

ETHNIC NATIONALITIES COUNCIL UNION OF BURMA

Statement No- 5/ 2004

“The Current Situation in the Union of Burma”

1. The Ethnic Nationalities Council held a strategy consultation with its member organizations from 28 to 30 October 2004 on the Thai-Burma border.
2. The consultation reviewed the situation after the removal of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the State Peace and Development Council; the SPDC’s National Convention; the possibility of a Tripartite Dialogue; the question of putting the Union of Burma on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council; and other matters;
3. The removal of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the State Peace and Development Council is the result of an internal power struggle, which is common in military dictatorships. The change does not represent a change in policy of the SPDC, whose goal is to perpetuate military rule;
4. The SPDC regime will continue to consolidate its power by attempting to legitimize its rule through the current National Convention to draft a constitution. It will not deviate from the 6 objectives and 104 articles that have been adopted to date;
5. The Ethnic Nationalities Council believes that its compatriots from the cease-fire groups who had to participate in the National Convention because of their circumstances, will stand firm in their original efforts which would have contributed towards the building of a democracy and genuine federal system of government;

6. The Ethnic Nationalities Council welcomes the resolutions passed by both Houses of the US Congress calling on the United States Government to put the Union of Burma on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council;
7. The Ethnic Nationalities Council will work to the best of its abilities to put the Union of Burma on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council;
8. The Ethnic Nationalities Council reaffirms that its political objectives are:
 - a) To put end to military dictatorships in Burma;
 - b) To establish a democratic nation;
 - c) To establish ethnic equality and self-determination;
 - d) To establish a genuine federal union;
9. The Ethnic Nationalities Council also reaffirms that its strategy is to achieve its objectives through a ‘Tripartite Dialogue’ to find political solutions to political problems;
10. Forty members of the following organizations participated in the strategy consultation:
 1. National Democratic Front (NDF);
 2. United Nationalities League for Democracy – Liberated Areas (UNLD-LA);
 3. Karenni National Progress Party (KNPP);
 4. Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS)
 5. Kachin National Organization (KNO);
 6. Arakan National Council (ANC);
 7. Political Affairs Committee of Chinland (PACC);
 8. Shan Women’s Action Network (SWAN);
 9. Kachin Women’s Association, Thailand (KWAT).

**Ethnic Nationalities Council
(Union of Burma)**

2004-10-30