

Burma Alert No.6
(June 1990)

A SALUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

According to the Central Elections Commission, the results of the May 27 elections will be announced "within three weeks of the elections" [F900524]. However, as of May 31, the National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had officially won 57 of the 61 seats [E900601]. Some are even projecting that the NLD will win as many as 420 seats in the 498-seat Pyithu Hludaw. The people of Burma have again very clearly shown that they want freedom from military rule. However, it remains to be seen what General Ne Win will do between now and June 17.

AUSTRALIA, CANADA and the UNITED STATES have called on the military regime in Rangoon to promptly transfer power to the newly elected parliament and to immediately release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Tin Oo, and other political prisoners [U900530 & E900531].

On May 21, the INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW GROUP released a detailed 109-page report on the elections. Their finding was that the electoral process falls short of international standards for free and fair elections. Copies are available for US\$ 10.00 from 1601 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C.20009.

Contrary to expectations, 61 foreign correspondents were, at the last moment, allowed to observe the elections. According to reports, the voting was largely free of manipulation. Opposition spokesmen also confirm that ballots are being counted in the presence of their representatives [AP/SC900530 & E900531].

The people of Burma have taken a very courageous stand. They have demonstrated that they are politically mature and more than ready for full democracy. General Ne Win, General Saw Maung and Brig.Gen. Khin Nyunt must hand over power. There is no excuse.

QUESTIONS:

Since the people have undeniably rejected the military and its National Unity Party (formerly Burma Socialist Program Party), General Saw Maung will have to make at least a symbolic gesture of handing over power to the NLD. But it is very doubtful that Ne Win and his generals will actually give up power unless they are forced to.

Even if the Army really does relinquish power and put itself under the authority of an elected NLD government, what can we expect? Readers wishing to discuss these issues may use the "Burma Alert" as a forum. Some questions:

Will Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and others be released? Or will the Army continue to keep her out of circulation and attempt to split up the NLD into various competing factions each vying for the leadership of the party and the nation?

Will anything change for the majority of the populace? Will the Army continue to be the de facto government in many parts of Burma, especially the minority areas?

Can the civil war be resolved? Will the Democratic Alliance of Burma accept the NLD government? Will the Army allow the NLD to come to terms with the minorities?

What about foreign investors? Will the NLD ratify or cancel the oil, timber and fish concessions? Will the Army allow the NLD to upset their rice bowl?

EDITORIAL:

The "*Burma Alert*" will continue to monitor the situation until the military actually hands over power to the NLD and democracy is truly restored to Burma.

After 28 years of mismanagement, the task facing the NLD is enormous and they will need all the help they can get. All groups should, therefore, accept the choice of the people of Burma and give Daw Aung San Suu Kyi their full support. The elections are just the beginning. We must resist the temptation to divert popular support away from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at this time. A strong majority government will be needed to implement much needed political and economic reforms in Burma. We must not give the Army a 'law and order' excuse to again seize power as in 1962.

For their part, the NLD must not ignore or leave out the Democratic Alliance of Burma and the minorities when they draft a new constitution or amend the 1947 constitution. The Army will not be in favour of such a move but the NLD has the people's mandate to restore peace and prosperity to Burma. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has the goodwill of the minority and dissident groups fighting the Ne Win regime. Handled carefully, the new constitution could be a unique opportunity to end the 42-year civil war.

Once the resistance forces agree to cease hostilities, civilian authorities will be able to replace Burma Army units in current combat areas. This will extend the reach of the civilian government and immediately reduce tensions in minority areas.

An open economy will provide new opportunities for the people. They will no longer need to join the Army to make a living or take up arms against the government to survive. Controls are necessary only to ensure proper conservation measures.

Even in the sensitive area of autonomy and 'official' languages, much can be achieved without coercion and the force of arms.

If only Ne Win and his generals would let go, there is much to hope for. We must, therefore, continue our efforts for the time being.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA:

In the meanwhile, in early May, 250 Burmese expatriates and friends from Australia, Burma, Canada, West Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States met in Nagoya, Japan to form the INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA (INDB).

INDB believes that national unity can be achieved in Burma only by building a union on democratic principles with equality for all nationalities.

Officers are: Dr. Tun Aye (Japan) - Central Coordinator
U Khin Nyo (U.S.A.) - Central Coordinating Secretary
U Kin Oung - Coordinator, Australia
U Moe Thi Zun - Coordinator, Burma
U Kyaw Min - Coordinator, Canada
U Nwe Aung (W.Germany) - Coordinator, E.C.
U Kyaw Oo (Taiwan) - Coordinator, Far East
Dr. Win Naing - Coordinator, Japan
Sai Tun (Thailand) - South East Asia
U Ba Thaung (Washington, D.C.) - Coordinator, U.S.A.

INDB can be contacted through Dr. Tun Aye, 4-1-15 Hiratsuka, Hiratsuka shi, Kanaga ken, Japan. Tel: 81 (463) 34-5536 and Fax: 81 (463) 34-8236.

AUSTRIA:

*IAEG Austria (see "Alert No.1"): Full name - I.A.E.G. Finanzierungsvermittlungsgesellschaft M.B.H. Dr. Mirko Kovats was the person who signed the hotel contract [P891031]. However, unconfirmed reports say IAEG has pulled out of Burma.

CANADA:

*Petro-Canada (see "Alert No.1") paid a C\$ 6 million (US\$ 5 million) signing bonus to the Myanmar regime for its oil exploration contract and it will invest C\$ 22 million (US\$ 20 million) in the project [CBC900529]. The Minister responsible for Petro-Canada is the Honourable Jake Epp, Minister for Energy, Mines & Resources, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6, Canada.

Petro-Canada officers are: William H. Hopper, Q.C., Chairman & Chief Executive Officer; Edward M. Lakusta, President & Chief Operating Officer; James M. Stanford, President, Petro-Canada Resources Division, P.O.Box 2844, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 3E3, Canada. Tel: 1 (403) 296-8000, Fax: 1 (403) 296-3030, Telex: 03825753.

FRANCE:

ESSILOR CO. spectacles and accessories are now being sold at the newly opened Myanmar Optical Shop at 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Rangoon. It is owned by the Ministry of Trade (Medicines and Medical Equipment Trading). Claude Jaeck of Essilor and Managing Director of BANGKOK OPTICAL DISTRIBUTION and S.K. Sansern, Chairman of Optical Association (Thailand) were present at the opening [P900105].

FEDERATION OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES (FIEE) Chairman Paul Roger Sallebert opened a 3-day seminar given by 17 French companies on electrical equipment and communications in Rangoon [P900124].

RENAULT is supplying 200 passenger buses for public transport in Rangoon. The first 51 buses arrived on the MV Sagaing on Jan 26 [P900128-31].

HONG KONG:

TSIN YUEN ENTERPRISES LTD. formed a joint-venture, Myanmar Chan (H.K.) Limited, with the Myanmar regime. It will engage in "production, assembling, distribution, retail and wholesale trading, exporting, importing, and general trading of commodities". 60% of the Kyat 15 million (US\$ 2 million) equity is held by Tsin Yuen whose Managing Director is Chan Yuen Chiu [P900115].

VALUE INDUSTRIES LIMITED formed a joint-venture, Yangon Garment Manufacturing Company Limited, with Myanma Textile Industries. 60% of the Kyat 11 million (US\$ 1.5 million) equity is held by Value Industries whose M.D. is Peng Kai Man [P900202].

JAPAN:

*IDEMITSU OIL DEVELOPMENT CO. (see "Alert No.1 & 5") opened its office at Padonmar Yeiktha, No.16(B) Thukhawaddy Road, Rangoon [P900216].

SINGAPORE:

Lee Kuan Yew admits trade ties but says no credit is extended to Burma [F900531].

ACE PRESSUREWELD INTERNATIONAL (PTE.) LTD. formed a joint-venture, Myanmar-ACE Metal Industries Company Ltd., with the Ministry of No.1 Industry. It will engage in "the production and marketing of steel products and steel fabrication and ship breaking". 45% of the Kyat 1.6 million (US\$ 0.2 million) equity is held by ACE Pressureweld whose Director is Kwan Kai Phang [P900215].

CENTURY MOTORS (S) PTE. LTD. formed a joint-venture, Myanmar Motor Limited, with the Ministry of Trade. It will engage in "carrying out production and services including establishment of motor workshops of international standard for reconditioning and assembly of used motor vehicles, procurement of brand new vehicles, selling them locally and abroad, and agency business". 60% of the Kyat 25 million (US\$ 3.5 million) equity is held by Century Motors whose Managing Director is Alan Tan. Myanmar Motors' office is located at 23 Alanpya Paya Road, Rangoon [P900117].

MOTIWALLA ENTERPRISE PTE. LTD. is supplying "foodstuffs, textile, consumer goods, stationary, electronic and electrical goods ... electro audio visual equipment" on a consignment basis to the Myanma Department Store at No.181/189 Sule Pagoda Road (Ground Floor), Rangoon [P900206].

SWEDEN:

*FORENADE FABRIKSVERKEN (FFV) (see "Alert No.1") Address is: Forsvarets Fabriksverk (FFV), S 631 87 Eskilstuna, Sweden.

THAILAND:

CHAITANA KARN LTD.PARTNERSHIP has a 2-year logging concession (No.008-FD-89) in the Kyauk Ku Taung area, Tenasserim Division [G891201 & D900101].

CHOON SIN INTERNATIONAL CO. LTD. has a 2-year logging concession (No.010-FD-89) in the Kyauk Taung area, Tenasserim Div., near Sangkalaburi [G891201, D900101 & PB891116].

CHOKEPANYA CO. LTD. has a 2-year logging concession (No.015-D-89) in the Klong Katung area, Tenasserim Division, opposite Chumpol [G891201, D900401 & PB891116].

KHUN THONG SAWMILLS has a logging concession (No.018-FD-89) in the Yegan Taung area, Tenasserim Division, opposite Rajburi. It is part of the BENJASIRIWAN SAWMILLS group owned by the Teng Seng family. Udom Thienghong, a family member is Deputy Minister of Agriculture and M.P. from Prachaub Khiri Khan [C891224, D900401 & PB891116].

N & M CO. LTD. has a logging concession (No.006-FD-89) in the Chima area, Tenasserim Division, between Kanchanburi and Rajburi [C891224, D900401 & PB891116].

P.M.T. CO. LTD. has a logging concession (No.004-FD-89) in the Amya area, Tenasserim Division, south of Kanchanaburi [G891201, D900401 & PB891116].

U. S. A.

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP. held a seminar on computer technology in Rangoon at the IAS Auditorium, 504/506 Merchant Street, Rangoon. Speakers were: Chris Harney, President of Arvin International, Lars Matsson of Digital Equipment and Peter Chan, Channel Marketing Manager, Far East Region, Digital Equipment [P900217].

*UNOCOL (see "Alert No.1"). Address of Union Oil Co. is: Mr. John F. Imle, Jr., Senior Vice-President, UNOCOL Corp., P.O.Box 7600, 1201 West 5th. St., Los Angeles, CA.90061, U.S.A.

SOURCES: [AP/SC900530] AP/S China Morning Post [C891224] Poojatkarn, Bangkok
[CBC900529] CBC-TV, Fifth Estate [D900101] ABSDF Document
[E900601] External Affairs Canada [F900524] FEER, Hong Kong
[G891201] Myanmar Govt. Document [P900106] Working People's Daily
[PB891116] People's Business(Thai) [U900530] United States Govt.

Fax: 1 (819) 647-2068, Attention: Harn Yawnghe, R.R.4, Shawville, Quebec.