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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GEN. BO MYA
TO KAREN NATIONALS ON 39th ANNIVERSARY OF MARTYRS'
DAY.

Dear Karen Nationals,

August 12th 1950 was the day on which President Saw Ba U Gyi and a group of leaders had valiantly fought and honourably sacrificed their lives for the freedom of Karen people. This "Day" has been specified as "Martyrs' Day" for all Karen nationals by the Karen National Union (KNU) the organization leading the Karen revolution. Accordingly, ceremonies have been held on twelfth of August every year to commemorate President Saw Ba U Gyi and the leaders who had sacrificed their lives for the country and the people. We, have to understand, of course, that our commemoration is also to honour all our comrades and the ordinary people who had fallen in the struggle for our national freedom and for the establishment of our country, the Karen Land.

The loss of our leaders is a great loss for our entire nation. We shall never be able to forget the day on which they had fallen. We shall always remember with great sadness. At the same time, however, we have to take pride for having such patriotic leaders. They were persons with indomitable spirit and genuine loyalty towards their people. They had courageously and resolutely opposed chauvinism. For our freedom, they had borne their duty until the point of sacrificing their lives.

We those who remain must honour and put on record such patriotic leaders and comrades who had sacrificed their lives for our national freedom. It is the bounden duty of the entire Karen nation to be true to their ideals and strive to realize a free state of the Karen people.

Since the time of feudalism, we, the Karens, have been racially oppressed and enslaved by the ruling chauvinists. For that reason, every Karen should be keenly-conscious of this fact and actively and unitedly support the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) which is fighting under the leadership of KNU, for national liberation.

Being a people, we should have a country of our own with freedom and sovereignty, in order to escape from oppression imposed on us by other races. A people without a country will surely be oppressed, and will never be accorded honour and respect. Accordingly, the entire Karen people must unitedly continue the armed struggle under the leadership of KNU. Join hands with KNLA and fight on with unity and determination until the chauvinists are totally overthrown. Fight on until a free country of the Karen people is gained.

Carry on the banner of Karen revolution high with a high spirit of perseverance. Just as the saying goes, "unity is victory," we must work on with impervious unity, with all our intellectual and physical might, with diligence and determination. Only then, we will be able to realize our aim of a free Karen Land. The just and noble Karen revolution will definitely be victorious.

Evil chauvinism must definitely fall!

Karen revolution must definitely be victorious !

**STATEMENT OF NDF POSITION ON A YEAR OLD
SAW MAUNG-KHIN NYUNT MILITARY JUNTA.**

The spark of student movement started at the Rangoon Institute of Technology on March 12, 1988 grew in June, July and August into a general uprising of the people and then into a revolutionary movement for democracy. Students, workers, artists, intellectuals and civil servants by the Thousands participated in the general strikes held in March, June and on 8-8-88. The brutal suppression by the Burma Army resulted in the death of thousands of demonstrators. On account of the demand of the people for the abolishment of one-party system and the formation of an interim government, one-party system had to be abolished on September 10. Eventually, for its own stability, the military clique seized state power on September 18 and machine-gunned and eliminated the strike centers.

The military junta, under the name of State Law and Order Restoration Council, has been trumpeting the promise to hold a free and fair election without the participation of the military. Under martial law administration, on the other hand, the junta has been taking harsh actions against thousands of opposition party members and student leaders, ceaselessly. President of the National League for Democracy (NLD), ex-General U Tin U and NLD General Secretary Daw Aung San Su Kyi have been put under arrest without time limit. According to reliable sources, about 8,000 persons, who are NLD members and student leaders, including Min Ko Naing, have been put under arrest.

The offences committed by Saw Maung-Khin Nyunt military junta during the 1st year of its rule are:-

1. The obstruction and suppression of the organizing activities of opposition parties so as to ensure the victory of its own National Unity Party, the relabelled BSPP, in the coming election, the setting up of regional military tribunals under martial law, giving the regional military commanders the powers to summarily try and mete out sentences ranging from 3 years imprisonment to death;

2. The constant distribution of false propaganda, internally as well as externally, through its news media, refuting truths and sowing dissension in an attempt to mislead the opinion of foreign governments and international community, attempting to downgrade the revolutionary movement for democracy by false accusations linking it with BCP and some religious movements, sowing division among the people;

3. The launching of major military offensives against armed revolutionary forces* (especially against Karen, Karenni and Kachin revolutionary areas), faking to reach an agreement of cease fire with some armed revolutionary organizations in order to drive a wedge among the armed revolutionary organizations, attempting to salvage its sinking political prestige by military victories for which the lives of many soldiers, whose morale had been artificially raised by various means, were sacrificed;

4. The export of the country's valuable timber and fishes cheaply to finance these military adventures, the desperate scramble to get foreign exchange in order to prolong the evil existence of the military clique, by opening all possible trading operations to some countries;

5. The practising of open-door trade policy to confuse and to make the people waver in their determination, doubling the salaries of the civil servants and workers, the opening of schools stage by stage, the release of thousands of criminals from prisons under an amnesty order and etc.

Judging by the activities of Saw Maung military junta, the NDF does not believe that the general election for multi-party democracy, promised by the junta, will be fair, free and clean. The NDF does not also believe that the army will remain neutral and free from dictator Ne Win and his heir party, the National Unity Party.

The putting of the most powerful opposition party leader U Tin U and Daw Aung San Su Kyi under house arrest, make it clear more than ever that the military clique will go on to consolidate its hold on power by various means.

The NDF, through its member organizations, has continued to support and assist the movement for democracy of the All Burma Students Democratic Front, the organization of the students who have come over to the revolutionary areas.

Similarly, the NDF will continue to support and fight hand in hand, on the basis of its four fundamental principles, with the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), which it has formed with other fighting democratic forces for a broader base.

The NDF politically welcomes the nationalities who at one time under the leadership of BCP, had manned one of the main fronts against the common enemy and who, after seizing power from BCP leadership, are now making changes with a view towards the national movement for democracy, and earnestly hopes that they will be able to resume to unitedly fight militarily against the common enemy again.

Though Saw Maung-Khin Nyunt regards the negotiation for internal peace as a criminal act that should be avoided, the NDF has not refused to negotiate because of the object poverty the country and the people are in. On several occasions, the NDF has made known to the people, its willingness to negotiate in a mediator country, under international observation.

The nightmarish vision of blood and death, on the fighting days of last on which thousands of people were shot to death, is still fresh. We, the NDF, urge all the fighting students, monks and people of all walks of life, on the basis of the anniversary days of these monumental events, to firmly resolve and struggle for:-

- Waging urban guerilla warfare, with firm spirit and coordinated activities, against the troops of the military clique which have prepared killing fields in towns and cities all over the country;-

- Establishment of unity among the opposition forces, and true internal peace with the unity of armed and unarmed internal and external forces; and

- Active performance of whatever duties assigned to and doing whatever is possible in throwing back the all-out offensive and military adventures by the enemy against NDF member organizations, and etc.

The revolution can be participated only by those who dare to fight, die and win. Accordingly, on the 1st anniversary day of the seizing of power by Saw Maung-Khin Nyunt military clique, we urge you to work with courage and determination in organizing and developing a broadly based revolution that will overthrow and triumph over Saw Maung-Khin Nyunt military junta.

September 18, 1989

Central Presidium
National Democratic Front

**ALL BURMA STUDENTS DEMOCRATIC FRONT (ABSDF)
SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY DECLARATION ON MOVEMENT
FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA**

On the first anniversary of August 8, 1988, the day on which people in the whole country started the massive movement for democracy, we, the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), who are engaged in the people's revolution with the aims and objects of realizing:-

- (a) The emancipation from oppression of all the indigenous nationalities and the entire people;
 - (b) The establishment of true democracy;
 - (c) The cessation of civil war, establishment of internal peace and unity of the entire indigenous population; and
 - (d) The establishment of a prosperous union which will develop abreast with the leading countries of the world.-
- Issue this special declaration and demands.-

The state Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which is dominated by military dictators who had seized state power on September 18, 1988, is still ignoring the demands of the people and imposing oppression by force of arms. We believe that, that body of authority which has denied freedom of organization, assembly and expression, will never be able to hold a free and fair election.

Moreover, the arrest of popular opposition party leaders, student leaders who are leading the people and fighting heroically, the launching of major military offensives against us - the students in border areas and the national groups who are fighting for justice with conviction and etc. - make it evident that Rangoon military junta has never wanted the emergence of a democratic government which is genuinely longed for by the people.

It is certain that by making the National Unity Party, the relabelled Burma Socialist Program Party, or a party that could reach an understanding with it, to win in a rigged election in which the voters would be controlled by threat of force, the military junta will go on controlling state power.

We firmly believe that a government not truly elected by the people or state power seized from the people by force can only bring regression, deterioration and decay upon the people and the country.

We believe that only leaders and government based upon the principles of democracy, human rights and respected by the people can successfully mould the future of the country.

Accordingly, we are firmly convinced that only the formation of an interim government made up of persons acceptable to and trusted by the people and which can lay the foundation of multi-party democracy can lead to the peaceful settlement of issue facing Burma today. We believe that only such a popular interim government of integrity will be able to lay the ground-work for peace, emancipation of the oppressed indigenous nationalities and the entire population, the establishment of true democracy, cessation of the civil war, and hold a free and fair election.

For that reason, we, the entire people, must totally oppose the election that will be held by the military junta and fight for the formation of an interim government.

In our fight, it is necessary to follow a line of action with unity and coordination. All those who are desirous of overthrowing the oppressive rule imposed by the military junta today and look forward to the emergence of a new state of democracy in the future, must have a firm faith in the just cause of the revolution and organize for section with determination, industriousness and courage.

We urge the people under the rule of the military junta to form a united federation of political forces at national level and fight against the unjust power. We who are in the liberated area, will also march on towards a national political federation through the Democratic Alliance of Burma which has been formed of the forces of indigenous nationalities and expatriate Burmese patriots.

We believe that only with such a national political federation participated by the entire people, will we be able to annihilate the system of military dictatorship and march on towards a new and prosperous society based on true democracy and human rights.

Accordingly, we, the ABSDF, have resolved to realize the following three-point program.

1. Establishment of national political federation;
2. Formation of an interim government; and
3. Establishment of democracy by various means, with revolutionary alertness.

As an act of realizing this three-point program, we, the ABSDF, solemnly present to the SLORC, the following six-point demand. We urge the SLORC to promptly yield to our demand if it loves the country and the people, and wants to settle the fate of the country peacefully.

We demand the SLORC:-

1. To form an interim government promptly;
2. To release, promptly, all the political prisoners including U Tin U, Daw Aung San Su Kyi and Min Ko Naing;
3. To withdraw military administration;
4. To allow freedom of expression, assembly and organization;
5. To abandon the oppression imposed upon the farmers; and
6. To reinstate the civil servants who had participated in the demonstration.

If the SLORC, headed by Gen. Saw Maung, does not yield to our demands, then we will hold it responsible for all the adverse consequences relating to all the affairs of state of Burma.

Fellow countrymen

Know thy rights;

For the future, join the fight!

August 8, 1989

*Central Committee
All Burma Students Democratic Front*

**ALL BURMA STUDENTS DEMOCRATIC FRONT (ABSDF)
STATEMENT NUMBER (9).**

It is the current true situation that we, the ABSDF, are sacrificing our lives, and pouring blood and sweat in the heroic fight, by various means, to achieve true democracy longed for by the people.

Since we absolutely believe that the on going revolution we are engaged in for democracy in Burma is correct and just, we will never waver in our faith nor betray the revolution. We are in resistance against the military dictatorship in the interest of the entire people. Accordingly, we will never abandon our precise and firm convictions and resolutions, whatever difficulties we face. We will continue to realize our aims and objects until the revolution is successfully concluded. All those who are in doubt also of the fact that all the members of ABSDF are fighting for the revolution with undiminished dedication and full determination, can come in person to study and verify.

At present, some wicked persons who want to obstruct and destroy our revolution are endeavoring for the destruction of ABSDF.

Persons:-

- * Who, though not a member of ABSDF, are faking as legal spokesmen of ABSDF, and giving fabricated information to international student organizations, foreign news media and sympathizers of the revolution;
- * Who, pretending as if working for the benefit of the students, are misappropriating for personal benefit, the funds and assistances meant for ABSDF members engaged in the revolution; and
- * Who, without the permission of ABSDF, are collecting funds from donors, on their own accord, in the name of the Burmese students in the border areas;

are persons who do not understand the conviction, aims, dedication and courage of the students, and who are mere self-seekers. These persons should take a good reflection upon their own actions, as everyone of Burma should bear a sense of duty towards the affairs happening in Burma, today.

Since we are engaged in the revolution in the interest of the entire people, the attempt to wreck the aims and objects of our ABSDF means a betrayal not only to the revolution and ABSDF but also to the entire people. Therefore, we will never pardon such persons, as we will have consideration only for the revolution.

Accordingly, we give serious warning to all these traitors who are obstructing by various means with the intention of wrecking the aims and program of ABSDF and who are working for personal gains by using the name of ABSDF which was formed on the unity of students in the border areas, to stop their traitorous activities.

If these persons continue to commit traitorous activities again, in spite of this advance warning, then they and only they shall be responsible for all the consequences.

June 20, 1989

Central Committee
All Burma Students Democratic Front
Central Headquarters (Manerplaw)

PLEASE STOP ARMS SALE TO MILITARY JUNTA

The Karen revolution has pushed past the 40th year of its existence now. In all the more than 40 years, the revolution has faced and overcome a great number of difficulties. Due to its correct goal and aims, the revolution has gained not only the support of the Karen people but also the support of the entire mass in the country. Because of the support, the Karen revolution can remain firm and strong until this day. The Karens had peacefully demanded their national rights. However, when the ruling chauvinists started to suppress by force of arms, the Karens had to take up whatever arms available and began a revolutionary war of resistance for national existence and survival. The Karen revolution has always maintained the policy of settling the national and political questions, politically. Accordingly, Karen revolution has met with successive ruling chauvinists to negotiate for peace, at every opportunity. However, all the negotiations failed, because every time, the chauvinists demanded a unilateral surrender by the revolution.

The country presently known as Burma has been cohabited by many nationalities. All these nationalities are indigenous to the land. For instance, the Kachins, Karennis, Karens, Burmese, Arakanese, Shans, Palaungs, Pa-ohs, Mons, Lahus, Was & etc. are nationalities who have lived in the country from time immemorial, each with its own distinct language, culture, traditions and territory. We can not and should not deny nor ignore the separateness of the identities of these peoples. They are the peoples who should enjoy equal rights in the country, in time of weal, as well as, woe. There should be no racial absorption nor political oppression against these peoples. They should have the opportunity to enjoy full democratic rights such as freedoms of belief and worship, expression, organization, movement etc. The Karens have to rise up and fight in order to gain their just rights, because they have been denied even the freedom to learn their own language and literature legally, because they have been oppressed on religious grounds, and because of racial discrimination and absorption. Like the Karens, the other indigenous peoples of Burma have taken up arms, because they could no longer bear the tyranny and cruel oppression of the chauvinists. They have joined forces together and sacrificed many lives for freedom. By collective effort, they have successfully formed an alliance known as the National Democratic Front (NDF), consisting of 11 different indigenous peoples. The NDF is fighting for the establishment of a genuine federal union based on equality, freedom and social progress for all the indigenous peoples or nationalities of the country.

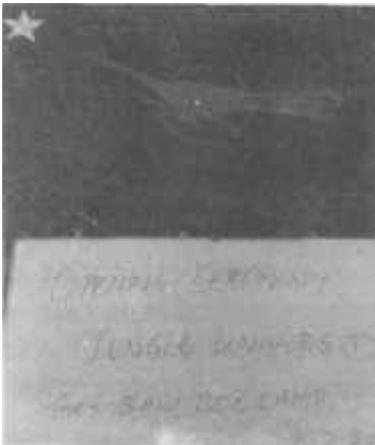
In September 1988, Saw Maung military junta brutally suppressed the country-wide movement for democracy, killing thousands of demonstrators. As a result, thousands of students, monks and civilians fled the towns and cities to take refuge in areas under the control of KNU. This brought about the confluence of the forces of democratic and national movements and the alliance of the two known as the

Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) was successfully formed on November 11, 1988. Thus two groups of contending forces emerged clearly in Burma, the military dictatorship group led by Saw Maung and the people fighting for democratic and national freedom.

The one side representing chauvinism and military dictatorship and rejecting all the international norms of decency, justice and government, consists of Saw Maung military junta and its military henchmen, while the other side representing democracy, national freedom, justice and federalism, consists of people from all walks of life, oppressed nationalities, political organizations, intellectuals apart from students and Buddhist monks, a solid and unlimited force. This great revolutionary force is fighting resolutely, with unabating perseverance and industriousness, for the establishment of a future federal union in which all the nationalities will have equality, freedom, unity, prosperity and progress. Many lives have been sacrificed in the struggle for a just prosperous and peaceful future. More blood and sweat are being shed, more lives are being sacrificed by the revolution in battles raging in many places of Burma, to maintain the momentum of the revolution.

While such a life and death struggle is going on between the forces of good and evil, it is most surprising as well as disturbing to learn that Singapore, Pakistan and Belgium are selling arms and ammunitions to Saw Maung military junta. Basically, these countries are democratic and it would not be far wrong for us to assume that the peoples as well as the governments of these countries would certainly like to see democracy and peace to flourish in Burma.

Though we cannot accuse these countries of interference in the internal affairs of our country, we would like to urge them to take the examples set by other democratic countries which have decertified Saw Maung military junta and suspended aid to it, in protest against the junta's brutality and oppressive measures. We would also like to urge these countries to stand firmly on the side of democratic forces and the forces for freedom and progress in Burma.



One of nine battalions of ABSDF in KNU area undertaking vigorous military training.

WHOEVER SHOOTS ME...

Three weeks before she was placed under house arrest, Aung San Su Kyi spoke with TIME correspondent Ross Munro. Excerpts from her observations:

On fears that her life is in danger. It's something I don't really think about. You would probably say, "How can I not think about it when everybody keeps talking about it?" So when you ask me the question, I think about it. But I'm not preoccupied by it at all. It's funny to say it (giggling), but it's not a question that interests me very much.

On freedom from fear. The people of Burma really want freedom. First of all, they want freedom from fear. People are frightened. Everywhere we go, we have to keep saying, "Don't be so frightened. If you're going to let yourself be intimidated, they're going to go on intimidating you."

On junta accusations that she is pro-Communist. This is basically to create a division between the armed forces and myself. Having fought the Communist insurgents for years and years and years, the army has very strong feelings about Communism. Sometimes I wonder how (the military leaders) reconcile the fact the on one hand they accuse me of Communism, and on the other they say I have too much to do with Americans and the British. It doesn't make sense.

On Burma's economic future. In southeast Asia you can look at Thailand, Singapore or Malaysia. But we Burmese always believe we can do better. We must allow enough incentives and enough economic freedoms to achieve that.

On her father Aung San. I was two when my father died, and I grew up with people always telling me what a great man he was. He was 32 when he died, But if you look at his speeches now, if you look at what he did, he was really a great man. I feel embarrassed saying this about my father, but the more you study his life, the more impressed you are. The things he said then are timeless. You can apply them to the situation now. He was very worried about how this army could be misused, and he said a lot about it. He made this point: that this army was not founded for the use of one man, or for one group. It's for the country; it's for the people.

He didn't think much of (General) Ne Win, and he never trusted him a lot. My father stopped him from becoming commander of the army, had him removed, and demoted him to quartermaster general at one point.

On Ne Win. He's done enough to ruin the country. I think it's time he stopped. He's very easy to understand in a way: He'll do anything to keep himself in power. A megalomaniac.

If anybody shoots me; you can be sure that he will be doing it under Ne Win's instructions, even if that person pretends to be a nun or whatever. Whoever shoots me, you can be sure he comes from Ne Win.

Rangoon drops all pretensions to democracy

Burma's army is adopting methods of even greater repression,
writes **Roger Matthews**

Ten months ago it seemed improbable that the Burmese military regime, despite all its protestations, would fulfil its pledge to introduce genuine multi - party democracy and liberalize its economy. But some small margin of hope remained, primarily because there seemed no tolerable alternative.

The argument for change was overwhelming. The regime which had ruled the country for 26 years had clearly lost whatever popular support it might once have enjoyed. The massive street demonstrations demanding the right of the Burmese people to choose their own government had been brutally suppressed leaving thousands dead and wounded.

Foreign exchange reserves were down to about \$20m (£12.3m); nothing had been exported for three months and virtually all foreign aid was suspended. No regime, even one as isolated as that in Rangoon, could surely fail to appreciate the need for something more substantial than cosmetic change.

Yet that is precisely what many of the changes now appear to have been. Worse still, the government is, if anything, turning the clock back. "Because the Burmese regime has been isolated from the rest of the world for such a long time it has lost the ability to understand the linkage between words, their meanings and action," explained a diplomat." It uses words like democracy, liberalization, market economy, and foreign investment, because last year that was what aid donors were telling them had to be done. But they had no intention of implementing such policies, and even if they wanted to, they do not have the capacity actually to do it."

The consequences are becoming both clear and alarming. The leadership of the one political party to have spoken out strongly in support of democracy has been locked up. Aung San Su Kyi, the secretary general of the National League for Democracy, and General Tin Oo, its chairman, are both under house arrest. Two other members of the party executive are in jail. They and the party are under daily attack by the regime, accused of crimes ranging from sowing doubts in the minds of soldiers to forcing up the price of rice to record levels.

The army has taken frightening new powers to deal with anyone who violates martial law regulations, such as being part of a street gathering of more than four people or failing to observe curfew.

Five three-man military tribunals have been set up in the Rangoon area to try offenders. The tribunals need not call witnesses, there is no provision for a defence, the minimum sentence they can impose is three years' jail with hard labour and the maximum is death. Once the death sentence has been passed, all that is required before execution is the approval of the local military commander.

These military courts will probably operate in complete secrecy. The regime tightly controls the media: the most recent foreign correspondent to enter Burma legally was thrown out after 36 hours, no more are being admitted, and all phone links and telex lines to the outside world have been cut since the middle of last week. The only chance the Burmese people have of knowing what is happening in their country is by listening to the BBC or the Voice of America.

These harsh measures may anticipate the impact of a worsening economic situation. The regime announced at the end of last week that it would not export any rice this year because of the sharp increase in local prices and shortages of supply. Earlier it had said optimistically that it expected to sell about 100,000 tons abroad, 60,000 tons more than last year, which was the lowest level since General Ne Win seized power in 1962.

Farmers have been increasingly reluctant to sell rice to the Government because of the low price offered, the risk that the regime will again demonetise high denomination bank notes and because much more attractive deals can be struck on the black market.

The regime is also believed to have again run down its hard currency reserves to a very low level, mainly as a result of equipment and ammunition purchases for the army. It won some respite from the international suspension of aid last autumn by selling off its natural resources, particularly teak concessions to Thai logging companies.

Some foreign aid has been restored this year. Japan, by far the largest contributor with an annual allocation of \$250m, says it will disperse funds in the pipeline but make no new commitments until the conditions it set for political and economic reform are met.

Economic leverage is one of the few weapons the industrialized countries have against a regime which has so few other links with the outside world, but only if developing countries such as Thailand can be persuaded to participate. West Germany might show the way by suspending the only foreign joint venture in Burma; this manufactures bullets for the army, among other things.

Unless the message can somehow be got through to General Ne Win and to the rest of the army, Burma is likely to remain teetering on the edge of disaster. Old dictators who do not know when the game is lost remain one of politics' most dangerous species.

**REPLY OF BRIG. GEN. KHIN NYUNT TO THE PRESS
AT 49th**

PRESS CONFERENCE.

In replying to question raised by the Press, Secretary (1) Brig-General Khin Nyunt said he was not certain whether the check cashed by Maung Aung in the United States has any connection with the aid of 2 million US Dollars which was to be provided by United States House of Representatives to students in the border area. The Secretary clarified that the principle used by late Bogyoke Aung San to defy power was against British imperialism of the past. Regarding KNU insurgents the Secretary stated that efforts were being made to annihilate them. Regarding non-attendance at the Arzani Day (Martyr's Day) by Daw Aung San Su Kyi, daughter of late Bogyoke Aung San, Secretary of National League for Democracy (NLD) party, it meant a deliberate boycott against state ceremony and revealed not only her individual sentiment, but her party's attitude toward the state as well. Instead of opposing the state, they should act with far sightedness by setting a good example.



The last stage of military training.

MYANMAR REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

NEWS RELEASE

The Minister for foreign affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, today expressed the Australian Government's deep concern over reports of continuing human rights abuses by the military authorities in Myanmar, formerly Burma.

Speaking a year to the day after the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) came to power and suppressed demonstrations in support of democracy with considerable loss of life, Senator Evans said "the people of Myanmar have continued to show a deep desire for democratic change but the military regime has responded, to its shame, with repressive measures and the recent arrest of thousands of people".

Senator Evans recalled that the SLORC had undertaken that elections would be held by April /May 1990 and that they would be free and fair. Australia had welcomed this assurance and still hoped that it would be realized but each passing month of repression made this less possible.

Senator Evans said, "no satisfactory explanation has been given for the arrest of the leaders of the National League for democracy, Daw Aung San Su Kyi and U Tin U. Their continued detention and the restrictions that applied to freedom of speech and assembly could only cast doubt on the credibility of the elections to be held next year."

"The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has called on the Government of Myanmar to take the necessary measures to assure the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar, unfortunately, reports of mistreatment and torture remain all too commonplace."

"Australia calls for the lifting of restrictions on political activity and for the release of Daw Aung San Su Kyi and other political prisoners in preparation for free and fair elections, and for respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar."

CANBERRA

Ne Win remains a powerful presence behind political scenes in Myanmar

By PETER JANSSEN

RANGOON (dpa) Opposite the southern gate of Rangoon's magnificent Shwedagon Pagoda, whose golden spire dominates the capital's sky-line, a rival tower is under construction .

It is popularly known as "Ne Win's pagoda," after the man who ruled Myanmar for 26 years.

Like the Buddhist kings of ancient Myanmar, Ne Win is said to have sponsored the construction of the Maha Wizaya Pagoda to acquire merit for his next reincarnation .

Work on the temple, built atop a relic of the Buddha given to Myanmar by the king of Nepal in 1984, has been slow.

"They are waiting for Ne Win's death to complete it,"joked a Rangoon taxi driver.

The pagoda is only one reminder that "The old man" as Ne Win has been nicknamed, is still alive, presumably well and undoubtedly powerful.

On July 25, Gen. Ne Win publicly announced his resignation from politics in the face of the country's growing economic and political woes.

His resignation ,and the brutal military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations that followed, sparked a mini-revolution that was ended on Sept. 18, 1988, when Gen. Saw Maung seized power in a bloody coup d'etat that left hundreds dead.

Saw Maung placed the country under martial law and set up the military-run State Law and order Restoration Committee (SLORC) to handle state affairs until a promised multi-party election next May.

Most Myanmars and Myanmar-watchers concur that Ne Win was behind the move to re-establish military rule in the country, which was vending on either anarchy or democracy.

Gen. Ne Win , 78 or 79 years old, earned his political credentials as one of the famed "Thirty Comrades," a group of independence fighters who first joined and later opposed the Japanese occupation of the country during World War II.

The group was led by Gen. Aung San, the still revered independence hero who was assassinated in 1947, months before the country gained independence from Great Britain in January 1948.



"The old man" behind the political curtain.



KNU stick firmly to their 1949 slogans.

Aung San's death arguable paved the way for Ne Win's to power.

During the country's short fling with democracy from 1948 to 1962, when it was ravaged by communist and ethnic insurgencies, a war debilitated economy and political instability, Ne Win emerged as the powerful leader of the armed forces.

On March 2, 1962, Ne Win, on the pretext of preserving national unity from the threats of political chaos and myriad ethnic insurgencies, put an end to the elected government of then-Premier U Nu with a bloodless coup d'etat.

With the help of Marxist-minded military colleagues, he thereafter launched the country along its ruinous path to socialism, isolationism and one-party, one-man rule best described as "Ne Winism."

"Ne Win is to Burma what Lee Kuan Yew is to Singapore but the difference is that while Lee Kuan Yew lifted his country up, Ne Win has dragged Myanmar down," said one West German businessman, whose job takes him to both countries.

But after 26 years of economic decline, Ne Win finally acknowledged the failure of the Myanmar Way to socialism last year.

Political analysts point out that while Ne Win has dismantled the Socialist Program Party, he did not destroy its core the powerful military clique which is the true source of Ne Win's power.

Many former member of the defunct party and a considerable amount of the party's funds have been transferred to the National Unity Party which has been established to contest the May election.

The well-financed party, which is little more than a front for the former regime, could easily claim a majority of votes during the election which is unlikely to be "a free and fair" one, Rangoon-based diplomats said.

That likelihood is all the greater now with Aung San Su Kyi, the popular leader of the National League for Democracy, under house arrest.

One of her greatest sins was to publicly criticize Ne Win for his disastrous rule and for reducing the once prosperous Southeast Asian nation to least developed country status granted by the United Nations in late 1987.

She also embarrassed the SLORC by publicly claiming they were still taking commands from the general, who is affectionately called aphogyi or "great father" in army circles.

"The military must get out of the dark shadow of Ne Win and start thinking about the welfare of the welfare of the country," she said shortly before her arrest on July 20.

But as the privileged class under "Ne Winism," and no doubt fearful of the possibility of a vengeful civilian government in post-election Myanmar, the military is unlikely to renounce its "great father" any time soon.

"And as long as Ne Win is pulling the strings, one sees no bright future for democracy," noted one Western diplomat.

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

We accept a voluntary contribution of US \$ 1 or an equivalent amount in any currency for a copy of KNU Bulletin. Readers living farther away than Thailand usually double that amount.

Once again, readers of the KNU Bulletin who want to make contribution towards the cost of publication and cost of mailing, are requested to kindly send their money orders or cheques to the Editor, KNU Bulletin, PO BOX 22, Maesod, Tak Province, Thailand.

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORTS OF KNLA MILITARY ACTIVITIES FROM 1.6.88 TO 31.5.89

MILITARY ZONE	Total IMA Attacks	Total KNLA Attacks	Total IMA Misses	MIL. CASUALTIES				MIL. LOSSES IN AREA ATTACKS						MIL. CASUALTIES				MIL. LOSSES IN A/A				REMARKS	
				Killed	Wounded	Surrender	Captured	Small Arms	Magnets	Ammunition	Heavy Weapons	Shells	Hand Grenades	Bombs	Killed	Wounded	Surrender	Captured	Small Arms	R/A Ammo	Heavy Weapons		Shells
No.1	9	98	31	185	108	1	3	85	79	8137	46	1	5	73	7	0	19	-	-	-	-	-	(7)ass-officers kid,(2)officers wtd, (5)prisoners(1)addy purchasing center (2)go-downs,(3)tractors,(5)cars destroyed.
No.2	19	30	24	72	62	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)ass-officers kid. (1)officers wtd.
No.3	9	68	28	162	98	-	-	78	-	-	21	4	1	6	7	2	30	990	-	-	-	-	(1)ass-officer wtd,(8)ass-offices kid. captured (46)ass. militias.
No.4	6	95	4	139	126	6	1	28	37	3234	5	14	5	8	11	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	(2)ass-officers kid (7)officers wtd. (1)hydro electrical power plant destroyed.
No.5	1	54	3	123	163	1	-	37	152	4481	2	114	14	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5)ass-officers kid,(5)officers wtd. (1)bridge destroyed.
No.6	26	98	49	557	1330	1	12	107	222	20824	4	66	82	58	78	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	(19)ass-officers kid,(20)officers wtd. (9)cars,(1)cart,(1)25mm,(7)76mm,(1)2 inch mortar destroyed.
101 Am.	22	37	20	362	300	2	4	89	649	31285	9	606	338	29	56	-	11	-	-	21	-	-	(8)ass-officers kid,(18)officers wtd. (9)cars and (1)cart destroyed.
20 Bn.	3	52	33	184	168	-	8	19	33	4025	4	112	1	13	17	-	15	-	-	33	3	-	(6)ass-officers kid,(2) officers wtd. (1)car destroyed.
Badohrah	-	46	9	80	66	-	-	14	40	4281	5	154	74	5	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3)ass-officers kid. (1)officer wtd. Captured (1)0.3 (1)M.79,(1)vee. car destroyed.
0 B 4	11	55	29	425	1576	1	9	76	115	3710	8	180	2	127	330	1	15	-	-	3	-	-	(3)ass-officers kid. (18)officers wtd. (7)ass. cars,(1)cart destroyed. (1)ass. camp burnt down.
Total	106	643	277	2339	4677	12	39	531	1327	79367	32	1139	436	268	522	2	84	990	40	54	3	-	

SOME IMPORTANT KNLA ACHIEVEMENTS (IN MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST/1989)

No. 1 Military Zone. (Thaton District).

From 12.5.89 to 20.5.89 our troops engaged enemies (7) times, inflicting (38) enemies killed and (14) wounded. Our troops captured (5) G.4 rifles,(5) G. 3 rifles (18) magazines with (400) rounds of 7.62 MM ammos, and some other ammos. In this engagement our troops destroyed (4) enemy bunkers and (2) of our troops sacrificed their lives for the nation.

From 31.5.89 to 9.7.89, our troops attacked (5) times, killing (24) enemies, including (1) Coy. commander and (22) wounded . On 28.6 89, the leader of Tamaudauh village militia joined to our troops with (4) AK.47 and (1) AR assault rifle. From 29.7.89 to 24.8.89, our troops attacked enemies inflicting (8) enemies killed and (7) wounded, destroyed (1) bridge and captured (1) .30 carbine. On 29.7.89, private Kyaw Tun Maung and private Thein Kyaw surrendered to our troops with (1) M .79 grenade launcher and (2) G. 3 rifles, after killing their section commander Kyaw Win.

No. 2 Military Zone. (Toungoo District.)

From 1. 5 89 to 15.5.89 our troops attacked enemies (16) times, inflicting (27) enemies killed and (22) wounded.

No. 3 Military Zone. (Nyaung-le-bin District)

From 13.5.89 to 30.5.89, our troops attacked enemies (6) times, inflicting (9) enemies killed and (13) wounded. Our troops captured (2) AK. 47 (2) AR. and (133) rounds of S/A ammos.

On 27.5.89 our troops and Ta-do Wah combined force attacked Kyaik Tee-Nyaungbin enemy outpost, inflicting (1) enemy killed and (1) wounded. Our troops captured (1) G. 3 rifle (1) M. 14 (3) M.1 (2) H.K and some military equipments, then burnt down enemy outpost.

From 20.6.89 to 27.6.89, our troops attacked enemies, inflicting (8) enemies killed and (9) wounded. Our troops captured (3) .30 carbines (1) G. 2 rifle and some ammos.

From 10.7.89 to 15.8.89, our troops engaged enemies (3) times, inflicting (9) enemies killed (6) wounded. During these days (2) enemies killed and (9) wounded by our land mines.

No. 4 Military Zone. (Mergui-Tavoy District)

From 7.5.89 to 7.8.89, our troops attacked enemies (7) times, killing (19) enemies including (1) officer and (7) wounded. Our troops captured (1) G.3 rifle (1) .30 carbine

(10) .303 British rifles, (2) stens (3) hand grenades and various kind of ammunitions, on 21.7.89, private Maung Maung from No. 104 infantry Bn. joined to our troops with (1) G.3 rifle and (240) rounds of ammunitions.

No. 5 Military Zone. (Dooplaya District)

From 25.5.89 to 26.5.89, our troops attacked enemy No. 2 Light infantry Bn. At Daun-ma.lan, inflicting (30) enemies killed including captain Soe Tint (14) wounded, including (1) Battalion commander and (1) Coy. commander. Our troops captured (3) G. 3 rifles. (2) G.2 rifles, (3) G.4 rifles, (70) G.3 magazines, (2033) rounds of 7.62 mm. ammos, and quantities of other ammos and military equipments from enemy.

On 13.5.89 , L Cpl. Min Maing from No. 209 Light Infantry Bn. of No.22 L.I.D. joined to our troops.

From 5.6.89 to 28.6.89, our troops attacked enemies (4) times, inflicting (9) enemies killed (25) wounded including (1) Coy. comdr.

On 24.6.89, private Saw Eh Mu from No. 106 infantry Bn. of No 77 LID joined to "Our troops with (1) G. 3 rifle with (120) rounds of ammos, after killing sgt. Maung Shwe and Cpl. Ngwe Tun.

From 3.7.89 to 5.7.89 our troops and ABSDF Students combined force engaged enemies (3) times inflicting (2) enemies killed and (3) wounded. On 9.7.89 enemies attacked our Pha-lu-camp using heavy fire power, our troops resisted bravely and the enemies retreated after suffering (12) killed and (29) wounded.

On 21.8.89 our troops engaged with enemy No. 106 Infantry Bn. No.2 Column, inflicting (2) enemies killed and (3) wounded.

No. 6 Military Zone. (Pa-an District)

From 1.5.89 to 10.6.89, our demolition squad entered enemy Mae La area set up land mines, inflicting (7) enemies killed, including (1) lieutenant and (14) wounded including (1) Coy. Comdr.

From 7.6.89 to 26.6.89, our troops engaged enemies (9) times, inflicting (12) enemies killed and (10) wounded including (1) Coy. comdr. we captured (1) enemy alive with (1) G.4 and (290) rounds.

From 13.8.89 to 19.8.89, our troops attacked enemies inflicting, (4) enemies killed and (5) wounded.

Ta Doh Wah Column

From 16.6.89 to 8.7.89, our troops attacked enemies, inflicting (1) killed and (8) wounded. From 13.7.89 to 14.7.89 our troops and KNIA combined force destroyed (1)

enemy car on the Mau-chee- Pa-saung road and blown up (2) bridges at eight mile and nine mile. On 19.7.89, our troops ambushed enemies, inflicting, (11) killed and (5) wounded, on the same day (1) enemy killed and (1) wounded by our land mines. On 25.7.89 our combined troops attacked enemies at 13 mile, inflicting (4) killed including (1) enemy column comdr. On 26.7.89, our combined troops engaged enemies at (8) mile, inflicting (2) enemies killed and (3) wounded.

No. 20 Bn. area (Papun District)

On 19.5.89, our troops attacked enemies (3) times, inflicting (3) enemies wounded. On 3.6.89, enemy troops attacked our Klee-poo-kya camp and withdrew after (3) hours fighting. Our troops captured (1) M. 79 grenade launcher, (10) rounds of 40 MM (1) .30 carbine (1000) rounds of .30 carbine ammos (1) G. 4 rifle (7) G. 3 magazines, (3000) rounds of 7.62 ammos, and some other ammunitions. On 15.6.89, our troops attacked enemies at Bwa-deah inflicting (3) enemies killed.

G.H.Q, troops

On 11.5.89 our combined troops of G.H.Q, and Student troops engaged enemies (3) times, inflicting (7) enemies killed, (11) wounded and (2) cars destroyed. Our troops captured (1) .30 carbine and some military equipments, (3) enemies leg severed including (1) lieutenant. On 17.5.89, our troops and No. 6 Brigade combined force ambushed enemy arms and ammos convoy on Thin-gan Nyee-Naung road inflicting (2) of (5) ten wheeled trucks with (418) rounds of 76 mm. HE shells and quantity of military equipments were destroyed. Witness (18) enemy dead bodies and more than (20) enemies wounded.

From 31.5.89 to 8.6.89, our combined troops of GHQ, No. 21 Bn, and student 208 Bn. engaged enemies (2) times at different places, inflicting (18) enemies killed and (30) wounded.

From 23.6.89 to 27.6.89, our troops attacked enemies, inflicting (13) enemies killed including (1) Coy. commander and (12) wounded. Our troops captured (1) G.3 rifle, (150) rounds of 7.62 mm. On 30.6.89 our combined troops of GHQ. and student No. 208 Bn, engaged enemies at Taw-Ywea village, inflicting (3) enemies killed and (3) wounded. From 13.7.89 to 21.8.89, our troops engaged enemies (7) times, inflicting (17) enemies killed and (24) wounded. Our troops captured (2) G.4 rifles (1) G.3 rifle and (1) .30 carbine.

No. 101. Special Bn. area

On 7.5.89 Burmese army started the fiercest operation, determined to occupy our Kaw-Mu-Rah camp using recorded fire power. Our combined troops of Brigade No. 1, 2, 3, No. 20 Bn, KIA, ALA and students resisted against the enemies bravely. Fierce fighting continued almost daily from 7.5.89 to 22.7.89, our troops tactically withdrew

from old Wankha camp and resisted against enemies from our well-prepared new Wan-kha camp for defensive position. Our troops killed every enemy who entered the killing ground in front of the gate. In this battle not more than (10) of our troops sacrificed their lives for the nation. Our troops captured quantity of arms, ammunitions and military equipments. During the battle, enemies' (1) 76 mm. gun (3) 75 mm. recoilless rifles (1) 0.5 machine gun (1) 20 mm. Orlekon and (1) field ammos store were completely destroyed by our counter-fire. From 10.7.89 to 17.8.89 our troops counter attacked enemies, several times by ambushes and land-mines. Enemy losses and casualties of unending Wankha battle were carefully shown on following list.

Enemy Casualties

Killed	(officers)	7	Nos.
	(other rank)	396	
Wounded	(officers)	21	
	(other rank)	824	
Arrested		3	
TOTAL		1,251	



Some of foreign arms and ammos that support the military junta captured by KNLA troops in the front line.

Enemy Losses arms and ammunitions

Arms

G-2 rifles	71	Nos.
G-3 "	44	"
G-4 "	25	"
M. 79 grenade launcher	4	"
.30 carbine	12	"
BA .93 grenade launcher	10	"
Browning pistol	3	"
2 inch mortar	2	"
TOTAL	171	"

Various ammunitions

.30 carbine	2,857	Rds.
7.62 mm.	40,104	"
BA .93 HE bombs	493	Nos.
40 mm. bombs	74	"
Hand grenade	274	"
Bombs ML 2 inch mortar	133	"
84 mm. HE shell	48	"
TOTAL	43,983	"

G.3 magazines	741	Nos.
.30 carbine magazines	17	
Radio wireless	2	



Reelected KWO President, Thra Mu Lar Po



Some of Central KWO. Executive Committee Members.



Some of KWO. members at front line.



Martyrs' day celebration at Doo Pla Ya District
(No.6th Bgde.)



KWO members took part in the revolution for their
national survival.