



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



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

FEBRUARY, 1991

NO. 24

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We declare the National Coalition Government of Burma.



Guards of honour at 42nd Anniversary of Karen Revolution Day

KNU President General Mya's Speech On the Occasion of The 42nd Anniversary of Karen Revolution

On the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of Karen Revolution, I would like to extend my best wishes to the entire people including all the Karens, the revolutionary leaders, members of the revolutionary armed forces and the oppressed indigenous nationalities.

Today, the Karen Revolution fighting against the successive ruling chauvinists for democracy and freedom has covered 42 years of relentless struggle. In these 42 years, the Karen people have overcome various hardships, made great sacrifices and fought unitedly. On account of this, the Karen Revolution can stand firmly, up to this day. An analysis of the passage of the Revolution shows that it has gone through many twists and turns, politically, and various stages of development. We have been able to raise the tempo of revolution, stage by stage, by successfully forming the National Democratic Front (NDF), the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), the Democratic Front of Burma (DFB) and even the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma because of the growing understanding, friendship and support we have received from the oppressed indigenous nationalities, political organizations within the country and the Burmese expatriates. There must be regarded as great achievements. The successful formation of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma has made the feature of Karen Revolution

not only clear and prominent, but it has conclusively proved that Karen Revolution is a movement with definite political program and free from narrow nationalism. As the Karen Revolution has been sincerely fighting for equality of all the nationalities and the restoration of the national rights that have been lost, it is able to achieve unity with all the oppressed nationalities and fight together as allies. Accordingly, it was able to form a front with the National League for Democracy (NLD) and establish the National Coalition Government. For this reason, the National Coalition Government is the government of all of us, and we must fight on unitedly until the downfall of Saw Maung military regime.

As this momentous political development has taken place in the area of Karen Revolution, it is a great honour for the entire Karen people. I am certain that the genuine federal union ardently longed for by the Karens, together with the other nationalities, shall emerge, and the sham Union of Ne Win-Saw Maung military regime shall surely crumble.

Dear Karen nationals, I earnestly urge you to continue the fight until the final victory is won. The day of final victory is at hand. Fight on with unity under the leadership of the Karen National Union. Victory is ours! The Karen Revolution and National Democratic Revolution shall definitely be victorious! DO

Letter of Felicitations From the Prime Minister to KNU President General Mya

Dear President General Mya,

On behalf of cabinet members of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, I would like to extend my best wishes and felicitations to you on the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of Karen Revolution which falls on Thursday, the 31st of January 1991. Among the indigenous nationalities who have to bear, severely, the oppressions and tyrannies of the successive governments which have ruled against the will of the people after independence, the Karen people have been most deprived of their basic rights. However, the Karen people, refusing to subject themselves tamely to the injustices, have been carrying on armed revolution fully for 42 years now, under the resolute leadership of Karen revolutionary leaders.

Since this Karen Revolution has not only thrived vigorously and become steeled through countless sacrifices and deprivations but has also shone eminently in prestige, it would surely occupy a permanent place in the annals of Karen history, and so I whole-heartedly accord high honour to it and put on record by dispatching this letter of felicitations.

May the Karen Revolution achieve the final victory soon!

January 31, 1991

Sd./ (Dr. Sein Win)

Prime Minister

National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma



President Gen. Mya at 42nd Anniversary of Karen Revolution Day

Letter of Felicitations From All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) to the Karen People on the Occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of Karen Revolution

January 31, 1991

Honourable Karen Nationals & People,

Today is the 42nd Anniversary Day of the Karen Revolution, which stands as a living testament to the fact that "To every oppression, there is a resistance." The eminently valiant and impregnable Karen Revolution has served as a model for the revolutionary forces including the armed forces of the ABSDF which have consistently fought against successive dictatorships and rulers who have suppressed the historical needs, the rights to equality, democratic rights and human rights. Accordingly, not only the Karens but the entire people, including all the nationalities, should commemorate and honour the Karen Revolution Day. It is a pleasure for the entire ABSDF armed forces to have the opportunity to send this letter in honour of the Day.

It is the people who write the just and noble history of every revolution. Ultimately and without exception, every oppressive dictatorship is ground to dust under the wheel of history driven by the people. On the other hand, the people will recognize and put on record for the new future, the integrity, nobleness and justness of the revolution of the entire nation, fighting against the military dictatorship, for the establishment of a federal union of states. Before long, the clique of Saw Maung-Khin Nyunt militarists will be ground to dust under the wheel of history and, we, the revolutionary forces, will surely achieve victory.

At a time when the door to victory is open wide, the celebration of the Anniversary Day of Karen revolution, has imbued us with new vigour for the valiant march towards victory. The oppressors will be struck down by the valiant and determined revolutionaries, in the end. If victory is achieved, the whole of Burma will be bathed in the light of democracy. For that reason, we, the entire armed forces of the ABSDF, reaffirm our pledge on this auspicious Anniversary Day of Karen Revolution, to fight on hand in hand with our fraternal revolutionary forces of the indigenous nationalities, until the final victory is achieved.

The Revolution for Democracy
must definitely be victorious!

Central Committee
All Burma Students' Democratic Front

Declaration of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma

Date: 3rd Day of Waxing Moon of Pyatho, 1352

December (18), 1990

The entire people of Burma and many of the world's population are well aware of the 1988 uprising of the monks, people, and students who staged demonstrations and general strikes against the more than (26) years reign and intolerable enslavement of the Ne Win regime's military and one-party dictatorship in Burma.

Ne Win's military regime staged coup d'etat after crushing the 1988 people uprising. Naming itself the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and giving the reason to hold a multi-party democracy general elections, the military regime, led by Gen. Saw Maung, functioned over all the affairs of the state.

During throughout the period prior to the elections, the political parties' election campaigns were either restricted or banned by the SLORC's orders and declarations. The organizations and election campaigns of the political parties were strictly controlled by the Order 2/88, 8/88 and the Martial Law orders of the SLORC. Democratic forces and organizations, including the National League for Democracy (NLD) Party which enjoyed the popular support of the majority of the people, were restricted or suppressed by various means. Many leaders and members of various parties, including U Tin Oo, the Chairman, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the NLD Party, were put under house arrest, detained in prisons, charged, sentenced or harrassed by frequent interrogations and night searches.

The pro-democracy people dared not express their will and attitudes because of threats, interrogations, investigation and many other harrassments by various means. People's rights to freedom of opinion and expression were also threatened and denied. People were forced to live in fear under the oppressive military rule. The elections were held under such harsh conditions full of restrictions and difficulties.

However, with the overwhelming support of the people, the NLD has won the elections securing 85% of the total seats of the People Assembly. In the light of all these events and developments in Burma, the establishment of a people democratic government that can guarantee and safeguard the democratic rights and human rights in Burma, has also become a historical necessity. The military junta held the general elections only to establish its own puppet government. However, the people had expected a genuine

democratic government after the general elections. With that great expectation, the people did vote overwhelmingly for the NLD. This act of overwhelming support for the NLD means that for the achievement of democratic rights and human rights, the NLD had been entrusted with the historical duty to establish a people democratic government as soon as possible.

Having no intention to transfer power to the NLD, the winner of the general elections with a landslide victory despite the threats and restrictions, the SLORC, with the schemes to delay transfer of power to the People Assembly, threatened and forced the political parties to accept its programmes.

The SLORC denied with the Order 1/90 the immediate calling for a People Assembly and the transfer of power to the people's representatives, and the formation of a government by them. The members of the People Assembly rejected the Order 1/90 and demanded to call for a People Assembly in September according to the Gandhi Declaration. When the election winners of other political parties were also unanimously stood for that demand, the SLORC mounted its pressure on all the political parties which adhered to and were unified under the Gandhi Declaration. There were more arrests of the leaders of the NLD and the Democratic Party for New Society. Moreover, the news letters, bulletins, and publications of the political parties were also prohibited even at the village and township level. The NLD's township offices were raided and searched by the army, police, and intelligence. Members of the People Assembly were arrested and township political organizers were also called for interrogations. Referring to its own orders and declarations, giving a number of unlawful reasons and putting up the unjustified signboard 'legally charged', the SLORC dissolved many of the political parties or created conditions to make them weaken and fade away so that only the puppet political parties and political opportunists who would obey their orders and still remain loyal to it. The SLORC thus forced the



Minister U Hla Pe reading Statement No.1 by Minister of defence

political parties and schemed for the acceptance and singing of the Order 1/90 by giving various, unlawful reasons.

The SLORC then arrested and persecuted the monks who protected the unlawful bannings, arrests, human rights violations of the regime and demanded for the immediate transfer of power to the people representatives elected by the broad mass.

As for the NLD, it had proposed the SLORC many times to discuss the smooth transfer of power. In accordance with the Gandhi Declaration, the NLD had sent petition signed by the people representatives to the People Assembly calling for the principles of non-grudge and co-relation and the smooth transfer of power to the People Assembly. As for the SLORC, it had never responded and gave the excuse that "it had no way to talk with the political parties for its being a non-political entity". Now Burma has become a country shrouded in darkness because of all the unlawful arrests, tortures, persecutions and human rights violations of the SLORC. In such a situation, it is absolutely impossible for the representatives elected by the vast majority of the people to call a People Assembly and establish a legitimate government. Therefore, we, the representatives of the NLD, the National Democracy Party, and individual people representatives, dedicately aiming with firm belief -

- (1) to eliminate the SLORC, the military regime, immediately,
- (2) to call a National Convention with the People Assembly representatives elected in May (27), 1990, members of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, other representatives from the election winners, and democratic forces,
- (3) to establish a Genuine Democratic Government, have established "The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma" for the establishment of an independent, prosperous, and modernized Federal Union in Burma.

The National Coalition Government **of the Union of Burma**

Dr. Sein Win
Pauk-kaung Township
Electorate
Pegu Division.

-Prime Minister
-Minister: Defence
Ministry
Minister: Home Ministry

U Peter Lin Pin
Pyin-U-Lwin Township
Electorate No. (2)
Mandalay Division.

-Minister: Foreign Affairs
Ministry

U Win Ko
Ye-U Township
Electorate No. (2)
Sagaing Division.

-Minister: Ministry of
Finance & Revenue

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 4. | U Than Kywe
Shwe Taung Township
Electorate No. (2)
Pegu Division. | -Minister: Trade and
Cooperative Ministry |
| 5. | U Hla Pe
Pyaw Bwe Township
Electorate No. (2)
Mandalay Division | -Minister: Education and
Health Ministry
-Minister: Ministry of
Information |
| 6. | U Thein Oo
Mandalay South-West
Township Electorate No. (2) | -Minister: Ministry of
Justice |
| 7. | U Bo Hla Tint
Mo Gote Township
Electorate No. (2)
Mandalay Division. | -Minister: Construction
Ministry
-Minister: Ministry of
Mining and Energy
Resources |
| | U Tun Oo
Kyauk Kyi Township
Pegu Division. | -Minister: Ministry of
Social Welfare
-Minister: Labour Ministry |

Sd. (Dr. Sein Win)
Prime Minister

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma Prime Minister's Speech

Dated: 3rd. Day of Waxing Moon of Pyatho, 1352

December (18), 1990

Dear respectable, democracy-loving leaders and journalists
of the foreign press agencies,

Today, we have reached a remarkable stage in the historical developments in Burma. Therefore, this day is full of grace and indeed an auspicious day for all the persons who attend this ceremony and for the people and nationalities all over Burma. I wish for the health and happiness to the entire people and nationalities in the Union of Burma.

Dear respectable guests of honour,

As the entire people of Burma and many countries in the world are well aware of the situations in Burma, it has already been more than (26) years, the military and one-party dictatorship has brought the political, economical, and social life of the people in Burma under its state monopoly and enslavement resulting in a divided and parlous state. However, the people have always been defiant and

finally there was the people uprising in 1988 against this tyranny. Then the military regime, led by Gen. Saw Maung, seized power again. Giving the general elections as the incentive, it schemed by various means for the destruction of the political parties and other democratic forces in Burma. Moreover, contrary to the junta's expectation, the majority of the people overwhelmingly voted for the National League for Democracy (NLD) Party. It was indeed a surprise to all the world.

Now, we, the people representatives to the People's Assembly, have formed a government in the liberated areas. As we all know, this is the only option for us to choose because this military junta has no will and no way to transfer power to the people. Scheming to delay for months and years, it is creating situations to make the process of transferring power to the People Assembly a failure.

As for the NLD, it had proposed the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) many times to discuss the transfer of power to the People Assembly. In accordance with the Gandhi Declaration, the NLD had sent a petition signed by the people representatives to the People Assembly calling for the principles of non-grudge and correlation and the smooth transfer of power to the People Assembly. As for the SLORC, it had never responded and gave the excuse that it had no way to talk with the political parties for its being a non-political entity. Then Burma has become a parlous state due to the frequent harrassment by night searches, unlawful interrogations, and investigations, arrests, tortures, persecutions and all the human rights violations of the SLORC.

With such a situation under the SLORC's rule, it is absolutely impossible to call a People Assembly and establish a legitimate government. The only option for the representatives elected by the vast majority of the people is to escape from the parlous state under the SLORC into the liberated areas and form a government for the people. This is what we have done to make good of the election results.



Prime Minister Dr. Sein win delivers
speech at the formation of National Coalition Government

Since this government comprises the representatives of the NLD, the National Democracy Party and many other people representatives, we call it the National Coalition Government. It aims -

1. to eliminate the SLORC, the military regime, immediately.
2. to call a National Convention with the People Assembly representatives elected in May (27), 1990, members of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), other representatives from the election winners, and democratic organizations and forces,
3. to establish a genuine Democratic Government in Burma. The DAB has warmly welcome the National Coalition Government. On the basis of broad-mindedness, goodwill and unity and aiming to establish solidarity among all the democratic forces and organizations in Burma, all the members of the DAB, the representatives of the NLD, the National Democracy Party, individual people representatives and the democratic organizations have unanimously agreed to form the Democratic Front of Burma (DFB).

In conclusion, I would like to urge all students, monks, people, and all democratic forces and organizations in Burma on this remarkable day, many of our people have sacrificed their lives in our struggle for democracy and justice, to make a strong commitment to march to success in the struggle for the noble cause.

Speech of Chairman of Democratic Front of Burma in Support of National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma

Honourable leaders of
revolution, Ladies and
Gentlemen: -

We, the Democratic Alliance of Burma and National Democratic Front fully support the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, that has been formed, today. For more than 40 years now, our country, Burma, has been in enslavement. Though independence was gained, we have never known the benefit of independence. The entire people has been suffering from poverty and hardships.

We see that the persons in positions of leadership of the country, have no qualifications worthy of the positions they occupy. The group governing Burma can not be regarded as the government of Burma. The persons in power can not be regarded as leaders of Burma. They are just a group of cruel and foolish people. That is why, they perpetrate the crimes of murder, oppression and cruelty against the people, and even against the Buddhist monks. They can only be regarded as persons of evil character.

I have no doubt that the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, led by U Sein Win and formed today, shall become the government of the whole of Burma. We believe that it shall safeguard the interests of all the nationalities. Accordingly, we believe that now, Burma has acquired true leaders. We believe that the people of Burma have acquired the opportunity to escape from the difficulties and hardships they have been facing. On account of that

we must accept this government as our government. It is the government of all the nationalities of Burma. We are convinced that it will be a basis for building the unity of all the nationalities of the country. Accordingly, we, the DAB, will fully support it and assist it from all sides. In conclusion, I would like to urge the entire people to accept this government, as we do, and support it wholeheartedly.

Statement of the Democratic Alliance of Burma on the Formation of National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma

The Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) is a broad alliance composed of revolutionary organizations of the nationalities, students, Buddhist monks, workers, civil servants, intellectuals and expatriate patriots. Its political objectives are the total abolishment of military dictatorship and the establishment of democratic rights, internal peace, and a new and genuine federal union, based on self-determination and unity.

The political objectives and the actual practice show that the DAB deeply respects the will of the people and places the interest of the people above all else.

3. In the election of May 27, 1990, the people, once again, displayed their firm opposition to the military dictatorship by giving an overwhelming mandate to the National League for Democracy (NLD). After the election, the DAB demanded the military government for the immediate transfer of power, for several times.
4. In open contempt of the will of the people and in violation of international and democratic norms, the military government however, issued the so-called Order No.1/90, to prolong the military dictatorship. Up to this day, the military government has been brutally suppressing a large number of pro-democracy elements, including the elected MPs, by arrests and torture.



Chairman of KNU Saw Bo Mya and Chairman of KIO Brang Seng smile away the threat of SLORC

5. On account of that, the DAB intimated to the elected MPs its readiness to give permission to them to form a government in its liberated areas.
6. In spite of intimidations, threats and various barriers, the elected MPs braved the dangers of arrest, torture and death to come to the liberated areas, in order to carry out the people's mandate.
7. The DAB accorded a cordial welcome to the MPs who had thus arrived and did its utmost in helping the formation of the National Coalition Government of Burma led by the NLD, and composed only of the elected representatives of May 27, 1990 elections.
8. On this day of December 18, 1990, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, led by Prime Minister Dr. Sein Win, has been successfully formed.
9. In accordance with its firm conviction that the legitimate authority of a government rests with the will of the people expressed in elections, the DAB fully recognizes and supports the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, which is a legitimate government elected by the people. In addition, we, the DAB, pledge to make an all-out effort in the struggle against the military dictatorship, for the realization of the objectives of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

Central executive committee
Democratic Alliance of Burma

December 18, 1990

Statement of the National Democratic Front (Burma) Position on the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

Since 1976, the National Democratic Front (NDF) Burma has been fighting to gain freedom, equality, social progress, democratic rights and peace for all the nationalities of Burma, and to establish genuine federal union of states based on self-determination.

By giving an overwhelming vote to the National league for Democracy in the election held on May 27, 1990, the people as well as the majority of members of the Burma Army had expressed by peaceful means their true will and absolute opposition to military dictatorship.

However, Ne Win-Saw Maung military clique, in open contempt of the people's will and in violation of international and democratic practices, has been suppressing, by various means, the NLD leaders, the elected representatives and pro-democracy elements with arrest and imprisonment up to this day, by issuing various martial law orders to prolong the evil system of military dictatorship and its power.

The elected representatives, after avoiding numerous suppressive measures and barriers, have come to the liberated area of the revolution, with the people's mandate entrusted to them in the May 27 election, in order to substantiate the will of the peoples.

With the conviction that the legitimate power of a government rests with the will of the people, the elected representatives who had arrived in the liberated area, successfully formed on December 18, 1990, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) based on the program and principles of NLD and led by Dr. Sein Win.

As the government was formed to fulfill the demands of the people and requirements of the country, the NDF fully endorse and recognize the NCGUB as the legitimate government of Burma.

For the achievement of the aims and objects of the NCGUB, we, the NDF, solemnly declare that we will carry on armed revolution together with the democracy - loving people and hand in hand with the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), against Ne Win Saw Maung military clique, with utmost vigour.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT, BURMA

February, 19, 1991

National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma Ministry of Defence Statement Number (1)

Comrades, December 18, 1990

All of you, generals to the lowest rank of the Burma Army bear two vital responsibilities - They are: -

- (1) Safeguarding the lives and properties of the people; and
- (2) Being totally at the service and realizing the will of the people.

The armed forces are not for torturing, killing and destroying the lives and properties of the people. They must never be for serving the interest of a group.

The two responsibilities mentioned above are the main responsibilities of armed forces. Code, rules and regulations of the armed forces are intended for raising combat efficiency and smoothing relations with the people.

It is your duty to disobey orders which are counter to these two responsibilities and orders which would lead you to the violation of human rights.

Now, we are at a time of extreme gravity in the history of Burma. Your actions and decisions will have a great impact on history and they shall be the basis of the future history of the Burma Army. As you all know, the Burma Army was founded by the great national leader, General Aung San. Today, the time has come for you to think carefully and decide whether the Burma Army is an organization as intended by General Aung San. The former Burma Independence Army and Burma Defence Army had come into being in accordance with national will and need, and stood for independence which was in accordance with the will of the nation. Now, the time has come for you to decide whether the Burma Army is serving the national interest or whether it has become the tool of a group which is opposing the will of the people.

You had voted in the election held by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) on May 27, 1990. As you know, the people gave an overwhelming mandate to the National League for Democracy (NLD) in the election. Now, more than 6 months after election, the SLORC, instead of transferring state power to the NLD, is making every effort not to transfer power by issuing new decrees and reneging on its promises, disregarding the prestige of Burma Army.

The SLORC, engaged in such dirty tricks, has been using the Burma Army as its lackey and power base. It is describing itself as a defacto government representing the ideals of the Burma Army. Now, it is time the Burma Army had a self-analysis to decide whether the SLORC is truly representing its ideals.

You know best about the evils of civil war which has dragged on for more than 40 years. It is the earnest desire of the people of Burma, today, to stop the civil war, establish a new federation and settle political problems by political means. The forces of the nationalities are not your enemy. They are your brothers who are part of the federation. Likewise, the students are not your enemy. They are your younger brothers and sisters. The SLORC has been spreading malicious propaganda, saying that the Army would be oppressed if democracy were allowed. It is a complete nonsense. The armed forces in democratic countries enjoy high standard and due respect. Under a democratic government, the Burma Army shall enjoy all the rights accorded to the armed forces in the democratic countries.

All that should be said has been said. Now, you have to decide whether you would submit to the authority of the government elected by the people and help build a genuine and democratic federation as required by the wishes of the people or submit to the authority of SLORC and go against the wishes of the people by accepting the monopoly of power by leaders of the dictatorial military clique on political, economic and social matters, who has impoverished Burma. The time has come for you to make a clear-cut decision concerning this. Whatever has happened in past, you must realize that you have the duty to write a new chapter in the history of Burma Army.

We would like you to know that the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma and the entire people are ready to give you a cordial welcome. May you be able to stand on the side of the people.

Sd.(Dr. Sein Win)
Defence Minister
Ministry of Defence

National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma



(NCGUB) at the Press Conference after Declaration

The Vanishing Forest

by Louisa Benson

once upon a time majestic trees filled the forests along the Salween and Moei rivers. Deer, tapir and wild elephants wandered in the deep shade while the branches were home to parrots and hornbills. The people who lived in the forests loved the trees. They were the forest people. Over many generations, rules were developed on how to harvest the beloved trees. The trees knew no boundaries. They grew tall and strong both in Thailand on the eastern bank and Burma on the west.

Each year, the forest people came through and marked trees that were old enough to be harvested. Great care was taken not to mark too many from each area. Other forest people came later and girdled the trees, removing a ring of bark at the prescribed height from the ground. Three years passed before they returned to cut them down. Elephants then came and dragged the felled logs one at a time to the river banks and the saw mills. Each time a tree was cut down, a new young one was planted to replace it. Every monsoon, the rains came, the remaining trees held down the rich soil in between their roots and the young sapling grew, where the old tree had stool. Leopards, tigers and peacocks continued to live in the deep shade.

One day, some men from Thailand said,

"We could make a lot of money if we could cut down these trees and sell the wood."

"Time is money," they said. "The old ways take too much time. Let us use chain saws and bull-dozers to bring down the big trees."

"But how do we reach the big trees" There are so many other trees in the way."

"Well, let's see," they pondered.

"We'll just have to push over any smaller trees that are in the way." they decided.

"Then we can select the big ones that people want to buy."

"How do we get the logs to the saw-mills?" they wondered.

"We will build roads so that trucks can reach the forest." they decided.

And so, many roads were built, and the trees in Thailand along the Salween and Moei rivers came crashing down.

The forest was cleared, the birds lost their nests, the deer lost their shade, the little streams dried up, the soil became dust and blew away. Then the rains came and washed the fine dust down into the river, down into the ocean.

After many years, the powerful people in Thailand saw that their beautiful forests had become bare. The land was parched in the summer and the rivers flooded in the winter.

"There shall be no more cutting down of forests in our beautiful country" they proclaimed.

The tree traders were worried.

"What shall we do to get money? Cutting down trees have brought us great wealth." they said.

"Look across the river, there are many more trees on the other side."

"But it is not our land. Besides, there are many people who live among those trees. They would never let us cut down as many trees as we need to cut. They still do things the old way."

"I think if we give enough money, the Burmese army will come in big trucks and protect us while we clear the forest," they said.

"I know they are in desperate need of money."

"We can both benefit. They need the money and we need the trees."

So they gave a lot of money to the Burmese army. The soldiers came and pushed away the forest people. The tree traders came and built big roads so that the big trucks could reach the bulldozers and the army people could bring more army people in big trucks.

The forest on the Burma side was cleared. The birds lost their nests, the deer lost their shade, the little streams dried up, the soil became dust and blew away. The rains came and washed the fine dust down into the river and down to the ocean.

The forest people were sad. They lost their homes and had to move to another land.

"We need to plant new trees to replace the ones that have been cut down," they said to each other.

"But the soldiers are all around and will shoot us if we try to do this."

"In three more years, all the rich soil will have been washed away. Then, it will take centuries before our beautiful forest will return again. The birds will soon be gone. The animals have no shelter. The little streams have dried up and the Moei has only half the water it used to have." They lamented.

They sat on the bare hills in Thailand looking across the river towards their home where once stood a might forest.

The story I have just told you is based on fact.

In 1988, disastrous floods in Thailand claimed 350 lives in the teak forest areas of the Thai-Burma border. Thailand closed its forests to further logging. The teak industry faced an uncertain future.

80% of the teak reserves left in the world are in this area, inhabited by Karens, Karenni, Kachins and Mons.

At the same time, Burma, potentially one of the richest nations in Southeast Asia, had the doubtful distinction of being among the 10 poorest as a result of the economic policies of the Burmese Way to Socialism.

A marriage of convenience took place. The Burmese government received millions of dollars for logging concessions sold to the Thai logging companies.

The indigenous peoples had been logging for

centuries, but their "select cutting" methods ensured the continuation of the forest, whereas the Thai's "clear cut" method denuded the land.

In early 1990, the Ne Win/Saw Maung government received \$ 3.28 million for teak in 45 concession areas from 16 teak companies. The value of teak to be extracted each year from Burma is estimated at \$ 112 million.

Due to the efforts of the Burmese military to clear the border areas of indigenous peoples (in their effort to protect the Thai loggers), 40,000 + refugees have fled into Thailand. They have lost their homes and the source of their livelihood. They now live in a land where they have no

hope of a permanent way of life. They are doomed to be in limbo for an indefinite period. They are the immediate losers. In the long term, however, we are all losers; As our rain forests are depleted, our ecosystem is altered. Loss from alternating drought and floods, and the effect to wild-life and vegetation cannot be calculated.

In order to prevent permanent damage to the forests along the Thai-Burma border, pressure has to be brought upon those that have been perpetuating this practice. The Japanese have to stop buying teak from Thailand, which is coming out of this region, and the Thais have to be convinced that they will not be able to sell their ill-gotten product.

BURMA

The Australian Democrats in West Australia View with concern the news that Burmese Forces have once again launched attacks against ethnic minority groups close to the Thai border.

The Democrats W.A. Spokesperson on Burma Hugh Wood made the following statement.

The people of Burma clearly demonstrated their opposition to the government during the May 1990 elections.

The fact that the government of Burma has refused to accede to the wishes of the people who seek democratic reforms, is deplorable.

It is high time that the democratic governments of the world did something more than

Western Australian Division
Media Release

Issued by the Parliamentary
Liaison Office

protest at the repressive policies of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Sanctions should be applied against Burma by the United Nations in the same way as they have been applied against other regimes who refuse to abide by recognised conventions.

Jean Jenkins
Parliamentary Liaison Officer
to Senator Janet Powell
Leader of the Australia
Democrats said that the
government of Burma had
broken every article laid
down in the United Nations
charter, governing human and
minority rights, and should
stand condemned.

Contact telephone Numbers

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Joint Hands With Democratic Revolution

Burmese Poems by Maung Soe Chain
Translation by David Thar Kapaw

For Swidden cultivation
In narrow valleys of the hills or,
On the slopes of mountains,
What crimes have they committed?

Herds of Catties and goats to graze
Are taken to pastures on foot-hills;
Fishes are caught in the streams and
Made into salted paste to preserve,
Like sesame paste,
Which meshed with chilli
And served with staple rice
Makes a tasty morsel, part of a daily meal.

Like wild flowers, cool spring stream and
Foot path in the hills, for leading a simple and
innocent life,
Should they be treated as criminals?
They have no television nor radios,
No news papers nor other periodicals,
Few have ever seen a car or a train.

In the hills or on the plains,
Wherever they live, they have no complaint,
What they have in abundance,
Is simplicity and innocence.

A draw on bamboo-root tobacco pipe,
Gives a pleasure of heavenly height,
For leading a simple and uncorrupted life,
Should they be held for any strife?
Old man of Kyon Sein village called Oo Par Thu Met,
Aged one hundred and two,
He owns not a single weapon, as big as a needle,
But he was beaten up for not having a chicken;
From the blow he fell to the ground,
For days he had to be laid down.

How's that -- it's not a scene from a play,
To show the character of a villain,
But an actual happening

A common practice of the Burma Army fascists.
Oo Par Yone, son of Oo Pa Thu Met,
Was found murdered after they left;
From grandfathers to grandsons,
People of all ages,
Have to face the excesses,
Like cancer, it may be said
Burma is reeling under fascist attack.

Village head Oo Ga Toe,
Where his bones are lying nobody knows,
In jungle he's executed
For a crime he'd not committed.

In like manner, five villagers of Kyon Sein Kyaung,
Were taken to camp Phalang Taung,
And murdered in a group,
By the facist Ne Win's troops.

It calls itself the "People's Army,"
But the people regards it as a facist army,
It is no wonder,
The people want to tear it asunder.

A typical "People's Army" officer,
Make one Oo Mutu to answer,
When called, in three different ways,
Like a duck, a goat or a cow,
To us it's not funny at all,
It's a violation of human dignity
With utmost crudity.

The coward facist troops,
On entering wonbeh in village,
Sprayed houses with bullets,
Killing two innocent children, aged four years.

The Fifth company troops of Fifth Regiment,
Came to the village called Pyin Mabin,
And shot dead a girl called Naw Beh Poe,
Who's only ten and four,
When they arrived at Larkyoko village,
They cut down Ohn Pay,
Who was on his way back from his farm,
Saw Par Kyaw of thirty years
Was sent to death in his own farm yard.

Evil miscreants from column No.1
of Tenth Infantry Regiment,
Perpetrated the crime of rape against
Naw Kwi Taung village girl Naw Ma Tway,
Then they murdered her and made it appear
like suicide hanging,
But the evidence was clear,
For all near and far.

However hard their leaders, the military clique tried,
Over the radio, on television to improve their image,
With intensive propaganda and praise,
No one, with mature thinking, is believing.

From fifty villages of Kwilay, Kyathaung,
Seikkyi and so on
They seized villagers, aged between twelve and over
fifty, for forced labor,
They are also used as mine-sweepers,
at the front lines,
For a long time.

In the civil war of years forty and two
The fascist troops have committed countless
Crimes of horror, it's true,
The crimes of wanton destruction, murder, looting, raping,
forced labor,
And the violation of human rights.

Instead of going to Rangoon,
It would have been best for Professor Ogata,
To come to our area,
For investigation of human rights violation.

To the north of Bilin Town, in the district of Thaton,
More than twenty villages lie,
Where Ne Win's running dogs have committed
Crimes and human rights violations, in the hundreds.
So, you can judge the magnitude of criminal excesses,
The fascists have committed,
In the whole country of Burma,
From the northern tip to Point Victoria.

To drive out the darkness of dictatorship
out of sight,
The Sun of Democratic Revolution has come
out with might,
And stand on the side of the People,
Avenging the victims of injustices,
And fighting to free all the nationalities
from distress.

We urge every one to join hands with the Revolution,
Without any thought of retreat, fight on with
determination,
For the establishment of human rights,
Human dignity, equality and a genuine federal Union of
states.

We are very grateful to the readers who have responded
with contribution, advice and encouragement. We look
forward to enjoying the same support and good-will of our
readers in the future as well.

We accept a voluntary contribution of US \$ 1 or an
equivalent amount in any currency for a copy of GNU
Bulletin. Readers living farther away than Thailand
usually double that amount.

Once again, readers of the GNU Bulletin who want to
make contribution towards the cost of publication and cost
of mailing, are requested to kindly send their money orders
or cheques to the Editor, GNU Bulletin, PO Box 22, Maesod,
Tak Province, Thailand.

Some Important Military Achievements of KNLA Troops from 1.11.90 to 31.1.91

NO.1 MILITARY ZONE (THATON DISTRICT)

On 7-11-90 an enemy militia surrendered to our K.N.L.A. together with (2)AK assault rifles, 200 rounds of bullets and some military equipments. From 9-11-90 to 17-11-90 there were (8) armed clashes between enemy and our troops, resulting in (8) enemy killed and (16) wounded including one coy commander. Our troops captured (2) AK rifles, (250) rounds of bullets, (1) G3 rifles, / 100 rounds of bullets and some other military equipments. On 23-11-90, one enemy militia defected to our K.N.L.A. bringing with him one sten gun and one .303 rifle. On 1-12-90 our combined troops engaged with enemy's No. 10 light infantry batallian at Tawahbar, enemy suffered (11) killed and (13) wounded. Our troop captured (2) G4 rifles, (2) G3 rifles, one carbine, one light machine gun with one spare barrel, 200 rounds of 7.62 mm bullets, (21) no. of G3 magazines and some other ammos. and equipments. On 7-12-90 one enemy soldier from enemy No.1 Bn. defected to our K.N.L.A. together with one G3 rifle. On 12-12-90 our troop attacked enemy at Mai Naw Kar Ta, enemy suffered one killed and one wounded. On 30-12-90 our troop ambushed and killed one enemy soldier and captured one G4 rifle. On 17-1-91 our troop attacked and destroyed (2) enemy trucks and (4) enemy soldiers killed and (6) wounded. On 18-1-91 our combined troops attacked an enemy camp at Ti Pa Doh Ta, (23) enemy killed including (4) officers and (14) wounded. Our troop captured (3) G3 rifles. On the same day one enemy medical officer

defected to our K.N.L.A. bringing with him one, carbine and some medicines. On 14/1 and 23/1 our troops destroyed (2) enemy's trucks.

NO. 2 MILITARY ZONE (TOUNGOO DISTRICT)

On 17-11-90, our troop intercepted and attacked enemy No.39 Regiment at Plei Khi Der, enemy suffered 2 killed and one wounded. On 31-12-90 our troop waged mine warfare against enemy, resulting 3 enemy soldiers killed and 8 wounded. On 5/12 our troop attacked the enemy near Swallow village, an enemy lieutenant killed and one soldier wounded. On 6/12 our troop attacked enemy at Lai Thit , 3 enemy soldiers wounded. On 15/12 our troop attacked enemy No.39 regiment near Ka Law Mi Der village, one enemy soldier killed.

NO. 1 MILITARY ZONE (NYAUNG LE BIN DISTRICT)

On 10-12-90 our troop attacked enemy's No. 30 regiment near Ma Taw Gone, enemy suffered 3 killed and our troop captured one G3 rifle. On 19/12 our troop had armed clashes with enemy near Taw Lu Kho, one enemy killed and own troop captured one G4 rifle. On 13/1 and 23/1/91 our troop had 2 armed clashes with enemy at Thei Kay and Tha Min Tun camps, enemy suffered 3 killed and one wounded.

NO. 4 MILITARY ZONE (MERGUI/TAVOY DISTRICT)

From 10-11-90 to 16-10-90 there were (4) armed clashes between enemy and our troops, in those clashes enemy suffered (7) killed and (14) wounded. Our troops captured one G4 rifle and some

ammunition. On 27-11-90 our troop attacked enemy's Pwa Wun Camp and set fire to the whole camp after capturing it. Four enemy soldiers killed, our troops captured (2) carbines, (3) .303 rifles and other military equipments. On 9-12-90 our troop captured one enemy's mortar boat and set fire on it. On 10/12 our troops attacked enemy at Maung Nai Shaung village, resulting (2) enemy killed and (16) wounded including one lieutenant. On 15/12 our troops attacked enemy at Eh Eh and Ti Sar Kwi village, enemy suffered (7) killed. On 12/11/91. 17/1 and 20/1 our troops attacked enemy at three different places, enemy -suffered 7 killed and 2 wounded.

NO.5 MILITARY ZONE (DOOPLAYA DISTRICT).

From 21/11/90 to 27/11/90 there were (4) armed clashes between enemy and our troops, enemy suffered (7) killed and (3) wounded. On 1/12/90 our troop attacked enemy No. 62 regiment at Taung Ka Lay village, our troop captured a browning pistol and one carbine. On 16/12 and 19/12 our troops attacked enemy at Baw Teh Khi Ta Kaut Bi, resulting (8) enemy soldiers killed, and (2) wounded. On 20/12 our troop destroyed an enemy bridge. On 23/12 and 24/12 there were 2 armed clashes between enemy and our troops, enemy suffered 2 killed and 4 wounded. From 10/12 to 25/12 (3) enemy soldiers killed and (3) wounded by our land mines. On 30/12/90 there was an armed clash between enemy and our troop near Taw Gwin village, (7) enemy were killed including (2) coy commanders. (1) platoon commander and (1) warrant officer and (5) wounded.

NO. 6 MILITARY ZONE (PA-AN DISTRICT)

On 1-12-90 enemy and our troop engaged at Pa Tu Klaw, 2 enemy killed and 3 wounded including coy commander Thein Aung. Our troop captured one G3 rifle. On 12-12-90 and 16-12-90 enemy and our troops had armed clashes at Wa Lay and Nu Baw, enemy suffered one killed and (5) wounded. On 23/1 an enemy truck was completely destroyed by our land mine, and one enemy soldier was killed and (3) wounded. From 24/1 to 30/1 there were 6 armed clashes between enemy and our troops and in those clashes enemy suffered 7 killed and 16 wounded. Our troops captured (2) G2 rifles, one G4 rifle and 200 rounds of bullets.

NO.20 BATTALION (PAPUN DISTRICT)

On 3-12-90 our troop attacked enemy No.5 L.I. Bn. at Mai Ka Naw, enemy suffered (10) wounded. On 21-12-90 our troop engaged enemy at Ta Kay Kha river, resulting an enemy killed and (7) wounded. On 3-1-91 our troop attacked enemy's No.80 regiment at Wah Tho Ta, enemy suffered (2) killed and (18) wounded including one captain. Our troop captured one G4 rifle and (150) rounds of bullets.

NO. 101 SPECIAL BATTALION.

On 23-1-91 (2) enemy soldiers were killed and (5) wounded by our land mines. On 16/1 and 26/1 our troops attacked enemy at two different places, (4) enemy wounded including one 2nd. lieutenant.

D.A.B. COLUMN

On 16-12-90 and 19-12-90 our D.A.B. troops attacked enemy at Ti Se Baw Khi village and Win Baw village, (5) enemy killed and (7) wounded. Our troops captured one carbine

and (2) AK rifles. On 18-1-91 our No. 14/15 column attacked enemy near Lay Kay village, enemy suffered (2) killed and (4) wounded. Our troops suffered (5) wounded. On 25-1-91 our combined troop engaged with enemy at Ta Ut Khi village, resulting (5) enemy killed including (1) coy commander and (15) wounded. Our troops captured (2) G3 rifles, one carbine, and one generator. On 8-1-91 our troop attacked enemy at Say Paw village, (3) enemy killed and (5) wounded. On 27-1-91 enemy and our troop had an armed clash at Hsaw Hsay Day, enemy suffered (3) killed and (2) wounded. From 11-1-91- to 21-1-91 our troops waged mines warfare against enemy, resulting (5) enemy killed and (24) wounded. On 22-1-91 our troop attacked enemy near Wah Tho Ta, one enemy killed and (4) wounded.

G.H. Q. TROOPS

On 15-11-90 our troop waged mines warfare against enemy near Mar Ku village, (5) enemy killed and (2) wounded. On 5-12-90 our troop attacked enemy No.5 L.I. Bn. at Kan Nyi Naung village, (2) enemy killed and (5) wounded. One was killed from our side. On 11/12 and 12/12 (2) enemy bull dozers were destroyed by our land mines. On 18/12 our tropp attacked enemy near Kyaw Ta Lay Kho village, enemy suffered (4) killed and

(5) wounded and our troop captured one G4 rifle. From 21/12 to 28/12/90 (4) enemy soldiers were killed and (5) wounded and also (8) enemy ration transport trucks were destroyed by our land mines. On 21-1-91 our troop fired heavy weapons into enemy's Lay Kay camp, one Bn. commander, one Bn. 2nd. in command and one captain killed and (6) wounded including one captain, All ration godowns were burnt down. On 22-1-91 our *tijoy* attacked enemy, resulting (1) enemy killed and (2) wounded. On 26-1-91 our troop exploded an enemy bridge. On the same day there was an armed clash between enemy and our troops, in that battle our troop captured (1) G4 rifle, (2) 6.72 mm bullets.

TA DOH WAH COLUMN

On 15-11-90 and 16-11-90, 3 enemy wounded by our land mines. On 30/11 our troop attacked enemy No. 53 regiment twice, enemy suffered one killed and (3) wounded. On 3/12 and 15/12 our troops clashed with enemy at Ti Doh Ta and Et Auk Kyo, enemy suffered (5) killed (11) wounded. On 12/12 our troop attacked enemy at Thay Bar Ta, (2) enemy killed and (3) wounded. On 11.1.91 there was an armed clash between enemy and our troop at Nyaung Dan village, 2 enemy killed and (8) wounded.



Gen. Bo Mya
and family at his
64th Brithday
Anniversary



The (ABYMU) members attending the declaration
Ceremony of the formation of (HCGUB)



Lt.Col.Aye Myint(Bo Sun Hyo)(middle) pose with the
SLORC defectors at Marner Plaw



Students of KNU middle school, Pa Na Aye Per Kho(Papun)
at their usual flag salute



Ministers of National Coalition Government,



Leaders from various National organization and
NLD leaders after forming the (NCGUB)



N.D.P Chairman Saw Maw Reh at the Second Semester
Opening Ceremony of Federal University.