



A NEWS ORGAN OF THE KAREN NATIONAL MOVEMENT (BURMA)



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EDITORIAL

In this issue, we would like to present our view of a certain development in the enemy's endeavour to wipe out the Karen national revolutionary movement.

The oppression and the total war waged against the national revolutions of the ethnic peoples of the country by our enemy, the Burmese Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) regime, in accordance with the aims and policies of Burmese chauvinists, have now entered the 25th year.

The main target of the enemy's war effort in all these years has been the Karen National Union (KNU). Believing that once the KNU has been crushed it would be relatively easy to eliminate the other groups, the enemy has deployed troops of No. 33, 44, 55, and 66 Divisions in addition to the local garrison troops in a general offensive against the KNU starting from Toungoo District in the north down to Mergui-Tavoy District in the south.

The general offensive started in the beginning of 1984 and reached most of the KNU base camps situated along the Thai-Burmese border. The enemy tried to capture the camps by concentrating troops and arms on an unprecedented scale. With the foreign aids received from various countries, the Ne Win - San Yu regime anticipated to capture the camps in a matter of a few months. Contrary to its anticipation, the offensive has dragged on for nearly 30 months now and reached a stalemate after suffering great losses in men and material.

As a consequence to the unusual reverses suffered, the Ne Win - San Yu regime had to review its military strategy, inviting foreign military experts for advice. After arriving at the conclusion that victory over the revolutionary forces with rich revolutionary experiences cannot be gained by political and military pressure alone, the enemy has now adopted and pursued a new strategy including vigorous diplomatic offensives in addition to the tactics of military blockade and anti-civilian activities of terrorism. The regime has bent itself over trying to improve its relations with the neighbouring countries by diplomacy, in order to subvert the cause of the Karen national movement.

The history of currently the 38 years old civil war has shown that the enemy can never succeed in his attempt to suppress the Karen national revolution and the national revolutions of the other ethnic peoples, whatever the scale of

his effort or machinations may be.

Our Revolution can stand firm and remain invincible because :-

- (1) Our struggle is correct, noble and just,
- (2) Our struggle enjoys the support of all the Karens and the whole people of Burma in general, and
- (3) There is no true unity and no democratic freedom for the people under the totalitarian system of the BSPP military dictatorship.

We have reason to believe that, still not satisfied with the employment of various means to destroy us, Ne Win - San Yu regime has hatched a plan to use religion as a weapon against us. This machiavellian scheme calls for the laying down of a plan by the Institution of Service to Sangha (Buddhist Clergy), Highest Honour Awarded Sangha Purification Organization, Kaba Aye Office, titled as "The Programme for the Eradication of Christianity." The Programme contains 17 points one of which states "To eradicate the faith of the Christians by subtle means, as well as by force".

This is the mad dream of Ne Win - San Yu clique: They, perhaps, reasoned that since the majority of the KNU leaders are Christians, an attack on Christianity would cause dissension and strife within the ranks and leadership of the KNU.

The objective fact is that though most of the KNU leaders are Christians, the Karen Revolution is neither Christian nor a movement of any other religious faith: It is a national liberation movement for the social progress and self-determination of all the Karen people in Burma. The Karen Revolution is a struggle participated by all the Karens regardless of religious faith or political creed and it is a well known fact that all the Karens have rallied under the banner of the KNU to fight for their legitimate national rights and democratic freedom.

In addition to the political, military and diplomatic means and the barbarous means of terrorizing the innocent civilians, the enemy is now employing the unscrupulous means of using religion to project its evil power for the destruction of our Revolution. Whatever means are employed, it will be the evil Ne Win - San Yu regime that will end in total defeat and destruction at the hands of the national revolution of the ethnic peoples in Burma.

* * * * *

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT PRESIDENT GENERAL BO MYA'S SPEECH ON
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF NDF DAY

Respected leaders of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and fellow comrades in Revolution !

This day, the 10th of May 1986 is the tenth anniversary of the historic day on which the National Democratic Front was formed. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to deliver the following message to you in my capacity as the President of NDF.

(1) The Basic Aim and Concept for Organizing the NDF

You know as well as I do that the NDF was formed to counter with greater effectiveness the repressions of the Burmese chauvinists against us, the ethnic peoples of Burma, in the fields of political, economic, social and cultural developments. Because of these repressions, the ethnic peoples had to rise up in arms independently of one another to fight for liberation. The NDF came into being as the concept for uniting our forces and resources against our common enemy, the Burmese chauvinists, for greater effectiveness and early victory took hold, instead of the idea of fighting against it separately.

The formation of the NDF has shown to the world the achievement of the political unity of the oppressed peoples of Burma. This unity signify the unanimous will and agreement among us to collectively endeavour for the establishment of a genuine "Federal Union". For the achievement of this political objective, the NDF has laid down a programme for the successful offensive against the enemy from all sides by various means.

(2) The Present Situation and Our Urgent Task

Today, the enemy is attacking us from all sides and by various means. At the same time as it is attacking us politically and militarily, it is engaged in diplomatic offensive against us as well. Though the enemy is making military thrusts in the areas of all the NDF member organizations, it is needless to say that it is directing its main effort against the KNU.

The KNU has to urge the other member organizations to increase their military activities as it has become the prime target of the enemy. On account of the urging of the KNU, we could have formed a special NDF Force and fight the common enemy more effectively than ever.

Though the NDF is united politically and military to a certain degree, there is much room left for improvement. In conformity with our conviction that "unity means strength and victory", it is necessary for all of us to go on striving for greater unity in the NDF, greater concentration of effort in our various activities and raising the level of our struggle. That is what is urgently required by the present situation,,

Now, it has become essential for us to improve and raise the level of effectiveness of the central leadership of the NDF in the political and military fields, and raise the level of effectiveness of the military activities of all the NDF member organizations fighting the common enemy in their respective regions. On this special occasion of NDF Day, I would like to urge you to diligently work for the urgent tasks of establishing :-

(1) greater political unity,

(2) greater organizational activity

(3) and the genuine federal union after the annihilation of our common enemy by wide and effective military offensives on the initiative of individual member organizations in their respective regions and by the actions of our combined forces.

A WORD OF THANKS TO THE READERS

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

Once again , we have to beg the indulgence of the readers for being late in bringing out the present issue , owing to unavoidable circumstances.

Please contact us as usual to the address below for sending contribution or correspondence through normal mailing .

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TRUTH AGAINST DECEITS

On 22 April, 1986, the Burma Broadcasting Service (BBS), announced the news concerning the confiscation of 65.74 tons of marijuana grown in the southern part of Burma. It falsely accused the Karen National Union (KNU) as operating the marijuana business. BBS also said that the Burmese soldiers encountered with the Karen insurgents who were guarding the marijuana crop. The Karens had to be driven away before the Burmese were able to destroy the crop. Also mentioned in the broadcast was the capture alive of four foreigners and two dead. The nationality of the foreigners was not mentioned. The Burmese section of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) echoed the content of this news broadcast on the evening of the 23rd of April as news sent by its correspondent U Maung Maung in Rangoon.

Since from the very beginning the Karen National Union has a very strict anti-narcotic law. Kawthoolei's Penal Code S-177 (Prohibition of the Cultivation of Poisonous Herbs) of the Criminal Law states:- "Who ever plants herbs such as poppy, coca, marijuana or any kind of herb which can be converted into intoxicating and dangerous drugs, for the purpose of producing intoxicating and dangerous drugs, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to a period of ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine which may amount to ten thousand kyats. In addition to that, the plantations involved shall thereof be destroyed. The implements and draft-animals used in the cultivation of such herbs shall be confiscated to become the government's property."

Kawthoolei's Penal Code S-178 Prohibition of Production and Preparation of Intoxicating Dangerous Drugs and S-180 Prohibition of Transporting Intoxicating and Dangerous Drugs of the Criminal Law read:- "Who ever produces, or prepares a substance to reach the stage of becoming, intoxicating or dangerous drug, shall be punished with death, or with deportation for life, or with rigorous imprisonment which may extend to a period of ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine which may amount to ten thousand kyats. In addition to that, the intoxicating dangerous drug and the implements, vehicles, lands and buildings involved in the preparation and production of it, shall be confiscated to become government's property." "Who ever transports intoxicating dangerous drug, or export it to foreign countries, or has connection with foreign countries for drug trafficking, shall be punished with death, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to a period of ten years, and shall also be liable to a fine which may amount to fifty thousand kyats. In addition to that, the intoxicating dangerous

drug, or the materials for packing or containing it, shall be confiscated to become government's property".

It is true that there are some marijuana crops in certain parts of the Tennesarim Division of Burma outside the control of the KNU. The KNU has no part in this marijuana business or in any narcotic business. Those who are operating marijuana business in this area were once members of Burma ex-Prime Minister U Nu's "People Patriotic Party (PPP). They are led by Bo Thway Myint, one of U Nu's officers in the (PPP). When U Nu returned to Burma, these men were left behind on their own. To make a living, these people grow marijuana. They have no dealing with the Karen National Union. It was these narcotic dealers that the Burmese soldiers had encountered with and not the soldiers of Karen National Liberation Army.

The allegation through its broadcasting service that the KNU is involved in marijuana business is just another dirty trick played by the Burmese government trying to brand the KNU as narcotic dealers. Through its carefully controlled mass media and diplomatic contacts, the Burmese government has been spreading lies, distorted news and accusations portraying the KNU as narcotic drug dealers, wreckers, separatist, extreme nationalists, communists and etc. The intention is clear. It has been engaged in this smear campaign in order to get mere and more anti-narcotic and other aids and in order to justify the use of these aids and domestic resources in the persecution and oppression of the Karens and other indigenous races.

The Kawthoolei Government formed by the KNU is a democratic government with a high respect for freedom of the press. News reporters and journalists, after proper security clearance, are allowed to go freely anywhere in areas under its control and talk with any person for the purpose of verifying facts, and news men are under no restriction except their own professional ethics and good sense.

In contrast to this policy of the Kawthoolei Government is the standing order of the Burmese government barring the entry of all foreign news men into the country. A few that can get in by accompanying some government delegations are put under the strictest restriction.

The Burmese government has to follow the policy of regarding all foreign news men as enemies because it has so many things to hide from the world. It has to hide its narcotic connection which is almost a common knowledge in the country. Taunggyi, the capital of Southern Shan State, is a dumping ground and

Mandalay, the second largest city of Burma, serves as the distribution center for narcotic drugs coming from the golden triangle. Mandalay also serves as a distribution center for contraband goods coming from India and China while Rangoon, the capital of Burma, serves as a distribution center for contraband goods coming from Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Anyone venturing away from the main thoroughfares of Rangoon would find that it is a decaying city with buildings about to crumble due to age and lack of maintenance, blocked drainages and broken sewage pipes. A talk to a few of any random selection of people representing a cross-section of the society would reveal that the workers and peasants are the most exploited people under the state capitalist system of the ruling and the only party, the Burmese Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) under the chairmanship of dictator Ne Win. The educated and the intellectuals are living in constant fear of the military police and the party men who regard them as reactionary elements and who are always quick to take action against them at the slightest suggestion of subversion. The youths have no employment opportunity except for joining the armed forces, mainly the army which, supposedly in defence of the socialist system, is waging a relentless war against the indigenous peoples of the country who in fact are resisting the persecution and forceful domination of the Burmese chauvinists in control of the central government.

In the past the KNU had assumed that, the civil war in Burma being an internal affair, would be treated as such by the Burmese government. However, when it was discovered that the Burmese government started using more and more dirty tricks to obtain international aids for the purpose of shoring up its position of power and stepping up the tempo of the war of genocide against the Karens, Kachins, Shans, Palaungs, Was, Paos, Karennis, Mons and Arakanese, it had to decide to take the matter for exposure in the international arena. By balancing truth and openness against the deceits and secrecy of the Burmese government, it is hope that the cause of peace and justice in the country shall be served.

L I B E R T Y

* Without equality , I say there cannot be liberty .

- Harold Laski

* Liberty means responsibility . That is why most men dread it.

- George Bernard Shaw

THE EFFORTS OP BSPP REGIME TO UNIFY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

One thing the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) rulers are never tired of preaching is the establishment of the unity of all the indigenous peoples in the country. They profess to love all like their own brothers and sisters.

However, their profession of love is like the profession of love by a wolf for the lambs, because in practice the non-Burmese indigenous peoples of the country are being exploited and oppressed more brutally than ever by them. The more they preach about love and unity, the more one is reminded about the oppression and ill treatment perpetuated by the Burmese Kings and their henchmen against the non-Burmese indigenous peoples in the old days. It was during the time of Ava Kings that the first Karen Buddhist monk, Oo Nanda Maria (Poo Tar Mike), returned home after scripture studies. The two attendants with him brought back some durian seeds and planted them in Laung Kaine - Pa Kya area in Kawkareik township. Because of good soil and climate, the durian flourished and the Karens in the area could enjoy eating the fruits in quantity. When the Burmese King heard about this, he said "Slave people like Karens are not fit to eat fruits of such a fine taste," and sent his troops to cut down the durian trees. The Karens, however, managed to save some durian trees by bribing the troops and shift them to a secure place. That is why we still have durian in Laung Kaine Pa Kya area today. Karen elders and grand parents of the area used to tell about this to remind the younger generations of the monumental arrogance the Burmese rulers could have for the weak. There are many folk-loves of similar nature.

The women-folk in the hills had to go in hiding whenever the Burmese King or his men arrived for fear of being forced to entertain them as a one-night stand. Among some hill tribes, the tatooning of the faces of young damsels for disfigurement still survives. The practice began as a way to avoid being picked by the Burmese king for concubinage.

After the WW II in 1947, when the fight against the British for independence was under way, the Burmese leaders led by Aung San met various leaders of the non-Burmese indigenous peoples of Burma and preached about equally sharing the fruits of independence and living in peace and unity. The Panlong agreement was reached as a result of the belief of the non-Burmese indigenous peoples that the Burmese would practise what they preach. When the Karen revolution started in 1949, however, the captured documents shewed that the Burmese had a secret plan to eliminate all the other indigenous peoples of the country through racial

absorption by force. This shows how the Burmese chauvinists give lip-service to "love and unity of all the nationalities in the country" while they are attempting to establish Burmese hegemonism by racial discrimination and oppression.

In the Burmese socialist system where there is no private enterprise worth talking about, the college and university graduates have to file their applications for employment with the offices of Labour Department. There, the nationality and religion of the candidates are checked as a first step. Whatever qualification of the candidate, if he or she is a non-Burmese and non-Buddhist, the chances of employment commensurate with his or her qualification are as good as nil. Again, once in the service, the opportunity for advancement is very slim for the employees who are non-Burmese and non-Buddhist, except for a few of the converts who can act to be more Burmese than the Burmese.

In the world of literature, denial of opportunity takes the course of not allowing any books of note to reach among the non-Burmese indigenous peoples, except the Bible when members of the non-Burmese indigenous peoples appear in the stories, fictions or novels they are usually cast in the roles of servants or anti heroes.

Due to the confiscation of all the rice found by the BSPP, the Karen farmers in the Irrawaddy Delta have to hide some of their rice in underground caches in order to avoid starvation. The BSPP destroys all the implements such as hand pounders, domestic paddy grinders and etc. used to dehusk rice in the traditional way. The reason given is that rice is going to the black-market or to waste. Because of this, the Karens in Pegu Yoma hills who have to rely on such implements to dehusk rice are now in great difficulty. Karens in Pa Doh Plaw and Kyun Deik villages at the foot of Pegu Yoma hills have to live in constant fear as the BSPP is threatening to burn their villages down, giving reasons that the villagers are not bringing in enough rice to fulfil the "quota amount" or they are harbouring Karen rebels.

Using all the dirty methods, the BSPP regime is waging a ruthless war against the Karens in the east. Many Karen civilians are now living in constant danger, distress and destitution after their villages have been burnt down, properties looted or destroyed and women-folk molested. They are being shot by the BSPP troops on the slightest excuse.

Just recently, a whole Karen family, including children, was shot for allowing some rebels to eat rice in the house. The reason given by the BSPP troops was to make the people not to have the temerity to have connection with

the rebels in the future. The fact, however, is that the defenceless villagers have to accept anyone who comes with guns. The practice of shooting the innocent villagers by the BSPP troops under the slightest protest like this can only be interpreted as fulfilling part of a genocidal plan.

Also of recent incident showing the senseless barbarity and illtreatment against the Karen civilians by the BSPP troops began with the attack of the KNLA troops on Byetka out-post near Naung Hma Bo village in Pa-an township. The out-post was manned by the BSPP troops under the command of Capt. Win Maung and Lt. Aung Thi Ha from the No. 2 Kachin Rifle Regiment. In the attack, the BSPP troops lost 4 men and 4 rifles. Because of the loss, the BSPP troops rounded up Naung Hma Bo village elders and beat them up. After the beating, the BSPP troops instructed the village elders to bring money to compensate for their loss at the rate of 10,000 kyats per man and 2,000 kyats per rifle. It was simply a back-breaking task for the villagers of Naung Hma Bo, which has only about a hundred houses, to collect 72,000 kyats for compensation.

Throughout the ages up to the present time, the Burmese chauvinists have been oppressing and exploiting the Karens as well as the other non-Burmese indigenous peoples of the country. Practising policies of the worst form of racial oppression and exploitation, the BSPP regime can only be regarded as the worst among the different brands of Burmese chauvinists past and present. In spite of this, the BSPP rulers are shamelessly preaching and calling for the unity of all the indigenous peoples. It is too late for the BSPP rulers to do anything for the unity of the country. They have just gone beyond the conscience of the non-Burmese indigenous peoples.

Consequently, the only hope left for the establishment of true unity and thus everlasting peace in the country hinges on the total victory of the democratic national forces united under the banner of the National Democratic Front and the complete downfall of the BSPP regime.

FOUR FREEDOM

We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

- * The first is -Freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world.
- * The second is -Freedom of every person to worship God in his own way everywhere in the world.
- * The third is -Freedom from want - everywhere in the world.
- * The fourth is -Freedom from fear - anywhere in the world.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE BSPP SCHEME OF SMASHING THE KAREN REVOLUTION
AND
PRESENT SITUATION

Success in the battlefields and growing international awareness of the Karen national movement has made the Karen revolution to become the main target of the BSPP. The BSPP leaders deem it most urgently necessary to crush the Karen revolution once and for all.

From January 1984, the BSPP began their all out military offensive on the Karen military strongholds along the Thai-Burma border. Their main objective is to initially occupy all the border posts which also serve as toll gates for the Karens.

The BSPP anticipated a speedy victory, and to this end, had employed one whole division, the No. 44 Light Infantry Division, supported by units under the South-eastern and Central commands. This entrusted mission proved too arduous for the 44th Division alone and so, troops from the 55th and 66th Division were later rushed in. Months followed months and yet victory for the BSPP troops was nowhere in sight. Contrary to what they had anticipated, they suffered heavy losses in man and materials during a period of eight months. Their leaders had to travel to foreign countries to beg for more aid and loans.

Beginning from 1985 the BSPP began employing a new military tactic aimed especially against civilians residing in the various war zones. Very strict orders were issued, civilians in the war zones were forced to move to places where the BSPP have control over their every movement. Residing or travelling in the war zones is strictly prohibited. The penalty for violation of these orders is death. The BSPP are doing their best to totally sever contact between the people and the Karen resistance fighters, and at the same time to stop the flow of border trade, thereby depriving the Karens of their main source of income.

The BSPP have also done their best through diplomatic channels to breed misunderstanding and to sever contact between the Karen revolution and its friends and neighbours. They have even slyly employed religion to sow discord among the Karens.

The all net military offensive launched against the Karen military bases along the Thai-Burma border has dragged on for more than two years now. The

Burmese have formed and mobilised one more Light Infantry Division, the 33rd Division against the Karens. They have also made many diplomatic maneuvers to check the Karens.

Militarily, the outcome is not promising for the BSPP troops. In fact, the Karen National Liberation Army has achieved victory after victory in the battle fields. The No. 44 Division has been badly mauled because of successive encounters with the Karen resistance fighters. Units under the No. 66 Division, assigned to attack the KNU headquarters suffered a very critical blow at the battle of Naw-ta which occurred between March 28, 1986 and April 3, 1986. In the battle of Ter Lu on April 15, 1986 the Karens dealt a serious blow to the Burmese. Another major victory was achieved when on May 22, 1986 the Karens attacked and completely overran the Burmese military camp at Pyinmabinseik in Thaton area which is 100 kilometers from the border.

The Karen national liberation army is growing steadily in quantity as well in quality. The capture of Burmese military strongholds in various battle zones is clear evidence of this fact. Karen resistance fighters have been able to move behind enemy lines and conduct guerilla warfares. They are operating in areas west of the Dawna range and also in other battle zones in the first, second and third brigades.

The Karens have also been able to lead successful assaults on enemy posts in the Karen territory and also on important town like Kaw Kareik, Hlaing Bwe Kyaukkyi etc. We are sad to say that all these achievements on the part of the Karens had infuriated the Burmese, causing them to unleash their fury on the innocent Karen civilians who are still clinging desperately to their land and birth place.

Burma is a country where people of different ethnic groups live together. Oppression of the minority groups by the Burmese government had given rise to national movements of the various ethnic groups of which the Karen national movement is one. These ethnic groups fighting for their national survival and independence has become more cohesive under the banner of the National Democratic Front which is striving towards the realization of a genuine federal union. The NDF is also growing politically and militarily. The war will be long and bored but the just struggle of the oppressed ethnic groups will finally come out victorious.

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REPORT OF ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY
for the
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORT FOR 1985
to the
UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITIES IN BURMA

The Anti-Slavery Society wishes to express concern about the fate of the civilian Karen and other ethnic minorities of Burma. During the last 18 months there has been increasing evidence of serious human rights violations being perpetrated against unarmed villagers by the Burmese armed forces. This has led to thousands of Karen refugees fleeing their homelands to seek temporary sanctuary in neighbouring Thailand.

About one quarter of the population of Burma is composed of ethnically distinct hill people. They consist of eleven main groups of which the largest are the Karen, Shan and Chin. In total they number seven million people. At independence in 1948 the Panglong Agreement gave the Kachins, Chins and Shans semi-autonomous status within the Union of Burma with the option to secede at the end of a ten year period. No plebiscite was taken in 1958 and in 1962 a military dictatorship under General Ne Win was established. In 1974 a new constitution created centrally-controlled administrative districts and formally dismantled the minority states. The Karen people, despite being the largest threatened ethnic group in Burma, were excluded from the discussions that took place between the British Government under Clement Atlee and the Burmese Nationalists at the time of independence in 1948.

The socialist government of Burma has confronted the Karen independence movement since 1948 and in the 1960 it faced armed resistance from the Shan, Kachin and Chin. Since 1976 the military and political organizations of the nine main ethnic groups have formed the National Democratic Front whose objective is the establishment of a federal union of Burma providing full political, social and economic rights to all the indigenous minorities. The present Karen state

(Kawthoolei) has a well organized military and political structure, and although not recognised by the Burmese government, has its own annual budget, taxation system, elected civilian government, armed forces and education and health services. However, the costs of the war which has now endured 36 years is high on the civilian population. Burmese offensives into the hills of the Dawna Range, occupied by the Karen and other hill people, have brought countless deaths possibly as many as 300,000 since 1948 - and acts of brutality. Since early 1984 the Burmese government has escalated its military activities and increased its attacks on civilian villages, accusing villagers of supporting the Karen National Liberation Army. The violence against the civilian population seems to have been undertaken to sow terror, empty the villages and, thereby, reduce support for the Karen Army. It has resulted in massive flights of Karen and other minorities into Thailand where they have settled in refugee camps. Today some 15,000 refugees are living in seven main camps on the Thai side of the border.

The experiences of the refugees are a testimony of the horrors which they have faced. Men, women and children have been indiscriminately shot and killed, villages have been shelled without warning, and villagers have been rounded up and placed in concentration camps. Men and women have been used forcibly as porters for the Burmese army and many have been employed to precede Burmese patrols as living mine sweepers. One woman described to a representative of the Anti-Slavery Society how the Burmese troops attacked her village near Mae La Hta without warning in May 1985, killed her pregnant daughter and shot and wounded her grandson in the eye. The woman had carried the grandson for four days until she reached the refugee camp and got treatment. In another case, one woman refugee explained how a 75 mm shell had been fired into the middle of her village, Yo Poo Tha, and killed 5 people outright. All the villagers had fled to the forests. Another refugee described how the Burmese troops visited her village of Kyaw Ta Ley Ko in June 1985 and accused two old women of being the mothers of Karen soldiers. Although the women denied this, the soldiers tied them up with ropes and dragged them around the village by their necks. Finally they beat them to death in front of the other villagers. Such stories are common fare in the refugee camps.

Many villages now lie abandoned, thousands have succeeded in escaping into Thailand but 100,000 or more Karen are believed to be eking out an existence in the mountain jungle hiding from the Burmese armed forces. As the rainy season gets under, many of these people will be forced through starvation to abandon

their hideouts and run the gauntlet to the safety of Thailand.

In the view of the Anti-Slavery Society the situation of the Karen and other minority peoples in Burma has gone unnoticed too long by the international community and it has cost too many lives. The recent escalation of human rights violations, especially against civilians, the influx of refugees into Thailand and the likelihood that many more victims of Burmese military attacks will swell these camps still further, leads the Anti-Slavery Society to recommend to the Working Group that it urge the Commission on Human Rights to use its influence to find a rapid and peaceful political solution to the conflict.

We call upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to visit the refugee camps at Mala Muta, Sho Klo, Mae Tha Wa, Wang Kha, Old Maela, Kamo Layko and Noe Pah Doh and inform himself of the situation and provide whatever assistance he deems necessary.

N O T E

It is necessary to give some explanation and relevant facts for a better understanding of matters relating to the "populations of the ethnically distinct indigenous peoples of Burma". The phrase "the indigenous peoples of Burma" is usually used to indicate all the indigenous peoples of the country, including the Burmese who call themselves "Barmah".

No body can give correct figures concerning the populations of Burma since no census has been successfully enumerated since 1931. Consequently, any figures on the populations of Burma obtained from any source are only estimates, and they can vary widely from source to source. Moreover, any computation based on the 1931 census could be misleading for the fact that most of the Buddhist Karens were falsely registered as Burmese or "Barmah" in the census.

The main defect of the Census of Burma is that the Census taken, or the grouping of nationalities is based not in ethnic origin, but in "Language Group" or Spoken Language by the people enumerated. This results in much lower figures if population of the so called "Ethnic Minorities".

The present population of Burma is estimated to be 38 million. The "one quarter of the population of Burma" mentioned in the above report gives a figure of 9.5 million. That, of course, does not include the five million or so Karens who are living on the plains. The hill Karens amounted only to 2 million. At present, most of the plain Karens have to live under the Burmese government's control and have to bear the persecution by the Burmese, without much knowledge

to the outside world.

Apart from the plain Karens, there are 3 million Arakanese and 3 million Mon indigenous peoples who are plain dwellers. They have also been victims of the Burmese government's human rights violations though they do not have to bear the Burmese atrocities as severely as the indigenous peoples of the hills. Both Arakanese and Mon peoples have political organizations which have been leading the armed resistance of their peoples against Burmese hegemonism :- Editor.)

GIST OF SHAN STATE ARMY MILITARY ACTIVITIES
PROM 21-1-86 TO 20-5-86

DATE	SSA UNIT	ENE UNIT	FIGHTING PLACE	ENE CASUALTIES	ARMA/AMMOS CAPTD.
29-1-86	705 Bn.		Mein Hlaing	2 Kld	1 G3 Rifle
13-2-86	4th Bn.	23 Inf.Bn.	Nam Pin	4 Kld 2 Wdd	
26-2-86	4th Bn.	67 Inf.Bn.	Waik Khat	1 Kld 1 Wdd	
6-3-86	816 Bn.	23 Inf.Bn.	Nam San	3 Kld 9 Wdd	
8-3-86	7Bde HQ				
	Column	102 Inf.Bn.	Nam San	2 Wdd	
9-3-86	24 Bn.	22/23 Inf.Bn.	Nam Pin	2 Kld 3 Wdd	
23-3-86	24 Bn.	"	Nam Shwe Aik	5 Kld 2 Wdd	
29-3-86	4th Bn.	102L/Inf.Bn.	Kauk Lwin	2 Kld	
1-4-86	4th Bn.	"	Nam Maw	1 Kld 1 Wdd	
9-4-86	151 Bn.	11 L/Inf.Bn.	Kong Ton	2 Kld 3 Wdd	
16-4-86	1st Bn.	67 Inf.Bn.	Mong Kyit	1 Wdd	
17-4-86	851 Bn.	Column of 77			
		Division	Tong Ti So	1 Kld	
18-4-86	2nd Bn.	2 Inf.Bn.	Ha Naw	1 Kld 2 Wdd	
25-4-86	718 Bn.	67 Inf.Bn.	Met Lwin	1 Kld 6 Wdd	1 G4,2 Sten,2000 rounds ammos.
26-4-86	4th Bn.	112L/Inf.Bn.	Aung Hat	1 Wdd	
30-4-86	861 Bn.	67 Inf.Bn.	Nam Lon	1 Kld 2 Wdd	
3-5-86	861 Bn.	"	"	2 Kld 3 Wdd	
4-5-86	851 Bn.	112L/Inf.Bn.	Ho Kway	6 Kld 9 Wdd	
9-5-86	Combined				
	Forces	66 Inf.Bn.	Naung Lon	1 Kld 1 Wdd	2 G3,1000Rds Ammos.
14_5_86	9th Bn.	117L/Inf.Bn.	Nam Sam	1 Kld	1 G3,190Rds Ammos
TOTAL		20 ATTACKS		36 Kld 48 Wdd.7	Small Arms with 3190 rds Ammos Captd.

NOTE. Battle News of forces of NDF members will appear in our next issue.

CONSOLIDATED MILITARY REPORT ON INLA ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL/MAY 1986.

MILITARY ZONE	OWN ACTIONS		ENEMY CASUALTIES					ENEMY MATERIAL LOSSES						REMARKS
	ATTACKS	LAND MINES	KILLED	WOUNDED	LAC SEVERED	CAPTURED	TOTAL	SMALL ARMS	SMALL ARMS AMMUNITIONS	HEAVY WEAPONS	BOMBS, SHRELS, GRENADES	CARS/TRUCKS	BRIDGES	
NO.1	8	1	20	11	-	1	31					2	1	3 godowns, 2 barracks burnt down, 1 Sgt. among killed and 1 Coy. Comdr among wdd.
NO.2	4	-	11	1			11					1	-	1 Coy. comdr and 3 NCOs among killed. Some ene. barracks burnt down.
NO.3	4	-	4	3			7							Destroyed 1 Railway engine with 6 carriages, 2 enemy elephants wdd by landmine
NO.4	-						71							No report received yet.
NO.5	4	2	21	8			29	50						Capt. Khin Mg H and 1 Coy. 2 I/C among kld 1 Lt. and 1 Medical Officer among wounded
NO.6	30	9	46	140	6	1	187	4881			45	2	1	5 Officers and 4 NCO's among kld, 6 Officers, 10 NCO's among wdd. Ene. supply Depot at Tanyakyo & many others barracks burnt
20 Bn.	22	12	43	24	-		67	3				1		1 Bn. 2 I/C among wdd, 1 Hospital, some barracks burnt down.
101 Bn.	9	3	14	16			30	2	690		24	2	1	1 Lt. among wounded, 10 traders were kld. and 5 wdd. by mine bombs.
GRQ.	5	6	39	4		2	45	31	70000	8	367	-	-	17 Ene died of poisonous food at Wa Klai Ko. Post Comdr Capt. Soe Win of 70 Inf. Bn. among kld. Burnt down all ene posts, mily. equipments, rations at Pyinabin Seik and
TOTAL	86	78	252	266	10	3	521	47	75621	8	436	8	3	10 officers, 8 NCO's among kld., Berlu. 11 officers, 10 NCO's among wounded.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS SCORED BY OUR TROOPS

The following is reports about the remarkable successes scored by KNLA in its action against the enemy in the months of April and May, 1986.

No. 1 Military Zone. Thaton District

On 7/4/86 at 11 AM, our troops ambushed one enemy truck near Taunggale. The truck was totally destroyed killing 6 enemy troops in it.

On 10/4/86 our troops attacked the enemy near Kyo-Waing. 4 enemy troops were killed and 4 wounded, including 1 Coy. Commander.

On 22/4/86 our troops ambushed the enemy between Leke and Leiklaw inflicting a casualty of 4 enemy troops killed and 3 wounded.

On 1/5/86 our troops ambushed an enemy truck between Natkyi and Ma Pae Ki. The truck was destroyed killing 3 enemy troops including 1 Sgt. and wounding 1.

No. 2 Military Zone. Toungoo District

On 2/4/86 our troop attacked the enemy near Leikerdoko in Thandaung township. 4 enemy troops were killed.

On 6/5/86 our troops ambushed an enemy truck between Bawgali and Kawsoko. The truck was destroyed killing 7 enemy troops, including 1 Coy. Commander and 3 NCOs, and wounding 5.

No. 5 Military Zone. (Dooplaya District)

On 2/4/86 at 0745 hours, our troops attacked the enemy's combined force of No. 62 and 31 Inf. Bns. between No Su, Naingaw Panaw Kle'Ki. 10 enemy troops were killed, including 1 Coy. Comd. 2 i/c, and 6 wounded. 3 carts carrying enemy luggages were burnt.

Palu Camp Battle:- No. 1 & No. 2 column of No. 4 LIR attacked on Palu camp on 9/2/86 and on 15/2/86. They managed to occupy Takawkyo hill after suffering a casualty of 5 killed, including Capt. Khin Maung E and 9 wounded. From Takawso and other positions they shelled Palu Camp with 120 mm mortars, 81 mm mortars and 75mm recoilless rifles and attempted to capture Palu camp by assault, but they

were repulsed by our troops who inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

No. 6 Military Zone. Pa-an District

On 10/4/86 our combined forces attacked and shelled enemy ammunition, food and medical supply dump on Ta Nya Kyo hill. The attack lasted for 7 hours from 2 PM to 9 PM. All the enemies buildings with all valuable supplies were totally burnt down by our shell fire.

On 28/4/86 our troops attacked the enemy at Terlaw inflicting a casualty of 2 enemy troops killed and 5 wounded including 2 officers, Bo Than Shwe and Bo Win Poo.

On 14/5/86 our combined forces attacked the enemy positions on the ridge above Kanuta and Kay Po saw mills. 5 enemy troops were killed, including 2 NCOs and 12 wounded, including 1 Lt. and 2 NCOs.

Our troops captured 2 G3 and 4 G4 rifles, 1 carbine, 10 hand grenades and 2,000 rounds of small arms ammos.

From 10/5/86 to 15/5/86 our troops attacked the enemy positions at Me Kanaw, Me Kyaw, Teegelo, Wanota, Kawkyo and Nyatelo, inflicting casualties totalling 13 enemy troops killed and 37 wounded in the 6 places.

The 20th Battalion Area. Papun District

On 18/5/86 our forces including some GHQ troops attacked and shelled Kyauk Taung with heavy weapons inflicting a casualty of 19 enemy troops killed and 4 wounded. One enemy field hospital and some buildings were burnt down.

On 11/5/86 Tadawah column attacked enemy troops from No. 1 and 3rd Inf. Bns. at Maw Kyo Ko inflicting a casualty of 7 killed and 1 wounded. Our side captured 2 G2 and 1 G4 rifles with some ammunition and military equipment.

G H Q

On 15/4/86 our troops attacked the enemy strategic outpost at Derlu. All enemy troops fled after suffering 10 killed and 4 wounded. Our forces captured 1-75 recoilless rifle with 35 rounds, 1-81 mm and 1-3 inch mortar with 77 rounds, 1 G2 rifle, 5 carbines with 50,000 small arms ammos., 80 hand grenades, a large quantity of military equipment, medicine and food supplies.

Our troops destroyed and burnt down all barracks, equipments and rice and

rations which they could not carry.

On 22/5/86 our GHQ troops combined with Ko. 1 Bde troops attacked the enemy No. 70 Infantry Bn. out-post at Pyinmabin Seik. Fighting started at 220445 hour and lasted till 221200 hour. All enemy troops fled after suffering 26 killed, including their outpost commander Capt. Soe Win. Our troops captured 1 81mm mortar with 87 rounds, 2-2 inch mortars with 25 rounds, 1 BZK, 1 MG3 machine gun with 200 rounds, 2-79mm, 5-G2, 6-G4, 2-.30 carbines, 1 veri light pistol and 1 browning pistol, 2 W/T sets, 1 charging sets, over 20,000 rounds of small arms ammos, and a large amount of stores. Our troops also captured 2 enemy soldiers alive. All enemy buildings, bunkers, equipments and stores which we could not carry were destroyed.

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NOTE ON KNLA MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN APRIL AND MAY 1986

- (1) Total capture and destruction of strategic enemy out-posts and strong points.
- (2) More guerilla activities and mine warfares behind the enemy lines-west of Dawna Range, as well as throughout the Karen Revolutionary areas causing heavy casualties to the enemy.
- (3) More shelling attacks on enemy positions in various parts of the revolutionary areas by KNLA troops on enemy towns like Myawaddy, Kawkareik, Hlaingbwe, Kyaukkyi, Kyauk Taung and important enemy depots, destroying many buildings, stores and inflicting some casualties.
- (4) More attacks on enemy lines of communication by ambushes and land mines, causing more destruction enemy trucks and bridges including the destructions of one enemy freight train (one engine and 6 carriages overturned) near Nyaunglebin on the Rangoon Mandalay Railway Line.
- (5) More enemy officers and NCOs among enemy casualties.
- (6) Capture of more heavy weapons with shells.
- (7) Our troops could firmly stand up against the enemy's heavy attacks and even cause the enemy to withdraw in disorder after suffering heavy casualties.

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Heavy weapons and shells captured at Derlu ridge battle. 15-4-86



Some of the shells and ammunitions captured at Derlu ridge, 15-4-86.



Some of the arms and ammunitions and No.70 infantry Bn. flag captured at Pyinmabinseik battle on 22-5-86.



General Hla Htoo, A.G, inspecting the captured arms and ammunitions.



The Central State High School girls welcoming the victorious KNLA troops who captured No.70 infantry Bn. post at Pyinmabinseik.



A victorious soldier receiving flower bouquet from a State High School girl.



The boys who presented gifts to the Aged Mothers on Mothers Day at Kawmoorah church. 11-5-86 .



The Karen Baptist Seminary students with their teachers at the Opening Day on 6-6-86. Standing at the front No.4 is the Principal Jerry Lynn.



The Karen Seminary students who provided choir for the opening ceremony.



Kawmoorah Church Choir.



Youths at Christian Endeavour Service, Kawmoorah .



Opening of Yegyaw Gate school. L to R. Capt. Eh Htoo, security officer, Capt. Pah May, post comdr, who cuts the ribbon and Thramu Paw Bay, teacher.



The Central Kawthoolei Women's Organisation leaders who visited Mergui/Tavoy Dist. from 27-3-86 to 28-4-86. Standing 4th from left is Thramu Lah Po, President of Central KWO with some Central District and Township leaders.



The Central Kawthoolei Women's Organisation leaders with some Mergui/Tavoy KWO leaders. Standing 5th from left is President of Central KWO:and sitting 4th from left is Thramu Siporah, Central secretary of KWO .



Villagers enthusiastically welcoming the visiting KWO leaders with songs and music even in rain at Ler Pa Dah village.



Thramu Lah Po, President of KWO addressing the gathering at Tapi Layko .



Some of the Central State High school girls welcoming the victorious column.



The victorious column at the welcoming ceremony .



2 exceptionally bright pupils who were awarded double promotion in Duplaya State High School. Saw Dae Tah(L) Naw Lah Set (R) with Principal Aung Mya Thein, M.A.(sitting).



A platoon of the 10th Bn. taking a break on march at the front.



New arrivals of refugees at Somo camp after very strenuous escape.



Naw Th' Daw ,age 16 killed by enemy landmine near her village, Hti Sarah.



Enemy's land-mine victim Naw Th'Daw had her left leg severed. Her right thigh and knee hit by splinters from land-mine, shown above with markings 76 DI Lot 52 10/84.



Capt. Soe Win, enemy outpost commander at Pyinma Binseik, captured dead in the attack on the post by our troops on May 22,1986.