



Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (019/2010) English Version

May 30 – June 05, 2010

STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SPDC) AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

-According to a member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), even though the Union Election Commission has not announced anything about constituencies, the USDA, during its campaign in the northern part of Shan State, which began the last week of May, has been announcing at villages and townships that there will be a ballot center for every 400 eligible voters. **(S.H.A.N 310510)**

-According to a parent, when students were enrolling for school in the opening season in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, both high school students and parents were asked to sign up to join USDA. **(Kaladan 010610)**

-According to a villager in Kengton Township, eastern Shan State, authorities pressured local people to vote for and join the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). The authorities also threatened those who did not want to join and said, "Any one above 15 years of age has to join Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA). If not you will be put on the treason list." **(S.H.A.N 010610)**

-According to a local, Maj. Gen. Aung Than Htut, the commander of Northeastern Command (Lashio), ordered the Department of Forestry (in Namhkam Township) to completely sell out the stored charcoal, and to instruct local charcoal makers not to make any more, to prevent deforestation before the 2010 elections. **(Palaungland 020610)**

-According to local people, when the household lists were collected and national IDs were made for anyone who are over the age of 10 in Myitkyina, Kachin State, local authorities told people that those lists were collected for voting in 2010 elections. **(KNG 030610)**

-According to someone close to the Election Commission, the Union Election Commission held training about election procedures in Muse, northern Shan State, and 30 people attended the training including U Cho Aye, the Chairperson of Muse District Election Commission, and U Ohn Myint, the Chairperson of Muse Township Election Commission. **(S.H.A.N 040610)**

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-According to an official from Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), U Aung Thaung, the Minister of the Ministry of Industry No. (1), will visit KIO and meet with KIO officials to discuss the security measures for the elections. (RFA 050610)

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-A commemorating ceremony for Depayin Massacre was held in Meiktila, Mandalay Division. There were members of the National League for Democracy from over 20 townships, including Ko Kyaw Soe Lin, the driver of the vehicle which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was in during the attack and who saved her life, and U Than Saung from Thazi Township. Ceremonies were also held in many other townships. (DVB 300510)

-According to U Nyan Win, the Central Committee member of the National League for Democracy (NLD), when EU ambassadors went to Burma to meet with NLD leaders, the ambassadors inquired about NLD's stance on the elections, and also assured that the EU would continue its support on NLD's future activities. (VOA 310510)

-U Nyan Win, the spokesperson of NLD, announced on 1 June that the NLD would welcome Wan Jia Bao, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, if he intended to talk about political stability and issues about the elections during his visit to Burma. (RFA 010610)

-According to Ko Myint Maung, the Secretary of the National League for Democracy (Kawthaung), Taninsein Division, NLD (Kawthaung) has been helping students, in need, enrol in schools, as its social movements are based on its politics, and the NLD sets up future activities. (DVB 020510)

-U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD), commented on US Senator Jim Webb's planned second visit to Burma and said that the US government should be careful about its relationship with Burma, and should watch to see whether the military regime is genuine about democratic transition. (BBC 030610)

-U Win Tin, a Central Committee Member of the National League for Democracy, asserted that Chinese President Wan Jia Bao's Burma visit could not bring any positive effects to democracy in Burma, and that the Chinese government not only provides boxing gloves to the military regime, but also knuckles dusters, while the NLD has nothing. (NEJ 030610)

-On 4 June, NLD members and members of the Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP), such as U Tin Oo, U Nyan Win, U Aye Tha Aung, U Than Win, U Hla Pe, U Pu Kyin Shin Htang and U Soe Win, met at U Tin Oo's residence and discussed the current political situations, including US Senator Jim Webb's cancelled Burma visit. (RFA 040610)

- CRPP stated that the International community needs to cooperate to have unified response towards political developments in Burma. (DVB 040610)

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B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Naw Zipporah Sein, the general secretary of the Karen National Union (KNU), stated that the KNU needs to raise awareness about the military regime's human rights violations, oppression against civilians in ethnic areas, and the military regime's 2010 elections, to the European governments and Karen people in Europe, in relation to the European trip of Col. Saw Nadar Mya, son of the late KNU Chairperson Gen. Saw Bo Mya.

C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-U Zin Lin from the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, referred to the Depayin Massacre, which was perpetrated and led by some top members of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, and said, "According to information we received then, Senior General Than Shwe commanded Gen. Soe Win to launch and lead that massacre secretly. Gen. Soe Win then ordered Maj. Gen. Soe Naing and U Aung Thaung to implement the secret plan. Maj. Gen. Soe Naing was the commander of Northwestern Command so he perpetrated as the field commander. Those top leaders of the military regime carefully planned and launched that massacre as a military operation." (Irrawaddy 310510)

CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

A. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-Speaking on condition of anonymity, a commander from the United Wa State Army (UWSA) stated that the UWSA hoped that during his two-day visit to Burma, President of the People's Republic of China, Wan Jia Bao, would discuss the stability of the border region of Yunan-Burma, since the possibility of future battles between the Burmese military regime and UWSA is highly likely. (Mizzima 020610)

B. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-According to an anonymous employee of Naungton Company, Gen. Ye Myint, the Commander of the Military Security Affairs Command, granted the three-year permit to cut down 1000 tons of lumber for the construction of the headquarters of Lahu Border Guard Battalion 1007, led by Ja Pi Loi and based in Pongpakhem region, which was transformed from a militia unit to a border guard force. (S.H.A.N 040610)

OTHER FORCES

PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-Nai Ngwe Thein, the Chairperson of the All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP), stated that when AMRDP launched its election campaigns, people and monks were interested in the politics of the party and the party was already well known because it was the only Mon political party to contest the elections, so the party would get more members than the required number of members set by the election commission. (IMNA 010310)

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-According to the Democratic Party (Burma), National Political Alliances, Wunthanu National League for Democracy (Union of Myanmar), Rakhine [Arakan] State National Force, Union Democracy Party, Diversity and Peace Party and Democratic Party (Burma), all parties which registered as political parties, are facing difficulties launching election campaigns, as people were not interested in or seem to have lost interest in politics. (Mizzima 030610)

-U Sai Ai Pao, the Chairperson of the registered Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, said, "We will open more offices in other townships to launch election campaigns this month," at the party sign board and opening ceremonies held simultaneously at headquarters in South Okkalapa Township, Rangoon and in Kyaukme, Shan State on 2 June. (S.H.A.N 030610)

U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of the Union Democracy Party (UDP), said after the ceremony of UDP Rangoon headquarters, held on the 5 June, the party will begin activities to recruit party members. (DVB 040610)

PUBLIC, CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS:

-According to human rights lawyer Ko Pho Phyu, the advisor of the newly established Myanmar National Workers' Union, which was established with 18 executive committee members comprised of labor leaders and legal advisors inside Burma, submitted a permission request by mail to Sr. Gen. Than Shwe, to legally exist, on 2 June. (RFA 020610)

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. UN AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-According to the report by UN Experts, North Korea has been secretly exporting nuclear and missile technologies to Burma, using numerous weaponry companies and financial bodies as buffers. (Irrawaddy 310510)

-According to U Nyan Win, the spokesperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD), Mr. Erik Solheim, the Minister of the Ministry of International Development of the government of Norway, met with NLD leaders at the Vice Chairperson U Tin Oo's residence during his visit to Burma, and inquired about the current political situation, NLD's opinion on the elections, and future activities of NLD. (RFA 020610)

-Mr. Mike Blackmore, the Director of the Information Department of Amnesty International (AI), said in response to the AI's 19th Media Award ceremony held on the 1 June, where reporters from Burma were awarded the Human Rights Media Award, that the focus of the independent media on the 2010 elections was very important. (RFA 020610)

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B. GOVERNMENTS

-New Zealand's Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution to call upon the military regime of Burma to reinstate the political and democratic rights of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Maryan Street, Labour Party MP who initiated the resolution said that the elections in Burma, planned for later this year, will be a sham if Suu Kyi is not permitted to contest in the elections. (BBC 020610)

-During his visit to Burma, Mr. Erik Solheim, the Minister of the Ministry of International Development of the government of Norway, criticized the Burmese military regime's Foreign Minister's words: "There would definitely be political change in Burma" as not credible and reliable. He also said that sanctions alone would not work to bring about democracy in Burma. (DVB 020610)

-US Senator Jim Webb postponed his visit to Burma. He released a statement on the 3 June about the canceled trip stating that Burma violated the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1874 because the Burmese military regime has been developing a nuclear programme in conjunction with North Korea. (Mizzima 030610)

-According to diplomatic sources, Chinese Prime Minister Wan Jia Bao, during his two-day visit to Burma, discussed with Senior General Than Shwe in Naypyitaw, ethnic issues and 2010 elections. (Irrawaddy 040510)

-Philip Crowley, the spokesperson of the US State Department, at the press conference held on the 4 June, stated that US will closely monitor the relationship between Burma and North Korea due to the leaked information about the Burmese military regime's secret nuclear and long-range missile program. (RFA 050610)

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Human Rights Watch delivered an open letter to Chinese Prime Minister Wan Jia Bao, who visited Burma on 2 June, urging the Prime Minister to criticize, in a constructive way, and put pressure on Burmese military regime, regarding the 2010 elections. (VOA 310510)

-Tim Noonan, the spokesperson of the International Trade Union Council (ITUC), the largest trade union representing 175 million workers from 155 countries in the world, stated that ITUC enthusiastically welcomes the submission, by lawyer U Pho Phyu, to establish an independent labor union, to Senior General Than Shwe. (RFA 020610)

End of report/ Saturday, June 05, 2010

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