperate resistance of the son of Kala Meah, the intruders tortured him seriously as a result of which the victim succumbed to his injuries on 4th July, 91.

Habibur Rahman (45) S/O Fazur Rahman of Yekay Chaung (Borguzubil), 13 miles north of Maungdaw, who was a social worker and a public leader, was killed by an armed gang in the first week of June, 1991. But no action has been taken by the law enforcing agencies.

On 9th June, 91, One Hussain Ahmed S/O Noorr Ahmed, the Chairman of the Law and Order Restoration Council of Ain Din village in Maungdaw south was shot dead by Lon Htein (border security force) when he lodged a complain against them (Lon Htein) of their killing cattle of the villagers for food.

A numbers of villagers for new Megh settlers are constructed on the confiscated land of the Rohingya with the forced labour and money of the Rohingyas both in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships. More such settlements are in continuation. Inhumanly enough, each Rohingyas who is engaged in forced labour has to carry with him his food packet and money amounted to Kyats 20 to be

given to the armed personnel as a token of gift for overseeing and supervising especially the road construction work. Movement of the Rohingyas is under humiliating restriction even within the same area. Anyone travelling, after observing the restriction formalities, is subjected to extortion of money at every check point along the mountain passes, motorways and ferry stations.

Rohingya women have been seized and carried away by the army with impious intention. On 5th June 1991, the army carried away 25 women from Warak Kyun village and 45 from Duden village of Buthidaung township. They were harded to a primary school and kept there for some time. Later on payment of ransom they returned home with tales of rape and molestation.

Each military camp authorities demanded six Rohingya women everyday on the plea of cooking their meal, but in fact for their pleasure. Even there are instances that the village elders were severely beaten for their refusal to supply girls.

The Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF) strongly condemns the SLORC regime for its brutal repression and genocidal campaign against the Rohingya and appeal to the United Nations, OIC and other World Bodies and international community to call an immediate halt on the military regime to stop forthwith all its atrocious crimes against the Rohingyas and find a durable solution.

Courtesy: ARAKAN News Bulletin

Education In Burma

"If the educational system of a country is defective, it shall not make any progress in every aspect," says Sagaing U Pho Thin, a well-known Burmese author. True enough, the education in Burma under the military's iron grip has never been in its culmination; it has been putrefied along with the aspiration of the intellectuals and students.

The military regime's ultimate goal in the field of education, true to their nature of wolf in sheep's skin, is only to exploit it as a means of producing a generation of brain-washed citizens to support the military regime, and not for the country. Gen Ne Win's "Lu Kaung Lu Taw" which is the conversion of a Burmese expression referred to the "intellectual good" has displayed that even the head of a country did not want an intellectual dominant where power vests in the military's hand.

The education system is not designed to adapt an atmosphere of learning in which a student finds a carrier after a four/five years course in a university or college. Rather it is based on examinations which decide the fate of students. As a consequence, the inexperienced and immature students are inclined to get corrupted and dependent in their later careers.

In Burma, students who scored the highest in the 10th Standard Examination are eligible to enter medical and engineering schools, supposedly the highest educational standards, but not necessarily whether they have the aptitude or not. It is questionable to allow them, without any interest in the subject, to enter popular schools

which offer best opportunity. And should medical or engineering subjects be regarded as highest opportunity in the field of education?

Because there is no "free optional system", most high scorers choose higher learning. This makes no progress in both professional and supposedly inferior studies.

Teaching methods of present day Burma are of "Didactic Nature"; students are not encouraged to think analytically so as to promote their way of thinking; students are never taught to participate in the practical way of learning; no system is ever used to build up the self-confidence of the students. All in all, no research is ever conducted to promote the role of education in the country.

In each step of the higher learning, there is absolutely no teaching aid that will support a certain theory being taught.

Civil servants in the Ministry of Education are lowly-paid and the number of educational workers who have to seek extra jobs have increased. Few people take interest in the education process.

For scholarship and further studies in foreign countries, the military not only chooses its own sons and daughters or relatives or close associates but also direct them to study such and such subjects. If an ordinary student is picked to go abroad for further study on condition that he is talented, it is still exceptional. Whereas in the rural areas, there are not enough doctors, the number of surgeons in the cities are more than enough.

The concepts of the "Burmese Way To Socialism" was compulsory for the higher education from 2 to 6 years.

The so-called Academy for the Development of the Nationalities (now the University for the Development of the Nationalities) was designed to shape the ethnic youth as cadres.

The Three Rs campaign was conducted only in the villages where the military had complete control. Even so, no provisions were made for the villagers to maintain their skill.

Government budget for the educational implementation in a fiscal year is from 2 to 3 % whereas that of military is 60%.

Ever since the military takeover in 1962, the successive military regimes invented various curriculums that they think could underpin their military mechanism and have had them prescribed in the educational institutes. Occasionally, they change one educational system after another if it does not prove workable for them. Moreover, the change is never conducted in line with proper advice of academics. An educational system is experimented for 4 or 5 years, proved unfit and thus stopped, and a new experiment gets started. Generations of students have been guinea-pigs in the Laboratory of Military Mechanism.

Since the military hates the intellectuals, it has suppressed the majority of them who do not listen to it on an unrestrained scale. Thus, the regimes have put ice on

the education in Burma. So, like a flower that has no touch from sunshine or rain and grows on the infertile land, with constant shade overhead, the education in Burma has never been in full bloom.

The students have always been at the forefront fighting back the injustice since the first students movement against the oppressive University Act of the British in 1920. The educational institutes have been the centres of insurrections and birth-place of true leaders of the country. Likewise, during the 1988 uprising, students led the whole country in defiance against the cruel military regime.

To this, students were rewarded with bullets in the demonstrations and afterwards, hundreds of students were detained and have had their lives ended in the hells of the military intelligence.

Thousands of students and people fled to the border areas in fear of political persecution by the military. Having found no alternative but to resort to armed struggle to topple the repressive regime while implementing the tasks of community organizing and teaching the concept of democracy to the people in the rural areas, students and people.

Now again the parents of the fleeing students have been forced to bring their sons and daughters back from the borders. The schools and universities have been reopened. But for the students who resume their studies do not have any peace of mind as restrictions are imposed on them and their parents as well. Students are not spared from the regimentation of the military. Instead, their positions are no better than the soldiers.

At the present time, the SLORC is speeding up the lectures time in the universities and colleges so that the final examinations can be finished before August and September which mark the nationwide demonstration three years ago and thus, intends to avoid the tendency of students gathering.

The opening of universities was basically the part of the SLORC political ploy to show the world that it was able to control the country and that they have restored law and order.

But what can a student learn in 45 days of lectures instead of a full academic year of learning after a long closure of universities?

A Student Of The Jungle University

DAWN

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED