A NEWS ORGAN OF THE KAREN NATIONAL MOVEMENT (BURMA).

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KAREN NATIONAL UNION (K.N.U.) BULLETIN

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President Gen. Bo Mya's speech at the 38th Anniversary of the Karen Revolution Day (31-1-87)

All Karen Nationals,

Today being the 38 anniversary of the Karen Revolution Day, our whole nation is celebrating in speciality, this glorious and historical day. This day of the 31st of January is therefore a memorable day for which our entire nation must conscientiously and dutifully commamorate yearly with glorious celebration.

This was the day when the whole Karen nation unitedly fought against the villainous Burmese chauvinists rullers zealously and valiantly.

The year 1949 left an indelible milestone of the excellent spirit of the entire Karen people, who, under the leadership of the KNU, had unrelentingly revealed their unity and courage, an event that is unforgetable to us. The spirit of the 31st January 1949 is the one that our entire nation must always cherish in their hearts until the final victory of our Karen Revolution.

Only Karens who effectively resist and fight against the chauvinist Burmese rulers must be acknowledged as our true national patriots.

Only nations that posses their own countries can have glory and progress. A nation without a country will lack integrity and gain no respect because they will only obtain multifarious subjugations and oppressions by another nation.

All Karen Nationals,

Be wide awake and be audibly alert,I urge you to differentiate the right from the wrong through the facilities of your eyes and ears, and then for the liberty of your entire Karen nation, couragely join the battle against the Burmese chanvinist rulers, until they are crushed and completely beaten in this revolutionary war.

The villainous Burmese chauvinist rulers must fall.

The noble and righteous Karen revolution is bound to be victorious.

Masses attending 38th Karen Revolution Day at Manerplaw.

286 The Humble Memorial of the Karens of Burma to His Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Burma

IOR. M/4/3023.

Rangoon, 26 September 1945

May **I** please Your Honour that your Memorialists, the Karens of Burma, at this momentous time, have great cause to be very much concerned about the future of the Karens in this transitional stage of the much promised Constitutional Progress pledged to the Burmese people to full Self-Government as soon as may prove possible. Our National Identity, jealously preserved as the Karens of Burma, and our National Virtue and National Morals, anxiously mustured during the long trying centuries, appear at last to be recognized, though formerly we felt that only the baby who cried the most got the most attention. The Karens have faithfully and loyally followed the flag they vowed to fight for, to distant lauds, and not merely as evacuees. We realise that many of our interests have in the past been overlooked, because we failed to make adequate representation of our needs; but now, if the Majority could possibly merit Constitutional Progress to full Self-Government,we The Karens of Burma do deserve "a double claim to British consideration".

The Karens are known to have lived in Burma long before the advent of the Tibeto-Burmans into Burma. The Tibeto-Burmans in their advent pressed out the Karens southward to the Delta Areas, and east ward to the mountainous fringes bordering on Thailand, yes, even into Thailand and Indo-China. However much they were pressed during these long centuries, they, unlike the Pyus, the thet, The Kanyans and the Mons, did never succumb as a race to the evil influence of their neighbours. They kept aloof as a race, jealously preserved their National Identity, and anxiously nurtured their National Virtue and National Morals, untarnished and unsoiled by contamination with their neighbours. There is a story current among the Burmese themselves that when a Buddhist monk was preaching to a crowd of Shans about the abode of Spiritual Beings called in Burmese "Nat-Pye", an old Shan among the crowd asked the monk whether there was any Burmese in "Nat Pye." The Spiritual Divine replied, "Certainly, the Burmese would be there also." Then the old Shan murmured, "Alack! Nat-Pye also will eventually be ruined by the Burmese." Likewise, the Karen attitude to wards. Burmese, for similar reason, is such that a whole village community would rather move away than live side by side with Burmese who have immigrated into their area. In this way they keep up their National Identity, which may be taken for Clannishness. Even in the field of education, they successfully establish and smoothly maintain their own system of co-education.

Geographically and socially, there should be no reason why the Karens and the Burmese living on the same soil for so many centuries could not live harmoniously, and be united and treated as one race. Naturally, the by-stander cannot realise or appreciate the situation as those who have to suffer, and live under circumstances of great strain both mental and physical. Over a hundred years ago,before the British ever set foot in Burma, the Burmese Kings and the Burmese people literally made slaves of the Karens, and persecuted them generally. Ko Tha Byu, who later earned the epithet of "The Apostle of Burma" was a Karen slave redeemed both body and soul by Dr a. Judson just a century ago. The Karens the Hill tribes, therefore, had to flee or evade the Burmese whenever possible. Under such circumstances, the Karens underwent both mental and physical torture. Then came the British, not only as a Liberator,but also as a Guardian Angel, maintaining Law and Order, and preserving Peace and giving Protection. Under such a benign Government, the Karens began to thrive, but still with great difficulty. There was no more physical torture; but the mental tortures still had to be endured. The Burmese still treated the Karens with contempt socially. They still imposed on the Karens in business. They crowded out the minority races in official posts. In every sphere of life the Burmese took the best. Such was the situation. But in 1942, no sooner was the back of the British turned, no sooner was the liberator and guardian Angel taken away, than reoccurred both the mental and the physical torture in a manner unequalled in the whole history of Burma. This unfortunate, uncalled-for and unprovoked series of bloodshed and persecution has turned the clock back a century in our relationships. The Karens, therefore,have come to feel very strongly that they must strike out on a course of their own to preserve their National Ideals and develop into a progressive and useful State of Burma in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The Karens have unreservedly rendered military aid to the British Crown and the Empire in all the crises ever since the British annexation of Lower Burma. In the early stage of the British occupation, crime, plunder and risings were very rampant in the country; and the Karens under the leadership of pioneer Missionaries helped considerably in suppressing crime and petty revolutions. Later on when the Karens were having opportunities to serve in the Burma Mihtary Police, the Burma Sappers and the Burma Rifles they readily responded; and from time to time helped considerably in maintaining Law and Order, and suppressing risings such as the Chin Hills rising, the Shwebo rising the San Pe rising, the crime waves of 1925-27, and the Burma Rebellion of 1930-32, in which not only Karens of the Regular Services, but also Leaders, Elders and the Karen Irregulars played prominent parts. Again in the Great World War I, the Burma Sappers and Miners, the Burma Mechanical Transport, and the Burma Rifles, and in the Moplah rising the Burma Rifles acquitted themselves with credit. Here again in this Great World War II, the Karens occupy no second place in Burma both in numbers, integrity and daring achievement. There are no less than one Lieut. Colonel, seven Majors, over twelve Captains, fifteen Lieutenants, and more than sixty VCOs of the Burma Rifles in addition to hundreds of Karens in the ranks. There are also over one hundred young Karens holding the status of British Other Ranks in the BAF, and the BIC, add to this the young Karens of the Burma Army Signals and the GPT, the Burma Navy and the Burma Hospital Company. These are the Young men who neither hesitated nor looked back in a struggle for Freedom and Justice. Then again the world-renowned Wingate Expeditions, which paved the way for the successful re-occupation of Burma, and which consisted mainly of picked young Karens who gladly sacrificed their noble lives in the Valley of Death for their King and Country. Last but never least our Karen Levies, numbering well over ten thousand who are no fair weather friends to the Allies.

Every crisis in our history of the past century convinces us more and more strongly that the time has now come for definite and determined effort to secure due recognition of our merit and an adequate consideration of our just cause by the British, whom we have faithfully and conscientiously served and suffered for especially in this pressent war. May we, therefore, quote a few instances how the Karens left behind in Burma suffered at the hands of opportunists? While Burma was under the Military Administration of the Burma Independent Army (the Burmese Army under the Japanese General Minami, known in Burmese as Boh Mogyo, during the transitional stage) they branded the Karens as rebels, and persecuted and tortured them in all possible ways and in certain Districts resorted to wholesale massacre, not even leaving babies, and set the Karen villages on fire. In Myaungmya District alone, the Official Report reveals that about 400 villages were set on fire in this way, and more than 1800 Karens were slaughtered, including a Karen Judicial Minister of the British Burma Government and his whole family. Karens of the Salween Hill District, Papun, fared worse. All the leading men were slaughtered, and their wives and daughters before being massacred, were subjected to immoral degradation in the presence on their husbands and fathers. Others of our fair womenhood were forced to live in shameful submission to the BIA soldiers. Their Mission Stations were looted and set on fire. Two of their missionaries, Father Calmon and Father Loizot, were arrested, and their fate up to now is unknown. Taking advantage of the Military Administration, the Burmese did all in their craftiness to brand the Karens with a bad name, and caused them thus to be put to death. Many died the death of Christian martyrs under horrible conditions. At that time no influential Burmese Leader raised his hands and called a halt to such a senseless massacre. Were it not for the timely intervention of the Nippon Imperial Armies, we could not imagine how far the matter would have gone.

The National Policies of the Karens are all broadly based on holding high British Honour and Prestige, and to imbibe all that is finest in British Ideals. The events of this war, both at home and abroad, have made us stronger in these beliefs, and the Karens are, therefore,more determined to achieve their National Ideals; for these again affect our future security as a Nation. The Pressing problem before us is to secure for ourselves a future security and safeguards in order that we may peacefully develop as a separate Individual people in our Home Land, Burma. We were given to understand that the new Bulgarian Government has liberated the Macedonians to do what they like with themselves, to form an Independent State by uniting the Macedonians in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece, and join up with Federated Yugoslavia. Likewise, the Benes Government has declared that the new Czechoslovak State will consist of the three Autonomous States: Czech, Slovak and Ruthenea with freedom for the Carpatho-Ukranians of

Ruthenia to vote themselves out if they like, and join up with their blood-brother Ukranians in USSR. If such a magnanimous spirit could possibly be expressed in the Balkan States, we believe and trust that the Bristish Government could do as much and more all for the Loyal Minorities in Her Dominions, so that they could live secure and grow up unhindered as Progressive Nations under the Guardianship of the British Government.

With the hope of realising our just and national aspiration at this momentous juncture, when Constitutional Progress is being pledged to the Burmese by His Britannic Majesty's Government, a Mass Meeting of the Liberated Karens of Burma was convened from 30th June to 5th July 1945, in Rangoon, were leading Karens from all the Karen Liberated Areas were fully represented. The past history of the Karens, since they came in contact with the British, was reviewed from one historical crisis to another, where the Karen interests were unvariably ignored, when each crises had been over. Though we were second to none in Burma in loyalty, integrity and daring achievement in this World War, yet the Karens were not invited to express their views on Burma Reconstruction activities formed in India. In our Home Land too, we Karens were almost obliterated from existence through deliberate wholesale persecution, torture and massacre, as could be clearly seen by the proof of documentary evidence in our possession, and by the systematic propaganda that was circulated against us in 1942. Taking all these facts into serious consideration and having in view our future security, and facility to develop freely and quickly in our own way, under the guiding hands of the British Government, the follwing well considered and well balanced Resolution was unanimously passed.

"That this Mass Meeting of the Liberated Karens of Burma considered and unanimously resolved to ask the British Government and the Conference of the United Nations of the world to

(a) Extend the Excluded Area in Schedule II of the 1935 Act in Tenasserim Division mentioned in the last paragraph of the White Paper, to include the remainder of the Tenasserim Division and Nyaunglebin Sub-Division of Pegu District in Pegu Division, and to add to it later adjacent Karen Areas in Salween and designate the whole as the United Frontier Karen States to be administered by The Karens directly under a Governor."

We beg to submit that the Resolution fully supported the act of 1935 in providing the Administration of the "Scheduled Area " enumerated in Part I of the Second Schedule to the Act. These Excluded Areas are in fact in the mountainous tracts of the East, North and West of Burma proper, which are inhabited by the Karens, the Shans,The Kachins and the Chins, differing in language, social customs and degrees of political development from the Burmese inhabiting the Central Areas. The Karens of the Excluded Areas in the East, together with their blood-brothers in the small protected Karenni States, fully agree to remain subject to a special Regime under the direct Authority of the Governor and a specially selected Administrative Staff of Karens (and when Karens are not available, only those selected by a Karen Advisory Board or the advice of the Governor) until our people are willing to accept some form of incorporation. The reason for a selected staff is that experience has proved that only those who understand the people can be sympathetic and could help to develop the country. We are firmly determined to avoid association with undersirable influences.

The Scheduled Areas in question are Karen Areas inhabited mainly by the Karens; and there is no reason why they should not, therefore, be- given a name and christened "The United Frontier Karen while there already existed the protected Karenni States. This terminology shall be applicable to Excluded Karen Areas, and not to the Shan, the Kachin and the Chin Areas.

In 1937,that is seventeen years ago, our accredited Leader Sir San Crombic Po,Kt,CBE,MD,inhis book Burma and the Karens advocated the self-same Tenasserim Division For the Karen Country to be administered by the Karens directly under British Supervision. Mr Donald Mackenzie Smeation of the Bengal Civil Service, of middle 19th Century, in his book The Loyal Karens of Burma pleaded the same thing for the Karens even in those trying days, and in support of our humble claim, your Memorialists bag to quote Mr Smeaton's words in giving his reason for such a Karen State.

"Why should we not try-if only as a political experiment-to give to the Karens a chance of growing as a nation in their own way? Why should we not try and bring their wild growth under cultivation,

grafting on the ancient roots as time and experience improve our perception and increase our skill? We have here a people-probably under a million in all-who aspire to keep their own nationality intact. Why should we not allow them and encourage them to do so. The result may be of the highest interest in the future, and cannot fail to be fraught with great benefit to the people themselves; and it will strengthen British Rule and safeguard it in the times of trouble which may yet be in store for us in Burma."

Surely, those British Officials who have given the subject a thought, and have carefully looked into the matter, could not but be convinced of the reasonableness and potential significance of Mr Smeaton's comment.

We believe the British Government realise the necessiry of developing the Hill tribes and the soil they live in: but under the present conditions, the Scheduled Areas are wholly comprised of Mountainous fringes with no out-let in the sea and the world outside. It would, therefore, be a great disadvantage, amounting to an impossibility, to develop a cramped-in little state without any modern means of inter-communication with the outside world. We, therefore, plead that the Excluded Karen Areas be extended so as to include the remaining Tenasserim Division and Nyaunglebin Sub-Division in Pegu Division with a good prospect of having a considerable import and export by sea.

The Mass Meeting referred to above unanimously resolved to send a deputation to England headed by Saw Ba U Gyi, Bar-at-Law and two others (under the Supervision of their Guardian Angel Sir San Crombie Po, Kt, CBE, MD) to support this humble Memorial in all fair and possible means, with implicit trust in "British consideration" to which we are given to understand we have "a double claim."

Wherefore your Memorialists pray with all confidence, faith and hope that we cherish within us.that His Majesty's Government may be pleased to grant the above mentioned Resolution, after due deliberation, patient and sympathetic consideration, and facilitate the meeting of our elected delegates with His Majesty's Secretary of State for Burma.

(Signed) Saw Tha Din, President of the Karen National Association
Mahn Ba Kin, General Secretary of the Karen National Association
Saw Mya Thein, Ex-Member of the House of Representatives
Saw Johnson Kan Gyi, Lecturer, Judson College
Saw Ba U Gyi, Vice President, Karen Social and Service Club
(The Executive Members of the Karen Central Organisation)

Copy to : HE the Governor
Major General H.E. Rance, Chief Civil Affairs Officer

THE TIMES

August 28,1950

Sir, Lord Listowel's letter to the TIMES of 25th August represents the late Karen Leader, Saw Ba U Gyi, as a stupid man "Who could not see the other fellow's point of view". I am sure this statement is unwarranted. Lord Listowel's main argument is based on the fact he was personally present at the negotiation. Unfortunately his presence, the method adopted in tackling the problem,, and the very fact that he went out to execute an Anglo-Burmese agreement to which the Karens then strongly objected were principally responsible for the failure in the Burmese-Karen negotiation. That is how Saw Ba U Gyi described the situation in a letter to me at the time.

The trouble began from the Aung San/Attlee Agreement between the British and the Burmese, whereby the former handed over the entire administration of the country to the latter, while the Karens were excluded even from the negotiation conference. The Karens felt they had been betrayed by the British Government. Many of us Burmese, too, felt that the Karens, who had valiantly fought against the Japanese during the war, had been badly let down. I acted as a counsel to two delegates, the former prime minister U Saw and Thakin Ba Sein, then minister of transport and Communications, at the Anglo-Burmese conference which culminated in the Aung San/Attlee Agreement. Because it was so unfair to the Karens that they were excluded from the conference, inspite of their repeated requests to participate in it, a memorandum was forwarded to the Prime Minister Mr. Attlee with the request that he should publish it. To our great surprise, this and other dissident memoranda were suppressed when the Aung San/Attlee Agreement was published. The Karens felt frustrated and are still bitter over the episode. To aggravate the situation, Lord Listowel, the Secretary of State for Burma, was sent to Rangoon in his own phrase "to induce them" to accept certain arrangements. Ostensibly it was a negotiation for agreement between the Karens and the Burmese, but final approval rested with the Burmese Govt. The Karens could not refer to outside authorities in a case of disagreement.

Saw Ba U Gyi and his people, already suspicious of the British Govt's intentions, hesitated to enter into any agreement. Even so, if a stateman with a practical knowledge of Bumese politics had been sent out at that time, I'm sure agreement would have been possible, and a lot of the troubles which my country is suffering, would have been avoided. The secretary of State for Burma admittedly had no previous experience of Burmese politics and its ramifications; naturally he was unaware of the complicated and special problems that lay beneath the surface. A complete breakdown of the negotiations was the result. This seems to me no reason for branding the late Karen leader and his friends as 'Stupic People', 'Interlectually extremely limited' and 'incapable of reaching an agreement'

I am, Sir, Yours Faithfully,

M.M. JEE

132 Great Porland Street. W I

Note.

"M.M. JEE" was Maung Maung Ji, Barrister at law.
He was 2nd Secretary at the Burmese Embassy, London.
He died a few years ago.

Minority Rights or National Question.

The world has already known that since Burma attained her independence in 1948. The ethnic peoples in the land had been compelled to resort to armed struggles for their liberties due to the subjugations and oppressions committed against them by the Master Racist Burmese Chauvinists.

To many historians, the Karens were the earliest settlers in the land now known as Burma and that the Karens posses all the essential attributes needed of a nation, namely,

1. Homogeniety of national history,
2. Uniformity of languages or dialects,
3. Uniformity of national culture,
4. Homogeniety of land of settlement, and
5. Uniformity of economic system.

Being fully substantiated with all the above essentual attributes to be a nation, they are seeking for a country of their own, based on equality and Self - Determination.

On the 11th February 1948, under the leadership of the Karen National Union (KNU) began their National Movement through Karen Mass Demonstrations, by demanding the following (4) points.

1. Give the Karen State at once,
2. Show Burmese one Kyat, Karen one Kyat at once.
3. We don't want Communal strife, and
4. We don't want civil war.

The Karens thus took up their national liberation struggle with non-pugnacious slogans. The wily Unscrupulous Burmese Government, instead of handling the problem justly, resorted to wild accusation of the Karens followed by oppressions and subjugations to such intolerable degree that on the 31st January 1949, the Karens as the last resort had to take up an armed national revolution.

The Karens' armed revolution had now crossed a 38 years span of time. But the governments and peoples of the world still lack the awareness of the just and righteous cause of the Karens. They do not yet comprehend the true cause of our revolution. This is due to the fact that the chauvinist Burmese BSPP Military regime had conjured up false properganda and distorted the true pictures of both the Karen struggle and of the other rethnic nationals of the land as well.

Successive Burmese Master Racist regimes,since the past down to the present BSPP military government, are resorting to foul and untruthful distortions, naming our struggle, as well as the struggle of all other nations as "the insurgence lawlessness of minority groups in Burma".

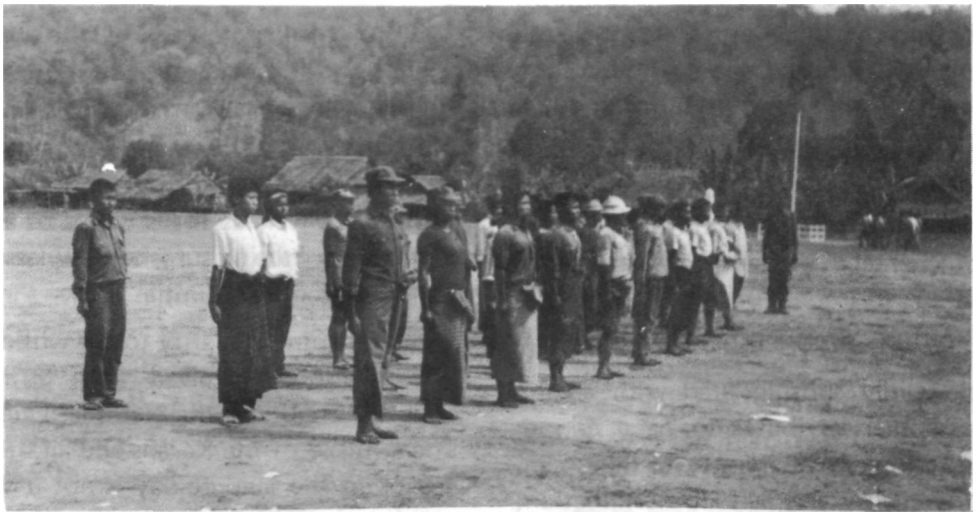
The point to clarify to the world now is "Are we now involved in a struggle of Minority Rights or the National Question?" The struggle of the Karens and all the ethnic groups in the land to-day is not a Minority Issue that the world had been falsely given to believe. The truth about our armed revolution to-day is definately a national problem.

Some problems in some countries are really minority issues and could thereby solved in that manner. 96% of the population of China are the Hans, and the rest of national minorities comprises of only 4%, and their problems could be solved only with minority rights, social territorial, and administrative autonomous rights inside of a mother country.

Where as in Burma, should an accurate population census be carefully conducted, it will be found that, the total population of the Ethnic people combine would be more in number than simple Burmese race. Therefore it is imperative that focus should be given towards in national racial problem rather then a Minority Right Issue.

In the light of this issue that the uprising of the Ethnic peoples in Burma, is not a Minority Right Issue, but a National Question. The KNU (Karen National Unoin) as well as the NDF (National Democratic Front) had declared their aspirations regarding the attainment of a Genuine Federal Union, based on Equality and Self-Determination to the world and the people of Burma.

Apropos above aspiration and situation, we who are different nationals involved in our revolutionary struggle, would again desire to submit to the world that our struggle relates to National Racial and Political emancipation and not just only an ordinary Minority Rights Issue.



Some new young men lining up for their 1st parade.

Some young girls at their 1st parade.

RENAISSANCE AND THE KAREN REVOLUTION

We would like to make an appropriate elucidation of the term "RENAISSANCE" in aspect of the novelty in "REBIRTH", a restoration of a new era. This approach has been undertaken just to clarify the meaning and attribute of a word from the vocabulary of politics. It is therefore not in itself so significant although in its denotative aspect on the "NEW ERA" and its connection with the Karen's movements for national independence that indicates an important "CRITERIA".

"Renaissance" is the era that emerged in the course of the modern history of MAN,—the period that involves certain revolutionary aspects pertaining to politics and economics in general; the era that entails a great impact toward humanity involved in such revolutionary movements. In other words, under the precire political and economic programmes, the great reckoning of a country, a nation, together with the whole mass of people who are involved in such revolutionary impact that are experienced by them in such times and eras. Measures of comparisons toward the general historical and social progress should be taken in the observation and studies made on such issues of Renaissiance in the chronicles of mankind.

Viewing the specific accounts of the European history, we can see that from the 5th to the 15th Century AD, FEUDALISM flourished in that continent. Under this system, the economy of the entire European continent was laid on the Feudal economic click of laud tennaces and selfdoms that was the great order of the day.

In aspect of the political system, we can see that the states belonged to the Holy Roman Empire or the Feudal administrations of the German Empire. Religion and cultural affairs were also under the power and rule of the Roman Pope. During that period, the history of Europe reveals that her religious political and cultural process was suppressed under the Papal administrations. Hence the historical researchers and the economists dubbed that era in a meaningful way as "THE DARK AGES". It is but natural to name that era this way because all the European politics, economics, religion and cultures were under such a firm grip that no progress including philosophical and reasoning at every aspect was not feasible. The Europeans had there from endured the rigorous of the dark ages for many dreary centuries until the dawning of the 15th century that their European history came upon the rebirth of a new enlightened era. There had been a marked change and progress in Europe at the turn of the 15th century A.D. The Feudal system had then been deteriorating on every sides. Simultaneously there emerged tremendous progresses in trade and industrial productions. Regions around the Mediteranian and the Baltic seas became centres of flourishing trades and commerce linking the east and the west, in the event of progress made on trade and industrial production, there was a mighty birth of middle class people who were traders of the day. In connection with the above social change there also emerged new trading centres, market cities, paper currencies and new monetary exchange systems.

In the like manner as the changing of the economic system, there also appeared changes in the political movements. The Holy Roman Empire or the German Empire had become weakened and was failing into pieces. In consequence of the changes, the small states within the German Empire seceded having England as the first dissident kingdom. Despite the inability at that time to abolish the absolute Monarch system, the

democratic constitutional monarchy was first introduced and gradually put into practice. In great contrast to the middle ages, this denotes the new political era in Europe.

Philosophically there occurred a great change in the forms of HUMANISM the picture of "MAN MATTERS MOST",and in social reforms, the ideals for freedom and justice and the democratic ideology. New thought and ideas pertaining to national liberties, equity among nations, individual freedoms, respect for international fraternity and equality, the respect for human lives and energies, and the revolutionary spirits of beneficial social changes and such form of valiant zeals sprung up in tremendous proportions. Based on the above ideals, the European literature, act, sculpture, music, and architecture prevalant in those days had their marvelous and notable 'RENAISANCE' or changes. Thus a new civilization was born which had its foundations based on new thoughts and ideals.

The discovery of sea routes to American and the southern cape of Africa, the realization that the earth is round and that it rotates around the sun, such scientific discoveries and endeavors were successful owing to new scientific thoughts through modern astronomy, oceanology which were begun to be proved and gainfully utilized.

In respect of religious and faith, many countries protested against the oppression and theocratic rule of the Roman Catholic Pope which has now been weakened. New protestent denominations sprung up from the age old orthodox Roman Church among the new Christian states with the force of religious, national, and cultural zeals.

The 15th century Renaissance in Europe saw the rebirth of enlightened political, economic and cultural thoughts and ideals that indicated a notable contrast with those of the middle ages. This marked a new phase of outstanding historical era. Due to above events, the researchers of history, the political economists and the philosophers classified the 15th century as the age of European advancement in the national and mass activities which brought forth the name "the new age" or the "Renaissance".

The Karens are niether Europeans nor the English people: The Karens are just Karen people. So, it can be safely said that the course of Karen history have no connections with the European history. However, through the conception with an historical out look, it must be accepted that historical advancements of all nations in the world is in general proximity with our issue. In the same way as there was pioneering efforts for attainment of European Renaissance by mass activities of the peoples of Europe, the history of Asia and of other countries and nations, together also with the history of Karen can be likewise taken as the result of zealous revolutionary movements undertaken by two masses. Only with such conceptions, the general progress of man can be vividly portrayed.

Identical to the history of other nations, the history of Karens also has an ageless foundation. In the course of history, Karens had to go through multifarious political climates. Accordingly, along the Karens' historical journey, a general concept can be quite accurately enforced. In the whole course of history, Karens had never fully been provided with the essential factors of safequards regarding their national stability or solidarity. National security. National progress and prosperity, and factors to guarantee their peaceful living. These historical facts can be firmly established as the plight of all Karens. Due to the reason, Karens are involved in an armed revolution for national freedom and justice.

The new age of Karen's National movements can be safely recorded as commening from the 20th century in general. However, during the early part of the century, the awakening envolved only the budding intellectuals who were but the minority. It had not been the collective momentum' movements of the whole mass of each country.

After the end of the World War two, the storm of aspirations regarding national independence, equality, liberty, prosperity, international good-will and cooperation blew upon this world in tremendous force this storm had fallen the hardest specially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Similar storm of National independence and self determination also came upon the Karens in many forms. Accordingly, during the years 1948-49, the commencement of Karen National movements which was unique in nature compared to all past movements, became a vivid sign of a great and a new era of Karen national politics.

The year 1948 saw an unprecedented Karen zeal supported by the whole mass who had a united political awkening in participating in their movements. Ideals regarding racial equality,, independence and self-sufficiency, advancement and prosperity, interracial good will and unity and including the democratic ideals were the political order prevailing among Karens since those days under such political ideals, a tremendous effort was made to attain racial equality and the right of self-determination by the united and wide-awake Karens. Political organization were formed. A national rallying was made. Youths organization, women societies, defence organization, social and health welfare centres had now begun to be organized.

Although such an outburst should occur in the absence of signs and symptoms ie. the united mass effort, the elimination of the enemy to the last man, that signify the basic elements, without which revolution can never occur. In other words, a revolution with great mass efforts will over come various difficulties in such long duration as of our revolution of today could never had happend.

We can never eliminate history merely to forget history. History must be respected. It must be carefully analysed and observed. There are various points to be obtained from the study of history, namely, the most important trends regarding national affairs in the cause of time, national awakening unity, cohesion, zeal. These are the cream of historical products, that further include the different experience gained chronologically, that one should highly value and firmly take hold of appropriate utilizations of these dividends must be made in the future affairs of our revolution.

This long and durable Karens armed revolution has not yet ended. On the contrary, there awaits us, a long and hazardens journey of struggles. Under such situations, our whole Karen nation should make a restrospection and reflect the "Karen Renaissance" of 1948-49. The outstandingly brilliant examples must be clearly seen and followed. Those qualities in regard to the Noble National Aspirations of that time, their high moral, their conceptions and zeals, their unity and coordinations; their deep visions, their valours and sacrifices must be adopted and accelerated a step still higher. These must be the bounden duty and responsibility for every person in the entire Karen Nation.

SOME ENEMY ATROCITIES IN THATON DISTRICT.

We present below, some atrocities committed by the BSSP military troops in Thaton District during the past year. The incidents cided are but few examples of how innocent Karens who honestly work for their living had been tortured and killed-More such violations of HUMAN RIGHTS will continue to appear in our next issues.

BRIGADE No.1 COMMAND AREA

1. On the 25th of August 1985, Burmese No.90 Light Infantry Battalion had one group of its troops entered intoTHOO KERBEE village and another group outside of that village and started firing upon each other in false pretense. (It was a deliberate trick conjured up by the enemy) Then stating that they were attacked by the Karen troops the enemy took advantage of this wily trick and started burning down four big wooden houses from the village. While the enemy were thus openly committing arson the house owners were forbidden to retrieve their properties. All the house-hold furnitures including valuables such as gold and silver with paddy rice and farming equipments of the house owners were lost in the fire. The total lost was about Kyats 200,000/- worth in current money value.

2. On the 5th of April 1986, Saw Pha Dah a villager of Wah Tho Kla village a student studying in the 7th standard at Yoh Kla (Kyettthoungseik) middle school went to Kwee Lay village Buddhist monastery for a meditation and ritual ceremony: On his return from that place he reached the spot called Maw Tar (a clearing, where his broiher and parents were cultivating taungya crops) where he encountered an enemy's NO.96 Light Infantry Battalion column. The enemy troops without making any verbal enquiry shot and killed him on the spot. They took away Pha Dah's wrist watch and other belongings. His head was chopped off and his belly was disembowelled. His headless body was hanged on a tree and his severed head was burried by those enemy troops at a place two furlongs away from the mentioned spot of atrocity. Not being satisfied with this barbaric action the Burmese soldiers went to the parents of Saw Pha Dah and took away three bulls and two buffaloes and proceeded to Nat Gyi village and broke the news that they had killed a black marketeer while patrolling that area.

3. On the 23rd May 1986, a column of Burmese Light Infantry Battalion NO.91 came into a Karen village name, Htee Padoh Hta (Pyinmabin Seik) and summoned the chief council member of the village Saw Pah Lone. They asked him to find and bring to them honey and rice. On the 24th May 1986, the enemy troops killed Saw Pah Lone on the allegation that Saw Pah Lone refused to give them information and that he collaborated with the Karen KawThoo Lei troops. The enemy troops also beat and wounded the Htee Pa Koh Hta villagers inflicting upon not less than 30 persons of that village. Among the victims, women and aged people were also included.

4. On the 28th May 1986, enemy troops of No.91 Light Infantry Battalion came upon Pahti Kan Kaung aged 65 and Saw Than Win, 23 years old, assaulted and killed them at their huts situated between Htee Padoe Hta and Kyo Waing village. Both of them were tortured and murdered in cold blood.

5. On the 26th May 1986, enemy troops from No. 70 light infantry Battalion again murdered two other Karen villagers. What crime had these two persons? Saw Ohn Mya of Ghaw

Htee Hta and Saw Dee Dee of Noh Gheh village were arrested by the enemy troops and forced to become their army porters. They were not adequately fed while carrying their heavy loads for over a month's duration. Their back were swallen until they could no longer carry their loads. When they attempted to escape they were caught and killed on the spot by the Burmese troops at a place near Ghaw Po Pleh village within a sugar-cane plantation farm.

6. On the 7th June 1986, an old villager named, Tha Bwa Tee Kawk and Tee Saw Htoo Pah together with two youth of that village were resting in their farm huts when enemy troops of No.96 Light Infantry Battalion sighted them and without any question shot at them. The two youth who were agile enough in managing to escape and fled for their lives, but the two old men were killed on the spot. The Burmese troops went back to Klaw Hta village and reported falsely that they had killed two of the Karen troops.

7. On the 3rd July 1986, Enemy troops of 76th Battalion met a man called Pah Blat Baw of Ta Oo Nee village, beat him up and drawned and killed him in a stream near that village.

8. On the 13th of June 1986, a column of enemy troops from No.80 Light Infantry Battalion arrived at Lah Kyo Koh village and openfired at two old women and two children while they were in their Taungya (Cleaning Cultivation) huts, the two old women and one child were killed on the spot. The surviving child was only one and four months old. One of the old women who was killed was 7 months pregnant.

9. On the 12th September 1986, Saw Kya Traw of Tah Meh Kee village had three infant children. Kya Traw, being short of rice he went to Kwee Law village and bought some rice. On his way back from buying rice he encounter enemy troop of No.80 Light Infantry Battalion. The enemy troops tortured and killed him. All his properties were taken by the killers off his dead body.

10. On the 15th October 1986, Enemy troops column from the NO. 26 Light Infantry Battalion under the command of Burmese troops Major Sein Mat arrived at Kwee Lay village and arrested a villager named Saw Maung Swe. They forced him to lead them to the hidden properties of Karen soldiers, when that villager could not help them to find their querry they beat him up, tortured him and finally murdered him on the 17th October 1986.

11. Again on the 18th October 1986, Enemy Commander Major Sein Mat of NO. 26Light Infantry Battalion and his men marched along the trail and arrived at a place located between Klaw Hta and Kwee Lay. In a farm hut they sighted three villagers who were resting there. Then without asking them any question, the enemy troops shot and killed all of them. These villagers killed were Saw Dee Htoo, Pah Lay and Maung Nu.

12. On the 18th November 1986, Enemy army column (2) of 77th Light Infantry Battalion arrived at Noe Ber Baw village and resuming their march uptill 9 o'clock they encountered Wah Gheh Hta villager named Pha Ko Kyaw in his Taungya farm hut. Without taking trouble to make any questions they killed Pha Ko Kyaw in his hut.

Would the people from our contemporary would who belong to humanitarian societies, ever choose to be indifferent to above inhuman atrocities and pretend not to see what occurs so wildly and so unjustly.

2 EPISODES OF ENEMY BRUTALITIES.

BARBARIC ATROCITIES BY BURMESE TROOPS

(Sample of open atrocities committed by the Ne Win/San Yu Regime against innocent Karen civilians)

The reports presented below are true portraits or revelation in a token specimen form, evidencing the in human actions schemed and executed by the Burmese Socialist dictators against Karen civilians now living under their rule.

These tragic episodes attained from personal interviews have been photographed and taped to serve as concrete evidences for international "AWARENESS"

EPISODE 1

1. Individual's name	Tee Maung Maung
2. Age	60 Years
3. Sex	Male
4. Nationality	Karen
5. Marital Status	widower with 3 children
	(1) Ma Saw Yee (daughter) 28 years
	(2) Ma Nyunt Yee (daughter) 25 years
	(3) Maung Tun (son) 22 years
Village	Kyet Thoung Seik
Township	BILIN
8. Date commitment of atrocities	22nd November 1986.

On the 22nd November 1986 at 8:AM the No.70. Infantry Regiment,Burmese troops stationed at Pyinmabinseik went out for patrolling and arrived at THET PO TA, a place close to kyet Thoung Seik village. While patrolling, the enemy met Tee Maung Maung, arrested him and tied him with ropes immediately.

Tee Maung Maung recovering at a Karen Hospital.

"Where do you hide your gun? Speak up! If you do not speak, you'll lose your life. You and the likes of you will be exterminated - Root and all'.' KYU BIN COTE KYU NGOKE MA CHAN" The above Burmese phrase bears a typical Burmese cruel method of extermination which Karens, Kachins, Mons, Arakanese, Shans and other ethnic races suffered since the days of the Burmese despotic monarchs that comes down to the days of their present dictators. That was only the beginning of Tee Maung Maung's sorrowful plight.

"I have no gun Captain, and I am not a rebel Sir! I am only a Taungya (Jungle cleaning cultivator) working for a living." That was a timid reply that Tee Maung Maung gave the Burmese officer. "You have connections with the rebels, you know Aung Lin, don't you?" come a sharp and groundless accusation. "We do not accept your answer as true." So saying, the column commander himself hit Tee Maung Maung and ordered his soldiers to further tie him up and force the poor man to guide them to the place where the relatives of that rebel are staying. There were land mines laid on the way through which they intended to pass. Tee Maung Maung constant appeals fell on the deaf ears. Instead he was dragged along the perilous path to serve the Burmese soldiers as human mine-sweeper. Thus in great fear and agony Tee Mg Mg trudged along, having occasional blows and kicks on his back. Tee Maung Maung, then with his human instinct for survival, chose to tread on the side of the path. Those cruel tormentors did not even had enough of the frendish satisfaction of seeing their poor struggling victim side-stepping death this way. They forced Tee Maung Maung to get on to the middle of the path. Consequently in only a short while, Tee Mg Mg stepped on a land mine and fell down as it suddenly exploded. The Burmese soldier escort nearest to him sustained a minor injury from the blast. Then without much acts, the whole company of Burmese soldiers deliberately left Tee Maung Maung in a pool of blood without even the curtesy of looking back. When those villains (Burmese soldiers) returned to Kyet Thoung Seik village they broke the news to the people that Tee Mg Mg died through land-mine injuries.

Poor Tee Maung Maung writhed on great pain the whole day long. He was without food and water under the parching tropical sun. He cried time and again for help. Only when it grew dark in the evening that he was rescued and carried home by his fellow villagers. Eventually, on the 1st. of December 1986, he reached the refuge of a Karen hospital when he was properly cared and treated.

EPISODE 2

1. Name	Hpa Shwe
2. Age	28 years.
3. Sex	Male
4. Nationality	Karen
5. Marital status	Married, but no children
6. Village	Nya Hsa Kee
7. Township	Papun
8. Date of commitment of attrocities.	18th December 1986.

On the 18th December 1986, while coming back from his wife's village to his village Nya Hsa Kee, he met the Burmese Army column of No.59 Infantry Regiment under the command of Lt. Than Htaik near Oh Ray Kee village. The Burmese troops seized Hpa Shwe and tied him up. The villagers as well as Hpa Shwe entreated the Burmese troops, time and again, telling them that Hpa Shwe is a civilian and that he is a villager from Nya Hsa Kee village. Even then he was wildly accused of being an insurgent and not a civilian. The Burmese soldiers then started to hit him with their rifle butts and pounded him with many blows until he could no longer bear and started to free himself and ran away for his life. The Burmese soldier closest to him shot and hit him causing a gaping wound in the mouth with crushed teeth. Hpa Shwe than managed to crawl with great pains slow and quietly until he was able to hide in a nearby bush. The Burmese soldiers searched for him until it became dark but could not find him and consequently left. On the next morning the soldiers with three villagers again made a search of him but again failed to find him After the soldiers left the place , Hpa Shwe slowly walked back to the village where his fellow villagers received and treated his wounds. Hpa Shwe reached the Karen hospital on the 22nd December 1986 for treatment.

Hpa Shwe on a Karen hospital bed.

Summary Report of our KNLA military activities in January and February 1987

Military Zone	Own Actions		Enemy casualties			Enemy arms and ammos. captured							Remarks
	Attacks	Mines	Killed	Wounded	Total	Small Arms	Magazines	Ammo. Rds.	Heavy Arms	Shells/Rds	Grenades	Bombs	
No. 1	5	2	9	13	22	—	2	150	—	—	—	—	Burned down some enemy council buildings.
No. 2	4	4	5	13	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Destroyed 1 bridge; 3 enemy NC Os among killed.
No. 3	6	3	19	21	40	1	5	50	—	—	—	—	1 enemy NCO among wounded.
No. 4	9	—	35	7	42	8	14	547	—	—	—	—	2nd. Lt. Khin Mg Ohr among ene. killed; 1 tractor destroyed.
No. 5	8	—	23	62	85	2	12	1040	—	—	4	—	1 enemy truck destroyed.
No. 6	10	20	26	80	106	9	52	10007	1	261	13	52	—
101 Bn.	7	6	14	43	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 officer among ene. killed, 3 officers and 3 NCOs among ene. wounded; 1 truck destroyed.
20 Bn.	9	2	21	7	28	5	26	470	—	28	2	—	2 officers, 2 NCOs among ene. killed.
GHQ	11	17	40	70	110	33	24	59449	6	1446	76	34	5 officers, 3 NCOs among ene. killed, 7 NCOs among ene. wdd.; 2 tractors, 1 truck, 1 cart and large amt. of stores destroyed
Total	69	54	192	316	508	58	135	71713	7	1735	95	86	9 ene officers and 8 NCOs killed; 3 ene. officers and 11 NCOs wounded; 3 trucks, 3 tractors and 1 bridge destroyed; large amt. of mily. equipment captured.

Some Military Successes of our KNLA Troops in January/February 1987

No.l Military Zone. (Thaton District)

On 7-1-87, our troops engaged the enemy No. 66 Infantry Battation at Tarweki. The enemy suffered (3) killed and (4) wounded.

No. 2 Military Zone. (Toungoo District)

On 5-1-87, our troops destroyed (1) bridge at Kyauk-gon near Do-Thaung. (1) enemy was killed and (2) wounded at the same place by our mine bomb.

No.3 Military Zone (Nyaunglebin District)

On 28-1-87, our troops ambushed the enemies near Hsaw Thudey. The enemies suffered (2) killed and (5) wounded. We captured (l)G-3rifle with (5) magazine and (5) rounds and some military equipments.

No.4 Military Zone (Mergui-Tavoy District)

On 17-2-87, our troops attacked the enemy at Day Ko Kaw Hta. The enemy suffered (6) killed. Our troops captured. (1) 79mm rifle with (8)rounds,(2) G:4 rifle and (1) G-2, rifles with 204 rounds of ammunition.

On 24-2-87, our troops attacked the enemy at P'soki inflicting (3) enemies killed, our troops captured (1) 79mm, (2) rifles with (14) migazines and (330) rounds of ammunitions.

No. 5 Military Zone (Dooplaya District)

On 17-1-87, our troops attacked a combined force of enemy Nos 31/32/72 Infantry Battalions between Yaw Do and Nya Ki inflicling (14) enemies killed and (43) wounded. Our troops captured (1) carbine will (200) rounds, (1) barrel of light Machine gun with (600) rounds and a quantity of military equipments.

On 22-1-87, our troops attacked the advancing enemy at Ta-U Htah. After one hour battle the enemies retreated after suffering more than (50) killed and wounded.

On 5-2-87, at 0500 hrs, in the morning our troops engaged the enemy at Pa-nedaw. The enemies retreated after (30) minutes fighting. Our troops captured (3) G-2 rifles with (12) magazines and (240) rounds of ammunition, (4) Hand grenades and some military equipments.

No. 6 military Zone

On 23-1-87, our troops ambushed the enemies at Kyaw-Wa-De, inflicting (2) enemies killed and (6) wounded.

On 31-1-87, our troops ambushed the enemy between Pitaka and Kanekaw (5) enemies left (5) dead and (6) wounded including (1) Coy Comdr. (1) Coy 2-I/C, our troops captured (1) G-3 rifles (1) carbine, (4) packs and some other military equipments.

On 6-2-87, our troops with some militias attacked the enemy at Wa-Kay-Klaw. Enemy suffered (2) killed. Our troops captured (3) G-3 rifles with (10) magazines and (50) rounds and a quantity of military equipments.

On 21-2-87, the enemies attacked Mae-Ta-rit gate, our troops resisted bravely. After one hour battle, the enemies retreated leaving (14) dead bodies and suffered (35) wounded. Our troops captured (6) small arms (32) magazines (1007) roudns Ammos (3) BZK bombs (2) 84 mm shelling (12) 60 mm bombs and a quantity of military equipments.

On 26-2-87, a combined force of our No. 1 and No. 2 Task Force attacked enemy No. 3 L/B No.5 Coy stronghold at Tala-au Lu near Maela. Please see details on page (17).

No. 101 Bn **area**

On 28-1-87, our troop attacked enemy No 8 L/B at Thay Paw Kla. The enemies suffered (5) kid including (1) Lt. and

15) wounded including (1) Capt, **(1)** 2nd Lt and (1) Sgt.

No. 20 Bn. Area

On 19-1-87, our troops attacked the enemies at Tarit Hta. (7) enemies including (1) Capt, (1) Lt Tin Nyunt and (1) Cpl. were killed. Our troops captured (1)12 bore shot gun with (20) rounds, (5) G-2 magazines with (300) rounds. (15) *2Vi* inch mortar bombs, (13) 2 inch mortar bombs (2) Hand grenades. (2) radios and a large amount of military equipments.

On 28-2-87, our troops ambushed the enemy at Kya Gaw Lu. The enemy suffered (3) killed including (1) lsgt. and (4) wounded. Our troops captured (2) G-3 rifle with (11) magazines and (100) rounds ammos and some military equipments and documents.

GHQ

On 12-1-87, our troops attacked the enemies between Ngetpyaw-Daw and Kyon Htaw inflicting (6) enemies killed and (13) wounded. Our troops captured (7) G-3 magazine with (350) rounds ammos, (12) 60 mm rounds and some military equipments.

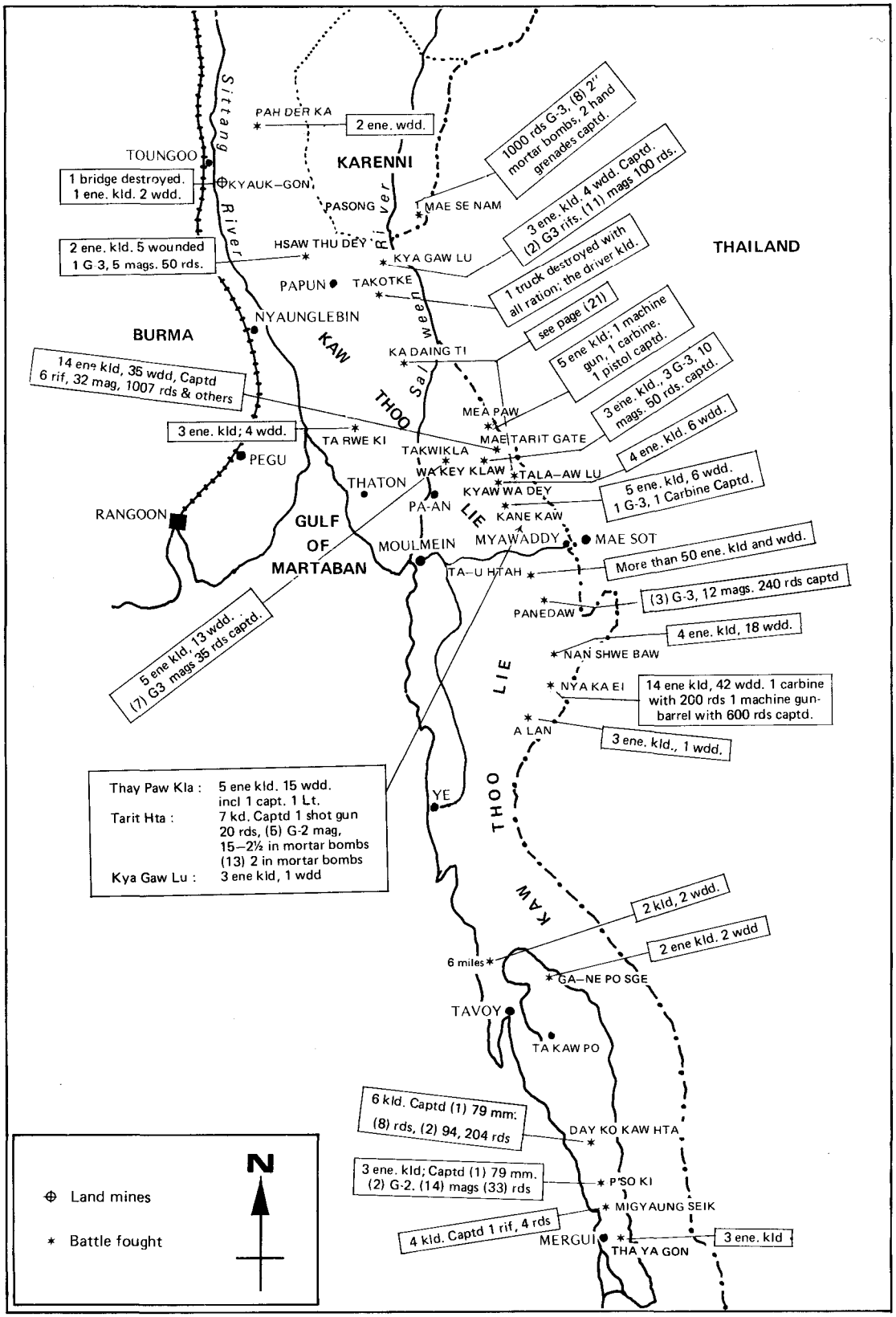
On 22-1-87, our No. (1) Coy attacked enemy at Mae-paw. The enemy suffered (5) killed including (1) Coy 2 I/C and (1) Sgt. Our troops captured (1) Light machine gun with (100) rounds, (1) Browning pistol, (1) Carbine with (30) rounds and some military equipments.

On 14-2-87, our troops attacked the enemy near Ler Taw Day inflicting (2) G-4 and (1) G-3 rifles with (13) magazines, (200) rounds ammos, and some military equipments.

On 19-2-87, our troops from. Special Task Force attacked enemy No. 84 Infantry Bn. at Kadangti at 0445 hours. Fighting lasted only (15) minutes when all enemies fled leaving (10) dead bodies. We captured a large amount of arms and ammunitions stores. We destroyed all enemy military equipments and ration stores. Detailed report on page (17).

Col. Ralph G.S.O. (with stick in hand) discussing military strategy with his officers.

MAP, Showing some fighting places in January and February 1987



Kadaing-ti Battle

Kadaing-ti is a large village on the Yunzalin river, a tributary of the Salween, and it is also on the car-road half-way between Kamamaung and Papun. It is a military supply base for the enemies in Southern Papun area, and a strong Company of No. 84 Light Infantry Battalion is stationed there. The base was well fortified with barbedwire, land-mines, booby traps and bamboo-spikes, with tranches and bunkers.

On 19th February, 1987 at 4.45 am. our KNLA troops from General Headquarters launched a lightening attack on the enemy base. After fierce fighting for 15 minuters, our troops was able to occupy the whole base area. All enemies fled, leaving (10) dead bodies and a large quantity of arms ammunitions, military equipments and stores.

The following is the list of captured arms and ammunitions from the enemy.

(1) 75 mm. Recoiless Rifle with 124 rounds
(1) 81 mm Mortar with 576 rounds.
(1) 3 inch Mortar.
(1) 1 Bazooka with 13 rockets.
(3) Browning pistols.
(7) G-2 Rifles with a total of 46,500 rounds ammunitions.
(5) G-3 Rifles with a total of 46,500 rounds ammunitions.
(4) G-4 Rifles with a total of 46,500 rounds ammunitions.
(2) Carbines with 7,200 rounds.
(1) 1 sten gun with 7,000 rounds.
112 rounds 84 mm. Carl Gustau shell.
173 rounds 60 mm mortar shells.
34 Assorted Mine—bombs.
72 Hand Grenades.
4 RPG-7 Rockets.
1 M-79 with 200 rounds.
1 84 mm cleaning set.
1 Hand-Generator.

Our troops carried away all the captured arms and ammunitions and destroyed all other booties which they could not carry.

List of items destroyed by our troops.

(1) 2 tractors.
(2) 2,115 bags of rice.
(3) 15 drums of cooking oil.;
(4) 500 boxes of condensed milk.
(5) 2 drums of petrol and a large quantity of army uniforms, medicines, military equipments, tools and utensils. The value of captured weapons and destroyed items is estimated to be over eight million kyats.

Suffering great defeat and losses, the commander of No.66 Division ordered No. 96, 75 and 79 Infantry Battalions to follow after the victorious KNLA troops and regain their lost weapons. Fighting took place at Me-Nyaw, Pwa Di-Mu, where the enemies suffered another (11) killed and over (30) wounded. Enemy No. 57 Infantry Battalion of Central Command also joined in the pursuit but all enemies troops were withdrawn after suffering heavy casualties.

TA LA AW LU BATTLE

On 26th February 1987, our troops from 7th Brigade launched an attack on the enemy at Ta-la-aw Lu in Maela area. Ta-la-aw Lu is a well fortified post under the command of Lt Ye Aung of No. 3 Light Infantry Regiment.

Fighting started at 6 AM and athough our troops encountered with many obstacles and strong resistance, they totally occupied the enemy post at 8 AM when all the enemies fled, leaving (2) dead and carrying away many dead and wounded soldiers.

The following is the list of captured weapons.

(1) 81 mm Motar with 64 shells.
(1) Light machine gun with 3500 rounds.

(1) Carbine with 3500 rounds.
3500 G-3 rounds of ammunitions.
21 G-3 magazines.
74 60 mm Mortar shells.
19 2 inch Mortar shells.
16 M-9A1 bombs.
15 assorted mine-bombs.
1 Army Binocular.
7 Military maps.
Some medicines and military equipments.

Some arms and ammunitions captured at Ka daing ti.

HARD TIME AND BLEAK FUTURE FOR BSPP MILITARY GOVERNMENT SITUATION OF BSPP GOVERNMENT

We publish below 2 commentations of the BSPP Government Budget as reported by Reuter.

The report reveals a hard time and Bleak Future for the BSPP Military Government as will be seen below.

BANGKOK POST
TUESDAY MARCH 10, 1987

New belt-tightening expected in Burma

Rangoon (Reuter)

Burma is expected to face another dose of austerity in its new budget due today in the face of falling exports and declining foreign currency reserves, economists say.

Prime Minister Maung Maung Kha told Parliament here yesterday that foreign currency earnings in fiscal 1986-1987 are likely to only 68 per cent of the government's target.

Export earnings for the year ending on March 31 would be just $418 million, against a hoped-for $612 million, he said on the opening day of the budget session.

He said exports had dropped 26 per cent since fiscal 1981-1982. Economists said Burma, once the world's largest rice exporter, had fallen victim to a slump on the world market for rice and its other export commodities.

Kha said oil output had fallen, requiring stricter use of petrol, but some industries in Rangoon had successfully switched from using oil to gas, also domestically produced.

Kha was speaking ahead of the budget for fiscal 1987-1988 due to be unveiled today

Burma's per capita income is just $190 a year, and it uses grants or low-interest loans from abroad to finance its development.

Imports of consumer goods were slashed in 1986-1987. Total imports are expected total $320.7 million for the year, from $343 million the year before.

But the budget is likely to pump money into livestock breeding and fish-farming, two areas of the generally sluggish economy seen as ripe for development.

Foreign currency reserves, believed by diplomats here to be at their lowest level in years, were officially said last year to have been $72 million at the end of 1985, down from $240 million in 1982.

Western deplomats in Rangoon believe they are now down to about $30 million and could not be drawn down much further while external debts had mounted to $3.4 billion.

In 1984-1985 Burma's debt servicing costs were more than 38 per cent of export earnings for the year, an official report has said.

Inflation was officially 5.8 per cent in 1985-1986, a figure economists regard as low because it is based mostly on the official economy and ignores the thriving but inflation-plagued black market.

A virtual wage freeze is in effect, with salaries of government workers not rising for years. The lowest official daily wage rate is pegged at 7 kyat - about 26 baht at the official exchange rate.

Deputy Prime Minister Tun Tin told Parliament later that gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.7 per cent in fiscal 1986-1987.

BANGKOK POST
WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 1987

Repel intruders from Burma, troops told

Rangoon (Reuter) - Burma's socialist government yesterday unveiled a budget that earmarks more public money for investment in the creaking economy in response to tumbling imports and exports.

Deputy Prime Minister Tun Tin said in a statement that investment would rise to $1.069 billion in the financial year beginning on April 1, up from $975 million this year.

Total budget spending goes up to $6 billion from 5.8 billion.

Burma is one of the world's poorest countries, with an annual per capita income of $190. This year it cut imports of consumer goods sharply as a fall in exports hit the government's coffers.

The country also faces a growing debt service burden and relies heavily for its development on grants and low-interest loans from abroad.

Tun's statement gave few details, but said investment in transport and communications had been set higher at $188 million this year from 142 million last year.

He added that the price of petrol would remain pegged at the equivalent of 50 US cests a gallon.

Burma has largely cut itself off from the rest of the world since independence from Britain in 1948 and its economy has stagnated.

Inflation, officially 5.8 per cent in 1985-1986, is thought by economists to be higher, as the figure ignores large price increases on the thriving black market.

Burma was once the world's biggest exporter of rice. Tun Tin said yesterday that export prices for rice, timber and minerals had fallen drastically, and next year's target for total exports was set lower at $ 475 million after a goal of 571 million this year.

Prime Minister Maung Maung Kha told parliament on Monday, actual export this year were likely to be just $418 million.

Tun Tin said Burma planned imports of $692 million for next year after a targetted $767 million. Officials say this year's actual import figure is likely to be just 320.7 million.

Foreign currency reserves were officially put at $72 million at the end of 1985, down from 240 million in 1982.

Fuller budget details are likely to be published next week.

Gen. Mya attending Thanks-giving service.

1986/87 Basic Medical Training Class.

Col. Ralph GSO directing operation at front line.

KNLA 7 Bde. captured enemy arms from Ta-la Aw Lu on 26-2-87.