



Incident timely trumped up to intensify international pressure on Myanmar by internal and external anti-government elements

FM U Nyan Win discusses recent developments in Myanmar with Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May —Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone made a telephone call to U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, at 2.45 p.m. on 18 May, 2009 and they had friendly discussions on the recent developments in Myanmar.

Japanese Foreign Minister expressed his concerns about the recent lawsuit against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He was also concerned that the action taken by the Myanmar government might affect the views of the international community on Myanmar as well as the successful holding of the general elections in 2010. As he learnt about the recent illness of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, he urged to give humanitarian consideration in this respect. Although the issue is domestic legal process of Myanmar, he requested the Myanmar government to find an appropriate way in solving the issue taking into consideration the views of the international community. Moreover, as Myanmar is now at a critical juncture in its democratization process, he was hoping that it will be advanced into a process which could be given high regard by the international community.

Minister U Nyan Win responded that the incident involving Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and an American citizen could possibly be created by the other side and not by the Myanmar government. This incident will proceed fairly according to the law. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was also given the right to defend her case in consulting with her lawyers. The American citizen was also allowed to get lawyers and granted consular access according to the Vienna Convention. He had no idea what kind of legal action would be taken against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The court will decide according to the law. Both Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the American citizen are in good health. Well-qualified doctors and specialists are assigned to attend to their medical needs. Myanmar is trying to build improved relationship with countries all over the world including US, Japan and European nations. Minister U Nyan Win expressed his opinion that, at a time when US, Japan and European nations are reviewing their policies on Myanmar, it was likely that this incident was timely trumped up, to intensify international pressure on Myanmar, by internal and external anti-government elements who do not wish to see the positive changes in those countries' policies towards Myanmar.

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Hearing on lawsuit against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win, Ma Win Ma Ma and American Citizen Mr John William Yettaw continues for fourth day

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Criminal Case No. 47/2009 filed against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win, Ma Win Ma Ma and American citizen Mr. John William Yettaw went on for the fourth day at the court of Yangon North District today.

When he was asked by U Nyan Win, lawyer of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Prosecution witness Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun said he arrived at the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 7.20 am on 7 May to seize the items left there by Mr. John William Yettaw and to investigate the entry of Mr John William Yettaw. During his search of the residence, he was not disturbed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Win Ma Ma, he said. He asked Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Win Ma Ma to wear chadors and took photos of Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Win Ma Ma, he answered.

Asked by U Hla Myo Myint, lawyer of Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Win Ma Ma, Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun answered that if Bahan Township Police Station provided security to the residence under restriction order evidence (b-2), separate units would take responsibility for main security duty.

In response to the question of Mr. John William Yettaw's lawyer U Khin Maung Oo, Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun said that the reason he could say the two sets of clothes were the chadors for Muslim women was that they were usually worn by Muslim women; and that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the chadors were just given to her as a present.

In his statement, prosecution witness U Zaw Tin from Criminal Case No. 47/2009 said that he is serving as Chairman of Ngahtetkyi Ward Peace and Development Council in Bahan Township; that he was summoned to the township PDC office at 5 a.m. on 7 May and met with Police Capt Tin Zaw Tun; that at about 5.30 a.m. Police Capt Tin Zaw Tun took him together with Kyaikkahsan Ward PDC Chairman U Khin Nyunt to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house on University Avenue; that when they got permission to enter the house, they entered it; that when the police captain showed a photo and asked Daw Aung San Suu Kyi if she knew the man in the photo, she replied she did; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi then asked a young women to bring the items the foreigner left; that besides, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said there was a Dhamma book he left and she went upstairs to bring it; that the seized objects were all listed in their presence and altogether there were 23 items; and that she also showed them the room the foreigner stayed in.

In his statement, prosecution witness Manager U Kyaw Thu of Beauty Land Hotel said that the hotel address was No. (188/192), 33rd Street, Kyauktada Township; that Mr. John William Yettaw put up at the hotel two times – one time from 7 November to 3 December 2008 and the other on 2 May 2009; that he stayed there only for one day and paid for the room for five days; that at about 10 p.m. on 3 May he said that he was going to spend the night at his friend's house and left the room key; that he did not come back to the hotel on 4 and 5 May; that at about 10 a.m. on 6 May, Police Captain Sa Kyaw Win and witnesses Ward PDC Chairman U Myo Thein and head of hundred houses U Htay Oo arrived at the hotel and the hotel room Mr John William Yettaw stayed in was shown to them; that some clothes and a big bag were found on the wardrobe in the room; that there were altogether 61 items including the items in the bag; that he signed the search form as the one who handed over the seized objects; that Police Captain Sa Kyaw Win and police members went back to the hotel at 6.20 p.m. the same day and asked permission to search again the room that Mr John William Yettaw had stayed in; that together with Chairman of Ward Peace and Development Council U Myo Thein and Head of 100-house U Htay Oo, he took them to that room; that they went back there to check three 100-dollar notes in the cover of telephone directory as said by Mr. John William Yettaw; that he signed the search form in the presence of the witnesses as the one who handed the dollar notes.

In questioning another prosecution witness U Khin Nyunt, Chairman of Kyaikkasan Ward PDC in Bahan Township, he said that he went to the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi together with Head of Bahan Township Police Force Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun and U Zaw Tin at about 5.30 a.m. on 7 May; that they got permission to enter the house at 7.20 a.m.; that when the police captain asked Daw Aung San Suu Kyi whether she knew the man in the photo showing her a photo and a paper she replied that she knew him; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi replied in the affirmative when the police captain asked her if there were some objects the foreigner left; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi handed the items the foreigner left; they listed them in the search form and confiscated them; that there were 23 items; that some of the 23 seized items as far as he remembered were two black chadors usually worn by Muslim women, two skirts, two scarves, three pairs of sun glasses; one red torch light; that she was responsible for those things and signed in the search form; that, when Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun asked whose those things were, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that they were given to her as presents; that, at the request of Police Captain Than Soe, they went to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house at twelve noon on 12 May; that they got permission to enter the compound of the house at about 1 p.m. that they happened to see Daw Win Ma Ma coming out of the house, carrying a pillow, a pillowcase, a white plate, a spoon and fork, two paso (sarongs), a T-shirt and a large towel; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi handed over those things, saying they were the things the foreigner used during his stay at her house.

Then prosecution witness Police Major Aung Htut Kyaw was examined. He stated that he was in charge of the computer section of overseas division; that Police Captain Maung Maung Myint handed over to him the things said to be Mr John William Yettaw's, that they were a Canon camera and six memory cards, that there were 331 photos and one video file filmed by Mr John William Yettaw himself in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house; that the video file and photos showed flippers, different stages of using flippers, Mr John William Yettaw trying them on, Mr John William Yettaw in disguise, the downstairs sitting-room of the house and pictures there, and his photos taken by himself on his arrival at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house at night. Police Major Aung Htut Kyaw showed the photos with the help of a computer. In the video file, Mr John William Yettaw said that he was in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house and asked for her permission to take her photos and to upload them on YouTube website; that he thought she refused because she was frightened; that he had caused her a lot of trouble on 30 November 2008; that he left his family behind; that he believed God was with him and protect him; that he admired Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; that he did not blame her for not allowing him to take her photos; that she would have to face lots of hardships in future; that he prayed that he might be able to help her; that he spent the previous night at the house; that today was 6 May; that he had been hoping the whole night to go back to Thailand; that he felt delighted and proud of staying there.

The proceedings were adjourned until 10 a.m. on 22 May to examine the rest of prosecution witnesses.—MNA