



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



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

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GENERAL BO MYA, PRESIDENT OF KAWTHOOLEI

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT GEN. BO MYA



It is to my profound delight that this KNU Bulletin has come into existence as an organ of news in English. We have made known our revolutionary efforts through periodicals and statements written mainly in Karen and Burmese. This leaves it quite difficult for the out-side world to know about our national struggle.

Since AFPPL regime down to the present BSPP military rule, our enemy has undertaken to destroy us through brutal suppression using his military might and by deceits through distortion of news and slanders.

In order that the world may know about our revolution, we have been in need of such a media in English. Hence, it is my earnest desire that through this Bulletin the whole world may come to know the truth about the ideals and activities of our national struggle. I also wish that all those who cherish truth and honesty will stand firm together in good will, while contributing to the functioning of this Bulletin.

My best wishes are due to all the staff and readers for success, health and happiness, and hope that the Bulletin may grow to fulfil its aim of conveying the truth about us to the world.

(Bo Mya)

President

Date : November 4, 1985.

Karen National Union, Kawthoolei

A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is a great joy for us to be able to publish a new KNU Bulletin in English.

One of the primary factors to promote advancement for a nation lies in its literature and news communications. We Karens had once attained certain achievements in this aspect through our newspaper "THE MORNING STAR" (HSA TU GAW) printed in Karen and English languages starting from the year 1841. This was the first Karen news medium and the earliest one of its kind in Burma.

During the British rule in Burma, there had been a number of Karen newspapers and magazines. But after Burma gained her independence, the numbers dwindled due to strict and suppressive governmental measures. After Ne Win assumed power, even "The Morning Star" the first Karen and the earliest native news medium in Burma was forced to close down.

News media is one of the means of communicating to people at home and abroad. In the course of our revolution we had endeavoured to publish news periodicals from time to time but they were mostly in Karen and Burmese. Because of the absence of our news media in English, the entire truth about our revolution and ideals cannot be made known to the world up to this day. On the other hand, the Burmese Government, in possession of quite efficient mass media is in the position to spread false propaganda with deliberate lies to discredit and vilify us.

Our present endeavour to issue this KNU Bulletin is to make known to the other nations of the world the realities about our national struggle for freedom and human rights.

We realise the short-comings in this first issue of our KNU Bulletin. However, it is our ardent wish that this bulletin will convey nothing but THE TRUTH and that it may earn encouragements and support from well-wishers for the progress of both this Bulletin and the Karen Revolution.

STATEMENT OF KNU - KAREN NATIONAL UNION, 9TH CONGRESS
7TH CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

1. The 7th Central Standing Committee meeting of the Karen National Union was held at the KNU Supreme Headquarters from 19-8-85 to 10-9-85. The meeting discussed the various current situations: and after reviewing their works and laying down their future line, put forth the following statement in accordance with the wishes of the oppressed people and the whole country.
2. The so called Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma today is collectively inhabited and owned by the Kachins, Karens, Karennis, Chins, Paos, Palaungs, Was, Lahus, Mons, Burmese, Arakanese, Shans, etc. Though Burma gained its independence in 1948, the successive rulers from AFPFL to BSPP, with their chauvinistic policies, employed reactionary political, economic, racial and military practices, resulting in the civil war to last for over 36 years and the peoples of the whole country are writhing in agony, under the rigors and devastations of the civil war.
3. At present, Ne Win BSPP military government has plunged the civil war into deep mire by oppressing the masses of the people politically, exploiting them economically, subjugating and absorbing the indigenous races racially and attacking them militarily. The lines of their efforts are :-

(a) Politically:-

With the military at their back, they seize the political power, disband all other political parties to set up their mono-party BSPP, confiscate all news agencies and publication concerns though shouting to respect and work for the welfares of the people, brutally massacred the innocent students and masses thus wantonly shedding innocent blood to flow in streams. After 1973, although they nominally change their organs to Peoples Government, Peoples Council, Peoples Army, their policies, actions and leaders are the same as before. With totalitarian and military dictatorship they oppressed and killed the masses through force, swindle them and hoodwink them leaving no democratic rights for the people.

(b) Economically:-

From the very time they seized power, they exploited the people in various ways, by confiscating all the country's economic enterprises to set up State Monopoly Capitalism. Today, because of the BSPP government policy of " payment of dutiful paddy and growing of project crops " the 80% of the country's population who are farmers have to sell all their belongings including their catties, their lands are confiscated rendering them landless, insolvent and starving. Likewise, the urban people are facing economic chaos because all their enterprises were destroyed and with the scarcity of consumers goods and the spiralling prices, they find it extremely hard to make ends meet. Unemployment has risen and black market trade and goods seep all over the land. Only BSPP and council members and military officers are getting rich, while the masses of the people are miserably exploited of their enterprises and their labour.

(c) Racially:-

Clinging firmly to the policy of Burmese chauvinism they muffle the basic birth rights of the indigenous races and absorb them of their cultures and traditions. Despite their shoutings of national unity, they ignore the

equality of races, and they are systematically trying to make the whole country become Burmese through their wily unscrupulous absorption and assimilation schemes.

(d) Militarily:-

They declare to crush and exterminate root and all, those they call insurgents and saboteurs, and they have issued all out order of "kill all, burn all, destroy all" and this brutal order has been ruthlessly carried out by their military officers in the battle field.

They press-gang the people country wide and force them to become army porters in their military operations and these porters suffer from inhuman treatments - the weak and sick have been ruthlessly killed, these porters are made to become human mine-sweepers and many are maimed and many perish.

Again, with no other source of livelihood available, many honest and innocent people carrying black-market goods are robbed of their cash and properties and are cruelly shot and killed en-masse by the BSPP troops.

Because of the above-mentioned atrocities of Ne Win BSPP Military regime, national unity and peace and progress cannot be achieved, resulting in the indefinite prolongation of the country's civil war.

4. For the unity among all the indigenous races and for the establishment of a long-lasting peace in the country, the KNU-Karen National Union has the following basic tendencies and viewpoints:-

(1) We sincerely and honestly desire and welcome the unity among all the indigenous peoples of the country.

We are absolutely not narrow-racists, insurgents or saboteurs as Ne Win BSPP military regime has falsely accused us. We had peacefully asked for our lost privileges of self determination through peaceful means. In addition to utter rejection of our just demands, those rulers in power attacked and oppressed us and as a last resort, we were naturally compelled to resist and fight in self defense and for our lost legacy of the right of self-determination. So long as there is oppression, we accept no alternative but to resist and fight effectively to the victorious end.

(2) We firmly believe that only with the establishment of the unity of the indigenous races can a long-lasting internal peace be established and the liberation of all the people from the present tragic existence be feasible.

(3) Our firm conviction is that, only with the establishment of a genuine Union of Federal Republics, based on equality and self-determination can a genuine national unity and long lasting internal peace be worked out.

Under prevailing circumstances, therefore, if Ne Win BSPP Military regime should have sincere and honest desire for the national unity of all indigenous races and thereupon, the longevity of internal peace, the BSPP should resolve the issues with the revolutionary forces fighting for their national liberation, through political means.

Central Standing Committee

September 10, 1985

KNU

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Karen National Union

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (NDF)
(BURMA)

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE 4TH ANNUAL PRESIDIUUM MEETING

The 4th annual presidium meeting of the National Democratic Front (NDF), was held successfully at its headquarters from September 30, to October 11, 1985. All members of the (NDF) except Palaung State Liberation Organization (PSLO), attended the meeting. Due to communication difficulty (PSLO), failed to participate in this meeting.

All members attending the meeting had made beneficial and meaningful discussions frankly in the spirit of the (NDF). Discussions were made on the current situations both on internal and external affairs and the following decisions were made unanimously.

One significant feature of this meeting is the application of Lahu National Organization (LNO), to gain membership in the (NDF). Through their previous bitter experiences the Lahu leaders become well aware that only by means of the (NDF), can they liberate their nation. Hence, they escaped from the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) government's camp and endeavored to join hands again with other brother indigenous Nationalities under the banner of the (NDF).

During the meeting all participants agreed to improve their political and military activities a step forward. All members gained better understanding and able to promote their co-operation and co-ordination. The (NDF) is gaining solid mass support, foreign sympathy and attention simultaneously. The working plans and programmes laid down by the 3rd annual presidium meeting were practised. The (NDF) regular forces and regional forces were successfully synchronised and mobilized.

The (NDF) opposes narrow nationalism as well as chauvinism and simultaneously rejects separatism. It is merely struggling for liberty, equality and social progress of all the indigenous races inhabiting Burma. Though the indigenous races claimed to gain their fundamental human rights through peaceful means, the successive Burmese government rendered innumerable measures of suppression and atrocious military operation. The ruthless civil war of Burma, therefore is still existing.

In case a problem is solved by means of suppression it must be countered by bold resistance. Accordingly, the protracted civil war has clearly proved that the (BSPP) government cannot solve a political problem by suppression and inhuman military operations. The (NDF) believes that a political solution is the only

means to achieve lasting peace and National unity. Thus, the aim and object of the (NDF), to establish a Genuine Federal Union can be fulfilled. The Burmese would also join the Federal Union on the basis of equality with other indigenous races. The (NDF) is preparing to draft a constitution of the said Federal Union.

The armed struggle of all the indigenous ethnic groups is a peculiarity of Burma's internal affairs. As it is a political problems there is no alternative way to solve it except by political means. The (NDF) is formed by all of the indigenous ethnic revolutionary forces of Burma. They are unified both politically and militarily under the banner of the (NDF). The (NDF), however, sincerely believes that the ethnical strife of the so called Burma, today, can only be solved by political means.

The (NDF), hereby, sincerely proclaims that it always desire and welcome to establish National Unity and peace.

- Down with psuedo-union of Burma Socialist Programme Party.
- The genuine Federal Union must surely emerge.
- The National Democratic Front must win.

Central Presidium
National Democratic Front
Burma

October 11, 1985

A WORD OF THANKS

We would like to express our heart-felt gratitude to our friends near and far and our brethren, the overseas Karens, for their ardent encouragement and good wishes for the successful publication of the KNU Bulletin.

Without their encouragement, we might have taken a second thought and delayed the publication.

We earnestly hope to go on receiving their support and encouragement in the future as well.

Editors & Staff
KNU Bulletin

A SUMMARY OF 37 YEARS OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Karens are a simple and peaceful nation. To many historians, they are the earliest settlers in the country now known as Burma. Down through history, they had been subjugated and persecuted by succeeding settlers - the Burmese.

When the British occupied Burma and the rule of law and order was introduced, the Karens began to have a breathing spell. They once more enjoyed their long aspired rights to live and work peacefully. During this short period, the Karens had been able to make great progress in almost every field excelling in education, athletics and music. This earned them the deep prejudice and hatred of the Burmese people. At the out-break of the Second World War, the Burma Independence Army ushering in the Japanese, unleashed its full fury on the helpless Karen civilians. This incident closely resembled the Jew Holocaust in Hitler's Germany.

Their bitter experiences through out history had awakened in the Karens a realization that without a country of their own, they would never be able to enjoy a life of peace, progress and prosperity. Soon after the Second World War, the Karens who had always been loyal to the British crown, made their case for a Karen state known to the British Government which, however, urged the Karens to throw in their lot with the Burmese and did nothing. This left the Karens in a precarious position. They were fully aware that the Burmese, once in power, would abuse it against the Karens and the indigenous races in the country.

After Burma gained independence, the Karens continued to ask for independence peacefully from the Burmese. However, far from negotiating with the Karens, the Burmese Government and the Burmese press began falsely accusing the Karens of being British lackeys and instigating the Burmese people for communal clashes with the Karens.

The Karens did their best to avoid communal strife. As proof of their sincerity, the Karens aided the Burmese Government in its desperate effort to suppress the armed uprisings of dissident Burmese groups which broke out soon after independence. Had it not been for the Karen National Defence Organization (KNDO) which had been assigned to take charge of the security of Rangoon, the Burmese Communists could have achieved their aim of seizing Rangoon and overthrowing the Government.

The Burmese Government took advantage of the turmoil in the country and hastily organised a strong force of levies, preparing an all-out effort to

smash the Karens instead. By December 1948, Karen leaders in many parts of the country had been put under arrest. Karens in the armed services were disarmed and put in special detention camps. Many Karen villages were attacked and many Karen villagers were shot and killed. Karen women were raped. The Karen properties were burnt or destroyed. On January 30, 1949 the KUDO was declared unlawful. Early next morning, the KUDO headquarters of Insein where most of the Karen top leaders lived was attacked. Thus, the Karens were left with no alternative but to take up arms and fight back for their national survival.

During the first half of the year, the Karens gained great initial successes. They occupied many towns in the whole of Lower Burma. They even occupied important Burmese army bases in the towns of Meiktila, Maymyo and Mandalay in Upper Burma. In 1950, the situation was reversed. This was partly due to lack of experience, fore-sight and fore-plan on the part of Karens. However, one major factor for this reversal was that the Burmese Government had been able to bring all the Burmese leftist elements together against the Karens and, at the same time, it had been able to obtain military aids from abroad.

However, by 1953, the Karens had managed to reorganise themselves politically and militarily in the Irrawaddy Delta where many lost areas were regained. In 1956, a Karen National Congress was held and the Karens became more consolidated. The Burmese saw this as a serious threat and so they make every effort to smash the Karen Revolution by a series of large-scale military operations from 1956 to 1959. However, the Karens were able to repulse all these operations inflicting heavy casualties on their enemy.

In 1962, Ne Win staged a coup and installed himself in power. In 1963, he made peace overtures to all the revolutionary forces in Burma. These peace overtures, in essence, were talks demanding the resistance movements to lay down their arms.

There had been a split among the Karen leaders on political line. Ne Win cleverly took advantage of this situation and won over what was supposed to be the most anti-Burmese group to his side.

In 1968, the Burmese began its military operations of "encirclement and annihilation" in the Irrawaddy Delta. They used all their land, sea and air forces available there. With geographical advantage on their side, they succeeded in clearing one area after another. Finally in 1972, the Karen resistance forces had to evacuate from the Delta.

In the same year the Burmese began their military operations in the Pegu Yoma area. All the three special Light Infantry Division (LID) Number 77, 88 and 99 aided by garrison troops from the Delta, Central and Western Commands were mobilised. The Communist Party of Burma, which was also based in Pegu Yoma, was totally crushed. Finally in 1975, the Karens were forced to evacuate this area also.

In June 1975, the enemy, encouraged by its successes in the Delta and Pegu Yoma, began its "4 Cuts Operation" in the east, hoping to crush Karen resistance in 4 years. They attacked the Karens not only militarily but also politically, economically and diplomatically to cut off all links joining the Karen Revolution with the people and with the outside world. In 1977, they made a serious attempt to occupy the Karen camp at Wangkha, but were repulsed. Again in 1980, they tried to occupy Mae Tha Waw, another Karen camp further north, but failed.

During all this period, the Burmese had formed three more LIDs namely the 66, 55 and 44th Divisions. In 1983, the specially trained 44th LID was assigned to crush Bast Kawthoolei. At the beginning of 1984, the 44th LID, aided by some elements from the 66th LID and troops from the South-eastern, Central and Delta commands, made an all-out effort to occupy the Karen border camps and crush the Karens. The enemy met with stiff resistance, and suffered heavy casualty. However the Burmese troops managed to dig in at various points close to the border.

Since the beginning of 1985, the Burmese have been preparing for a dry season offensive. To isolate the Karen border camps, stricter orders are issued to the civilians restricting their movements and offenders are given harsher punishments. The enemy has started practising the scorch-earth policy of "Kill all, Burn all, Destroy all" in the Karen areas.

Villages have been moved or destroyed. Villagers found in restricted areas are shot and killed. Families and relatives of Karen resistance fighters are put in detention, tortured and sent to far away places.

In this same year, the enemy has formed a new LID No. 33 to reinforce his troops in his ongoing campaign against the Karens. In October, the enemy tested Karen defences by making probing attacks on some border camps on the flanks of Wangkha, but they were forced to retreat with heavy casualty in both cases.

During the 37 years, there have been many periods of "trials and errors", but we have emerged from them more steeled and seasoned, though we have to admit that we have had to pay dearly for the lessons. Looking back over the 37 years

of struggle, we see that many have died in the field of honour and many have been maimed. Many villages, hearths and homes have been burnt or destroyed, properties looted, live-stock killed and eaten, women ruthlessly killed after having been raped by the enemy. However, our national spirit, our faith and belief in the righteousness of our cause and our determination to fight until victory is won have never been subdued or have never wavered.

The years 1984-85, though harsh and cruel, bring along certain satisfactions, because we have managed to stand firm against the enemy's offensive on an unprecedented scale, inflicting heavy penalties for his infringements and crippling many of his well-trained units; our guerilla, militia and volunteer forces operating behind the enemy's lines are wreaking havocs to the enemy. Many young people, prompted by the atrocities of the enemy, have come from all over the country to join our forces.

Summing up, the Karen Revolution, after 37 years, though beset with hardships, is progressing steadily.

- The Karen National Union (KNU) has now been properly organised as the vanguard of the Karen Revolution and young leaders have been selected to strengthen its Central Committee.
- The Kawthoolei Women's Organization (KWO) has been successfully organised up to the central level and it has been actively participating in all fields of activity of the revolution.
- The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) is growing both in quantity and quality. The morale of our troops is ever high. Various support and rear services organizations such as medical, signal, armoury, engineering, security and intelligence units have improved greatly in strength, skill and efficiency.
- We have been able to set up our own administration in our liberated areas with our own educational, economic, social and judicial programmes and policies.
- We have been able to join hands with the other ethnic revolutionary groups in the formation of National Democratic Front (NDF) and the NDF is growing politically and militarily.
- More and more people around the world have come to know about us and our just struggle and have expressed their sympathy and moral support to us.

In spite of all the odds, we emphatically reaffirm our belief in the final victory of our revolutionary struggle.

FOREIGN AIDS TO BURMA

Burma, with an estimated population of 38 million people and a land area of 676,550 square kilometers, is a country whose fertile soil and viable climate provide unlimited possibilities for the development of an agro-based economy. It is also a nation rich in natural resources such as timber, minerals and fish. Still, after 37 years of independence, it is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. In fact, Burma seems to be vying for last place on the development roster, after land-locked Laos and war-torn Kampuchea. Because of the high potential for developing its natural wealth, however, and because of its fairly literate population, Burma has attracted aid from many countries in the East and West. Millions of pounds, dollars, marks, yen, roubles, francs, and lately even some rupees and yuans have poured in to help.

Each contributor has a reason for giving aid to Burma; the hearts of most are undoubtedly filled with benevolence, while some are simply following their not-very-altruistic vision of gaining a steady return on their investment. At one stage it seemed that the aid-givers were trying to out - do one another, completely oblivious to the effects of their aid on Burma. Over the years, Japan has become the top-most donor with aid and loan money amounting to US\$2.44 billion for the year 1984-85. It is probable that most other countries are in the process of reassessing their aid policies toward Burma, since their contributions have rendered only marginal benefits to the general populace.

From the very beginning, all of the projects and funds are provided to Burma have been manipulated by the Rangoon Government, or rather by the Burma Socialist Programme Party, to strengthen its power base- the military establishment. Consequently, these contributions have been used in repressive measures against all peoples in Burma and in Burma's war effort against the indigenous races who had to put up an armed resistance to Burmese tyranny and oppression and fight for their very survival.

Everyone in Burma knows that all but a very few of the top positions in development projects and government offices are held by military officers and ex-military officers who are staunch loyalists to the party. Most of the mid-level and lower-level positions are also given to ex-military men. Military service and loyalty to the party, rather than competence and efficiency are thus the criteria for eligibility to privileged positions. Service in the Burmese military has become a favoured order and has never failed to attract

talent as well as numbers.

More and more resources are being used by Rangoon to build a bigger and better-equipped military machine. The farmers are robbed to feed this machine through the systems of "minimum sale quota" and "controlled prices". Thousands of civilian and privately owned items such as trucks, boats and bullock carts are forced into service as logistical support for the front-line troops with no remuneration provided. Year after year since 1962, when the current military regime came into power, expenditures for military campaigns have increased. A conservative estimate of the cost of military campaigns in 1984 against the Karens alone reached US\$20 million. That figure does not include the cost in human lives.

All of these things have been kept hidden from the outside world through careful control of the news media and through restrictions imposed on the movement of foreigners in Burma-embassy staff as well as visitors. Even the native people in the cities and towns are lulled into the belief that nothing much is wrong with their government's effort to crush the insurrections.

To casual observers, the backward movement of Burma and the stagnation of its economy appear to be caused by corruption and mismanagement in the government, or by laziness among the workers* They describe Burma with such phrases as, "a remake of Bulgaria in an Asian context" and "doctrinaire socialism at work." They fail to take seriously, the root cause of the problem - civil war.

The military campaigns launched by Rangoon against the national movements of the indigenous races of Burma have reached deep into the traditional territories of these peoples. To the Burmese ruling class it may seem that just a few more ounces of effort on their part would finish off all the national movements, thereby allowing them to achieve their grand design of building a consolidated empire and plunder the natural resources of the indigenous peoples. However, the fact is that 40,000 politically and nationally conscious Arakanese, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Mon, Shan, Pao, Palaung and Wa people are determined more than ever to make whatever sacrifices are necessary and to fight to the last man in defence of democratic freedom, the natural resources of their traditional lands and their own ethnic identities. With the support - silent or openly proclaimed - of the more than half the population of Burma made up by the indigenous races, the war of resistance against Burmese tyranny and domination can be carried on

forever by these national movements.

In this situation aid given to Rangoon, with no leverage to bring about peace and harmony in Burma, is not only wasteful, but is immoral and contrary to internationally accepted principles of human rights. This aid is used by its recipient to support its military effort to dominate and oppress its weaker neighbours using tactics of force and terror.

MERCENARIES?

Recent reports in foreign news papers on the death of a westerner during a Karen attack on a Burmese position in the Karen area have implied that Karen soldiers are being trained and led by foreign mercenaries. This was also interpreted by some as an act of desperation on the part of the Karens to turn the tide against the Burmese onslaught "about to wipe out Karen resistance movement."

When questioned about these reports, a senior KNU spokesman denied the presence of any foreign mercenaries among the Karen forces. "The whole of the Karen National Liberation Army is made up of the natives of Burma," he said. "All are volunteers. We can barely provide them with uniforms, weapons, rice, salt and a few other basic needs, starting from the general down to the private." He went onto explain "It's the basic policy of KNU to depend on the support of the people inside the country for victory. Hiring mercenaries is out of the question. However, we're gaining more and more sympathy and support as the people of the world have come to know about our 37 years struggle for national freedom and human rights."

The Karens have been fighting on a shoe-string budget and they have been trained, politically and psychologically, to fight a long drawn-out war. All those who join the KNLA do so with the conviction that the integrity of the Karen people and the Karen land (Kawthoolei) must be defended at all costs. Every one of them believes that the Karen people as a nation can grow and prosper only in a democratic system free from Burmese domination and interference

TACTICS OF TERROR

Reports in the press indicate that Rangoon is withdrawing some of its military units in north-eastern Burma to beef up its troops for another major offensive against the Karen bases in this dry season. According to field reports, the Burmese have brought in some new units, but the Karen High Command cannot confirm whether Rangoon is going to launch another major offensive or whether it is just going to step up its anti-civilian activities.

Since the beginning of this year, the Burmese troops have engaged mainly in anti-civilian activities. Civilians on the west of Dawna range are herded into "concentration camps" surrounded by 3 or 4 tiers of fences. The slightest suspicion or infringement of rules brings severe beating and torture and sometimes death to the inmates. Those who have taken refuge in the jungles are hunted down like common criminals. The Burmese troops have orders to shoot any one on sight on the east of Dawna range.

There have been 15 confirmed cases of rape, 15 cases of torture and 47 cases of killing of the innocent civilians involving 46 men and one woman. There have been many more reports of burning, looting of properties and live-stock, rape, torture and killing by the Burmese troops.

The result of all this is the flight of thousands of civilians into Thailand for refuge since the beginning of 1984.

These acts of terror are not just the isolated incidents of atrocities committed by the Burmese troops under momentary aberration. These same tactics have been used, systematically, against the other indigenous races as well. Whatever the method of analysis, one cannot escape the conclusion that the main policy of the Burmese ruling class with respect to the indigenous races is the total subjugation and eventual elimination of all the indigenous races in Burma by force.

The terror tactics might have been acceptable in a war of conquest in a different period, however, in these times of late 20th Century with a new perception of moral values and human rights, the civilized world may not remain silent for long.

PEACE IN BURMA

The civil war in Burma has been going on for nearly 40 years and will continue for many more years if a compromise is not reached between the Burmese Government and the various indigenous races of Burma fighting for their birth rights. Thousands of lives, including innocent civilians, have been lost meaninglessly because of the civil war, and many more are bound to be lost if peace in Burma cannot be realised. Nationals of the seven "States" of the so called Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, namely, the Arakan, the Chin, the Kachin, the Karen, the Karenni, the Mon and the Shan "States", all, except the Chin, are fighting for their national liberty, equality and social progress against the oppressive Burmese government. Besides, other minority races such as Wa, Pao, Palaung and Lahu have their respective resistance forces fighting against their Burmese oppression. None of these resistance forces desire armed conflict. They had tried to settle the matters peacefully, but they have been deceived, ignored or countered with force by the Burmese on many occasions. No other way was left open for the indigenous races but to take up arms to defend their national integrity.

A long-lasting peace is the desire of all these resistance forces. All they are demanding for is a genuine federal union with liberty, equality and social progress for all the indigenous races within the country.

For a long lasting-peace, the sole responsibility lies with the Burmese Government and some foreign countries as well.

When the British government granted Burma its independence in 1948, its loyal friends, the Karens and other hill peoples, were left at the mercy of the Burmese. After serving the British Government faithfully throughout its colonial rule and having suffered untold miseries and deaths during the second World War, they were let down by the Atlee's government.

After independence, the Karens on many occasions tried to settle problems with the Burmese peacefully, however the Burmese countered all these attempts by force leaving the Karens with no other alternative but to take up arms against the Burmese since 1949.

The Karens proved to be correct in their suspicion of the Burmese as at the end of ten years, all the nationalities that had agreed to try a union with the Burmese for a ten-year period, found out with better experience that a reorganization of the union with more autonomy for the different nationalities became an

urgent necessity. According to the constitution existing at that time, the Burmese government had to agree to the demand of the other nationalities. The Burmese ruling circle, true to their character played another dirty trick upon their brethren. U Nu, the then prime minister of Burma, and General Ne Win, the then head of the armed forces of Burma, both Burmese, decided to allow the army to stage a coup and abrogate the existing constitution. Ne Win staged a coup on March 2, 1962, abrogated the existing constitution, and later drew up a new constitution with no mention of rights for the nationalities. Ne Win and his Burma Socialist Programme Party, using the military as their power-base, have been oppressing and persecuting the helpless nationalities since they have installed themselves into power.

Aids from Japan, England, Federal Republic of Germany, China and some other countries are a big factor in the prolongation of the civil war. Without these aids, the Burmese would have come to their senses long ago and negotiated with the various races, and peace would have come already.

Because of their major offensive against the Karen strongholds since late 1983, the BSPP's military government might have miscalculated the situation and thought that they are on the verge of crushing the Karen national movement. There may have been some setbacks for the Karens but the morales in the ranks and files are very high. Their struggle for liberty, equality and social progress has been going on for nearly 40 years. During these years there had been times when the situation was far worse than the present. They have survived and the revolution keeps going on. The Karens' national patriotic spirit can never be suppressed. With both the Karen National Union, the political arm of the Karen revolution, and the Karen National Liberation Army, the military arm much better organized and equipped, and with the strong leadership of General Bo Mya and other leaders, and with the enthusiasm of the up and coming young flag bearers in the leadership role (the 1984 and 1985 Central Standing Committee Meeting selected 15 young leaders, most of whom are university graduates, as candidate members to the Central Committee) the Karen revolution is stronger, politically and militarily, than it ever has been.

Armed conflict can never settle any dispute permanently within the context of politics in Burma. Long and lasting peace in Burma can be achieved only through peaceful negotiation. And the responsibility lies mainly with the BSPP's military government and some foreign powers who are giving aids to it.

Noel Stevenson - the former broadcaster and managing director of STV,- who used to serve in Burma Frontier Service - when asked, what British could do yet, frankly answered, "We could apply whatever pressure is possible on the Burmese leaders to make friends to these people. We could publicise the fact that this war is still raging on and might do so for generations to come, with mounting casualties."

A SUMMARY OP BATTLE FIELD REPORTS

According to the KNLA General Headquarters, the KNLA, KNDO and volunteer forces engaged the enemy 76 times in all over our revolutionary areas and the anti-personnel mines planted by our side exploded 87 times as the enemy troops stepped on them, during the period starting from September 1, 1985 to October 15, 1985.

These figures do not include our shelling attacks on enemy positions and clashes in which we are not certain of the number of enemy casualties.

In these 76 engagements, our troops inflicted 157 enemy killed and 297 wounded. The 87 detonations of our anti-personnel mines killed 24 enemy and wounded 35. Among the wounded 13 had their legs severed.

The total figure of enemy's casualty during the 1 1/2 months' period is 181 killed and 332 wounded.

Our troops captured 1 2-inch mortar, 15 2-inch mortar shells, 17 assorted bombs, 9 hand grenades, 34 small arms with 45 magazines, 2720 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, 2 military compasses, one binocular, 2 cassette radios, 1 battery charging set, a quantity of military uniforms, equipment, medicines and rations. Our troop also destroyed 1 bridge, 3 enemy trucks and a number of Burmese government office buildings.

Five enemy soldiers surrendered to our troops bringing with them 1 G4, 3 G2 and 2 G3 rifles with 17 magazines and 650 rounds of ammunition.

During this period our troops suffered 21 killed 37 wounded and lost 13 small arms with 420 rounds of small arms ammunition.

BATTLE NEWS IN WANGKHA SECTOR

Among our fighting forces 101st Special Battalion operating in Wangkha sector is considered by many observers and even by the enemy as the strongest unit. Below is the reports on two battles that took place on the flanks of New Wangkha, Headquarters of 101st Special Battalion.

Golawalu Battle

Golawalu is a hill having a commanding view of the old Wangkha. It has been scenes of violent battles and has been changing hands between our troops and the enemy many times since 1960.

On 30-9-85 the Burmese No. 7 Light Infantry Regiment (LIR), with the objective of capturing old Wangkha, occupied the high grounds on Golawalu and the adjacent hills. On 1-10-85, our combined forces from 101st Speial Battalion, 20th Bn., Karenni detachment and some units from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades attacked the enemy positions on the hills. After a whole day and night of fighting, the enemy was forced to retreat to the rear positions on Golawalu hill. Our troops kept on maintaining pressure on the enemy by small-scale guerilla attacks and , laying land-mines. Eventually, all the enemy had to withdraw from Golawalu area after a week of battle.

During this one week of battle which took place from 1-10-85 to 8-10-85, the enemy suffered 11 killed and 12 wounded. Our side captured 5 2-inch mortar shells, 1 carbine and 30C rounds of 7.62 mm G3 ammunition.

Ye Gyaw Battle

On 7-10-85 No. 1 Column of the enemy No.6 LIR and No. 1 and 2 Column of No. 7 LIR started attack on Ye Gyaw camp which serves as a temporary trading post on the right flank of New Wangkha. Our mobile units closed in on the enemy from all sides immediately and fierce fighting raged on until 15-10-85 when the enemy retreated after suffering heavy casualty.

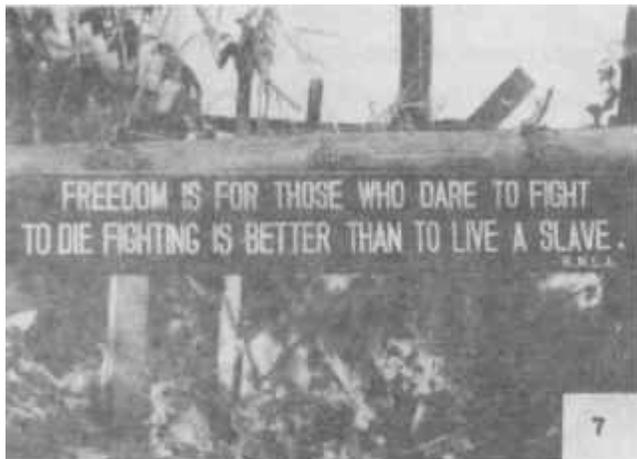
In this battle, the enemy suffered 39 killed including one captain, one lieutenant and 3 NCOs. The 124 enemy wounded included one officer and 4 NCOs. Three enemy porters were killed and 6 wounded.

Our troops captured 1 G3 rifle with 22 magazines, 74 rounds of 7.62 mm G3 ammunition, 2 carbines with 6 magazines, 150 .30 carbine rounds, 11 2-inch mortar shells, 6 81 mm mortar shells, 4 claymore mines, a quantity of military equipment and supplies. Our troops suffered 8 killed and 9 wounded during the period.

ANNUAL SUMMARY MILITARY SITUATION REPORT FOR 1984-85. FROM [7.6.84 TO 31.5.85]

MILITARY ZONE	ENEMY LOSSES						OWN LOSSES						REMARKS					
	Total Enemy	Total attacks on	Blow rate	Killed	Wounded	Surrendered	Total	Arrested	Total	Killed	Wounded	Surrendered		Total	Arrested	Total		
MO.1	8	114	36	191	224	2	80	3765	3	30	2	11	3	3	8	25	1150	(2) enemy council members, 2 Lt. rounded. Own captured (1) wireless set. Destroyed (1) enemy car and (1) bridge.
MO.2	3	58	6	87	117	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	(2) enemy Lt. killed. Enemy shot and killed (9) and arrested 123 villagers.
MO.3	9	102	136	175	208	1	16	710	-	4	5	4	57	-	-	5	25	(1) enemy Lt. killed. Enemy shot and killed (8) men and 9 women and arrested 54.
MO.4	7	71	12	110	100	2	28	2737	-	-	5	14	35	2	1	5	-	(1) Enemy Lt. comdr. (1) Coy comdr. (1) Lt killed. (4) officers wounded. End killed (28) villagers. One killed (2) women after raping.
MO.5	4	173	36	289	317	2	23	6449	4	108	8	4	9	1	1	1	-	(1) Enemy column Comdr (4) Coy comdr. (2) Council members kld. (2) wds. (3) One car, (1) bridge, (1) fire engine destroyed.
MO.6	24	341	265	697	1328	2	58	30136	5	1040	298	27	63	2	-	3	100	(3) Enemy officers. (2) council members killed. (9) officers wdd. One killed (3) and arrested (6) villagers. Destroyed (5) One car & (1) bridge
MO.101	33	221	203	324	658	1	83	41649	8	118	387	24	59	-	-	1	200	One (7) officers wdd. One shot & killed (7) men and woman. Own destroyed (9) One car and (1) bridge.
PAPUA DIST	5	158	76	275	266	-	25	2981	1	14	7	12	14	-	-	1	-	(1) One Lt killed. (1) wdd. One killed (2) villagers and arrested (8) men and (5) women. Own destroyed (5) One car and (1) bridge.
TOTAL	93	1232	670	2288	3216	10	279	69226	21	2314	692	97	201	8	10	4	1475	





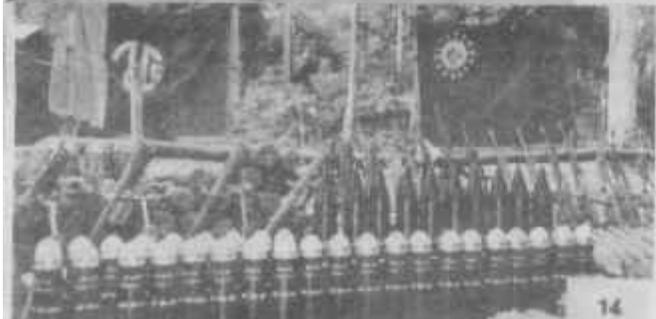


PHOTO CAPTIONS

- Photo 1: Central Executive Committee members of Kawthoolei Women's Organization (KWO). President Tharamu Lar Po (Mrs. Bo Mya) is seen in the front row, third from right.
- Photo 2: E.C. members of Manerplaw area KWO.
- Photo 3: Some of Kawmoora KWO leaders with Central KWO President Thramu Lah Po.
- Photo 4: KNLA Boys' Company .
- Photo 5 & 6: High school graduate youths receiving heavy weapons training.
- Photo 7: Maxim of KNLA at the entrance to Kawmoora (Wangkha).
- Photo 8: A view of Golawalu from Old Wangkha.
- Photo 9: Enemy mortar position on Golawalu recaptured by our troops on 2-10-85.
- Photo 10: KNLA troops relaxing after the recapture of Golawalu.
- Photo 11: Dug up ammunition left by retreating enemy near Ye Gyaw camp.
- Photo 12: Lt. Paw Doh and group showing mortar shells captured from the enemy near Ye Gyaw camp.
- Photos 13 to 16: Captured arms and ammunition from the enemy in 1984 operations.
Note: In Photo 14, anti-tank and high explosive rounds of Swedish made Carl Gustave recoilless gun can be seen.
- Photo 17 to 20: Captured enemy bunkers and enemy deads on Carloo Hill near Kawmoora (Wangkha).

REQUEST TO THE READERS

Readers of the KNU Bulletin are requested to make a voluntary contribution of US\$ 1 or equivalent amount in any currency, except Burmese, for a copy of the Bulletin received. Readers living farther away than Thailand may double that amount. The contribution is to be used strictly for defraying the cost of publication and distribution.

This issue will be the only issue for 1985. From the beginning of 1986, we intend to make the Bulletin a monthly publication. As the end of 1985 is drawing near, we - the editors and staff of KNU Bulletin - would like to take the opportunity to wish all the readers A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year !

The contribution or any communication should be addressed to

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Kawmoora (Wangkha)
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