


DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN



MAP SHOWS CLASHES IN NORTHEASTERN COMMAND



 PLACES OF FIGHTING



DAWN

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Exception of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Section (1)

In Golden Triangle where tens of thousands of opium are produced every year, the production in 1992 will be 2,200 tons that is doubled to last (3) years, DEA officials estimated. Along the drug transportation routes and areas related to the cultivation and production, corruption, killings and discard of morality are not alien; many people were forced to drown into the hell of heroin and that cause many effects to the international community. What are the fundamental grounds of these drug abuses?

Many students and youth who fled to Thailand are regarded as illegal immigrants and suffer from continuing human rights abuses such as torture, forcing of female students to be victims of sexual abuses and killing them even in Bangkok, and forced repatriation to them against their will. Over 7,500 prisoners from different prisons in Burma were forced to work as porters in carrying ammunitions and loads for the Slorc in the front line and hundreds prisoners out of them fled to the Thai border. The Slorc created this for instability along the border as they have done in 1988 when, the prisoners were forced to be the scapegoats, the pro-democracy uprising is increasing throughout the country. As the refugees who flee into Thailand have been suffering from such atrocities, in Bangladesh where over 200,000 shelter, such grief are beyond of thinking.

In actuality, the lives of the people who are under the yoke of these evil events mentioned above are very bitter than the international community's sympathy. Every year, about 175,000 children: most are under five are facing death of suffering from common diseases that can be cured very easily, as there is lack of essential medicine for such kinds of treatment. Out of them, most are under three. The death rates of the children under three who suffered from malnutrition, are increasing in the mountainous areas where suffering from civil war, are increasing year by year.

People under the boots of militarism are struggling for their living while they are very concerned of being arrested by the military intelligence. The pro-democracy activists who struggled peacefully in 1988 uprisings including the elected representatives are forced to flee from their home. As for the beauty of the cities and the reconstruction of the transportation routes, many people are forced to evict to deserted areas, where there is lack of electricity, out of running water and shortage of basic commodities. Thousands of villagers from different villages whom were suspected as revolutionary guerrillas' sympathizers were evacuated by forced into so-called concentration camps. The numbers of those victims, Internal Displaced Persons, are now more than 1000,000.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Section (1) expresses that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Nevertheless, exception is Burma. The students and youths who are the hope of the country are taking shelter along the border areas for the purpose of obtaining freedom; the peasants who in the rough terrain leaving their poor farms because of looking forward to the time of which the danger of being arrested as porters; mothers in the urban areas looking forward to the time of which their sons may get out of the prisons hopefully, the young kids on beds suffering from the malnutrition; fishermen along the coast looking at very few fish in the nets because most of them were sold to Thailand fishing companies by the Slorc, the honorable writers in the small huts dying for the right to freedom of expression — all these make miserable image of Burma. So long as the actions of the United Nations approach slowly, there will be ever more.....

PUBLISHED BY THE ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT
DAWN P.O Box. 1352 G.P.O, Bangkok 10500, Thailand

CLOSING CEREMONY OF BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING

On 18 April 1992 at 8:00 a. m, the closing ceremony of the Basic Medical Training No. (4) was held at Training Centre at Saw Hta Camp and attended by the Central Committee members of the ABSDF, the supervisors to the Training, the teachers and trainees. Myo Win, General Secretary of the ABSDF chaired the ceremony

and delivered the speech to the gathering. He addressed, "I honour all the trainees who studied in unity with firm objectives and finished successfully although you are facing many hardships during the training period. I would like to instruct all of you who are now become medics, to serve your duty favorably to the people

from all walks of life whenever you are placed at any post."

Then, Hla Htay, Secretary (2) of the ABSDF, and Dr Myint Cho, CEC and the supervisor of the training, addressed the gathering.

After that, General Secretary Myo Win awarded the certificate to each

student who passed the training including 5 students who passed with distinctions.

It was known that 20 trainees from various camps under the leadership of the ABSDF Central Committee and National League for Democracy (Liberated Area) finished their studies successfully.



General Secretary Myo Win addressing in the ceremony



First Prize Winner Student Medic



Dr Myint Cho, CEC of ABSDF and Supervisor of the Training, addressing to the gathering

DECLARATION CONCERNING THE SLORC'S PRESENT ACTIVITIES

1. The SLORC, after held a dialogue with the Bangladesh authorities and reached an agreement, would allow the refugees who are now sheltering in Bangladesh to return home. The SLORC, moreover, set some political prisoners free and announced that it would hold a talk with opposition figures within 2 months and would convene a National Convention within 6 months, and now displays the symbol to quit the on-going battles in KNU territory.

2. These outcomes followed by the struggles of the democratic forces and people inside the country, and the international pressure: the decision adopted by the United Nations Social and Economic Council on 27 February, demands of the European Parliament and Australian Parliament, the offering aid to the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) and democratic forces from the Norway and Swiss government, the tension in the bilateral relations between the Slorc and the ASEAN member countries, the identification of the Chinese Government to allow the Burmese displaced people to shelter temporarily in its soil, the presentation of the UNICEF Director to the UN Secretary general that the Burmese issue no longer remains an internal affairs and becomes international concern, and the recent visit of the Undersecretary General Elaisson to Burma. They afford these activities without any sincere attitude that can reflect the aspiration of the people and the prosperity of the country but to overcome the actions will be taken by the UN Security Council and the crises that the military regime is to be faced in the forthcoming UN General Assembly, to divert the international attention on Burma affairs and to deceive the people.

3. The SLORC may accept the return of the refugees in Bangladesh according to the agreement. Nevertheless we have to take lessons from the past that the military regime used to perform similar efforts in 1978. We strongly believe that so long as the militarism and the military junta exist, the human rights violations that based on the racial and religious affairs will come about forever.

4. If the SLORC has sincere attitude, it must manage the immediate and unconditional release of all the thousands of political prisoners, including students' leaders, who are struggling for democracy. Now, it releases only some of them whom may be remained under the regime's threat and predominance because we have experienced in the past under such circumstantial situation.

5. Until the deadline for the registration of the political parties a—total number 235 of political parties registered: out of them 142 were forced to dissolve and at the time of elections remained only 93. After the elections, the SLORC forced or spurred many political parties—including Party for National Democracy, Karen State National Organization, Union Nationalities Democracy Party and Patriotic Old Comrades League — that won in the elections to be dissolved. Now only 10 parties remain: including 3 that subordinate to the National Unity Party (former Burma Socialist Programme Party). The Slorc has not released the winning NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other top key leaders yet. Thus, the dialogue that the SLORC to be held only means the dialogue with National Unity Party, the pro-NUP parties and some political parties that were deployed by the SLORC.

6. The SLORC has no authority to convene the National Convention and even if it forcibly assembles, the solutions that guarantee for the national stability and national unity in the long-run cannot be found. Under these situations —as the civil war is waging on, many prominent opposition figures are still remained under arrest, people are still remained under the imposing martial law and other restrictions and lack of democratic rights, hundreds of thousands of people including students and intellectuals are expatriated in other countries and over a million people including many politicians flee fear of the SLORC and sheltering inside the country as internal displaced persons — the fair and complete national convention cannot be assembled.

7. If the SLORC has the desire to perform sincerely for the prosperity of the country, it should hand over power to the people's representatives who were elected in May 1990 election as it has announced to the international community. The legal government only formed by these representatives can afford for the restoration of internal peace, the assembly of the National Convention and drafting of the Constitution.

8. If the duty that must be performed only by the People's Government is performed or pretended to be served by the SLORC, it may only be fraud and thus we would like to appeal the international community and people throughout the country and all over the world to continue the struggle for restoration of democracy in Burma without any decline.

Central Committee
All Burma Students' Democratic Front
29 April 1992

ABSDF Message of Condolence



Dr Khin Maung Kywe, NCGUB Bangkok representatives and representative of the ABSDF, expired at 10:30 a. m, on 23 April 1992 in Bangkok. That is a big loss to all us who are struggling for the restoration of democracy in Burma. We also would like to conveyed our heart-felt condolence the same with the bereaved family. We will never forget him nor his struggles for democracy before he expired.

Political History of Dr Khin Maung Kywe

Dr Khin Maung was born on 30 June 1935, qualified MBBS, DP & TM (Rgn.), DTPH (Lond.), MSc (Lond.), DIH.

1952-1958:

Joined the Democratic Students' Orgaization in 1952, an organization affiliated to the AFPFL.

1953: Got elected to the Central Executive Committee of the All Burma Students Union as Foreign Secretary. (A non-communist student union)

1953 to 1955: Trained by the Swedish Social Democratic Party (SAP) at the Trade Union School at Akers Runo which belonged to the L. O. (Lands Organization).

1954: Got elected to the Bureau of International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) as Chairman of the Student Committee.

1956: Represented IUSY at the 3rd Bureau Meeting of the Asian Socialist Conference (ASC) held in November at Bombay, India.

1958: Went along with stable AFPFL faction of the party when the AFPFL split (Most of the Democratic Socialist were in this Party).

1961: No longer active full time in politics

1964: Taken into political custody by Ne Win's government for anti-government activities. (11 months)

1966: Arrested again on charges of counter revolutionary activities (1 Year and 6 months, together with wife Daw Khin Pyone and infant son Ye Win).

1968: Reinstated into government service, when father-in-law Thakin Tha Khin was released from prison and became member of the Thirty Three Member Committee.

1985: Victimized again because father-in-law acted as witness for a friend who was wrongly accused by the state of sabotaging Socialist Economic Policy. Reverted from Acting Deputy Director of Department of Medical Education to Assistant Director.

March 1987: Allowed to resign from service after four applications for resignation and paying Ks. 52,835:00 as compensation to the government for his education.

September 1987: Left Burma for Bangladesh.

October 1988: Elected as Chairman of the United States of Burma Relief Committee, humanitarian relief committee that organized and collect funds for the students who had to flee Burma after the Military Junta take over of Burma by Saw Maung on 18 September 1988. Because of supporting the students who fought for democracy by providing medicine, food and clothing, the present regime has blacklisted him again as wanted for sabotage.

Although the USBRC had to be dissolved during the month of September 1989, due to persecution of the family members of the executive committee members, who remained inside Burma, Dr Khin Maung Kywe as an individual with his wife Daw Khin Pyone who was the Secretary General of USBRC, and other members of this organization continue to function from Bangkok to aid the students and other fighters for democracy.

Continued on page(9)-

NEW ORDER

TO THE BURMESE STUDENTS

Interior Minister of Thailand's new order on the students that was all Burmese students must register between February 17 and May 16 and will be given identification cards, was issued in the second week in February 1992. If they do not return themselves in, they will be prosecuted for illegal entry. That means they will be deported back to Burma where they can face possibility of imprisonment and torture. Such kind of status to live in Detention Centre is greeted to the students for the first time since their arrival in 1988 for opposing the SLORC.

The Interior Ministry on February 12 called on students to register for the safe area and said that the students who report in will be given an official identification card and the right to stay in an open camp for temporary refugees to be set up in Tambon Wang Manaoof Pak Tao District, Ratchaburi Province. Chaiwat Hutacharoen, deputy permanent secretary for Interior, said the Safe area for the Burmese students will take in the first batch of 500 Burmese students in April. Registrations began on February 17 at the Interior Ministry's Displaced Persons Operation Centre in Sam Sen and all Burmese students now living in Thailand have been given an ultimatum to register with the Interior Ministry by May 16. Students failing to register at the centre by the deadline, May 16 will be regarded as illegal immigrants and liable to punishment under Thai immigration Law, he said.

Those who do not qualify as students will also be asked to leave the country or report to Immigration authorities within 15

days. Although Thai authorities said students may be deported to the border but none would be deliver into the hands of SLORC, the known constructive engagement of the military in Thailand towards the military in Burma only increased this fear.

The idea of the safe area was floated in November 1990 after a particularly tense period of arrests and deportation. The plan was made at a meeting on 11 November 1991 between the Interior Ministry including the Immigration Police and the Labour Department, and the Foreign Ministry. Representatives of international relief agencies also attended the meeting. The ministry's policy is in line with a Cabinet decision, which authorises the Interior Minister to exercise his power to do so under Article 17 of the 1979 Immigration Act, was adopted on 24 September 1991 to grant a temporary stay to 2,000 Burmese students who living in Thailand to report to the authorities. The Government has allocated 16 million baht for renovations. "To feed the students, the Government will also allocate 20 million baht a year," Mr Chaiwat said on January 3.

On 12 February 1992 he officially opened the Ratchaburi centre at Ban Maniloy in Tambon Wang Manao. Mr Chaiwat denied reports the students would be held once at the centre. He said the students would be given considerable freedom. They will be allowed out of the camp with permission from the camp chief or the Interior Ministry. They will also be provided with food, lodging and education. Who can guarantee this?

They will be prohibited engagement in any political or related activities that affect Thai-Burmese relations. The safe area is being set up because the Thai Government does not want Burmese students to engage in political activity. The students and their supporters can see no wrong in their political activities aimed at internationalising the plight of Burma. Everybody should consider that they are pro-democracy activists and they are not taking refuge as economic migrants, but seeking shelter temporarily in Thailand in fear of political persecutions in their motherland. The ban on political activity is contrary and unsympathetic to their reason for being in Thailand.

The Thai authorities consider only about the forthcoming problems that will follow the influx of more refugees, if they allow the students to shelter temporar-

ily. They do not focus from the humanitarian point of view and thus set up the so-called concentration camp.

Although the Thai authorities made clear that it is not a detention centre or a refugee camp, doubts are increasing in the minds of the students. The students want to live in Bangkok with freedom of movement and political activity, and in no fear of forced repatriation. Most students want to stay in Bangkok to keep in touch with the situation in Burma and be under the protective eyes of the international community. In Bangkok, they do not feel isolated.

Individual women were raped in 1989, 1990 and 1991. For this reason, the students believe that women in the safe camp will feel desperate. Although the students are genuine refugees with a well-founded fear of persecution, they are not recognized as refugees by the Thai Government. Thai don't understand what is happening in Burma where the people are under the oppressive regime. They seek only temporary refuge in Thailand and will return to their homeland when the situation normalises.

How can the students thrust such promises when they have had such bitter experiences where facing denial of proper rights, facing harassment and "in a few cases" were rounded-up and forcibly repatriated to face persecution in Burma. The students fled oppression and persecution in their homeland more than three years ago for temporary refuge in Thailand. Following the influx into Thailand of the students after 1988 bloody crackdown against Burma's pro-democracy movement, the Thai authority set up a holding centre for Burmese students in Tak. In September 1989, about 1,000 Burmese students had been sent back to a garrison of Slorc troops at Kawthaung (Victoria Point). In November 1989, five Burmese students, between aged 20 and 22, were charged with illegal entry and sent back across the border to an uncertain fate. The 11-man leadership of the ABSDF was arrested in Bangkok in December 1989.

The often-cited breaches of confidence are the three deportations and two killings of UNHCR-recognized refugee students in 1991. Ninety-eight students, including three women, were detained at the Police Private Training School since August 1991 after arrested in front of the ESCAP Building and at the Immigration Division during two separate protests. In November 1991, a joint Thai-Burmese working committee was set up to repatriate several thousand Burmese from Tak

Province. Thai border Patrol Police at Mae Sot on 24 December 1991 sent back 17 Burmese porters who had crossed into Thailand to escape forced labour with the Slorc army. On 7 February 1992, 55 Burmese students were rounded up. Thirty-eight students who participated in a demonstration last July calling for political refugees' status was also held at a Police Academy. The rest were held on illegal entry charges. All 102 were released on condition they do not engage in political activity and that they report to the Interior Ministry's Displaced Persons Centre at Sri Yarn monthly.

Their being assembled in one place where 90 kilometre from the border would facilitate any forced repatriation. The location of the camp near the Thai-Burmese border is so concerned for us. We are also concerned that the students who fear registering with the Interior Ministry could ultimately lead them to be forced repatriation. It would also make it easier for Burmese military intelligence to monitor their activities and trace their roots as they have to give biographical data on registration.

Financially, Thai authorities have the means to go it alone at least for the first year as the Interior Ministry has obtained a 16 million baht budget from the Cabinet. Most of the budget — 12 million bahts — will go towards the maintenance and administration as repairs to existing buildings are not expected to amount to more than 3 million bahts. An estimated 300,000 baht is earmarked for registration expenses. The UNHCR's stipend per student of 2,500 baht a month will be terminated on the student's entry into the safe area. It is estimated the camp will cost the government about 15 million bahts a year.

The UNHCR and NGOs were told that any assistance to students should be arranged through the Interior Ministry and not directly to the students to avoid duplication of assistance. The ministry has left open the possibility of NGOs providing some services at the safe area. If the assistance continues, the Burmese students can refuse to confine themselves to a centre in Ratchaburi as required by the ministry.

The UNHCR has recognized 1,900 Burmese as persons of concern according to the ground rules — the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees and the 1967 protocol. Mainly students, these were screened from a

Continued on page(10)-

Statement on the Sham National Convention proposed by the SLORC

1. After the elections in 1990, the Slorc, that was successive the Burma Socialist Programme Party, continues to suppress the people and prepares for their claim of assembling the Sham National Convention. They refuse to hand over power to the elected people's representatives but to prolong in power they deceive the people by their attempts to convene the sham National Convention: that will not be appropriate with the objectives of the current politics and the specification of the country.

2. The National Convention is a conference, assembled by only a government which is just, fair and authorised by the people, in which the National leaders and people's representatives who probably bring the national unity and development of the country will consider and find solutions to the political problems for the national interest.

3. The following facts reveal that the sham National Convention that will be held by the Slorc is lack of genuine political objectives and their attitude is deceitful.

(a) The Slorc is unlikely to be a leading body that can convene the National Convention because of its continuing atrocious oppressions upon the people, of gross human rights abuses and disregards to the aspiration of the people.

(b) The failure to the representatives elected in 1990 elections to convene the People's Assembly, the refusal to hand over power to the elected representatives make the role and status of the people's representatives obscure are the deliberate activities of the Slorc.

(c) Arrest of many prominent national opposition figures without any charges, detaining of many members of the parliament through inaccurate allegations, the pullout of them from the status of members of the parliament through various accusations and the dissolution of many political parties identify that the Slorc intentionally and systematically affords to disregard them of attending even the sham National Convention.

(d) The Slorc fosters their puppets, opportunist drug traffickers and some self-centred armed factions who betray the people and make cease fire agreement with them; to be representatives who are authorised to attend the sham National Convention.

(e) As the numbers of the representatives who can attend the National Convention, that incorporates many restrictions, do not represent the whole country, in the long-run that can effect the stability in politics and cannot solve the basic problems that occur unrest of the National unity.

(f) The National Convention without the participation of the revolutionary organizations that struggle with the political aims of democracy and ethnic rights cannot represent the whole country and cannot enable for the reconstruction of the country including National Reconciliation.

(g) The spies that were exposed by the Northern Committee of ABSDF indicate that the Slorc prepares the Ye Hlaing operation to transfuse, smash and afford to make them weaken by inciting the breakaway factions to surrender before the National Convention. Moreover, the allegation on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi — one of their schemes of linkage with that campaign — and her arrest has many nexus with the National Convention.

(h) The continued imposition of Martial Law and other restrictions of freedom of expression and publications, and of taking part in politics convey that the Slorc does not covet the Genuine National Convention that can reflect the honest aspiration of the people.

4. In reality, after the elections in 1990, the Slorc came to know their situation and for the time being they deceive all the people inside the country and throughout the world by way of convening the National Convention to get upper hands. We, members of the ABSDF, therefore, strongly oppose the sham National Convention that is lack of just and fair: not convened by an authorised government which is supported by the people, that is not for the prospect of national economy and the country; not for the national reconciliation and internal tranquillity, and out of real representatives that can guarantee for human rights and safety of the people that may be the framework of the future constitution.

Central Committee
All Burma Students' Democratic Front
30 March 1992

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT —SENATE MOTION ON BURMA

The following motion by senator Loosley (ALP, NSW) was agreed to by the senate on 1 April

that the senate (A) notes that:

- i) 26 May 1992 is the second anniversary of the 1990 elections in Burma in which the National League for Democracy was elected with a landslide victory, and
- ii) As yet, there is still no indication by the State Law and Order Restoration Council(SLORC) that the results of the election will be implemented;

B) Condemns:

- i) The continuing refusal of the military regime to implement the results of the May 1990 elections despite the clear demonstration in those elections of the desire of the Burmese people for Democratic reform.
- ii) The continued detention of Members of political parties which support democratic reform in Burma and, in particular the continued house detention of Nobel Prize Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,
- iii) The widespread abuse of human rights within Burma,
- iv) The reports of the systematic violation of human rights by the Burmese army towards minority ethnic groups,
- v) The consequences of the Burmese military actions resulting in a large number of displaced people within Burma and an alarming flow of refugees into neighbouring countries, and
- vi) The continued production of the majority of the world's illegal opium within Burma's border;

C) Calls upon the Burmese regime to:

- i) Implement the results of the May 1990 elections and to allow the duly elected representatives of the people of Burma to form a Government,
- ii) Release all political prisoners and to allow them to take part in the political process of the country,
- iii) Cease its pervasive and intolerable abuse of human rights in Burma,
- iv) Address the legitimate concerns of the various ethnic minorities in Burma, and
- v) Reinforce its co-operation with the United Nations to reduce narcotics production with Burma, and restrict the trafficking of narcotics from Burma, and

D) Calls upon the Australian Government to continue to:

- i) Work with other like-minded countries to pursue effective ways of bringing pressure to bear on the Slorc to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people of Burma,
- ii) Explore and develop all means to persuade the Slorc to end the human rights violations within Burma, including active support of UN involvement,
- iii) Work with the United Nations and the Governments of Bangladesh and Thailand and interested non-government organisations, to resolve the refugee problem emanating from Burma, and
- iv) Support United Nations' efforts to reduce significantly the production of narcotics within Burma and the trafficking of narcotics from that country.

CUT OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BURMA

Continued from page(5)-

In September 1991, Dr Khin Maung Kywe, as a representative of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, along with the Prime Minister Dr Sein Win during his visit to United States of America and did lobbying to UN General Assembly. Moreover, during the primer's trip in Europe he also had to accompany the prime minister as a NCGUB representative. In March 1992, when the Prime Minister left Australia for a good will visit, he, as NCGUB Bangkok Representative, had to accompany the delegates. He also served as a representative of the All Burma Students Democratic Front during his days in Australia.

CEC Member (Foreign Affairs) of the ABSDF on tour in Europe

After attending the 48th session of the United Nations Commissions on human Rights that was convened in Geneva, Switzerland from January 27 to March 6, represented the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, on 17 March 1992, Dr Thaung Htun (CEC member to the Central Committee, Foreign Affairs) arrived at Stockholm, Sweden. During his one-week tour in Sweden, he met with officials from Swedish Foreign Ministry and several NGOs, Relief agencies and political parties there.

On March 20, he held a press conference with the help of main relief agency in Sweden and at that press conference, he presented about the current situation inside Burma and along the border, military offensives against the KNU and dissident students along the Thai-Burma border and the ex-

odus refugees along the Bangladesh-Burma Border. He mainly pointed out the role of the international pressure on Burma and to raise the issue of international sanction and arm embargo against the Slorc.

While discussed with the Swedish Foreign Ministry and NGOs, he urged to take stronger action against the Slorc, to extend more cooperation and to encourage more assistance for the ethnic groups, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma and the students along the border.

On the invitation of the Trondheim University Students' Union to attend the International Students' Festival, on March 28, he left for Trondheim, Norway. Dr Thaung Htun got a chance to present the situation in Burma at that festival where about 500 students from around



the world gathered there and they discussed about several global issues, foreign debate, environmental issues. During the time of festival, he also discussed with the chairman of the Trondheim University Students' Union.

It was known that Dr Thaung Htun on April 5 left for Oslo, Norway and during his tour in Norway he met with the officials from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and NGOs. Then he left for England on April 10.

-Continued from page(7)

total of 3,786. The UNHCR classifies them as persons of concern in a screening process based on the 1951 Geneva convention on refugees and its 1967 protocol. Thai authorities expect to recognize no more than 1,500 "genuine" students for the safe area. From there is a population of more than 2,000 Burmese living in urban Bangkok who have been screened out, or effectively declared not of concern to the UNHCR or Thai authorities. They will lose a crucial support system when the safe area opens because they shared lodging and food with persons of concern, benefiting from monthly stipends of 2,500 baht from the UNHCR. If Thai authorities go ahead with their plans this group could face detention and deportation. If flexibility is allowed, humanitarian agencies will have to provide assistance. Upon that situation, the Burmese question has arrived on the international agenda and Western donors to be "much

more sympathetic."

A number of questions still surround the safe area issue, among them why the deadline for registration should stop at the May 16 when the future is uncertain and more could need asylum after that date.

"Refugees are like a pain in the elbow. You don't solve the problem by solving the pain. The problem has to be solved at the root, the root causing by the Slorc, its political, economic and military policies." The decision by Thailand and other ASEAN countries to adopt a "constructive engagement" policy towards the Slorc, on the argument that economic co-operation will cause political reform, has changed nothing, we strongly point out. Thailand has reason to resist international protection for the safe area but a compromise formula with appropriate conditions could work in its favour.

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

(Following is the text of question without notice and answer given in the Australian Senate on 29 April 1992)

Senator Schacht — My question is addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. What is the government's assessment of the significance of the Replacement of the Chairman of the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), Senior General Saw Maung, by General Than Shwe? In particular, what is the significance of the reported decisions by the Burmese government to release some political prisoners and take other measures in the human rights area, including the possibility of allowing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to meet again with her husband and children?

Senator Gareth Evans (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade)

— As Senator Schacht has intimated and as Honourable Senators will know, late last week General Than Shwe was appointed chairman of the SLORC and, in doing so, replaced General Saw Maung who was, according to the Burmese authorities, stepping down 'temporarily' due to health reasons. Saw Maung is, in fact, known to have been ill for an extended period. General Than Shwe, the new head of SLORC, has

been influential in the Burmese regime for some time. He was recently appointed Minister for Defence: as a protégé of Ne Win, who is widely believed to be still the dominant force in Burmese politics, it does seem unlikely that there will be any major policy changes in Burma in the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, since the appointment, the Burmese authorities have made several announcements indicating some degree of political liberalisation. These are decisions, first of all, to release a total of 27 political prisoners, including the former Prime Minister, U Nu, with other releases to follow, secondly, a decision that the State Law and Order Restoration Council is to meet with representatives of the remaining political parties within two months and to convene the National Convention within six months, and thirdly, as Senator Schacht said, to permit Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's family to visit her in Rangoon where she is being detained.

The Australian Government certainly takes some encouragements from these announcements and we look to the speedy implementation of these decisions. The announcements are significant in that SLORC has now admitted for the first time that it holds political prisoners, and the proposed meeting between SLORC and

the political parties represents another change of policy because, until now, SLORC has not identified any time frame at all for this further process. But there is still a long way to go to restore democratic process in Burma.

A measure of SLORC's commitment to these decisions would be the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, of which we estimate there to be some 2,000 still in custody. These include Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself, of course, and other leaders of the National League for Democracy, who could play a very significant role in the process of National Reconciliation in the transition to a modern Democratic State.

May I take this opportunity, again to call on behalf of the Australian Government for the earliest transfer of power to a democratically elected government and for respect for universally accepted principles of human rights. It is the case that Burma's regime remains one of the most repressive in the world.

We did have a further encouraging development yesterday in Burma and Bangladesh signing an agreement for the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees. The situation has been, of course, a source of concern to us all.

There is a further report suggesting today that the Burma army has suspended its attack against the Karen National Union forces near the Thai-Burma border. Again, we hope that that represents a change in policy and not just some cosmetic step designed to take some international heat off. In these respects, the approach of the monsoon season and the failure so far of the Burmese Army's efforts to capture the Karen capital of Manerplaw may have been factors in the reported suspension.

Summing all that up, the government will continue to follow very closely developments in Burma. We do remain very concerned about the situation there. We had been over recent weeks increasing our diplomatic activity to explore the possibility of a full scale UN endorsed arms embargo against Burma and had been looking again at the question of economic sanctions. I have been having quite extensive discussions on those subjects, practically in China, which remains the most influential country in this respect.

It is certainly not time, in our judgment, to review the measure we have already taken to show Australia's disapproval of political repression but, in all the circumstances, we do think it appropriate to hold for the moment any further diplomatic action to endeavor to make a better judgment as to just how seriously these current developments do constitute a watershed or whether, rather, they are simply cosmetic.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN KACHIN STATE

On 9 March 1992, No. 254 Slorc regiment robbed and killed 8 women and 2 men at the headquarters of the Yonan stream, that is along the Dapreng road in east of Bhamo Township. The 8 women were raped before beaten to death and thrown into two shallow trenches. The two men were gagged and then beaten with big clubs along with the women.

1. Name Tong Du Kai (wife of Kayang Tong)
Age 42
Lost 2,300 Kyats in cash
2. Name Lamung Htu (wife of Hkawng Naw)
Age 45
Lost 250,000 Kyats in cash and a gold necklace valued 1,400 Kyats
3. Name Marau Htu (wife of Lamung Brang Shawng)
Age 45
Lost 60,000 Kyats in cash and a gold ear ring valued 5,200 Kyats
4. Name Jingphaw Lu (unmarried)
Age 25
Lost 50,000 Kyats in cash and a gold necklace valued 56,000 Kyats
5. Name Mi Htoi Roi
Age 35
Lost 3,500 Kyats in cash
6. Name Hpau Roi (wife of N'Brang Naw)
Age 35
Lost 2,700 Kyats in cash and some gold valued 140,000 Kyats
7. Name Shi Hpau La Hkawng
Age 16
Lost 2,500 Kyats in cash and gold ear rings valued 5,600 Kyats

8. Name Shi Hpau Rim Roi
Age 23
Lost 1,200 Kyats in cash
9. Name Hpau Dut Brang
Age 18
Lost 500 Kyats in cash
10. Name Shadang Di
Age 16
Lost 700 Kyats in cash

A total of Kyats 581,600

worth of cash and gold were taken from these people who were on their way to buy rice and other food supplies for the villagers of Bum wa village who had been carrying cane for sale at a local market.

On 5 April 1992, a contingent from the Slorc Regiment No. 38/309 that was under the command of Maj Saw Hla fired mortar shells into the Roman Catholic Church

(RCM) while the nuns and the students were attending a special service at Prang Hudung village in Bhamo district. Five persons named Kum Hka Ra, Maran Kaw Lum, Marip Lu, Marau Hkawng and Myi Tung Hkawng Nan and three others were wounded due to the shelling. All of them were required to take treatment at the Civil Hospital in Bhamo.

Due to the fighting between the KIA forces and the Slorc army in the Loiye area, east of Bhamo, Chinese officials estimated that between 7-8,000 refugees have crossed over into China. It has been confirmed that the Chinese Government transported food supplies and ammunition for the Slorc's that staging operation against the positions held by the KIA's 3rd brigade which is near the Sino-Kachin border.





Burmese refugees get Swiss aid

(BKK Post, 2.4.92)

Switzerland has extended funding through the non-government SWISSAID for use by Burmese refugees along the border and for the anti-Rangoon Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB). The first grant of SFr550,000 (about 9,350,000 Baht) contributed by the Swiss Government and the public has been handed to refugees along the border, according to SWISSAID collaborator for Asia, Hanspeter Finger. SWISSAID is also seeking more donations from the public in support of its programme. The organization supports opposition Burmese demands for democratic rights based on the May 1990 election. It will also support ethnic minorities in Burma.

Burmese forces open fire on two Thai planes

(BKK Post, 9.4.92)

Mae Sot— Burmese forces fired on two Thai air force planes on a reconnaissance mission yesterday in northern Thailand near the Burmese border, Thai defence sources said. No damage was reported to the two Thai F-5Es, scouting the area one day after several hundred Burmese troops allegedly intruded into Thai territory in Tak Province, AP reports. Thai officials who sought clarification of the incidents under an existing border control arrangement were turned back yesterday at the border when they sought to meet their Burmese counterparts in the town

of Myawaddy, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Burmese government is pressing an offensive against ethnic Karen rebels. Two major Karen bases — at Kaw Moo Ra, opposite Thailand's Tak province, and at Manerplaw opposite Mae Hong Son province— have been under siege since February, but their locations abutting Thai territory make them difficult to seize without trespassing on Thai soil.

EC votes for sanctions

(BKK Post 11.4.92)

In Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament voted on Thursday to ask the 12 members of the European Community to take sanctions against Burma because of its "flagrant violations of human rights. It also called on the EC countries that are members of the UN Security Council — France and Britain are permanent members — to propose imposing an arms embargo on Burma. The resolution said 600 students were still being detained since the December 1991 democracy movement was repressed, while Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is still under house arrest.

China urged to cut off arms sales

(BKK Post 12.4.92)

Canberra has given Peking a strong warning to halt arms sales to Burma's military junta, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said in Peking yesterday. "I put the issue in very strong terms," Evans told reporters after talks with Chinese leaders.

"The regime in Burma has become impossible to defend." "China is increasingly being put in the position of being the regime's only friend," he said. "It does have some clear influence as a result and it ought to exercise that influence, in particular by ceasing arms sales," AFP reports. Evans said a response was not forthcoming, but added that "China is becoming increasingly acutely aware of just how little support the Burmese regime now has and the risks of being isolated in the respect." China, the first country to recognize the junta, is Burma's main arms supplier, with sales of one billion dollar that included fighter jets and tanks, diplomats say. Gen Saw Maung came here in October last year for an official visit — his only abroad trip since the coup — that included talks on military sales. Evans said there were reports that Chinese fighter jets had been used by Rangoon to bomb ethnic Karen insurgents, while persecution by Burmese troops has also led tens of thousands of Muslims to flee into Bangladesh. Burma was becoming "a source of regional instability" and Southeast Asia nations were increasingly concerned, he said.

EC calls for Burmese arms ban

(BKK Post, 17.4.92)

Lisbon(Reuter) — The European Community called on Wednesday for a worldwide ban on arms sales to Burma to pressure Rangoon into halting action against Burmese Muslims and Karen separatists. The EC and its member states, which stopped sales of military equipment

to Burma last July, appealed in a statement issued in Lisbon to other countries "to take similar action." The EC said last month that Burma's military rulers had "created a sense of horror" by forcing 140,000 Muslims known as Rohingyas to flee into Bangladesh from Arakan state. Wednesday's statement said they now numbered an estimated 200,000. the EC said the Rohingyas influx to Bangladesh seriously threatened regional stability. It welcomed the recent visit to Burma by UN Under Secretary-General who persuaded the government to start talks with Dhaka on repatriating them. The Community aid it was also seriously concerned about a Burmese military offensive against the Karens, which has sent refugees flooding into Thailand. Karen guerrillas are under siege at their base on Burma's border with western Thailand. The EC urged Rangoon "on strictly humanitarian grounds to refrain from further military and any other representative action."

China Allows In Burma Refugees

Bangkok Post 20 April 1992

Peking (reuter)—China is granting temporary refuge to Burmese refugees who are streaming across the border to escape fighting between Rangoon troops and separatist guerrillas, the official New Xhina News Agency said. "Due to the fighting between the government troops of Myanmar(Burma) and the Kachin Independent Army, a large number of refugees from Myanmar have spontaneously entered China" the agency said in a report issued late on Saturday. "Out of humanitarian consideration, the Chinese government has accorded temporary settlement to those refugees," it said, quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesman. It did not say how many Burmese refugees were already in China. The Kachins are one of several ethnic minorities in Burma seeking independence from Rangoon. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry denied what it said were reports that Chinese border troops

had ambushed Burmese refugees, calling them "sheer fabrication." The Japanese news agency Kyodo on Friday quoted sources as saying more than 1,000 Chinese soldiers backed by military helicopters had recently battled a group of armed drug smugglers inside Burmese territory, killing about 120 people.

Mae Sot border closure affects trade, tourism

(BKK Post 22.4.92)

Mae sot, Tak— The closure of the border between Mae Sot District and Myawaddy has greatly affected the local economy and tourism, a border source said yesterday. Burmese authorities in Myawaddy have closed the border since late last month, prohibiting all traffic of people and goods across the border. The closure followed Burma's accusation that Thailand had twice allowed KNU rebels to fire mortar rounds from the Thai side of the Moei river towards Myawaddy, wounding 3 Burmese. Thai authorities retaliated a week ago by cracking down on smuggling. So far about 30 smugglers have been arrested and goods worth several million baht have been seized.

However, while Thailand takes strict measures against smuggling, Burmese authorities have encouraged illegal border crossings and smuggling through illegal channels, the source said. The source said the number of tourists to Mae Sot has dropped by about 80 per cent. Many tour groups have cancelled scheduled trips to the area. Kampol Khamdaeng, secretary of the Mae Sot Group of Merchants, said only 1,000 tourists visited Mae Sot during Songkran Festival compared with about 5,000 last year. "If the situation is not resolved, the local economy will be greatly affected. Cross-border trade has virtually been halted," he said. Col Vichu Saengduan, chief-of-staff of Task Force 34, who went to Myawaddy on Monday for negotiations with Lt-Col Sein Win, commander of the 97th Infantry Battalion, said Burma insisted that the border closure

would remain in effect indefinitely because of the ongoing suppression of KNU rebels. The source said the border closure may be intended to press Thailand to support the suppression by allowing Burmese troops to use Thai territory as a base to attack the KNU's Kawmoora camp. Thai authorities have refused to cooperate when asked, the source said.

Burma to increase spending on defence

(BKK Post 23.4.92)

Rangoon (UPI)— Burma's military regime, battling ethnic insurgencies and civilian dissident, yesterday announced it would increase defence spending in the next year by almost \$200 million. Announcing the annual budget, the government said a whopping 7.9 billion kyat (\$ 1.26 billion), or 35 per cent of the total, would be spent on defence in fiscal 1992-93. In the last fiscal year, 6.7 billion kyat (\$ 1.07 billion) was allocated for defence, although this amounted to 38 per cent of the budget for that year. This was up from 3.83 billion kyats (\$ 612 million), or 32 per cent of the budget, in 1990-91, 27.3 per cent in 1989-90 and 12.56 per cent the year before that. The projected overall budget of 20.8 billion kyats (\$3.3million) is up from 17.8 billion kyats (\$ 2.8 billion) last year. Observers said the higher spending appeared aimed at forestalling any further popular unrest.

Japan grants three Burmese refugee status

(BKK Post 23.4.92)

Tokyo (Reuter)—Japan has granted rare refugee status to 3 Burmese dissidents, one of them said yesterday. Win Naing, chairman of the 550-member Burmese Association in Japan, said Tokyo on Monday recognised himself, his aunt Mya Mya Win and her son Moe Min Oo as refugees. Win Naing has been prominent in a campaign for the release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. He and his relatives

are the first non-diplomat Burmese to win refugee status in Japan. Tokyo has granted refugee status to about 200 foreigners altogether. Win said he saw Tokyo's move as recognition of his organisation and that had brought him "pleasure dozens of times greater than my personal joy." His movement estimates there are at least 5,000 Burmese staying illegally in Japan. Japanese attorney Kenshi Nishida, member of an international survey team on human rights in Burma, told the same news conference Tokyo had changed its attitude towards the Burmese military junta.

Japan has not followed most industrialised nations in downgrading relations with Rangoon over its human rights record, saying it is better to maintain dialogue. It supplies more than 70 per cent of Burma's foreign

aid and is its biggest supplier of imports. Although Tokyo froze new aid after a new government came to power in Rangoon in a 1988 military coup, it is going ahead with projects already pledged. Nishida's group this month interviewed dozen of Burmese refugees at the settlements of Mae Sot and Manerplaw along the border. "Human rights abuses are too serious and extensive," he said. Nishida's group said in a statement that villagers had fled after being attacked or for fear of attack. "In all of Burma, people who have become refugees in this way total several millions," it said. The statement said ordinary people had been conscripted regardless of sex or age and sent to the front to fight the rebels. Rape, slaughter and indiscriminate attacks on villagers by the Burmese army were widespread, it added.

Indochina; Burma enter low human development category

(BKK Post 24.4.92)

The three Indochinese countries and Burma entered the "low human development" category in a United Nations report on global human development launched yesterday. Burma stands at 111th for its human development index of 0.385, the same score as Egypt which is ranked at 110th. Neither Burma nor the three Indochinese countries come up with data under such headings as "annual adult consumption of spirits per capita" or "adults who smoke" in the Health Profile Table.

Continued on page (27)-



SLORC shot dead Chinese border guard

No. 236 Battalion of the Slorc troops; led by Lt-Col Saw Khla, Company Commander Capt. Than Soe and Section Commander Corporal Myint Oo opened fire at 4 PRC guards at PRC Forestry Department of Lung Shon District, 30 metres from the border inside China and east of the China-Burma border Mark 40A. It was reportedly known that the PRC guards did not retaliate fire. At that attack, Chi Shing Lin, 27, from PRC guard was shot dead and other 3 manage to flee for their safety. The Slorc troops captured 1-G4 machine gun and a pistol that were later returned. The victim's body was collected the following day.

WLD MPs In Kachin State Faced Eviction

On 28 April 1992, at 4:00 p. m, the Local Slorc authorities, by the order of State Slorc, locked the houses belong to U Kyaw Maung (Constituency 1 of Mohnyin Township), U Kya Mya (Constituency 2 of Mohnyin Township), U Yaw Hsi (Putao Township), U N Nan Gam (Machanbaw) and U Maphang Hsin (Kawbude) and then ordered their family members to evacuate.

At the end of April, the Slorc set some political prisoners free and announced that it will meet with political leaders within two months to discuss the drawing up of a constitution, and will convene a National Convention to draft the documents within six months after that.

On what situation should the National Convention be convened?

Martial law and other laws restricting freedom of expression are still in force. So, people don't feel freedom from fear; at the same time, worry about the danger of political persecution, dare not offer suggestion that will contribute to the country for the long run because it may challenge the militarization of the military regime.

The basic question of

tarization concept of national security and unity.

Second, the Slorc has to consider what the root causes of the civil war are and the importance of the rights of the ethnic groups.

Third, the Slorc has to realize that how strong its troops are, the democratic revolutionary forces can not totally be wiped out as the people (inside and in

What are the objectives of the Sham National Convention of the Slorc ?

1. There must be genuine internal peace in Burma.
2. The Slorc must transfer the power to the elected representatives.
3. All the political prisoners must be free.
4. People must have fundamental democratic rights such as freedom of speech, publishing and association.

If that so, under such good circumstantial situation, the people will feel free; be satisfied and happy; consider for the welfare of the people and good of the country. On the contrary, the Slorc keeps on waging civil war brutally. It never intends to hand over power to the elected representatives. Only very few out of thousands of political prisoners were released. Any fundamental democratic rights cannot be exercised by the people up to now.

Burma is to establish genuine internal peace with sincere ways and means. So long as civil war in Burma continues; there will be increasing violations of human rights, ethnic rights and democratic rights of the people. If the Slorc really wish to establish genuine internal peace...

First, it must get rid of the militarism ideologically. Militarism is thus the tendency of military apparatus (Which includes the armed forces and associated paramilitary troops, intelligence and bureaucratic agencies) to assume an increasing control over civilian activities; and for military values and goals to dominate national culture, education, the media, religion, politics and the economy and alter the existing social structure being justified by the mili-

ternational) support them; geographical situation favours them; at the same time, they have got well experienced in militarily.

Nevertheless, the Slorc, will never give up the ideology of militarism because the leaders of the military regime enjoy the fruits of militarization; the Slorc will never accept the root cause of the civil war because they cannot understand the feeling and

suffering of the ethnic groups; the Slorc will never attempt to realize the practical situation because they wish to become war heroes and to be promoted to the ranks by waging civil war.

That is why, what the Slorc is going to do is only to prolong in power itself. When international pres

-Continued on page (18)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

8 April 1992

B3-486/92)
B3-537/92) RC:
B3-563/92)
B3-577/92)

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

by Mr VAN PUTTEN, on behalf of the Socialist Group

Mr VERHAGEN, on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party

Mr DE VRIES, on behalf of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group

Mr IVERSEN, on behalf of the Group for the European Unitarian Left

Mr TELKAMPER, on behalf of the Green Group in the European Parliament

Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE, on behalf of the Rainbow Group

Mr RIBEIRO, Mrs AINARDI and MR EPHREMIDIS, on behalf of the Left Unity Group

and seeking to replace the motion for resolutions by:

- Mr DE VRIES and Mr PIMENTA, on behalf of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group (B3-486/92)
- Mr VERHAGEN and others, on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (B3-537/92)
- Mr TELKAMPER, on behalf of the Green Group in the European Parliament (B3-563/92)
- Mr IVERSEN and others, on behalf of the Group for the European Unitarian Left (B3-577/92)

on the need to take international action against the SLORC

The European Parliament,

A. appalled by the reports of the persecution of minorities in Burma, which has driven tens of thousands of Rohingyas (Burmese Moslems from Arakan) to seek refuge in Bangladesh and several hundreds of Nagas to flee to India and by the massive military attack on the Karen minority near the Thai border

B. drawing attention to the warning by the UN Secretary-General that the repressive policies of the SLORC threaten to destabilize the whole region and nothing that the first visit of the newly appointed UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator is to Rangoon and then to Dacca,

C. shocked by the evidence that the Burmese Army seems to have been given licence to kill, torture and rape,

D. recalling that the SLORC still continues to ignore the results of the election of 1990, to detain the winner of the election, the Nobel and Sakharov Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and to persecute and imprison her supporters such as Tin U, co-founder with her of the National League for Democracy,

E. disturbed by the reports that 800 students are still being detained for celebrating the award of the Nobel Prize to Aung San Suu Kyi in December 1991,

F. profoundly concerned that the Burmese military dictatorship may continue to benefit from UN agencies such as the UNDP, which has the plans to provide Burma with a total of \$180 million in 1992-1997,

G. having regard to the resolution of the UN Commission of Human Rights deploring the failure of the SLORC to respect human rights and the results of the election,

H. recalling its previous resolutions about Burma,

1. Considers the present Burmese authorities' policies a threat to regional stability and welcomes the 6 March declaration made by the UN Secretary-General;

2. Believes that the time has come when the gross abuses of human rights in Burma and the defiance of international opinion by the SLORC requires the EC and its Member States to take the lead in imposing sanctions;

3. Calls on the Member States which are members of the UN Security Council to propose a mandatory embargo on the supply of arms to Burma;

4. Calls on the Ministers meeting in EPC to consider with the Bangladeshi Government whether it is desirable to establish 'safe havens' for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh;
5. Stresses the importance of the EC and its Member States providing the maximum possible assistance to the democratically elected Bangladeshi Government in its efforts to help these refugees, bearing in mind the extreme poverty of Bangladesh and the terrible natural disasters to which it has recently been subjected;
6. Calls upon the Council and the Ministers meeting in EPC to consider taking steps to put further pressure on these authorities, including trade sanctions in a multilateral context;
7. Calls for the Twelve to seek to postpone the putting into effect of aid programme of UN agencies, with the exception of UNICEF, which is still present in Burma operating with some independence from the SLORC;
8. Calls on European Political Cooperation to seek the cooperation of ASEAN and its Member States and Japan in ending the import of Burmese tropical woods which, by adding to the destruction of the rain forests, has potentially devastating effects on the global environment and which provides the SLORC with the means of purchasing weapons;
9. Calls on the UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator to visit Bangkok and the Burmese-Thai border to ascertain the situation there at first hand, calls on Thailand to refrain from repatriating Burmese who have fled across their country and calls on the International Community to help the Thai authorities in the reception of refugees;
10. Calls for the immediate release of Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, EPC, the Government of Bangladesh, India, Japan and Thailand, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the UN Secretary-General and the SLORC.

Continued from page(16)-

sure becomes severe especially concerning the refugee question in the Bangladesh-Burma border, the Slorc may guarantee return of refugees to their homes to some extent so that Security Council of the UN cannot take action against it. Once before in 1978, there was an experience rather similar to this. Under the Na-Ga-Min (Immigration) Operation at Bangladesh-Burma border in the western command, many thousands were forced to leave their hearths and homes. Nevertheless, by the end of 1979, under the supervision of Western Command (Commander Brigadier Min Gaung) more than 200,000 were absolutely taken back. What the world should take notice is that getting chance

of repatriation of Muslim refugees to Burma is not the ultimate solution to the problem. So long as militarism and militarisation exist and the junta rules the country, Burma, there were repeatedly be human rights violations based on discriminations of race, religion, national or social region, etc. definitely in future.

By freeing some political prisoners, meeting with so-called oppositions, convening sham national convention, the Slorc would like to display to the world that they are doing something for the good of the country. The junta has shifted to a more liberal policy to try to take the wind out of the sails of its international critics.

Since 1989, the Slorc made cease fire agreements with some self-cen-

tered armed factions who betray the people. The following are the leaders from those groups whom the Slorc wishes to attend the sham National Convention.

1. Phone Kya Shin as a leader of Kokang
2. Kyauk Ni Hlaing as a leader of Wa
3. Sai Lin as a leader of Shan and Ahkhar region
4. Sae Htin as a leader of Shan (Sein Kyaue Region)
5. Skon Taint Yein as a leader of Kachin (Pan Wa Region)
6. Ma Htu Naw as a leader of Kachin (Kaung Kha Region)
7. Aung Kham Hti as a leader of Pa-O
8. Aik Hmone as a leader of Palaung

Sham National Convention of the Slorc to which Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi and other top political prisoners in prison and the leaders of the democratic forces and the ethnic revolutionary groups who are fighting against the military regime cannot attend are meaningless. It will not bring peace, democracy and prosperity to the country in the long run.

As soon as the Slorc had staged a coup in 1988, it gave anticipation to the people by announcing the transfer of power after the election; but not yet up to the present time. Now, the Slorc is again attempting to give anticipation to the people inside the country and international as well. It is obvious that there is no alternative except overthrowing militarism and military regime to achieve democracy and human rights.

(Aung Htoo)

RESOLUTION FOR PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

1. That the SLORC should be asked to heed the universal call from such international bodies as the United Nations and European Economic Community plus countless large and small nations for the immediate and unconditional release of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

2. In view of the failure of the SLORC to take action on the UN resolution of 25 Nov 91 condemning human rights violations, its failure to hand over power to the people's elected party, and the increasing and continued persecution of democratic leaders and organizations, the Australian Government should: —

- a. Immediately downgrade the Australian diplomatic mission in Burma by the withdrawal of the ambassadors.
- b. Take the lead in imposing a complete trade embargo including an arms embargo.
- c. Place restrictions on all Australian companies doing business or attempting to do business with the SLORC by:

- i. Withdrawal of export tax incentives.

- ii. Withdrawal of all diplomatic and trade assistance.

- d. Seek parallel measures from the UN and like minded countries and organisations who have condemned the SLORC and voted for the UN resolution.

3. Ask the United Nations General Assembly to instruct the United Nations Development Programme and all allied UN agencies to immediately cease all operations in Burma.

4. Ask all non-government organisations to cease all official aid to the Military Regime in Burma until this Regime is removed and democracy restored to the country.

5. Seek assurances from UNHCR and host countries of First Asylum that adequate care and treatment be accorded to Burmese refugees and displaced persons until they can return to Burma safely at a time of their own choosing.

6. That the Australian Government be requested to establish a special Burmese refugee programme under the special humanitarian programme.

7. That NCGUB be allowed to open an information office in Canberra.

In view of the fact that a considerable aid budget for Burma has been frozen by the Australian Government:—

- a. That at least a considerable proportion of these funds be applied to the provision of educational grants for exiled Burmese to allow them to obtain further education abroad.

- b. That a proportion of such funds be provided as financial assistance for the proposed information office.

9. That the Australian Government endeavour to have Least Development Country Status (LDC) withdrawn from Burma on the grounds that the regime has spent billions of dollars on arms and ammunition, and increasing the size of the armed forces, and very little on improving the lot of the people since LDC was granted.

10. That the Australian Government sponsor a resolution in the UN General Assembly to have Burma's seat declared vacant on the grounds that the regime is an illegal one both under Burmese and International law, and does not have the mandate of the people.

(Resolutions passed by delegates attending the Australian Burma Conference held at Queanbeyan on the 3rd of March 1992.)

In September and October 1991, Company (2) of Slorc Regiment No. (101), Company 1,2,3 of the Slorc regiment (25) and Company (2) of the Slorc regiment No. (104) that based in Tavoy and Mergui Township and a security unit from Thayetchaung Township under the code of "Territory cleaning Column" entered one village after another where they tortured 22 innocent villager to death. While they earned for their living, they faced death without committing crime.

Victory over the innocent people

The victims were the head of each family who were affording for their families, of each at least 4 or 9 members were included. Maj. Soe Tint and soldiers from Company (2) of Regiment No. (101) on 9 April 1991 beat U Shwe Htoo, 55, from Mae Kae village with 2-inch mortar to death.

Then, Maj Soe Tint himself tortured U Hla Myint, 30, from Taught Phaught village to death by putting his head into a plastic sheet, and when the victim lost consciousness, tied his hands and legs with ropes and then kicked into the stream.

Lt-Col Aung Thein Win and soldiers from Company 1,2,3, of Slorc regiment No. (25) tortured the following villagers to death.

1. Name Soe Naing (was bayoneted to death)
Age 19
Native Win Wa village
Death Win Wa village
Date 6.9.91.
2. Name Maung Nyo (was stabbed with a knife to death)
Age 21
Native Win Wa village
Death Taung Sein village
Date 7.9.91.
3. Name U Than Myint (was stabbed with a sharp bamboo stick to death)
Age 43
Native Taung Sein village
Death Kyauk Phyu village
Date 18.9.91.

4. Name U Bo Kay (was stabbed with a sharp bamboo stick to death)
Age 58
Native Kyauk Phyu village
Death Ka Hti Wa village
Date 16.10.91.
5. Name Maung Soe (beat with 2-inch mortar to death)
Age 22
Native Ka Hti Wa village
Death Tha yet Hna Kwa village
Date 12.9.91.
6. Name U Nyan Aye (putting his head into a plastic sheet, and kicked him from the top of the mountain)
Age 46
Native Yan Taung village
Death Tha yet Hna Kwa village
Date 29.9.91.
7. Name U Aye Htun(was stabbed with a knife to death)
Age 60
Native Yan Taung village
Death Pyaung Sin village
Date 20.9.91.
8. Name Maung Pain(was shot to death)
Age 32
Native Tha yet Hna Kwa village
Death Nyaung Sin village
Date 19.9.91.
9. Name U Hnin Nyunt (was shot to death)
Age 53
Native Tha yet Hna Kwa village
Death Tu Tu village
Date 22.9.91.
- 10.Name U Phat Gyi (was shot to death)
Age 40
Native Tha yet Hna Kwa village
Death Tu Tu village
Date 22.9.91.
- 11.Name U Maung Shwe (was shot to death)
Age 35
Native Ka Zi village
Death Tu Tu village
Date 19.9.91.
- 12.Name U Than Ngwe (was shot to death)
Age 32
Native Ka Zi village

Continued on page (21)-

WHO DID IT?

Slorc's soldiers did it

Raped and brutally killed by the Slorc soldiers



Name : Naw Kler Moe (Married, had six children)
Age : 50 years
Village : Wa Mu Loe village, Pa Pun District
Date : 3rd February, 1992

On the 3rd February, 1992, a column of the Slorc soldiers from a Light Infantry Battalion under the command of No. 88 Division entered Wa Mu Loe village, looted and destroyed the village. Most of the villagers ran away. Unfortunately, the soldiers found Naw Kler Moe and her husband. Her husband was shot dead and she was raped by the Slorc soldiers. In the evening, when the villagers returned, she was found dying in a pool of blood with a broken arms and three incised wounds. She was carried to another village for medical treatment. On the way, they met some KNU soldiers who took particulars and photos of Naw Kler Moe, who succumbed to her injuries shortly afterwards.

-Continued from page(20)

Death	Ye Pyat village		
Date	17.9.91.		
13.Name	Maung Than Myint (was shot to death)		
Age	18		
Native	Ka Zi village	Date	25.10.91.
Death	Nyaung Sin village		
Date	19.9.91.	18.Name	U Pha Su (was shot to death)
		Age	60
14.Name	Maung Aye (was shot to death)	Native	Zaw Baw village
Age	29	Death	Ka Htee village
Native	Ka Zi village	Date	15.10.91.
Death	Nyaung Sin village		
Date	19.9.91.	19.Name	U Kyaw Thein (was beat to death)
15.Name	U Sein Pol Po (was shot to death)	Age	44
Age	28	Native	Kyauk Aing village
Native	Ta Byu Chaung village	Death	Te Chaung Gyi village
Death	Ye Phyat village	Date	21.9.91.
Date	2.9.91.	20.Name	U Maung Ba (hang himself)
16.Name	U Than Nyunt (was shot to death)	Age	42
Age	32	Native	Kyauk Aing village
Native	Kyauk Hie Ka village	Death	Te Chaung Gyi village
Death	Ta Yet Chaung village	Date	22.9.91.
Date	10.10.91.		
17.Name	U Aung Win (was shot to death)		
Age	32		
Native	Kyauk Hie Ka village		
Death	Kyauk Hie Ka village		

He was chairman of local SLORC in Te Chaung Gyi village. He could not bear torture and hang himself. All of them were accused of KNU hard cores and killed without any confirmation. As heir family members who depended on them remained in the situation that was lack of the persons who can manage their affairs of education, health care, for future living, their lives were in a very regrettable condition.

Burma's Brutality is a World- Class Problem

The military rulers of Burma claim that all the unrest within its borders is its "internal affairs" and of no concern to the international community. While it is true that the heart of the problem is the 43-year-old civil war, the problems created by the war-refugees, opium, human rights violations and the suppression of democracy – are of international concern.

Today, the United Nations Human Rights Commission is scheduled to take up the issues of Burma. It will consider the report of Yozo Yokota of Japan, who was sent to assess progress toward "political and constitutional fundamental rights." The UN should take this opportunity to make the case that the situation in Burma calls for international action.

The idea that Burma's civil war is strictly a domestic affair is unsustainable. At least 100,000 refugees have fled to Bangladesh, Thailand and China and the number is growing. In Bangladesh, four people including a border guard, were killed in December when a Burmese army force pursued Muslim refugees across the border. Tens of thousands of troops on both sides were sent to the border; discussions to defuse the issue have, thus far, been inconclusive.

Karen Battles

Over the years, the battle against the Karen minority has driven tens of thousands of peasants into Thailand. They live on the informal support of nongovernment refugee organizations and local people who are their ethnic kin. Since 1989, the Burma army has used Thai territory to attack the Karens, without Thailand's permission. In late January, for example, Burmese soldiers crossed the border to attack Karen units in Tavoy from the rear. Three soldiers were killed when they were driven out by the Thai army.

In Kachin State, which borders China and India, the Kachin Independence army awaits an attack from the more than 50 Burmese army battalions which were assembled over the past six months. The Kachins remember 1987 when the Burma army attacked from Chinese territory. The Kachins temporarily lost their military and political headquarters and thousands of refugees fled into China. Most of them have since returned, but there are signs of another impending influx. The Burmese army has forced local peasants to form human

shields around military outposts; those who escape the roundup are moving toward the border.

Narcotics provides another international dimension. Burma ranks as one of the leading producers of opium and there is no sign of any crop reduction. Annual production is estimated at 2,400 tons per year and growing. Because the army does not control the growing areas, the State Law and Order restoration Council entered into agreements with the Was, Kokang Chinese and Burmese minorities, in whose areas the largest crops grow. In exchange for rice, which the minorities need, and the promise not to use arms against the Burma army, the minorities are permitted to keep their weapons, rule their areas and to continue opium trade. It is widely believed that local army commanders share some of the narcotics profits and protect some of the caravans.

"... the Problem is the 43-year-old civil war, the problems created by the war-refugees, opium, human rights violations and the suppression of democracy - are of international concern."

Eliminating and controlling opium productions is an international problem. Only when the true local leaders are free of warfare against SLORC can they use their influence to return their people away from narcotics. Most NDF leaders stand ready to work with international agencies and a democratic government in Rangoon to introduce crop substitution. The Kachins have launched a major drive to eradicate opium in their area, and report some success in winning the support of the local growers and in punishing known traffickers.

Burma's neighbours have been reluctant to support international measures to bring a peaceful settlement. Speaking on behalf of Asean in July 1991, in response to international requests to exert pressure against SLORC, Malaysian foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that "Attempts to impose the stand of one side on the other or interpreting it in a new selective or narrow manner would disrupt the traditional goodwill and cooperation and trade upon the sovereignty of nations." Thailand and Singapore have made equally ambivalent remarks.

But given the magnitude of the problems of refugees, narcotics and repression in Burma, there is a case to be

made for international involvement. If Asean will not take the lead, the United Nations should.

There has been some action. In 1991, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling attention to the grave human-rights situation in Burma. In 1989 and 1990, the UN Human rights Commission considered the issue of human rights abuses in Burma. When it sent an investigator to Rangoon, SLORC only allowed access to government officials and limited movement about Rangoon. A second investigator, Mr. Yokota, visited Burma in October and was allowed to tour the infamous Insein jail, but he was not allowed to talk to prisoners or to see Aung San Suu Kyi.

Here are a few steps the UN could take to put pressure on Burma's dictators:

- Conduct the present UNHCR meeting as a full public hearing on Burma's human-rights record in order to mobilize public opinion.

- Lobby the Security Council to take note that the situation in Burma is a threat to peace and call for economic sanctions on all but humanitarian goods. China, as SLORC's major arms dealer and trading partner, might veto such a resolution, and the Asean states are unlikely to honor it. But China is also looking for ways to move away from Tiananmen and to be seen as a responsible international citizen. This could be the issue where it would take the lead and seek a face-saving way to bring about political change.

- Revoke Burma's "Least-developed" status, granted in 1987. That would obligate Burma to pay in full its inter-

national debts.

- Call upon all states to halt public and private investment in Burma until there is political change- a tactic with precedent in regard to South Africa.

- Call for the removal of SLORC's representatives from the U.N. The seat could be awarded to Burma's rival opposition government in exile, elected in 1990, or left vacant until an elected government is seated in Burma.

- Stop funding U.N Development Program projects in Burma. There is \$37 million unspent during the current five-year plan; that should be frozen. The next one, covering 1992-97, is budgeted at \$93 million; that should be killed. Since UNDP projects are located only where SLORC approves, they violate UNDP rules that aid should help all the people in the nation and not be used politically.

Non-military Measures

These non-military measures can be effective. SLORC has said that its legitimacy comes from its international recognition. The regime knows, from the fact that it lost 80% of the seats in the 1990 election, that it has little popular support. If the U.N took these steps, it would remove all claims that the world community approves of SLORC's authority.

In that case, Burma's army might, at last, realize how isolated its government is and that international approval, the one slender reed it held as the basis for its rule, no longer exists.

Prof. Josef Silverstein

Article 19's Burma campaign calls for:

- The results of the 1990 elections to be acknowledged and the duly elected MPs to be allowed to take their seats.
- The unconditional release of all those detained for the peaceful expression of their opinions.
- An end to persecution of religious institutions and communities.
- Unrestricted distribution of religious publications.
- Unrestricted publication of literature in ethnic minority languages.
- Academic freedom to be acknowledged and academic institutions to be re-opened and staff reinstated.
- Information to be disclosed on the extent and severity of Burma's narcotics, health, environmental and refugee crises and journalists to be allowed unrestricted access to the affected regions.

Protests should be sent to:

General Saw Maung
Chairman SLORC
c/o Ministry of Defence
Signal Pagoda Road
Rangoon, Burma

SWISSAID SUPPORTS ETHNIC MINORITIES AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN BURMA

The development agency SWISSAID, a non-governmental organisation from Switzerland, has decided to support the ethnic minorities and democratic forces in Burma with a contribution of SFr. 500,000 — and to include Burma into their support and solidarity programme.

What is actually happening in Burma is, according to SWISSAID, genocide. SWISSAID fears that there will be a further aggravation of the aggression by the SLORC during the days and weeks to come. Hanspeter Finger, SWISSAID collaborator in charge for Asia who just returned from a fact finding mission in the crisis area, appeals to the Swiss public to ignore neither the misery of the more than 270,000 refugees in Burma's neighbouring states nor the fate of the about one million people who are suffering deportation by force, persecution and physical oppression within Burma itself.

More than 500,000 Burmese civilians have been resettled by force so-called satellite-towns. Moreover, Hanspeter Finger mentioned the existence of "concentration-and re-education camps, forced labour and the purposeful wiping out of entire villages by the Burmese military." SWISSAID talks of "genocide of an unsuspected extent," and "unregistered streams of refugees" heading towards the Burmese highlands where they find shelter and some food with ethnical groups. According to a spokesman of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), already more than 300,000 "internal refugees" are in the Karen-region, 50,000 are with the Kachin and 4-500,000 with other ethnical groups.

According to SWISSAID there are among the ethnic minorities ten thousands of civilians chased out of their villages, persecuted and tortured. In the Tenasserin-District in the South of Burma, more than 20,000 people from 17 villages have been resettled by force into concentration camp-style quarters and compelled to forced labour in road construction. Thousands are being kidnapped by the army and taken to the battlefield as porters and shields. In January, more than 2000 university teachers have been sent to a re-education camp. State employees and political parties have been forced to state their loyalty to the military on detailed questionnaires.

SWISSAID supports the call of governments and human rights organizations for economical and political sanctions against the Burmese military regime. SWISSAID wants to raise public awareness about the violation of basic Human Rights and initiate a "Burma solidarity group" to highlight possible "Swiss connections." According to SWISSAID, there are still PC7 — and PC9 planes of Swiss origin operating with the Burmese military. A considerable part of the Burmese gem trade is being effected via Switzerland. Representatives of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), the parallel government of the Burmese opposition meanwhile recognized by Norwegian and received by several democratic governments, have been talking of "millions of dollars of flight capital from Burma on Swiss Banks."

Funds for education and health

SWISSAID supports the demands for democratic rights on the basis of the elections of May, 1990, and will at the same time directly support the ethnical minorities and democratic forces of Burma. SFr 300,000 — have just been transferred to the 700,000 Burmese refugees at the Thai Border who are not recognized by the UNHCR. Eighty per cent of this amount is financed through the Swiss Government. Another SFr 250,000 — are intended for development initiatives among the supported groups in the areas of education, health and agriculture.

SWISSAID is stressing the fact, that the ethnic minorities dispose of a remarkable independent civil infrastructure for instance in the areas of education and health services, which do not get any outside support. The civil war and other interventions by the SLORC however have brought down their civic selfsufficiency. SWISSAID wants therefore to assist them "in a genuine indigenous development, which has to be designed by themselves for themselves in accordance with basic human rights and the vision of a peaceful Union of Burma."

The activities of SWISSAID in Burma can be supported by a donation on PC Bern 30-303-5 (remark "Burma").

Berne, March 24, 1992

LINKAGE OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING IN BURMA

The estimated 2,250 tons of opium that drug traffickers harvested in 1990 and most of them: over 70 per cent of heroin of all heroin flowing out of Golden Triangle were processed and exported under the control of the notorious opium war lord Khun Sa who is under indictment in the US on charges of smuggling \$350 millions worth of heroin into the US from 1986 to 1989.

At the border Khun Sa operates about half a dozen refinery to develop the opium into heroin and smuggles the drug out of Burma through Thailand by air and sea.

In early 1991, when the fighting broke out between Khun Sa's troops and his rival United Wa State Army (UWSA) over drug trade, at least 800 young Shans were killed. As some of the fighting flood across the border into Thailand last spring, the Thai military sent aircraft and helicopters.

The then-BSPP persuaded Khun Sa to convert his forces into a Ka Kwe Ye (BSPP-recognized militia) and informally permitted to trade in opium in exchange for fighting other revolutionary guerrillas. Although he was arrested by the BSPP authorities in 1969, was released soon after two Russian physicians who was abducted in 1975 from a hospital in Taunggyi and held for one year by his followers.

Corruption on the part of the Slorc since a crackdown on pro-democracy forces in 1988 has enabled. Within weeks of the dissolution of the Communist Party of Burma (CPB), Maj-Gen Khin Nyunt made a tour and held a discussion with the

new leaders named Pheung Kya Shin and Pheung Kya Fu. They were granted permission of engaging in any kind of business including drug trades and turned their forces into KKY (Slorc-recognized militia) in return of promises not to attack the Slorc. Since then, drug trafficking become to flourish and Slorc officials are economically benefiting from the drug trade and most of drug-money is believed to be deposited in overseas banks.

Since Phung Kya Shin, the commander of the former CPB forces in the Mong Ko and the Ko Kang area, made a promise at the drug burning-ceremony at Mong Ko in 1991 that heroin possession will stop in 1991 and they will completely eradicate poppy cultivation within 6 years, Mong Ko has become as an important centre for heroin refining in Southeast Asia and production really develops ever than before.

According to figures released by the US State Department's Bureau of Narcotics, Burma produced 2,350 tons of opium last year, out of a global harvest estimated at 3,819 tons. The figure marked an increase on 1990 when Burma produced 2,250 tons (out of global total of 3,520 tons). Narcotics' officers calculate that this year's harvest in all the Burmese sector of notorious Golden Triangle is to be increased more than double figure of 3 years ago. The increase was said to have come in areas where the US had supported eradication efforts in 1989. Some estimate that Burma might have earned as the world's biggest producer of opium.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) officials were

also invited to tour the frontier area where the Slorc set up a Border Development Programme for that Rangoon later requested assistance from the UN. The Slorc regime, moreover, deceived the UN officials in holding talks with so-called local leaders of that area without awareness of those were major drug traffickers. Without knowingly the fact that those are responsible for the booming production of the heroin in the area, the officials from UNDP decided to cooperate with them and had promised US\$ 1.3 million to support various projects including eradication of poppy cultivation, supporting crop substitution and other development projects in that area.

Burma's wealth in narcotics has also been linked to Slorc's purchases of arms from China to crush the students and democratic forces. The two countries in late 1990 concluded arms deal worth \$1.3 million to 1.4 million that was to furnish the Slorc with jet fighters such F-6 and F-7, patrol boats, tanks, anti-aircraft missiles such as HN5: a version of the shoulder-launched Soviet SAM-7 missiles, rocket-launchers as well as small arms and ammunition.

At local level officials in Yunan and other southern provinces in China shut their mouths about the traffickers' visit to border towns in China and invest their drug money in hotels and other joint-ventures in Yunan and other provinces, ignore the floods of chemicals— that slipped through the border although there are checkpoints—needed for the opium production and throw themselves into trafficking while many officials in Peking sincerely concerned about the spread of drug addiction.

In Mong Ko and Ko Kang, there are many private drug traffickers and the market is free. In Keng Tung area, as the trade is monopolised by the ex-CPB commanders named Lin Mingxian and Zhang Zhiming, ex-Red guards and still close contact with Chinese security services for intelligence purpose of China, local trafficking is almost non-existent there.

The majority of the heroin produced by them is conveyed down to the Thai border in the South, while smaller quantities are sent through Jinghong to Kunming, capital of Yunan Province.

Moreover, increasing quantities of

drugs are now being conveyed down to Mandalay in which the Slorc has made its vehicles available to the traffickers.

From Mandalay, narcotics are sent down to Rangoon and Moulmein and then carried by sea to Malaysia and Singapore. More drugs are being shipped from Mandalay to Monywa and on to Tamu opposite the Indian State of Manipur. Drugs also enter India through Kalembo and China State to Mizoram across the frontier region. Drugs destined for India are for local consumption as well as for onwards shipment. Until the recent tension is high along the Western border, Burmese drugs were being shipped to Chittagong through Alikadam in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. At the same time, new poppy fields have been reported near Paletwa in Burma's Chin State where there was not poppy cultivation area in the previous days.

Although the new routes develop, the control of the trade remains in the hands of powerful drug traffickers, who continue to supervise the traffic from their outposts in Mong Ko, Ko Kang and Baoshan, a major centre for drug trafficking in Yunan State in China.

SITUATION IN KACHIN STATE

It would appear that the Slorc army has began its major offensive against the KIO. It has been known that the Slorc army has been preparing for this offensive for over a year.

On 29 March 1992, the Slorc troops forced the civilians to work as porters in carrying food and rations across the China border at Nong Thu—Rweli. This movement continued until March 30. A convoy of 20 local Chinese trucks and 3 Chinese military trucks then transported the supplies to the Slorc

troops post in Loiye, Kachin State.

On March 30, It was reportedly known that 5 Chinese military trucks, loaded with ammunitions, crossed the Sino-Burmese border from Wandin to Pangnai (Kyugok) and on to Muse.

4 April — Since this time there has been a continuous offensive by the Slorc army against the KIO 3rd Brigade, stationed 9 miles north of Loiye, Slorc 38th and 74th Regiments have been attacking the KIO 3rd Brigade's west flank. A total of 6 Slorc battalions

are involved in the overall offensive with extensive reinforcements available. Heavy casualties have been reported on the Slorc side including porters.

In the past, China had requested permission from KIO to construct a motor way from Bhamo—Sinlum to China. They were refused. It was reported that on March 23, Chinese and Slorc officials visited Sang Gang area to discuss building a hydro-power station. In order to achieve both of these objectives, the Slorc must eliminate the KIA 3rd Bri-

gade. Also this would make it easier for the Slorc to attack the KIO Headquarters in Pa Jau. The KIO 3rd Brigade has never been defeated by the Slorc. In 1987, the BSPP troops overrun the KIO Headquarters, however, it was unable to occupy the area held by the 3rd Brigade.

It will be important to confirm the collaboration between the Slorc and the Chinese represents an official policy on behalf of Peking towards the Slorc regime, or is merely an unofficial initiative by the local Chinese along the border.



Continued from page(15)-

Saw Maung resigns

(BKK Post 24.4.92)

Rangoon(AP)— Gen saw Maung, head of a military junta widely criticised for massive human rights abuses, has resigned as its chairman for health reasons, the official Rangoon Radio announced last night. Gen Than Shwe, deputy chairman and army commander, will succeed Saw Maung as leader of the SLORC, the radio said in a special announcement. "Owing to heavy responsibilities undertaken continuously by Senior Gen Saw Maung, his health failed, necessitating a complete rest as advised by his doctors," the announcement said. Though the radio announcement did not specifically mention Saw Maung's retirement from his positions as armed forces supreme commander, prime minister and president, it was understood that "complete rest" meant he would retire from all his duties. Than Shwe, 58, has been holding the positions of army commander, deputy chairman of SLORC, deputy supreme commander of the defence forces, and defence minister.

Despite his powerful positions, analysts long have believed that the key junta figure has been Khin Nyunt, its secretary. Since 1988, he has been

involved in key decisions and policy deliberations while Saw Maung has usually dealt with generalities. "They (senior military officers) have been gradually ridding Saw Maung of his powers," said Josef Silverstein. Silverstein said it was too early to predict what if anything would change in Burma's policy. Khin Nyunt's behind-the-scenes rule could spark resentment among powerful field commanders, or the shift in leadership also could signal some move away from the military's hard-line policy, Silverstein said. Than Shwe officially held the No. 2 position in the SLORC and has been described by Swedish Burma expert Bertil Lintner as "a ruthless field commander who is more feared than respected by his subordinates."

Burmese junta 'likely to keep hardline policy'

(BKK Post 25.4.92)

Burma's ruling generals are likely to pursue the hardline policies that have made their country an international pariah despite the replacement of the junta leader, political analysts said yesterday. Gen Than Shwe took over from Gen Saw Maung as chairman of the SLORC on Thursday because of the latter's ill-health, official reports said. Diplomats believe Than Shwe, 59, — like Saw Maung a career officer who rose through the ranks—is

staunchly loyal to Ne Win, the architect of Burmese authoritarianism since 1962. "our basic feeling is that the existing structure won't change," said one diplomat reached in Rangoon yesterday. "The important thing to remember about Than Shwe is that he is part and parcel of the existing team. "... I can't believe he is going to move away too dramatically from what is happening, particularly if one accepts the thesis that Ne Win is still setting the parameters.

"Many Burmese are inclined to say there will be no change at all and that it will be business as usual." Diplomats say numerous reports have circulated in the past few months that saw Maung had suffered a mental and physical breakdown and had begun to behave erratically. According to these reports, the 63-year-old general had been suffering from acute depression and diabetes, conditions compounded by heavy drinking. His broadcast speeches have often been rambling and incoherent and fellow junta members have apparently been targets of his increasingly volatile and irrational behaviour, diplomats said.

Japan urges return to democracy

(BKK Post 25.4.92)

Japan called on Burma new junta leaders yesterday to press for an early return to democracy. "The background of this change is not clear at this moment," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters in reference to the change of leadership in Rangoon. "But we are hopeful that the new leadership and Chairman Than Shwe will realise a return to a democratic government at an early date. "We will continue to follow the process towards democratisation in Myanmar (Burma) and continue various efforts for that direction," Hanabusa said. In a surprise move earlier this week, the Japanese government granted refugee status to 3 Burmese dissidents involved in campaigning in Japan for democracy in their homeland.



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