

BURMA ALERT

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Burma News:

ARMED FORCES TO GUIDE BURMA'S FUTURE

On 2 Oct, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) in Rangoon declared that the new constitution, which it is dictating, must ensure that the Tatmadaw (Army) will play a leading role in Burma's future. This statement was made inconspicuously in sub-section (vi) of item 4b (see full text on page 3) which indicates that SLORC does not want to publicize this point to the international community. Accordingly, when SLORC's Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 5 Oct, he did not mention this very important criterion but, instead, pointed to the recent showcase 'changes' in Burma to demonstrate SLORC's intention to fulfil its 'commitment to meet the aspirations of the people of Myanmar' [SLORC921002/05].

SLORC FM CHALLENGED AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Prime Minister Dr Sein Win, of the democratically elected National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), challenged the claims made by SLORC Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw. Speaking at a press conference at the United Nations, Dr Sein Win said that the so-called changes made by SLORC were cosmetic and were intended to mislead the international community. He said that the SLORC had no mandate to call a National Convention and should hand over power to the winners of the 1990 general elections. Dismissing SLORC claims of a cease-fire with the Karens, he said that the Burma Army stopped fighting because of the rainy season and was now preparing to launch another dry season offensive against the democratic opposition. Dr Sein Win also pointed out that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate, is still under house arrest and that SLORC had released only a few hundred prisoners, the majority of whom are criminals. Amnesty International has compiled a list of over 1,500 political prisoners in Burma who are known by name.

Prime Minister Dr Sein Win was in New York leading a delegation from the NCGUB and the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) to lobby at the UN for a resolution against SLORC. The DAB is an umbrella organization of 20 ethnic organizations and political parties that have been fighting the central government for four decades. This is the first time since independence in 1948 that the lowland Burmans and the ethnic nationalities have been able to work together. This bodes well for ending the world's longest civil war. Delegates included NCGUB Foreign Minister U Peter Limbin; NCGUB Minister for Health & Education Dr Sann Aung; DAB Vice Chairman, National Democratic Front Chairman and New Mon State Party Chairman Nai Shwe Kyin; Karen National Union General Secretary and DAB Executive Committee member Pado Saw Ba Thin; DAB General Secretary and Kachin Independence Organization Central Committee member Dr Manam Tujah; Muslim Liberation Organization Chairman U Kyaw Hla; Oversea Karen Organization Secretary David Tharckabaw; Federation of Trade Unions of Burma Secretary U Maung Maung; All Burma Students Democratic Front EC member Dr Thaung Htun; Dr Stephen Morse, Special Advisor to KIO Chairman Brang Seng; Dr Kyaw Than, NCGUB Europe Representative, Ms Amanda Zappia, NCGUB Australian Representative and Harn Yawngghwe, ADDB.

In Dec.91 the UN General Assembly adopted a consensus resolution calling for SLORC to allow the people of Burma to participate freely in the political process of building a democratic state. The UN Commission for Human Rights in Geneva also adopted a consensus resolution in March 1992 expressing particular concern that SLORC has made no progress in implementing the political will of the people of Burma as expressed in the results of the 1990 general elections. The National League for Democracy led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won 392 seats and the military-backed National Unity Party won 10 seats in the SLORC-supervised 1990 general elections [GUB/BA921005].

"BURMA ALERT" - NEW FAX NUMBER: 1 (613) 794-2719

Burma News:**SLORC REJECTS AUSTRALIAN MEDIATION**

On 9 Oct. U Kyaw Min, SLORC Ambassador to the United Nations, rejected an offer by the Australian Government to act as an intermediary to host a preliminary meeting in the neutral venue of the United Nations to explore the possibility of future negotiations with the NCGUB and the DAB. The Australian initiative came about after a meeting in New York on 30 September between Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans; Australian Ambassador to the UN, Richard Butler; NCGUB Prime Minister, Dr Sein Win and NCGUB Foreign Minister, U Peter Limbin.

The NCGUB agreed to co-operate on the principle that political issues cannot be resolved by force. The initiative met with three of the basic conditions for negotiations agreed upon by the NCGUB/DAB namely: a third party mediator; a neutral venue and a joint NCGUB/DAB team. The fourth condition, namely a nation-wide cease-fire, was not insisted on since this was only a preliminary meeting to discuss the possibility of talks in the future. SLORC's reply was that negotiations with either the NCGUB or the DAB were out of the question 'unless they come back within the law' [GUB/BA921016].

In addition to rejecting the Australian offer, SLORC insulted Senator Gareth Evans and Australia in the 26 Oct.92 Burmese edition of the Working Peoples Daily, the official SLORC newspaper, stating: *"The Foreign Minister of one of the countries which want to dominate Burma has announced that he would like to act as a negotiator between the Myanmar Government and the insurgents. When I heard this, I despised this man who loves to apply ointment to an unswollen part. I am filled with pity for this person as well as for his country since he does not seem to understand anything about the Myanmar people, the Myanmar Tatmadaw (Army) and the history of the Myanmar independence struggle."* This quote appeared in an article entitled 'Strong and Decisive Armed Forces' written under the pseudonym of Thukhi Aung. Contrary to normal practice, the article was not repeated in the English language edition.

This strong negative response proves beyond a doubt that SLORC is not serious about national reconciliation and that it does not believe in consulting with other parties that do not agree with it. SLORC's National Convention excludes the NCGUB which represents the party that won 80% of the seats in the general election. It also excludes the DAB which controls 30% of the country and at least 10% of the population of 42 million. The composition of the Convening Commission for the National Convention and the guidelines for its operation issued by SLORC also indicate that it intends to keep a tight control over the process of drawing up a constitution - Ed.

SLORC EXPANDS CABINET WITH MORE MILITARY MEN

On 24 Sep.92, the SLORC expanded its cabinet from 21 to 29 members. SLORC Chairman General Than Shwe retains his position as Prime Minister. Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, former Minister for Mines, and Lieutenant-General Tin Tun, former Transport Minister and Minister for Labour & Social Welfare, were appointed Deputy Prime Ministers. Lieut-Gen Tin Tun also retains the Social Welfare portfolio. Major-General Kyaw Min, Commander of the North West Military Region, took over the Mines portfolio. Maj-Gen Them Win, the Air Force Chief, took over the Transport portfolio. The Health portfolio was taken from Colonel Pe Thein and given to Rear-Admiral Than Nyunt, the Navy Chief. Col Pe Thein retained only the Education portfolio. The Trade portfolio was taken from Brigadier-General David Abel and given to Maj-Gen Tun Kyi, Commander, Central Military Region. Brig-Gen Abel remains Minister for Planning & Finance. Maj-Gen Kyaw Ba, Commander, Northern Military Region, became the new Minister for Hotels & Tourism. Maj-Gen Maung Thint, Commander, North East Military Region, became the new Minister for the Development of Border Areas and Minorities. Maj-Gen Aye Thaung, Commander, Southern Military Region, took over the Labour portfolio from Lieut-Gen Tin Tun. Brig-Gen Lun Maung was named to the new post of Minister for the Prime Minister's Office and the SLORC Ambassador to Thailand, U Nyunt Swe was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister [N920925, B920926].

TRADE UNIONS TO BOYCOTT FIVE STAR LINE

The International Transportation Workers Federation stated that the international brotherhood of transport workers will boycott the state-owned Burmese Five Star Shipping Corporation to stop the military from earning foreign exchange which it uses to purchase arms [FTUB9209].

Policies:

SLORC ORDER No.13/92

The 6th Waxing Day of Thadingyut, 1354 ME
(2 October 1992)

FORMATION OF THE CONVENING COMMISSION FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

1. The State Law and Order Restoration Council has, by issuing Declaration No.11/92 dated 24 April 1992, already declared that in respect of the convening of the National Convention, after co-ordinating with the leaders of the representatives elected from political parties existing lawfully and elected independent representatives (Members of Parliament), the National Convention would be convened within six months in order to lay down the basic principles for drafting a firm Constitution of the State.
2. In accordance with such Declaration, the State Law and Order Restoration Council will convene the National Convention within six months from 10 July 1992, the date of completion of co-ordination.
3. In order that the National Convention may be convened systematically, successfully and smoothly, the State Law and Order Restoration Council hereby forms the following Convening Commission for the National Convention:

Convening Commission for the National Convention

a) Maj-Gen Myo Nyunt	SLORC Member	Chairman
b) Maj-Gen Maung Thint	SLORC Member	Vice Chairman
c) Brig-Gen Myo Thant	Information Minister	Vice Chairman
d) U Aung Toe	Chief Justice	Member
e) U Tha Tun	Attorney-General	Member
f) Brig-Gen Than Oo	Judge Advocate General	Member
g) Brig-Gen Tin Aye	Inspector-General	Member
h) Col Than Tun	Vice Adjutant General	Member
i) Col Ye Htut	Dir, DS Museum & Hist.Research	Member
j) Lt-Col Kyaw Win	Dty Dir, DS Intelligence	Member
k) Lt-Col Than Tun	GSO (IV DS Intelligence	Member
l) U Aye Maung	D-G, Election Commission	Member
m) U Aung Khin Tint	SLORC Legal Advisor	Member
n) U Them Sein	Officer on Spc.Duty, SLORC	Member
o) U Than Nyunt	Advisor, Hlutdaw Office	Member
p) Brig-Gen Aung Thein	Dir, PR & Psyc-Warfare	Secretary
q) U Myo Nyunt	D-G, Hlutdaw Office	Jnt-Secretary 1
r) UAungNyunt	Dty D-G, Hlutdaw Office	Jnt-Secretary 2

4. The duties of the Convening Commission are as follows:

- a) Shall convene the National Convention with the objective of laying down principles to be based upon in drafting a firm Constitution of the State,
- b) Shall, in laying down the basic principles for the drafting of the Constitution of the State at the National Convention, supervise in order to co-ordinate within the framework of the following objectives:
 - i) Non-disintegration of the Union;
 - ii) Non-disintegration of National Solidarity;
 - iii) Consolidation and perpetuation of Sovereignty;

Policies:

SLORC ORDER No.13/92

continued

- iv) Emergence of a genuine multi-party democratic system;
- v) Development of eternal principles of justice, liberty and equality in the State; and
- vi) Participation of the Tatmadaw in the leading role of national politics of the State in (the) future.

c) Shall make arrangements to enable the representatives attending the National Convention to submit systematically their wishes, suggestions and proposals at the National Convention.

5. The functions of the Convening Commission are as follows:

a) Determining the methods for selection of representatives to the National Convention according to the following categories:

- i) Representatives of political parties;
- ii) Representatives elected at the election;
- iii) Representatives of national races;
- iv) Representatives of peasants;
- v) Representatives of workers;
- vi) Representatives of intelligentsia and technocrats;
- vii) Representatives of State service personnel; and
- viii) Other persons who should be invited.

b) After determining the methods for selection of representatives intimating to the relevant organizations for selection of representatives in the prescribed number according to the category of representatives.

c) Determining the period for the respective organizations to send the nomination list and personal records of the representatives selected in accordance with the method of selecting representatives.

d) Compiling the names and personal records of representatives according to the category of representatives.

e) Sending invitations for the timely attendance at the National Convention, after receiving a complete list of the names of representatives.

f) Laying down the procedures relating to the convening of the National Convention.

g) Laying down and carrying out the administrative work programmes and financial regulations required for the convening of the National Convention.

6. The Convening Commission may:

a) in carrying out its duties and functions, form committees as may be necessary and assign responsibility in order to be more effective and successful.

b) in forming the Committees, include members of the Convening Commission and also persons from the Government departments and organizations and suitable citizens.

7. The Convening Commission in carrying out its duties and functions has the right to obtain requirements of office work and other assistance and support as may be necessary from the respective Government departments and organizations.

8. The expenditures relating to the convening of the National Convention shall be borne out of the Pyithu Hludaw (Parliament) Fund.

9. The Convening Commission shall, after convening the National Convention, submit to the State Law and Order Restoration Council a report relating to the convening of the National Convention.

By order,

Khin Nyunt
Major-General
Secretary 1

State Law and Order Restoration Council

Policies:

SLORC ORDER No.13/92 continued

The above is the official English translation of SLORC Order No.13/92. which attempts to re-define the military's role in Burmese politics. This edict clearly puts the lie to SLORC's campaign to convince the United Nations and the international community that it is making political concessions and moving towards respecting the will of the Burmese people as expressed in the results of the 1990 general elections. Sub-section 6 of Item No. 4 b), is the crucial sentence.

The make-up of the National Convention Commission is the same as the Steering Committee for Holding Co-ordination Meeting for the Convening of the National Convention (SLORC Notification No.35/92, 28 May.92) with three additional members: Maj-Gen Maung Thint, Lt-Col Kyaw Win and U Than Nyunt. Of the Commission's 18 members, 10 are serving army officers and the remainder are SLORC appointees.

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International Activities:

AUSTRALIA:

"Burma Alert" No.7, Vol.3, July 1992, reported the merger of the COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA and the COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA (AUSTRALIA). The information was supplied by CRDB (Australia) and also reported in the Burma Affairs Monitor published in the U.K. The Executive Committee of the CDB on 13 Oct.92 stated the following: "Contrary to a report in 'Burma Alert', CDB has not merged or has any intention of merging with any organisation in Australia or internationally. CDB will operate as a single entity. It will co-operate and work hand-in-hand with any organisation which is trying to free Burma from the yoke of the military government. CDB assisted in the formation of the Australia Burma Council (ABC) and will be working actively to achieve the objectives set by ABC". We apologize to the CDB and the "Alert" regrets any inconveniences caused by our report. News items received are verified before publication by the "Alert". However, information received from organizations about their own activities is normally accepted in good faith. We shall endeavour to verify these reports in the future - Ed.

INDIA:

On 26 Sep, the BURMA STUDENTS LEAGUE in New Delhi made an appeal to the Thai Government to ensure that dissident Burmese students living in Thailand be given temporary political asylum; that they not be repatriated against their will; and that they be given freedom of movement.

On 8 Aug, the BURMA DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS FRONT held a rally in Moreh for freedom from Army rule in Burma.

SWITZERLAND:

The Geneva-based INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS issued a 21-page report on "Refugees from Myanmar" in Oct.92 and based on Articles 13 and 14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, called on Bangladesh, China, India and Thailand, to grant asylum to refugees fleeing persecution in Burma. The Commission also called on the governments of these countries to allow the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to provide protection to these refugees and for the international community to provide economic assistance to the refugees. Copies can be obtained from ICJ, 26 chemin de Joinville, Boite postale 160, CH-1216 Cointrin/Geneve, Switzerland.

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The "Burma Alert", published monthly by the Associates to Develop Democratic Burma, monitors foreign investments and trade with Burma in order to provide data for campaigns against the military dictatorship in Rangoon.

Subscription to the "Burma Alert." is US\$1.00 per annum payable to the Associates to Develop Democratic Burma, c/p Harn Yawngnwe, PR 4, Shawville, Quebec JOX 2Y0, Canada. Fax: 1 (613) 794-2719. Readers are also invited to become 'Associates' by contributing US\$100.00 per annum.

In 1992, the Associates to Develop Democratic Burma received grants from the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Montreal, Canada; the Evangelische Missionswerk, Hamburg, Germany; and the National Endowment for Democracy, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

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Foreign Trade & Investments:

The following information was obtained from the Mya Yadana magazine published in August 1992 by Green November 32, an environmental and human rights organization on the Thai-Burma border. Steve Thompson, Editor, GPO Box 2400, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. Fax: 66(2)236-4858.

FRANCE:

COMPAGNIE GENERALE DE GEOPHYSIQUE (CGG), a Paris-based company that receives substantial support from the French Government, dominates the seismic surveying work in Burma. It was reported to have done work for BHP Australia, Unocal (USA) and possibly Petro-Canada. It currently has contracts with Yukong (Korea), Idemitsu (Japan) and Kirkland Resources (UK). CGG has done very extensive road cutting and grid line clearance work. Roads for their work in the Kirkland concession (Block J) were reportedly made with slave labour. *Readers are requested to send us information about CGG - Ed.*

SCHLUMBERGER, the world's largest multinational oil exploration servicing corporation, is active in Burma through its subsidiary GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY LTD (GECO-PRAKLER). Geco was at one time owned by the Norwegian Government and Prakler-Seismos was owned by the West German Government. Both companies did seismic testing for the Burmese Socialist Programme Party government. The merged GECO-PRAKLER now owned by SCHLUMBERGER is working for Croft (UK), Clyde Petroleum PLC (UK), and Shell (Netherlands). It also worked for BMP Australia. Write: Chairman Mr. E. Baird, Schlumberger Ltd., 42 rue Saint-Dominique, 75007 Paris, France.

MALAYSIA:

PETRONAS, the Malaysian State oil company is active in Burma. However, details are not available. *Readers having additional information on PETRONAS are requested to send them to us - Ed.* Write: Chairman Mr. T.S.D.B. Ismail, POBox 12444, Menara Dayabumi, Kompleks Dayabumi, Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin, 50778 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: 60 (3) 274-8011, Fax: 60 (3) 274-0217.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

CARSON SERVICES, a geophysical exploration service company, has an office in Rangoon. No other information is available. *Additional information on CARSON would be appreciated - Ed.*

GRANT NORPAC INC, a geophysical exploration service company was working for Amoco and Unocal. It is said to have pulled out of Burma. *Readers having additional information on GRANT NORPAC are requested to send it to us - Ed.*

HALLIBURTON GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES does the same oil exploration servicing as Schlumberger. Its Singapore subsidiary is contracted to Shell (Netherlands). *Readers having additional information on HALLIBURTON are requested to send it to us - Ed.*

RAYTHEON, a U.S. defence contractor, is active through its British subsidiary, SEISMOGRAPH SERVICES LTD (SSL). SSL is working with Amoco and Unocal. *Readers having additional information on SSL are requested to send it to us - Ed.*

SCHLUMBERGER, the world's largest multinational oil exploration servicing corporation, is active in Burma through its subsidiary GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY LTD (GECO-PRAKLER). GECO-PRAKLER is working for Croft (UK), Clyde Petroleum PLC (UK), and Shell (Netherlands). It also worked for BHP Australia. SCHLUMBERGER employs General Ne Win's son, Pyo Ne Win, in Europe. Write: Chairman Mr. E. Baird, Schlumberger Ltd., 777 Park Ave., New York, NY.10171-0266. Tel: 1 (212) 350-9400.

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Other news sources this issue: B - Bangkok Post, Thailand, BA = Burma Alert, Canada, FTUB = Federation of Trade Unions of Burma, Bangkok, GUB = National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, Manerplaw, N = The Nation, Bangkok, and SLORC = State Law and Order Restoration Committee, Rangoon.

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