

BURMA ALERT No.3 (Vol.2, March 1991)

Burma News:

MORE PARLIAMENTARIANS DIE IN PRISON

On Jan.31, the STATE LAW AND ORDER RESTORATION COUNCIL (SLORC) announced that U TIN MAUNO WIN, the NLD Member of Parliament for Kayan (2), Rangoon, died of leukemia in Insein Jail on Jan.18. Diplomats say that he was middle-aged and had no obvious health problems when he was arrested last October. On Feb.16, SLORC announced that U MAUNO MAUNG GYI, the NLD MP for Kyauktada (2), Pegu died the previous week in Insein Jail. Cause of death was not given. Another NLD leader, U MAUNG KO, 52, who was arrested at about the same time, died under torture in Insein last November. SLORC said he committed suicide (*Alert No.1/2*). U NAY MIN, 60, a well-known novelist and local correspondent of the Japanese newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*, also died in Insein last November. He was arrested last year because SLORC felt his reporting was too sympathetic to the NLD. SLORC said U NAY MIN died of cirrhosis of the liver.

NLD FORMED IN LIBERATED AREA

In Feb.1991, members of the NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (NLD) who have joined Dr. SEIN WIN'S NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA (NCGUB) in Manerplaw (*Alert Mo.1/2 & 2/2*) established a party Central Organization Committee (COC) for the NLD in the Liberated Area. COC members are:

Chairman:	Dr. SEIN WIN	NCGUB Prime Minister
General Secretary:	U WIN KHET	NLD Central Committee Member
	U MAUNG MAUNG AYE	NLD MP for Mandalay North-East
	U THEIN OO	NCGUB Justice Minister
	Dr. SANN AUNG	Independent MP for Inga (2)
	U AUNG SAW OO	NLD party official
	U THAN HTUT	NLD party official
	U MYINT MAUNG	NLD Member of Parliament
	U YAN AUNG	NLD party official

ANTI-MILITARY DICTATORSHIP COMMITTEE FORMED

On Feb.22, the Central Executive Committee of the DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE OF BURMA (DAB) and the COC of the NLD (Liberated Area) dissolved the DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF BURMA (*Alert No. 1/2*) and formed the ANTI-MILITARY DICTATORSHIP NATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE (AMDNSC) in order to include other non-DAB and non-NLD groups fighting the military junta in Rangoon. Current members of the AMDNSC are:

Chairman:	General BO MYA	DAB Chairman
General Secretary:	U WIN KHET	NLD COC General Secretary
Joint Gen. Sect:	U MOE THEE ZUN	ALL BURMA STUDENTS DEMOCRATIC FRONT (ABSDF)
	BRANG SENG	KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION (KIO)
	NAI SHWE KYIN	NEW MON STATE PARTY (NMSP)
	General THWIN	PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC PARTY (PPP)
	Pado SAW THAN AUNG	KAREN NATIONAL UNION (KNU)
	U YE KYAW THU	COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA (CRM)
	U THEIN OO	NCGUB Justice Minister/HLD COC
	U MAUNG MAUNG AYE	NLD COC
	U TUN OO	NCGUB Minister for Social Welfare & labour
	U AUNG SAW OO	NLD COC
	U THAN HTUT	NLD COC
	U MYINT AUNG	NLD

International News :

AUSTRALIA:

The "*BURMA NEWS LETTER*" published by the Overseas Burmese Liberation Front for the Overseas Burmese Democratic Community has become a bi-monthly publication as of January 1991 in order to cover wider political issues. The newsletter objective is to "*create international awareness of the atrocities caused by the ruling dictatorial military junta*". Address: P.O.Box 325, Mount Lawley, W.A.6050, Australia.

CANADA:

Over one hundred people attended the seminar - "*Burma: Obstacles to Development*" in Ottawa (Feb.28-Mar.1) which was sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Burma and the Canadian Council of International Cooperation. Participants included the American Baptists, Amnesty International, Associates to Develop Democratic Burma, Burma-Cahada Association, BurmaWatch International, Burmese Relief Centre, Canada PeaceFund, Canadian Council of Churches, Canadian International Development Agency, Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Ministry of External Affairs, Carter Center, Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in Burma, Democratic Alliance of Burma, Friends of the Rainforest, International Centre for Human Rights & Democratic Development, International Network for Democracy in Burma, International PEN, Kachin Independence Organization, Kachinland Foundation, Karen National Union, Law Union of Ontario, Moral Re-Armament Canada, National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, Overseas Burma Foundation, Project Maje, Quaker Peace & Service, U.S. Student Environmental Action Coalition, Y.M.C.A. Canada, and the United States of Burma Relief Committee.

SWEDEN :

U PETER LIMBIN, NOGUB Foreign Minister. Dr. EN MARTA, DAB Foreign Secretary and Dr. TNAUNG HTUN, ABSDF Foreign Secretary, met with senior officials of the Swedish Foreign Office on Feb.14. They spoke at the Institute of International Affairs and U PETER LIMBIN was interviewed by Radio Gothemburg and Asien Anifran, a magazine on SE Asia. They also met with Amnesty International, Swedish Free Churches Relief Organization, Swedish Mission Council Office for International Development and Cooperation, and Friends of the Earth (Sweden) [CRDB/INDB/GBA910316].

SWITZERLAND :

In Feb. U PETER LIMBIN, Dr. EM MARTA and Dr. THAUNG HIUN attended the 47th session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. They met with representatives from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, USA, USSR, Ukrainian SSR, Commission of the European Communities, Friends of the Earth International, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, International Commission of Jurists, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Human Rights Law Group, International Indigenous Commission, International Labour Organization, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Pax Romana, MI High Commission for Refugees, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, World Conference on Religion and Peace and World University Service [CRDB/INDB/GBA].

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

In Dec.90/Jan.91, Dr. HOWARD HU and Dr. KYAW WIN of the Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) visited Burma to interview witnesses of SLORC's violations of medical neutrality. Founded in 1986, PHR is an independent, non-partisan organization whose goal is to bring the skills of the medical profession to the protection of human rights. Copies of the team's report can be obtained from: 58 Day St., Suite 202, Somerville, MA.02144, USA. Tel: 1 (617) 623-1930, Fax: 623-7234.

The "*BURMA BULLETIN*" published bi-monthly by Dr. KYAW WIN since 1973 is available from: P.O.Box 2292, Costa Mesa, CA.92628-2292, USA. The *Bulletin* is dependent on reader donations to defray costs. Comments, letters and articles are welcome.

United Nations Update:

U.K. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NEW YORK

The Permanent Representative of Panama has brought the human rights situation in Burma and SLORC's refusal to recognize the will of the people to the attention of the Secretary-General, and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. It will be discussed at the 46th session of the General Assembly in Sep.91 under the item entitled "*Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections*". A letter from the ALL BURMA FEDERATION OF STUDENT UNIONS on Chapter 1, Article 2, Paragraph 7 of the Charter of the United Nations stimulated the action.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, GENEVA

At the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Feb.91, Australia, Austria, Canada, the European Community, India, Japan, Sweden, and the USA condemned SLORC for its serious human rights violations. Professor SADAOKO OGATA, the Independent Expert appointed by the Commission in 1990 to investigate Burma tabled a report. Excerpts:

VISIT TO MYANMAR - The Independent Expert's repeated request to meet with detained or restrained leaders of the NLD, including ... U TIN OO and Daw AUNG SAN SUU KYI, were turned down. So were her requests to meet with ex-Prime Minister U NU, said to be restrained, as well as her requests to visit prisons and other detention facilities.

PERSONAL FREEDOMS - In spite of the Government's affirmation that peace and tranquillity has now been restored ... and that law and order now prevails, it is evident that the restrictions on personal freedoms have not been lifted and that the situation adversely affects a large number of people in all walks of life. A curfew is still imposed in the cities ... No outdoor gatherings are permitted ... It was explained ... by a Government Minister that there were no restrictions on freedom of expression except those provided by law. He candidly recognized, however, that criticism of the government was a violation of the law if that criticism was more than slight. In that context, he explained, no one was arrested or detained for expressing an opinion, unless the expression constituted a transgression of the law.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS - An issue of special concern is the timing of the transfer of power from the military to a democratically elected government. The Independent Expert was repeatedly assured that SLORC is devoid of any political ambition and is ready to hand over power to a strong and stable civilian government. The Myanmar authorities, however, could not provide her any time table for the transfer of power. Instead, they presented a (four step) procedural framework. Apart from the first step of accounting by the Election Commission and the work of the Election Tribunals, the Independent Expert could not detect any preparation for the succeeding steps to follow. The continued detention and imprisonment of NLD members are extremely worrying as they undermine the bases of the very political parties that should actively contribute to the process outlined by the authorities ... The formation of a democratically elected government is of central importance to the promotion and protection of human rights ... The opening of the universities would also appear to be a crucial step towards restoring the normal life of Myanmar society, a step which must be regarded by the people of Myanmar as long overdue.

The Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution strengthening the mandate of the Independent Expert and called for SLORC to:

- a) take steps to accelerate the transition to democracy, in particular the convening of the parliament elected in May 1990,
- b) lift the internment and interdiction measures affecting political leaders,
- c) permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit prisons and detention facilities to verify prison conditions, and
- d) become a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and other main human rights treaties.

Foreign Investments:

BRITAIN:

ASIA SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. LTD.. 33.3% owned by CABLE & WIRELESS leased 1.25 transponders on its ASIASAT 1 satellite to SLORC (see CHINA below).

CHINA:

A 10-man delegation headed by Xu Quan-Sheng, YUNNAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, called on Brig.Gen. DAVID ABEL, Minister for Planning & Finance, and Trade [P9101U].

A delegation headed by Wu Zhong-Ning, Division Chief of the YUNNAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE arrived on Jan.23. They called on U OHN GYAW, Political Director General of the Foreign Ministry. They studied the Rangoon-Syriam Bridge Project and also visited Mandalay, Myitkyina, Lashio, Pyin-Oo-Lwin and Pegu [P910124-26].

Luo Gan, General Secretary of the COUNCIL OF STATE, leading a 6-man delegation arrived by *Tradewind Airlines (*Alert No.9 6 11 - Singapore*). The delegation visited the Rangoon-Syriam Bridge Project [P910129-31].

ASIA SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. LTD. leased 1.25 transponders on its ASIASAT 1 satellite to SLORC for US\$ 1.6 million per annum. One transponder will be used for the national television channel and the 0.25 transponder will be used for telephone services. ASIASAT 1 was launched on April 7, 1990, by a Long March III rocket from Xichang, Sichuan province, China. *Asia Satellite* is owned by CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRUST AND INVESTMENT CORP. (CITIC). HUTCHISON WHAMPOA (see below) of Hong Kong and CABLE AND WIRELESS (see above) of Britain [A900420 & F900614].

CITIC is a business conglomerate owned by China with more than US\$ 2 billion invested in Hong Kong. It owns 12.5% of Cathay Pacific Airlines, 50% of China Investment & Finance Co., 50% of Citic Walbro (car parts), 65% of Concordia Paper, 38% of Dragonair, 24.5% of Eastern Harbour Crossing, 33.3% of Hongkong Petrochemical, 20% of Hongkong Telecommunications, 10% of Hutchison Cablevision, 95% of Ka Wah Bank and 20% of Telecommunicacoes de Macau. In Australia, *Citic* has a 10% stake in the largest aluminium refinery in Victoria. In Canada, *Citic* owns 50% of a pulp mill in British Columbia. CITIC Industrial Bank lent US\$17 million to the consortium building the English Channel tunnel. In Thailand, Thai-CITIC Machinery Co. assembles cars in Bangkok with Chinese-made chassis. In the U.S.A., Clitfor in Seattle has since 1984, been harvesting US\$90 million worth of fir logs every year. *CITIC* also owns 70% of Citisteel, a steel mill in Delaware [A900309].

On Jan.29, 1991, Lt.Gen. TIN TUN, Minister for Transport & Communications, Social Welfare, and Labour, inaugurated the main satellite ground station for ASIASAT 1 at Toegyaun-galay, Dagon Myothit (South). Lt.Gen. TIN TUN said that materials from China were used and that the satellite system which cost Kyat 165.9 million (US\$ 28 Million) was initiated on May 14,1990. Satellite ground stations were opened at Haka (Chin State) and Myitkyina (Kachin State) on Jan.4 and in Rangoon, Kale, Kengtung & Tachilek (Eastern Shan State), Myelk and Kawthoung (Tenasserim) on Jan.28. More ground stations were opened in February in Bhamo (Kachin State), Muse & Lashio (Northern Shan State), Myawaddy (Kawthoolei State) and Hkamti [P910109,30].

New telephone exchanges were opened on Jan.4 at Ayadaw (Sagaing), on Jan.5 at Myohla (Yedashe, Pegu), on Jan.12 at Tabayin (Sagaing), and on Jan.24 at Sale (Chauk, Magwe) [P910105,08,13,25]. *It is not clear whether these are part of the satellite project or part of the Japanese project (below). The two could well be related - Ed.*

HONG KONG:

ASIA SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. LTD.. 33.3% owned by HUTCHISON WHAMPOA which is owned by billionaire Li Ka Shing, leased 1.25 transponders on its ASIASAT 1 satellite to SLORC for US\$ 1.6 million per annum (see CHINA above).

JAPAN:

An evaluation team from the JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGENCY called on Col. PB THEIN, Minister for Health, and Education [P910112].

M. Kouno, Director of the South-East Asia Division, FOREIGN MINISTRY, called on Maj.Gen. KHIM NYUNT, Secretary (1) of the SLORC [P910125].

The »JAPAN BURMA ASSOCIATION (*Alert No.5 - Japan Burma Cooperation Association*) that pressured the Japanese government in Feb.89 to recognize SLORC, include:

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| 1. * <u>DAIMARU</u> (<i>Alert #11</i>), Dept. Store | 9. * <u>MITSUMI BUSSAN</u> (<i>Alert #5</i>), Trading Co. |
| 2. <u>HINO</u> | 10. <u>MITSUBISHI SEKIYU</u> , Oil Co. |
| 3. <u>KANEMATSU KOHSHO</u> , Trading Co. | 11. * <u>MITSUBISHI SHOJI</u> (<i>Alert # 5</i>), Trading |
| 4. <u>KASHIMA KENSETSU</u> , Construction Co. | 12. <u>MITSUBISHI JUKON</u> , Heavy Industry |
| 5. <u>KINSHO MATAICHI</u> , Trading Co. | 13. <u>NIHON KOHKAN (NKK Corp)</u> |
| 6. <u>KUBOTA</u> | 14. <u>NISSHO IWAI</u> , Trading Co. |
| 7. <u>MATSUDA</u> | 15. <u>SUMITOMO SHOJI</u> , Trading Co. |
| 8. <u>MATSUSHITA</u> | 16. <u>TOHMEN</u> , Trading Co. |

President of the *Japan Burma Association* is Yoshiko Ohtaka, a Member of the House of Councilors. Vice-President is Kenji Ueda. *Association* members had contracted for projects worth Yen 66 billion (US\$440 million) and as of the end of Jan.89, Yen 37 billion (US\$247 million) was still incomplete. With the recognition of SLORC, the projects were resumed. These included:

Loan Projects:

Alcohol Plant, Bilin
Baluchauhg Hydroelectric Plant, Loikaw
4 Projects by 12, 6, 7 & 8
South Nawin Irrigation Project
Sugar Plant, Yedashe
Airport Expansion Project, Rangoon
National Railway Project, Rangoon
Rice Bran Plant, Insein
Sodim Hydroxide Plant, Kyaiklat
Gas Turbo-Electric Power Plant, Rangoon

Grant Projects:

Drinking Water Project, Mandalay
Food Production Assistance Project
Material for Navy Training Centre
Seed & Plant Centre, Pyinmana
Equipment for Seed & Plant Centre
Forestry Development Centre, Hmawbi
Equipment for Forestry Development Centre
Telephone Switchboards for 8 cities
(see *CHINA* above - *ASIASAT 1*)

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs):

An ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY delegation headed by Maitland Dipinto called on Col. PE THEIN, Minister for Health, and Education [P910129].

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS & INSTITUTIONS President Dr. Hans-Peter Geh and General Secretary Dr. Paul Nauta, called on Col. PE THEIN [P910129].

New Delhi-based INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE Regional Director Dominique Dufour, called on Col. PE THEIN, Minister for Health, and Education [P910119].

SOURCES [A900420] Asiaweek [F900614] Far Eastern Economic Review
(this [P910124] Working Peoples Daily, Rangoon
issue): [CRDB/INDB/GBA910316] Joint News Communique from the Committee to Restore
Democracy in Burma, the International Network for Democracy in Burma
and the German-Burmese Association.

The "Burma Alert" is published monthly by the Associates to Develop Democratic Burma (ADDB). The ADDB monitors foreign investment and trade with Burma to provide the Burmese democracy movement with data for their campaigns against the military dictatorship in Rangoon. Subscription Fee is US\$ 25.00 for 1991 payable to ADDB.

Seminar:

THE PATH TO PEACE

The seminar: *"Burma - Obstacles to Development"* held in Ottawa, Feb.28-Mar.1, 1991, concluded that economic development in Burma is not possible as long as the military remains in power. It was recommended that Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) wanting to help Burma develop, should consider recognizing and working with the NCUB all an alternative to working with SLORC. MARAN BRANG SENG, KIO Chairman and DAB 1st Vice Chairman who spoke at the seminar made the following observations:

We believe that the following steps must be taken if peace and democracy are to be restored to Burma and if national reconciliation and healing are to take place:

1. *There can be no peace or development without bringing about a peaceful settlement to the 43-year old civil war.*

International intervention is urgently needed and absolutely essential to ensure:

- a) *a nationwide cease-fire,*
- b) *a return to barracks of all troops,*
- c) *the release of all political prisoners,*
- d) *the resumption of national level dialogue and negotiations to discuss and resolve political differences.*

2. *There can be no lasting peace and stability if any indigenous group or political organization is selectively disenfranchised from full participation in the formation of a Union Government.*

International support is needed for the establishment of a multi-party democratic government representative of all the peoples of Burma. Towards this end, we urge the international community to support the speedy transfer of power to the elected representatives of the May 27, 1990 elections.

3. *The present military regime (SLORC) can no longer claim to have the popular support of the people of Burma.*

It is our hope that the international community will increase political and economic pressure and stop all supplies for domestic arms production, military equipment and arms to SLORC until a truly representative government is Installed.

4. *When peace and democracy have finally been restored, Burma will have to be rebuilt from the bottom up and its precious natural resources will be needed for the task.*

We call on our friends to support measures by their respective governments to curtail all economic cooperation involving exploitation and extraction of Burma's natural resources.

5. *The drug problem is going to get worse if the civil war is not brought to an end.*

The two problems are related. We are not optimistic about cooperative efforts between international narcotics-control agencies and SLORC whose sole interest appears to be to generate as much income as possible by dealing with both the drug producers and those wanting to suppress the narcotics trade.

The opinions expressed above may not necessarily be those of the ADDB. Articles to facilitate dialogue will be published periodically in the "Burma Alert". Readers are encouraged to submit articles of less than a thousand words.

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