

**BURMA'S 60-YEAR OLD CIVIL WAR(1948-2008): A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY**

Compiled by

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## Acronyms, Abbreviations and Glossary of Burmese Terms

ABSDF	All Burma Students Democratic Front
AFPFL	Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League
BIA	Burma Independence Army
BNA	Burma National Army
BSPP	Burma Socialist Programme Party
CNF	Chin National Front
CNVP	Chin National Vanguard Party
CPB	Communist Party of Burma
DAB	Democratic Alliance of Burma
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council(a UN agency)
HLUTTAW	Parliament
KIA/KIO	Kachin Independence Army/Organisation
KMT	Kuomintang
KNDO	Karen National Defence Organisation
KNLA	Karen National Liberation Army
KNPP	Karenni National Progressive Party
LID	Light Infantry Division
LDC	Least Developed Country
MIS	Military Intelligence Service(aka Defence Services Intelligence)
MNDO	Mon National Defence Organisation
NMSP	New Mon State Party
NDUF	Nationalities Democratic United Front
NLD	National League for Democracy
NUP	National Unity Party
PDF	Parliamentary Democratic Party
PNO	Pa-O National Organisation
RUSU	Rangoon University Students Union
SLORC	State Law and Order Restoration Council
SSA	Shan State Army
SSIA	Shan State Independence Army

## BURMA'S 60-YEAR OLD CIVIL WAR(1948-2008): A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

### *Why I Compile this Chronology*

Even after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991, and despite the major events that have been taking place inside Burma since then, Burma still remains as a mystery to the outside world, except of course for a handful of scholars and politicians. My simple aim therefore for compiling this Chronology is to give those in the outside world some insight information on Burma's internal affairs - its background history, the roots of its decades-long ruthless civil war and the latest situation etc. Most of the selected events listed in this brief chronology are, in my personal opinion, the ones that have shaped or still are shaping the destiny of Burma in one way or another between 146 AD and 2008. One will find more information on the civil war in my own 537-page paper which I still keep on updating under the following URL: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/18092021/>. It's titled: *THE ZO PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH, BURMA AND INDIA: AN INTRODUCTION[XIII]*. It may also serve as a case study for the fates of Burma's other "indigenous peoples" as well. (The official terms used by successive Burmese governments in official publications in English are "indigenous peoples" and "national races".)

**Official name:** Union of Myanmar(formerly Union of Burma)

**Head of State/Defense Minister/Commander-in-Chief:** Senior General Than Swe(\* 2.2.1933)

**Prime Minister:** General Thein Sein(\* 20.4.1945)

**Government:** A military junta

*"...The military government has been accused of gross human rights abuses, including the forcible relocation of civilians and widespread use of forced labour, which includes children. Military-run enterprises control key industries, and corruption and severe mismanagement are the hallmarks of a black-market-riven economy. The armed forces - and former rebels-opted by the government - have been accused of large-scale trafficking in heroin, of which Burma is a major exporter. Prostitution and Aids are major problems..." (Country Profile: Burma/BBC News/16.03.2003.)*

**Area:** 261,220 sq.mi(676,560 sq.km)

The former Union of Burma(since 1989: Union of Myanmar) is comprised of seven ethnic states - Chin, Kachin, Kaya(Karenni), Kayin(Karen), Mon, Rakhine and Shan (these and ethnic Burmans are officially defined by the Burmans as "indigenous peoples"), and seven divisions of the Proper Burma, namely, Ayeyarwady, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing, Taninthaya and Yangon. More than 40 % of the land is inhabited by these non-Burman "indigenous peoples". And their territories are strategically located along the international boundaries and are rich in natural resources.

**Population:** 42,000 000 (*CIA - Factbook: 2002*) & *Country File: Burma/03.2003*)

**Ethnicity:** Burman 68 % or 28,560,000; Karen 7 % or 2,940,000; Shan 9% or 3,780,000; Rakhine: 4 % or 1,680,000; Chin 2 % or circa 840,000; Kachin 2 %; Karennis(Kayas)0, 5 %; Nagas 0,1 % etc. And among the two alien nationals the Chinese make up 3 % or 1,200,000, and the Indians about 2 % or 840,000. (*CIA Factbook/ 2002.*)

**Religions:** Buddhist 89 %, Christian 4%(Baptist Church: 813,000; Roman Catholic Church: 380,000; Assembly of God: 51,000; Anglican Church: 45,000; Church of Christ: 42,000; Methodist Church: 35,000; Seventh Day Adventist Church: 32,000; United Pentecostal Church: 27,000; etc.), Muslim 4%, Animist 1%, others 2%. (*Note: Statistics on Churches' membership were from 1995.*)

**Currency:** Kyat or K.

**Exchange rates of hard currencies(as of December 2008)** - Official exchange rate: 1 US \$ = 6.2774 Kyat; Black market rate: 1 USD= K. 1,000 and 1 Euro = K. 1,200

**Economy:** Gross Domestic Product – USD 7.3 billion(*Spiegel Almanach 2002*);

**External Debt:** USD 7 billion.

**Cost of Living Indicators**(as of December 2008): A 50–kg bag of rice of poorest quality: circa K. 15,000; best quality: K. 34,000; 1.75 kg of pork: K. 3,500,– Kyats; 1.75 kg of chicken: K. 5,000; 1.75 kg of beef: K. 3,500; 1.75 kg of cooking oil: K. 3,500; 1.75 kg of salt K. 200; a chicken egg: K. 80; a cup of tea: K. 200; Average **earning per day(10 hours) of an unskilled labourer: K. 1,000**; 1.73 kg of yellow Indian bean(Dahl): K. 1,500, etc.(Source: [Average prices based on various websites from Burma on commodity prices](#))

### **MONTHLY PAY OF BURMESE SOLDIERS**

Pay scale for army servicemen (April 1, 2006):

1. private: 16,000 kyat basic pay(\$ 14). after two years, 21,000 kyats
  2. lance–corporal: 22,000 kyat; after several years, 27,000 kyat.
  3. corporal: 28,000 kyat; after several years, 33,000 kyat
  4. sergeant: 34,000 kyat; after several years, 39,000 kyat
  5. company sergeant: 40,000 kyat; after several years, 45,000 kyat
  6. warrant officer II: 46,000 kyat; after several years, 51,000 kyat
  7. warrant officer I: 52,000 kyat; after several years, 57,000 kyat
  8. second lieutenant:100,000 kyat
  9. lieutenant: 120,000 kyat.
  10. captain: 130,000 kyat; after two years, 140,000 kyat
  11. major: 150,000 kyat; after several years, 160,000 kyat
  12. lieutenant colonel: 170,000 kyat; after several years, 180,000 kyat
  13. colonel: 190,000 kyat; after several years, 200,000 kyat
  14. brigadier general: 300,000 kyat
  15. major–general: 400,000 kyat
  16. lieutenant–general: 600,000 kyats
  17. general: 800,000 kyat(\$ 800)
  18. vice–senior general : 1,000,000 kyat
  19. senior–general: 1,200,000 kyat
- \* The army provides 3,000 (\$2.70) kyat for each dependent child to help with school fees, but it's insufficient to pay expenses.

(Source: Burma: Living Poor on Soldiers' Pay; By KYI WAI Wednesday, December 30, 2009)

[http://www.irrawaddymedia.com/article.php?art\\_id=17513](http://www.irrawaddymedia.com/article.php?art_id=17513)

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### **MONTHLY PAY OF POLICEMEN**

– The minimum wage for a policeman is 35,000 kyat (\$35) a month. A commanding officer at a police station receives 180,000 kyat (\$180) maximum.

(Source: *Burma: Policeman's Life Isn't Easy, Say Officers*; By KYI WAI Monday, July 12, 2010)

[http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=18949&page=2](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=18949&page=2)

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### **FOREIGN INVESTMENT: CIRCA USD 7 BILLION(FROM 1889 UP TO END OF 2004)\***

Singapore(1500); UK(1400); Thailand(1200); Malaysia(650); USA(590); France(470); Netherland(240); Indonesia(240); Japan(227); The Philippines(146); Hong Kong(150); Korea(160); Austria(82); Austria(72); Canada(60 m); China(65); Panama(30); Germany(15); Denmark(14), etc.(Source: Foreign Investment of Permitted Enterprises up to 31-12-2002; Country No. of Enterprises approved Investment Value (million US\$)

<http://www.mofa.gov.mm/aboutmyanmar/am12.html>

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT UP TO END OF 2008\*

75 % of the world's teak forest reserves, over 15 million hectares of tropical forests, oil, natural gas, iron, tungsten, coal, nickel, gold, jade, ruby, sapphire, pearls, etc.

– Major offshore natural gas projects are under development. A consortium of South Korean and Indian firms, in partnership with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, has made a large gas find off the coast of Arakan State in western Burma. Known as the “Shwe” gas project, it is expected to produce massive revenues once it is in production. Estimates of the gas yield of the Shwe deposits range between US\$37 to US\$52 billion, and could lead to a total gain in revenues to the junta or future Burmese governments of US\$12 to US\$17 billion over 20 years.

At present the SPDC receives the bulk of its gas money from the onshore “Yadana” and “Yetagun” gas fields. The Yadana consortium is led by Total of France and includes UNOCAL (now Chevron) of the United States and Thailand's state-controlled PTT Exploration and Production Co Ltd (PTTEP). The Yetagun consortium, led by Malaysia's state-owned Petronas, includes Japan's Nippon Oil as well as PTTEP. PTTEP, a subsidiary of the largely state-owned PTT Public Co Ltd (PTT) of Thailand, buys the gas for export to Thailand. (Source: *Burma: Foreign Investment Finances Regime*. October 2, 2007.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2007/10/01/burma-foreign-investment-finances-regime> )

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- YANGON, Dec 31[2010]:\* Foreign investment in Myanmar's oil and gas has hit 13.5 billion U.S. dollars since the country opened to such investment in late 1988, the local Biweekly Eleven News reported today, reports Xinhua. Leading in foreign investment line-up sectorally, the oil and gas sector is followed by electric power with 11.341 billion U.S. dollars, mining 2.395 billion U.S. dollars, manufacturing 1.663 billion U.S. dollars, hotels and tourism 1.064 billion U.S. dollars and agriculture 96.351 million U.S. dollars. In 2009-10, Myanmar produced nearly 7 million barrels of crude oil and 400 billion cubic-feet (11.32 billion cubic-meters) of gas, according to official statistics. The country's gas export in 2009-10 amounted to 8.29 billion cubic meters, standing as the second largest gas exporter in Asia- Pacific region. Although annual foreign investment in the oil and gas sector stood only 278.6 million U.S. dollars in 2009-10, it was raised sharply to 9.81 billion dollars merely in the first five months (April-August) of 2010-11, a latest statistics showed. (Source: *Foreign Investment in Myanmar's Oil, Gas Hits \$54.5 billion*.

( [http://www.newstoday.com.bd/index.php?option=details&news\\_id=16213&date=2011-01-01](http://www.newstoday.com.bd/index.php?option=details&news_id=16213&date=2011-01-01) )

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- YANGON, March 18 (Xinhua)\* -- Myanmar's foreign investment rose sharply by 93.06 percent in 2008, reaching 974.996 million U.S. dollars compared with 2007, according to the latest figures released by the Central Statistical Organization. The organization attributed the sharp increase of the foreign investment to that added in the mining sector which registered 860.996 million dollars. Of it, over 855.996 million dollars were injected by China, while the remaining 5 million dollars by Singapore. According to local report, total foreign contracted investment in Myanmar has hit 15 billion U.S. dollars in 422 projects up to end of 2008 since Myanmar opened up to such investment in late 1988. Of the 29 countries and regions investing in Myanmar, Thailand stood first with over 7 billion U.S. dollars, followed by Britain and Singapore with over 1 billion U.S. dollars each, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was quoted as saying. Electric power sector dominated with 6 billion U.S. dollars, followed by oil and gas (over 3 billion U.S. dollars).

(Source: *Statistics: Myanmar foreign investment rises sharply in 2008*. www.chinaview.cn 2009-03-18 21:08:33

( [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/18/content\\_11032577.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/18/content_11032577.htm) )

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\* *Compiler's Note: This Chronology was first prepared in 2004 under the title of **Burma's 56-Year Old Civil War(1948-2004): A Brief Chronology**. In this present updated version many current economic and financial data and statistics up to the end of 2010 are also used; and a few relevant old data from the previous version are still retained as well. However, only political, military and social affairs that have had taken place before the end of 2008 are used in this current version.*

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- 146–1785 AD Rakhine Rajas(Arakan kings) rule present-day Rakhine(Arakan) State.\*
- Ca. 500 AD – Earliest inscriptions describe a Pyu(now extinct) civilization.\*
- 754–1253 Nancho(Shan?) kings rule the upper Irrawaddy.\*
- 825–1757 Mon kings rule lower Burma.\*
- 1044–1287 Burman kings rule[Burma Proper]from Pagan. Anawrahta becomes king (1044) and introduces Therawada Buddhism.\*
- 1287 Mongols under Kublai Khan conquer Pagan.
- 1287–1531 Shan kings rule [Burma Proper] from Ava, Pegu and Toungoo.\*
- 1531–1752 Burman kings rule[Burma Proper] from Toungoo.\*
- 1519 Establishment of a trading centre along the coastal lines of Burma by the Portuguese. The Roman Catholic faith arrives with the Portuguese.
- 1612 The British East Indian Company's and the Dutch's efforts to establish trading footholds are fruitless.
- 1613 **Philip de Brito y Nicote, a former Portuguese seaman, is executed. He ruled Syriam, the trading port, for 13 years and has converted about 100,000 Burmese to Catholicism – often under coercion. He destroyed during his rule several sacred Buddhist religious relics and Pagodas.**
- 1722 **A new attempt by the Italian Roman Catholic missionaries to set foot in Burma. For the Roman Catholic Church 1722 marks as its founding year in Burma.**
- 1752–1824 Burman kings rule[Burma Proper] from Shwebo.\*
- 1813 Mr. & Mrs. Judson from the United States arrive and begin their Baptist missionary works.
- 1824–26 **The First Anglo–Burman War.**
- 1825 **The British conquer the coastal regions. Clergy of the Anglican Church arrive in Rangoon in order to take care of the British troops. Soon they begin their missionary works among the Burmese people.**
- 1826 **A peace treaty is signed. Burma must pay one million pounds to the British as war reparations, it must accept a trading pact and it must give up territories in the west.**
- 1828 **The beginning of Baptist missionary works among the Karens.**
- 1835 **Mr. Judson, the American Baptist missionary, has translated the Bible into Burmese.**
- 1852–53 **The Second Anglo–Burman War.**
- 1868 King Mindon displays his religious tolerance by permitting the Anglican Church to begin its missionary works in Mandalay and he even gives money for the construction of a church building there.
- 1877 **Burma becomes an independent diocese of the Church of England.**
- 1885 **The Third Anglo–Burman War. The British take the Burmese monarch in custody and send him and his family to India where they later died in exile. Burma thus becomes a part of the British India after three Anglo–Burman Wars.**
- 1887 The British troops and police forces reach a strength of 40,000 men.
- 1915 **The Lutheran Church and the Salvation Army arrive and begin their missionary works.**
- 1931 **The famous Saya San rebellion against the British. Thousands of Burmese die.**
- 1934 **The founding of the Anglican “Holy Cross Theology College“. It still exists until today.**
- 1937 **Burma becomes a separate colony of the British, not just a province of the British India.**
- 1941
- December **The Japanese Imperial Army enters Burma together with Burmese volunteers. 400,000 Indians who have been living in Burma for decades flee to India.**
- Note: Above historical dates with asterisk are from G.E. Harvey's "History of Burma",*

1925(from *Burma Alert*–No. 03/03; 17 April 2003.). The BA is published by the Associates to Develop Democratic Burma Inc, Canada, in cooperation with the Euro-Burma Office, Brussels.(saoharn1@attglobal.net)

**1943**

**August** **Burma officially becomes independent. General Aung San becomes its Defense Minister.**

**1944**

The Allied Forces prepare for major offensives against the Japanese in Burma and Southeast Asia. The Burmese government makes contacts with the Allied Forces.

**1945**

**March** **The Burmese government declares war against the Japanese and its troops are supporting the Allies. The Japanese are driven out of Burma in the same year.**

(Note: The Japanese were heartily welcomed as great liberators by the Burmese at first, but then their brutalities soon became so abhorrent that at the ending parts of WW II a great number of Japanese soldiers lost their lives at the hands of the Burmese population. For more information on this particular topic, see my paper: *The Zo People of Bangladesh, Burma and India: An Introduction*.)

**1946**

The *Anti-Fascist Peoples Freedom League* (AFPFL) becomes a decisive political force for the Burmese national movement and eventually for Burmese struggle for independence.

**1947**

**12 February** The signing of the "Panglong Agreement" by the leaders of Burmans, Shans, Kachins and Chins, which gives birth to the Union of Burma. If the Shans, Chins and Kachins had not signed this treaty, only "Burma Proper" or "Ministrial Burma" would have gained independence and there would never be a Union of Burma. (The Kayas or Karennis did not sign this treaty because the four Karenni states(later made into Kaya State) were de jure independent sovereign states recognized both by the Burmese Kings and the British in 1875.)

**19 July**

General Aung San and 6 of his cabinet ministers are assassinated.

**1948**

**04 January** **Burma gains independence.**

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**U Nu(25.05.1907 – 14.02.1995) becomes the first prime minister of independent Burma.** His political party is the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League(AFPFL).

**(1948–2008)**

Immediately following its independence on January 4, 1948, the country was torn apart by a brutless civil war which is still raging until today. All nationalities took up arms one after another – and there were at least ten armed organizations of ethnic Burmans – against the central government in Rangoon. At the peak of armed conflicts in the mid – 1960s there were about 40 armed organizations. While the armed Burmese organizations were ideology-oriented, all the ethnic non-Burman armed organizations were – and many are still fighting for national issues – that is, either for independence or for more national autonomous rights, or for the formation of a genuine federal union, etc. During the entire civil war period the most critical moment for Burma's fate was in early January 1949 when the Karens succeeded in occupying Insein, one of Rangoon's most strategic satellite towns, which is just some 9 miles away from the capital. The government then had already been called the "Rangoon Government" in the literally sense! After a 112-day siege the Karens were forced to withdraw from there. All foreign

military experts who had had observed and analysed the battle in Insein agreed that if Insein had fallen to the Karens then, the capital would have also automatically fallen.(The comments in this section are of my own based on information from my private files. (For more information on this subject see my paper: *The Zo People of Bangladesh, Burma and India: An Introduction[ XII ]*. ( <http://www.scribd.com/doc/18092021/> )

#### **1949**

17 December Burma recognizes the People's Republic of China.

#### **1950**

January–March Over 2,000 Kuomintang(KMT) forces from Yunan cross the border to set up bases in Kengtung, eastern Shan State, following the Communist victory in China.

#### **1953**

April The "Nationalities Democratic United Front"(NDUF) is formed up in the hills near Papun by Karen, Karenni, Pa-O, Chin and Mon rebels. Another Chinese army unit enters the Wa Hills and clashes with the Burmese Army.

28–29 June Zhou Enlai visits Rangoon.

30 July Defense Minister Ba Swe says that Burma is going to the UN to have Nationalist China declared an aggressor and unseated from the world body.

September Lt. General Ne Win leads a high power military delegation to China. They visit munitions factories and army training establishments.

November U Nu(in his capacity as AFPFL President) visits China and meets with Zhou Enlai. China agrees to withdraw all its forces from the disputed border areas in Kachin State.

1–16 Dec. U Nu visits China. More talks are held about the border question and the question of nationality of Chinese residents in Burma.

#### **1956**

**12 June U Nu leaves the prime minister post.**

**- U Ba Swe(AFPFL) becomes the 2nd prime minister of Burma.**

**1956 The founding of the "Burma Council of Churches".**

#### **1957**

**1 March U Ba Swe resigns as prime minister.**

**- U Nu becomes prime minister for the second time.**

#### **27 October 1958 to 4 April 1960**

**General Ne Win takes over the prime ministership at the request of U Nu. His government is known as the "Care-taker Government". It is a military government.**

#### **1960**

**February General elections are held.**

**4 April U Nu becomes prime minister for the third time.**

4 September U Nu visits China and attends China's National Day celebrations with a delegation of more than 400 persons.

October A boundary treaty between China and Burma is signed in Beijing.

#### **1961**

2–9 January Zhou Enlai visits Burma. The border agreement is ratified. An economic and technical cooperation agreement is signed on 9 January, according to which the Chinese pledge to give Burma an interest-free loan of 30 million British pound.

26 January	A combined force of three divisions(20,000) of regulars from the Chinese People's Liberation Army(PLA) and 5,000 Burmese troops attack KMT bases north of Kengtung, Shan State. The campaign is codenamed the "Mekong River Operation."
April	A joint US-Taiwan communique says that "the 6,000 KMT soldiers remaining in Burma's Shan State are not in any way connected or concerned with the US Government or the Republic of China."
10-15 Oct.	U Nu visits China. The National Religious Minorities Alliance is set up at the beginning of the year to oppose U Nu's state religion legislation. It is comprised of Christian, Muslim, Animist and even Buddhist representatives.
June/July	The non-Burman nationalities hold a conference in Taungyi in Southern Shan State for the transformation of the unitary Union of Burma into a loosely federated union. The leading personalities are Sao Shwe Taike, and Sao Hkun Hkio. The movement is known as the Federal Movement.
<b>1962</b>	
February	After several delays a Federal Seminar begins in Rangoon at which the non-Burman nationalities' leaders are allowed to put their case.
<b>02 March</b>	<b>General Ne Win, Chief-of-Staff of the Burma Army, seizes political power through military coup d'etat from Prime Minister U Nu, with the pretext "to save the Union from falling apart", and the 1947 State Constitution which gave birth to the Union is abolished. The new government, which calls itself the "Revolutionary Council", is solely comprised of senior military officers. U Nu, his cabinet ministers and the leaders of the Federal Seminar, are put into jail.(Most of them spent the next five years in detention.) Sao Shwe Taike, one of the most prominent leaders of the Federal Movement and the first president of the republic, dies in detention some years later.</b>
<b>02 March '62 - 02 March 1974</b>	<b>He holds both postings as Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government.</b>
03 March	The Constitution is suspended and Parliament is dissolved.
09 -	The Revolutionary Council vests General Ne Win with full executive, legislative, and judicial powers. These continue until 1974.
<b>02 April</b>	<b><i>The Burmese Way to Socialism</i>, which will become the regime's ideological guideline up to 1988, is published.</b>
<b>07 May</b>	<b>The Buddha Sasana Council, formed in 1951, is ordered to be dissolved.</b>
<b>10 June</b>	<b>Student unrest occurs at Rangoon University as the military attempts to impose stricter hostel regulations.</b>
<b>04 July</b>	<b>A cadre political party called the Burma Socialist Programme Party, (BSPP) is founded and its constitution published.</b>
<b>07 -</b>	<b>Government troops open fire on Rangoon University students who are protesting against strict government regulations. Officially 15 are killed and 27 wounded, but neutral sources estimate the casualties to be over 300.</b>
<b>08 -</b>	<b>The University of Rangoon Students' Union building is blown up by the military. This building was historic because it stood as a symbol for Burmese students' tradition for their heroic roles against the British colonialism. Universities and colleges are closed.</b>
<b>13 July</b>	<b>Ne Win leaves for Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for "medical check-up". (For more information on this topic visit the Wikipedia under "Ne Win".)</b>

- 18 - U Ba Nyein, a long-time socialist, becomes an advisor to the Finance Ministry.  
 - The Federal Republic of Germany ( FRG ) provides 42 million Kyats in aid and a private credit of 120 million Kyats(circa US\$ 20 million).
- 01 August Imperial Chemical Industries is nationalized.  
 - Communist Party of Burma(CPB) exiles in China are allowed to issue their first public statement, condemning the new military regime.
- 23 - The Printers and Publishers Registration Act is promulgated, giving the Government authority to control the media.  
 - **The USSR provides 30.4 million Kyats.**
- October Universities and colleges are reopened.**
- 1963**
- 01 January Burma Oil Company(BOC) is nationalized.
- 17 - ***The System of Correlation of Man and His Environment* is published, which provides philosophical under-pinning to *The Burmese Way to Socialism.***
- 08 Feb. Brigadier Aung Gyi(heir apparent to Ne Win) is dismissed from the Revolutionary Council as Minister of Trade and Industries. Col. Kyi Maung replaces him.  
 - Brigadier San Yu becomes Vice Chief of Staff(Army).
- 15 - **Ne Win announces state takeover of production, distribution, import and export of commodities.**
- 23 - All banks(public, private, foreign, domestic) are nationalized.
- 26 - The timber trade is nationalized.  
 - The Enterprises Nationalization Law is promulgated, providing for all major industries to be nationalized by 01 June 1963
- 06 - News Agency of Burma(NAB) is established by the Government to take over all private wire news services.  
 - **Japan agrees to provide US\$ 140 million in goods and services and US\$ 30 million in commercial loans.**
- 01 April In an effort to quell multiple insurrections, a general amnesty is issued to all insurgents.
- 20 - Liu Shaoqi visits Burma.
- 11 - *The Nation* newspaper is nationalized.
- 3 September The third group of CPB members, led by Thakin Ba Thein Tin, returns from China to Rangoon to participate in peace talks.
- 27 - Brigadier San Yu and Colonel Hla Han are appointed to the Central Organizing Committee of the BSPP.
- 28 - *The Vanguard* and *The Guardian* newspapers are nationalized.
- 01 Oct. Commercial joint ventures are nationalized.  
 - Domestic and foreign timber trade are nationalized.
- 07 - **The Revolutionary Council announces that the BSPP will be subsidized by the state.**
- 19 - The Enterprises Nationalization Law of 1963 is promulgated, allowing the Government to take over any firm, retroactive to 16 August 1963.
- November Thakin Ba Thein Tin returns to Beijing from Rangoon. CPB members Khin Maung Gyi, San Thu and Thein Aung return from Moscow to Beijing where they rejoin Thakin Ba Thein Tin and others. Thakin Ba Thein Tin, Khin Maung Gyi, Thakin Than Myaing, Than Shwe and Tin Yee set up a "leading group of five" in Beijing to prepare for a China-sponsored push into Burma. San Thu begins to survey the Sino-Burmese border areas for possible infiltration routes into northeastern Burma. Naw Seng and his Kachin troupes, who have

been staying in Guizhou, go to Sichuan for talks with Thakin Ba Thein Tin and other CPB leaders.

- 15 Nov. **Negotiations with Mon, Chin and Karenni insurgents end in failure.**  
- **Over 700 Leftists and Communists are arrested.**  
- **University students demonstrate. Universities and colleges are closed.**

03 Dec. Brigadier San Yu is appointed Minister for Finance and Revenue.

18 - Talks with Shans terminated.

## 1964

12 January *The Working People's Daily*, an English language newspaper, is founded.

14 February **Yugoslavia offers a credit of US\$ 8 million.**

- Zhou Enlai arrives in Rangoon.

12 March The Karen National Defense Organization(KNDO) signs an agreement with the Revolutionary Council.

13 - The Karen ceasefire.

28 - **The Law to Protect National Unity is promulgated. All political parties except the BSPP are banned, and all their property and assets confiscated.**

- **China agrees to provide an aid of \$ 84 million.**

18 April **English language instruction is eliminated in primary schools.(This is re-established in 1979.)**

03 May The Revolutionary Council rescinds the order to register all Buddhist organizations after demonstrations by monks.

17 - **All 50- and 100-kyat notes are demonetised under Law No. 7. 1.2 billion kyat worth of these notes were in circulation. Thus great parts of the hard-earned savings of the majority of the population are made worthless overnight.**

21 - The Government requests the U.S. to stop planning on the Rangoon-Mandalay highway project.

13 June **By this date 970 million kyats have been turned in under the May 17 demonetization decree.**

02 July The Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Mikoyan visits Burma.

10 - Zhou Enlai visits Burma.

01 Sept. The Gyemon(Mirror) newspaper is nationalized.

02- 05 - The Indian Foreign Minister visits Burma to discuss the repatriation of Indians from Burma. About 29, 000 departed in 1964 alone.

11 - The Botathaung newspaper is nationalized.

16 - *The Guardian* newspaper is nationalized.

02 Nov. **Universities and colleges are reopened after having been closed for ten months.**

## 1965

18 January Burma Corporation is nationalized.

29 - Burma Unilever is nationalized.

01 April One thousand traditional oil wells are nationalized. 129 large private schools are also nationalized(102 high schools and 27 middle schools).

03-04 - Zhou Enlai visits Burma for two days.

30 - **A new currency is introduced.**

- 92 monks are arrested for protesting against a constitution for a Government sponsored All Buddha Sasana Sangha organization and the issuance of identity cards for monks.

25 June **Brigadier Aung Gyi is arrested and imprisoned.**

- 05 July The Namkhan Hospital[ a town in Northern Shan State), the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital, the Ramkrishna Hospital and Christian hospitals are nationalized.
- 12 - The Catholic Hospital in South Okklapa[a satellite town of Rangoon] is nationalized.
- 24 - Ne Win visits China until August 1. A joint communique is issued, reaffirming the 1961 treaty and five principles of peaceful coexistence.
- 05 August Between 26 April 1963 and 19 July 1965, 96,800 of the 108,564 Indian nationals registered had left Burma. 11,768 of the 26,232 Pakistanis had also departed. Burma's trade and commercial activities were mainly in the hands of ethnic Indians, Pakistanis and Chinese for several decades.(1963-67: 300,000 Indians /Pakistanis and 100,000 Chinese left Burma.**
- December All private newspapers are banned.**

## 1966

- 04 April 684 private schools are nationalized.
- 17-19 - Liu Shaoqi and Marshall Chen Yi visit Burma.
- 07-11 May Ne Win visits Pakistan. A boundary agreement with Pakistan[Bangladesh still was a part of Pakistan] is signed on 09 May.
- 08-10 Sept. Ne Win goes to the United States on a state visit.
- 27 - Ne Win visits Japan.

## 1967

- 13 May Communists and Karens seize Gyokbingauk, a town 100 miles north of Rangoon, for hours.
- 19 June The Ministry of Education bans the wearing of all "unauthorised badges" by students. The order is aimed at the wearing of Mao badges primarily by students of ethnic Chinese origin in Rangoon.
- 26 - Two thousand Burmese gather outside two Chinese schools in Rangoon.
- 28 - 1328 Chinese in Rangoon are detained.
- 29 - The Chinese embassy in Rangoon is attacked by demonstrators. Official Burmese sources say that over 50 Chinese were killed. The Chinese, however, claimed that several hundreds were killed.+**

**August Civil unrest is caused by rice shortages. The military fires into a crowd of some 5,000 in Sittwe, Rakhine State, who are demonstrating against rice shortage. Hundreds are dead and wounded. Poland provides Burma US\$ 10 million.**

- 21 - All Burmese students studying in China are recalled.
- August-Sept. The Kachin rebels send their first delegation to China, led by Brang Seng. They visit Beijing and Shanghai.**
- September About 15,000 Chins in the Kabaw Valley north of Tamu town on the Indo-Burma border are forced by Burma Army troops to leave their homes and fields immediately. Their household belongings, cattles and rice fields are confiscated by the soldiers. The majority of those Chins have been living there for decades - some of them even for generations.(Source: compiler's personal collections)**
- 6 October All Chinese technicians are ordered to leave Burma.
- Prime Minister Sato of Japan visits Burma.

## 1968

- 1 January Several hundred heavily armed CPB troops, led by Kachin wartime hero Naw Seng, cross the border from China and capture Mong Ko in northeastern Shan State. All-out Chinese support for the CPB insurgents begins.**

- 5 - CPB troop led by Pheung Kya-Shin and Pheung Kya Fu cross the border from China into Kokang area in northeastern Shan State.
- 19-22 Sept. **A Commanding Officers' Conference is held. Ne Win discusses the people's militia and the launching of a "people's war".**
- 24 - **Thakhin Than Tun, leader of the *Communist Party of Burma (CPB)*, is assassinated.**
- October **US \$ 30 million loan from Japan.**
- 29 Nov. Ne Win meets with 33 civilian leaders on national unity problems, and requests their views.
- 04 Dec. **An *Internal Unity Advisory Body(IUAB)* of 33 civilians is formed under Notification No. 72 to get opinions on the future political and administrative organization of the nation.**
- 05 - Notification No. 74 requests public views on unity.
- 16 - 168 industries are nationalized in Rangoon and Mandalay, including 6 textile factories, 28 foodstuff factories, and 9 engineering firms.

### 1969

- 31 January The *Hanthawaddy* and *Myanmar Alin* newspapers are nationalized.
- 03 February U Nu represents a proposal on a new state structure to Ne Win privately.
- 15 - **Yen 10,800 million loan from Japan.**
- 17 - 24 shipping companies are nationalized.
- 14 March 13 presses are nationalized.
- 11 April U Nu, the former Prime Minister of Burma, leaves for India.
- 01 June **The *Internal Unity Advisory Body(IUAB)* submits its report, recommending a national government, peace talks with the rebels, and the establishment of a national united front for decentralization of economy.** Twenty-two members want a multi-party system, while eleven members recommend a socialist system. U Nu submits a separate report.
- Bawsaing Mines are nationalized.
- 02 - **Ne Win rejects the proposals of the IUAB.**
- 19 - U Thi Han, the only civilian in the Cabinet, resigns. Brigadier San Yu takes over National Planning and also becomes the Secretary General of the BSPP.
- 29 August **U Nu forms the Parliamentary Democracy Party (PDP) in Thailand to overthrow the Ne Win government by force; it began to raise funds for arms.**
- 29 October **U Nu is granted political asylum in Thailand, and tacitly allowed to form a government-in-exile.**
- 25 November **Burma receives a standby credit of US\$ 12 million from the International Monetary Fund.**
- December **Students riot in Rangoon and Mandalay. Colleges and schools are closed. It is the first student uprisings since the remnants of the banned Students Union was completely crushed some years back.**

### 1970

- 09 May **The FRG provides DM 32 million for a spinning and weaving mill.**
- 25 - The *Nationalities United Front* is formed up by the *Karen National Union*, the *New Mon State Party* and the *Parliamentary Democracy Party*.
- 28 - Insurgents attack the railway station in Lashio, Northern Shan State.
- September **The FRG provides a DM 9.8 million loan.**
- 13 November **Thakin Soe, leader of the Red Flag Communists, is captured.**

## 1971

- 07 July **The first meeting of the BSPP Central Committee is held. Ne Win is elected President of the BSPP.**
- 15 - Brigadier San Yu becomes the deputy to Ne Win as the General Secretary of the BSPP.
- 22 - Plans are announced for the drafting of a new constitution; San Yu becomes chairman of the 97-member drafting commission.
- August** **Japanese aid: Yen 3,600 million.**
- 06-12 - Ne Win pays a state visit to China.
- 20 Sept.** **San Yu is appointed Deputy Prime Minister.**
- 25 - A 97-member State Constitution Drafting Commission(34 from the military and 63 civilians) is formed with San Yu as Chairman. On the following day, views of the populace are requested.
- 11-16 Oct. The first meeting of the State Constitution Drafting Commission is held.
- 27 December The State Constitution Drafting Commission holds its second meeting.

## 1972

- 23-25 Feb. The third meeting of the State Constitution Drafting Commission is held to discuss the first draft.
- 26 - The Commission adopts the first draft.
- 06 March** The fourth meeting of Drafting Commission is held.
- 10 -** **Japanese loan: Yen 4,620 million.**
- 09 April** **Aid from the USSR: US\$ 3.3 million.**
- 16 -** **U Nu resigns from the Nationalities United Front.**
- 20 -** **Ne Win and 20 other military officers resign from the services. They become "U"(Mr).**
- June-Sept. Task force groups, numbering 13,969 , explain the draft to over 7 million people.
- 29 June Students pass leaflets commemorating the 10th anniversary of the destruction of the Rangoon University Students' Union building.
- 22 August** **Loans from Japan, Yen 3,565 million.**
- 17 Nov. The Government reveals that a plot to assassinate the Cabinet has been uncovered. Aung Gyi, Ba Swe and Kyaw Nyein are arrested.
- 27 December The sixth meeting of the Drafting Commission is held, at which nine committees are formed to to prepare for the second draft.

## 1973

- 24 January The Drafting Commission approves the second draft.
- 22 February** **Yen 3,080 million as loan from Japan.**
- 17 April Fifteen teams tour the country to obtain views on the second draft of the constitution.
- 10 May** **U.S. and other oil companies visit Burma to bid for off-shore oil exploration.**
- 06-08 June The seventh meeting of the Drafting Commission is held.
- 04-26 July The eight meeting of the Drafting Commission approves the third draft of the constitution and laws relating to elections.
- 27 -** **The second Japanese merchandise loan of Yen 4,620 million is received.**
- **U Nu leaves Thailand at Thais' request.**
- 02 Nov. The third draft of the constitution is published.
- 15-18 Dec. Shan State Army(SSA) leaders Hso Hten and Hso Noom appeal for help from the CPB during a meeting at Panghsang. The first links between the SSA and the CPB are established. The Shan and Karen rebel delegations to Panghsang are invited to visit China. They travel to Simao and Kunming.

## 1974



cinema halls, trains, BSPP offices, etc., are burned down. Universities, colleges and schools are closed.

## 1975

- January The FRG provides a loan of DM 24 million.
- 27 September Kachin Rebels attack Bhamo airport in Kachin State.
- 15 March Chairman Thakin Zin and General Secretary Thakin Chit of the *Communist Party of Burma (CPB)* are killed by government troops in Bago(Pegu) Yoma.
- 13 May Universities and colleges, closed since 1974, are reopened.
- 06 June Students demonstrate for five days on the anniversary of the 1974 workers riots. Some workers from a number of state-owned factories join them. Government troops arrest hundreds of the students who have made the Shwe Dagon Pagoda their strongholds. Schools and colleges are closed.
- 18 - Japan provides a loan of Yen 6,500 million. A grant of US\$ 35 million from the UN.
- The United Nations announces US\$ 35 million in grants for Burma for 1974-78.
- 08 July The UK provides a grant of US\$ 4.1 million.
- 11-15 Nov. Ne Win visits China for four days, and reaches an agreement that there will be no "aggressive acts" between the two nations.
- 24 December A number of foreigners, among them many senior diplomats, are making a party on the Christmas Eve at Inya-Lake Hotel near General Ne Win's residence. The music is apparently so loud for him that he suddenly personally appears at the party with his body guards and they kick the musical instruments around. He himself then hits a high-ranking Norwegian UN diplomat with his fists. In the next few days his trade minister, U San Win, is sacked from his post in connection with the incident. (AP News, Jan. 8, '76; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 11 Jan. '76; *Die Welt*, 9th Jan.'76; *Der Spiegel*/15.02.1982, etc.)

## 1976

- 05 January Universities and colleges, which were closed since June 1975, are reopened.
- 21 March General Tin Oo [who would become chairman of the NLD on 24 September 1988] resigns as Defense Minister and Military Chief of Staff as a result of his wife's alleged corruption.
- 08 - Three thousand Karen rebels seize Thaton town in Mon State, for a few hours.
- 23-24 - Students demonstrate to commemorate the Thakin Kodaw Hmaing Centenary. Universities and colleges are closed for the third time in 15 months.
- 25 - A Student leader Salai Tin Maung Oo, an ethnic Chin, is arrested. Other student leaders, Myint Soe, Than Lin, Tin Aye Kyu and Win Myint are also arrested soon.
- May The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control(UNFDAC) provides US\$ 6 million for drug abuse control.
- 10 - The National Democratic Front, whose member organizations are made up entirely of non-Burmese ethnic nationalities, is formed at Manerplaw in Karen State. Its main aim is for the creation of a genuine federal union.
- 24 June Salai Tin Maung Oo is hanged precisely at 4 A.M.
- India provides 16.3 million Kyats.
- 04 July Kachin rebels attack Myitkyina airport at the capital of Kachin State.
- 05 - Young army officers who denounced the socialist economic system attempt a coup.
- 31 August A grant of US\$ 3.33 million from the U.K.
- 10 Sept. The trial of coup plotters begin. General Tin Oo is implicated.
- A widespread of purge of the BSPP members begins.

- November**      **The FRG provides a loan of DM 40 million.**
- 1977**
- 11 January**      **The coup plotters are sentenced. Capt. Ohn Kyaw Myint, the leader of the plotters, is sentenced to death. Some students demonstrate against the sentences.**
- 21 March**      **The FRG provides a loan of DM 90 million and a grant of DM 12 million for an urea plant.**
- 29 -**      **U Maung Maung Kha becomes Prime Minister. He hold this porfolio until 26 July 988.**
- April**      **The FRG gives DM 14.6 million for an industrial training centre.**
- 09 May**      **The IMF announces a standby agreement for US\$ 40 million.**
- 21 June**      **Japan commits Yen 19,540 million under the old “four projects“ loan and Yen 9 000 million for the fourth merchandise loan.**
- 01 Oct.**      **Universities and colleges and other institutions, which were closed since March 1976, are reopened.**
- 14–17 Nov.**      **An Extraordinary Congress of the BSPP is held. A purge of the Central Committee takes place and new elections are called, in which San Yu is placed first, Kyaw Soe second, and Ne Win third. New voting takes place, and Ne Win wins and is appointed Chairman, with San Yu as General Secretary. 113 members are dropped.**
- 1978**
- January**      **Deng Xiaoping visits Burma.**
- 01 Feb.**      **Four coup plotters are sentenced to death for high treason. Two are sentenced to death for terrorist activities.**
- 02 Mar.**      **The newly elected Hluttaw elects Ne Win as President of the State Council, that is, Head of State.**
- 01 April**      **5 000 prisoners start work on the road between Rangoon and Mandalay.**
- 09 July**      **Burma and Bangladesh reach an agreement on the repatriation of Arakanese refugees.**
- 31 -**      **As of this date, the BSPP has over 229,000 members and over 600,000 candidate members.**
- 31 August**      **The repatriation of Arankanese begins.**
- 20 Oct.**      **Japan commits Yen 13,500 million for the fifth merchandise loan.**
- 27 Dec.**      **Japan commits Yen 2,750 million for a special shipping loan.**
- **About 200,000 – 300,000 Muslims from Rakhine State are expelled to Bangladesh.**
- **The London-based human rights organisation the *Amnesty International* makes for the first time public about the Burmese governments' decades-long human rights violations against Burma's national minorities. See below:**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA**

Should we be concerned about human rights in Burma? Some may feel that it's ridiculous to be talking about human rights when the military regime of General Ne Win has all but taken every human right away from the people of Burma. The fact that Ne Win is a tyrant who seized power illegally has not deterred any government from recognizing his regime as the government of Burma. What difference does it make whether or not human rights are respected in Burma? Others are disillusioned. They have tried in the past to expose the injustices in Burma but no one cared or listened. The national minorities have long spoken out for their basic human rights but where has it got them? Nowhere.

So why should we now be raising the issue? First, although there are other larger issues at stake, we have to start somewhere. Second, the situation has changed. In the past, Ne Win followed a policy of isolation and self-sufficiency. He could afford to ignore international opinion and pressure. Now the regime is getting desperate. They need foreign aid and investments to salvage their collapsing socialist economy. To get it, they have to present an image of respectability and

responsibility. They are therefore now vulnerable to international opinion. Third, we are not alone. People worldwide are getting more and more concerned about the misuse of power as witnessed by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Amnesty International in 1977. Therefore, as Burmese who love their homeland, it is our responsibility to now expose the deprivation of our fellow countrymen in order that their suffering may be alleviated.

How can you as a single individual respond? First of all, do you have specific knowledge of any violation of human rights in Burma? Do you personally know of people who, for example, have been arrested for no specific reason and detained without trial? Do you know of people who have been arrested because of their husband's or family's attitude towards the regime? Do you know of incidents where the power of the government has been abused and mis-used? If you do, please contact us giving full details such as names, places incidents took place, the nature of the incidents, witnesses if possible, times, date and where you can be contacted. We will treat your information with utmost confidentiality. If you so desire, you can contact Amnesty International yourself.

Amnesty International(Asian Division)  
International Secretariat

10 Southampton St.  
London WC2E 7HF  
England(1978)

*Note: This appeal appeared in **The Burma Alert**, published in Canada. Its editor was Mr. Harn Yawngghwe/compiler.*

## 1979

- 12 July** Rangoon announces a new US\$ 63 million aid agreement with China for unspecified projects.
- 26 -** A Japanese loan of Yen 3,300 million for medical supplies, technical education, and metallurgical research.
- August** The U.S. resumes the bilateral assistance programme.
- September** Burma withdraws from the Non-Aligned Movement following the Havana meeting.
- 15 October** Ne Win orders the re-establishment of English in the school curriculum. (The main reason is that his daughter, Sandar Win, failed her entrance examination in English proficiency in England for her further study in medicine.)
- 28 Nov.** Japan provides a Yen 26.96 billion loan.
- Huang Hua, FM of the People's Republic of China, visits Burma.

## 1980

- May** Japan provides a loan of Yen 291 million.
- April** Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong visits Burma.
- The Burma Communist Party holds Muse(a town in Northern Shan State) for two days and Yawng for four days.
- June** A loan of Yen 2 billion from Japan.
- 10 July** The government announces that the Chinese aid programme signed in Beijing on July 12, 1979 will consist of eight projects: the building of the Rangoon-Syriam bridge, 40,000 spindle yarn-making machines, three rice mills with 150 ton per day capacity, the supply of water to Moulmain city, and three million renminbi-yuan for machinery and tools.
- 29 -** U Nu and his wife Daw Mya Yee accept an offer of amnesty granted by General Ne Win and return to Burma.
- A major national effort is begun to explain the constitution draft citizenship law to the people. The law will not allow naturalized citizens to hold positions in the military and state-owned industries.
- Thai Prime Minister Prem visits Burma.

**24 August** Japanese Foreign Minister Ito visits Burma and a Yen 2.4 billion grant is provided.  
**20 Sept.** The FRG extends a loan of DM 120 million, including funds for participation in the World Bank project for the Naunggyat Dam(Mandalay Division).  
December Border trade is officially opened between the two countries.

## **1981**

11 April President Ne Win leaves on a visit to Japan.

## **1982-83**

The RomanCatholic Church in Burma distributes in Burma thousands of copies of a letter which is allegedly written (or directly dictated) by Jesus Christ himself. See blow:

### **A TRUE LETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

Consecrating the Drops of Blood which Our Lord Jesus lost on His way to Calvary.

Copy of a letter of the Oration found in the Holy Sepulche of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem preserved in a silver box by His Holiness and by the Emperors and Empresses of the Christian Faith.

St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary, with St. Matilda and St. Bridget wishing to know something of the Passion of Jesus Christ offered fervent and special prayer, upon which there appeared to them Our Lord Jesus Christ who spoke to them in the following manner:

"I descended from Heaven to the Earth in order to convert you. In olden times people were religious and their harvests were abundant; at present on the contrary, they are scanty. If you want to reap an abundant harvest you must not work on Sunday for on Sunday you must go to church and pray to God to forgive your sins. He gave you six days in which to work and one for rest and devotion and to tender your help to the poor and assist the Church.

Those people, who brawl against my religion and cast slurs on this Sacred Letter, shall be foresaken by me. On the contrary, those people who shall carry a copy of this letter with them shall be free from death by drowning and from sudden death. They shall be free from all contagious diseases and lightning, they shall not die without confession and shall be free from their enemies and from the hand of wrongful authority, and from all their slanderers and false witnesses.

Women in peril at childbirth will, by keeping this Oration about them, immediately overcome the difficulty. In the houses where this Oration is kept, no evil thing will ever happen and, forty days before the death of a person who has this Oration about him or her.

To all those faithful who shall recite for 3 years, each day 2 Our Fathers, 2 Glories, and 2 Hail Marys, in honour of the drops of blood I lost, I will concede the following 5 graces:

- (1) The plenary indulgence and remittance of your aims.
- (2) You will be free from the pains of Purgatory.
- (3) If you should die before completing the said 3 years, for you, it will be the same as if you had completed them.
- (4) It will be upon your death the same as if you had shed all your blood for the Holy Faith.
- (5) I will descend from Heaven to take your soul and that of your relatives until the fourth generation.

Be it known that the number of armed soldiers were 150, there who trailed me while I was bound were 23. The executioners of justice were 83; the blows received on my head were 150; those on my stomach were 108; kicks on my shoulders 80; I was led bound with cords by the hair 24 times; spits in the face were 180; I was beaten on the body 6666 times; beaten on the head 110 times. I was roughly pushed and at 12 o'clock was lifted up by the hair, pricked with thorns and pulled by the beard were 23 times; received 20 wounds on the head; thorns of marine junks 72, prick of thorns on the head 110, mortal thorns in the forehead 3. I was afterwards flogged and dressed as a mocked king; wounds in the body 1000. The soldiers who led me to the Calvary were 608; those who watched me were 3; and those who mocked me were 1008; the drops of blood which I lost were 28 430."

Benedettadas- S

POPE LEO XIII

In Rome, 5 April, 1890

1st Printing 1982. 3000

2nd Printing 1982. 2000

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CATHOLIC PRESS, KALEMYO(Burma)/(It's a word-for-word reproduction from the original text done by Thang Za Dal.  
Hamburg/23.05.2002./Source: Salai Kipp Ko Lian's files)  
.....

## 1984

**15 February** **Burma's Foreign Currency Reserves as of October 1983: US\$ 75.1 million.**(The ABECO COUNTRY REPORT issued on this date./The ABECO Group comprises of : Algemene Bank Nederland, Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Banque Bruxelles Lambert, Banque Nationale de Paris, Barclays Bank, Bayerische Hypotheken-und Wechsel-Bank AG(HYPO-BANK), Dresdner Bank AG, Österreichische Länderbank AG, Banque Internationale a Luxembourg, Banque de la Societe Financiere Europeenne). **Compiler's remark:** It is an internal report for the listed banks and classified as CONFIDENTIAL!

## 1985

**03 Nov.** **100 – Kyat banknotes are demonetised and replaced with 35 and 75-Kyat banknotes. No compensations are made.**

## 1986

**February** **Dr. Richard von Weizsacker, the Federal President of the FRG, pays Burma a state visit.** *The following is an interesting report which appeared in a German magazine about this visit: "Confrontation Prevented With Diplomacy: What were we to do? The Burmese management of the Kinda Dam had 'isolated' some 20 German specialists who are working there and their families from the Federal President with an apparent intention to give the impression that this national prestige project has been constructed by the Burmans alone, although it has in fact been constructed with the financial and technical assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany. As von Weizsäcker learned about it, he refused to inspect the project unless he could see his countrypeople. Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha promptly arranged that the Germans be taken out of their forced quarantine immediately ... Within 15 minutes the Germans appear with their families at the site."*(Source: ESPIRIT/01.04.1986)

(The original German text: „Mit Diplomatie Eklat verhindert: Da war guter Rat teuer: Die burmesische Leitung des Kinda-Staudamms(unten) hatte die dort Tätigen, ca. 20 deutsche Fachleute und ihre Familien vor dem Bundespräsidenten'isoliert', wohl um zu zeigen, daß man es bei diesem nationalen Prestigeprojekt, zu dem die Bundesrepublik Finanz- und Firmenhilfe leistete, heute allein schafft. Als von Weizsäcker dies erfuhr, weigert er sich, das Werk zu besichtigen, falls seine Landsleute nicht erschienen. Sofort ordnete Burmas Premier U Maung Maung Kha an, die Deutschen schleunigst aus der Zwangsquarantäne zu holen. Mit dem betreten dreinschauenden Regierungschef, seinem Außenminister U Ye Gaung und Industrieminister U Maung Cho in Wartestellung. Nach 15 Minuten waren die Deutschen mit Kind und Kegel zur Stelle.“)

## 1987

**10 August** **Ne Win admits in a nine-and-half minute radio and TV speech the mistakes of his government in the last 25 years.**

**05 September** **The country's three highest denominations of banknotes – Kyats 25, 35 and 75 – are demonetised without compensation. No reason is given. On 17th September two new denominations are issued: Kyats 45 and 90 banknotes(4+ 5 = 9; and 9+ 0= 9. Number 9 is Ne Win's lucky number, according to his chief astrologer.) Thus, the great majority of the country's citizens is completely robbed of their meager savings. 500-1000 students go on a rampage in Rangoon.**

**06 –** The government closes down all universities and colleges. Students in Rangoon who from upcountry are bused back to their homes.

**07 Oct.** A number of tax laws are amended, requiring the farmers to pay in kind rather than in cash, which leads to discontent in rural areas.

**October** **San Yu, President of Burma(the decades-long Chief of Staff of Burma Armed Forces and Ne Win's righthandman) pays a state visit to the FRG.**

- 29 - ECOSOC recommends least-developed country status(LDC) for Burma.**
- 02-03 Nov. Students at the regional college in Sittwe, Rakhine(Arakan) State, demonstrate and shout anti-government slogans.
- 07 - Students from the local Ye Zin Agricultural College and veterinary students in Pyinmana, Mandalay Division, demonstrate against the government and burn portraits of Ne Win.
- 11 Dec. The UN General Assembly approves LCD status for Burma. Its external debt is US\$ 4 billion and its foreign exchange holdings are as low as US\$ 28 million, according to the IMF figures.**
- December Sporadic disturbances are reported from the Rangoon Institute of Technology(RIT) and threatening letters are sent by underground student groups to the police in Mandalay.

## **1988**

- March-July Ex. Brigadier-General Aung Gyi writes several open letters to his former mentor, General Ne Win, criticizing the government's economic policies and human rights abuses. The results of these letters are so devastating for the government.
- 12 March Some RIT(Rangoon Institute of Technology) students clash with local people at a teashop in Rangoon. One RIT student injured and the culprit is arrested.
- 13 - The culprit is released, so about 200 RIT students march down to the People's Council to pretest. "Lon Htein" riot policemen clash with students and the crowds.. One student, Maung Phone Maw, is shot dead and an estimated 7 students die later from gunshot wounds.
- 14 - RIT Students distribute leaflets on other campuses in Rangoon, condemning the brutality of the Lon Htein - and the demonetisation on 5 September last year.
- 15 - Government troops enter the RIT campus and arrest scores of RIT students.
- 16 - Students from Rangoon University(RU) main campus march towards the RIT campus. They are blocked by regular army units and Lon Htein police near Inya Lake. About 200 students are killed.
- 17 - Thousands of people rally outside Kyandaw crematorium for Maung Phone Maw's funeral - just to find out that his body has already been cremated secretly elsewhere. The RU Students' Union is formed at a meeting on the main campus. About 1000 students are arrested and sent to Insein Jail in north of the capital.
- 18 - Thousands of students and crowd march down to the city centre - and are joined or cheered by thousands of others. Army units - the 22nd, 66th and 77th LIDs(Light Infantry Divisions) are called in from the provinces. Thousands of protesters are arrested and a number of people are killed both by Army units and Lon Htein police as well. The day becomes known as "The Bloody Friday" and Sein Lwin - the commander of the Lon Htein - as "The Butcher of Rangoon". Universities and schools are closed. (Sein Lwin was born in 1924. He attended primary school. Joined the Burma Defence Army(BDA) in 1943. He was with Ne Win's 4th Burma Rifles in 1946. Commander of the 3rd Burma Rifles in 1950. Killed Karen national leader Saw Ba U Gyi in 1950. He led the security unit that massacred students in Rangoon on 7 July 1962.)

## **11 April Ne Win and his entourage leave for West Germany and Switzerland.**

- 09 May The government-appointed Inquiry Commission states that three students were killed during the March riots, 625 arrested and 141 are still in custody. Aung Gyi

- writes another 40–page open letter to Ne Win.
- 10 - Amnesty International publishes a 71–page report saying that the Burma Army is responsible for summary executions, torture and rape in the frontier areas, and for forcing villagers to act as porters and walk ahead of troops as human mine–detectors during military campaigns against ethnic insurgents.
- 26 - **Ne Win and his entourage return to Rangoon from his trip to Europe.**
- 20 June 5–6000 students and citizens stage a peaceful protest. Posters attacking Ne Win appear, mentioning his Swiss bank accounts.
- 21 - Thousands of students from the Institute of Medicine(1) march towards central Rangoon. A clash between the crowds and Lon Htein resulted in 80 civilians and 20 Lon Htein police deaths. The authorities declare a 60–day ban on public gatherings – 21 June to 19 August – and a 6:00 pm – 6:00 am curfew is imposed in Rangoon. **The Institute of Medicine(1) and the Institute of Dental Medicine in Rangoon also suspend all classes.**
- 23 - Students, defying the ban on public gatherings, set up a strike centre at the historic Shwe Dagon Pagoda. The unrest spreads to Pegu, 50 km north of Rangoon, where at least 70 people are killed. **Unrest is also reported from Moulmein and Prome. The Institute of Medicine in Mandalay suspends all classes.**
- 01 July Several curfew violators (8:00pm–04:00am) are shot by Lon Htein.
- 18 - Min Gaung, minister for Home and Religious Affairs, admits the deaths of 41 demonstrators who were suffocated in a prison van outside Insein Jail in March.
- 25 - **Ne Win “resigns“ from his post as BSPP chairman.**
- 26 - **Sein Lwin is elected as new BSPP chairman.**
- 26 - **Tun Tin is elected Prime Minister. He hold this porfolio until 18 September 1988.**
- 27 - **Sein Lwin is elected as president of Burma.**
- 08 August Tens of thousands of demonstrators in all major cities and towns throughout the country demand democracy, human rights, the resignation of the BSPP government and an end to the socialist economic system. At 11:45 pm heavily armed troops spray automatic rifle–fire into crowds of unarmed demonstrators in Rangoon.
- 09 - Mass demonstrations spread to more than 40 places all over the country. Army units from the 22nd LID fire on demonstrators in Rangoon. Several hundreds are killed. All schools are closed down.
- 10 - Scores of people are killed by troops in the capital as armoured cars equipped with Bren machine–guns fire on demonstrators. Troops fire on staff at Rangoon General Hospital.
- 11 - Western diplomats estimate at least 1,000 demonstrators are killed in Rangoon alone. Troops and policemen open fire on demonstrators in the northern town of Sagaing, killing at least 100 people. **The US Senate unanimously approves a resolution condemning the BSPP regime as well as the killings in Burma.**
- 12 - Sein Lwin resigns after 18 days in power. People dance in the streets of Rangoon. Rangoon General Hospital is full of wounded demonstrators.
- 15 - **The Rangoon Bar Council issues a statement saying that “the shooting and killing by bayonets of young children, students and the people by the security forces in Rangoon, Sagaing and other towns...since 09.08.88 is totally against the Burmese Constitution and the international law.“**
- 16 - **The Burma Medical Association protests against the massacre in Rangoon. The government announces that tourist hotels are going to be built in Rangoon, Mandalay**

- and Pagan in cooperation with companies from Australia, Japan and Singapore.
- 17 - About 3,000 people gather outside Rangoon General Hospital. Armoured cars and troops close in on demonstrators. Renewed demonstrations are also reported from Mandalay. Doctors and nurses at Rangoon General Hospital reiterate their protests against the killings.
- 19 - Dr. Maung Maung is appointed new president [of the republic] and BSPP chairman.
- 20 - Flag-waving demonstrators demand the resignation of Dr. Maung Maung and the formation of an interim government to prepare for general elections.
- 22 - Tens of thousands of people take to the street in Rangoon. A general strike is proclaimed to force the government to resign. Daily demonstrations are also reported from several towns throughout the country.
- 23 - An estimated 600,000 people join the demonstrations. A crisis meeting is reportedly held at Ne Win's Ady Road residence and a new strategy for quelling the unrest is drawn up.
- 25 - **At night, armed soldiers remove Kyats 600 million from the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank in Rangoon. All troops stationed in Rangoon are given six months' pay in advance.**
- The bank's newly formed trade union protests against the act. Demonstrations and mass meetings are held daily all over the country.
- 26 - The general strike cripples Rangoon. Aung San Suu Kyi addresses a crowd of several hundred thousand people outside Shwe Dagon Pagoda.
- 26-28 - A prison riot breaks out in Insein Jail. Almost simultaneously, there are similar prison riots in nine widely dispersed towns throughout the country. Nearly 9,000 inmates escape or are released.
- 28 - "All Burma Federation of Students' Unions" (ABFSU) is formed as an umbrella group for student organizations.
- 31 - West Germany stops its DM 65 million/year aid programme to show its disapproval of the killings in Rangoon.
- 02 September **Burmese lawyers call for the abrogation of the 1974 Constitution and say the 1962 coup violated the 1947 Constitution. The mass demonstrations continue. About 50 cities and towns plus several villages throughout the country are in the hands of protesters. Buddhist monks set up courts and run day-to-day affairs in major towns.**
- 11 - **The Pyithu Hluttaw's emergency session decides to hold general elections. Policemen join the demonstrations in Rangoon. Daily mammoth demonstrations with hundreds of thousands of people - including hunger strikers - press demands for democracy and the formation of an interim government to oversee the elections; they reject the government's proposal.**
- 12 - Aung San Suu Kyi, Tin Oo and Aung Gyi issue a joint statement supporting the formation of an interim government.
- 16 - The government announces that all 180,000 men of the armed forces are no longer members of the BSPP.
- 18 - General Saw Maung takes over from the BSPP and rules through the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).
- 19 - **Street battles between army units and protesters continue. Hundreds of people are gunned down by the security forces. The SLORC dissolves the Pyithu Hluttaw, Council of State and other former organs of power.**
- 21 - General Saw Maung becomes Prime Minister. He remains in this posting until 23 April 1992.
- 23 - The World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, receives an urgent appeal for

material help from various Christian churches through religious channels. Here are a few lines from this appeal: "... an estimated 10 000 civilians have been killed since the demonstrations began two months ago... thousands of the wounded are in hospitals, but doctors and nurses cannot do anything because there is no medicine...in Rangoon and other big cities soldiers are plundering houses under the pretext of searching for weapons, and the protesting women and children are either sexually molested or killed with bayonet...the soldiers have occupied monasteries and taken the monks in custody so that no one can take refuge in these monasteries..."

24 - Aung Gyi, Tin Oo and Aung San Suu Kyi form up the National League for Democracy (NLD). Massacres and summary executions of pro-democracy activists continue throughout the country.

26 - The BSPP becomes the **National Unity Party(NUP)**. The European Community calls on the Burmese Government to stop killings and restore democracy.

27 - NLD is officially registered as a political party.

01 October UNICEF and ICRC begin flying in medical supplies to Burma. About 10,000 students and other pro-democracy activists have fled to the areas bordering Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh.

06 - **Munitions for the Burma Army arrive by ship from Singapore. The military begins press-ganging civilians in Rangoon to serve as porters with the army fighting ethnic insurgents.**

7 - Maung Maung Gyi, Burma's representative to the UN, promises free and fair elections. Arrests and summary executions of pro-democracy demonstrators continue.

01 - Purges begin within Burma's foreign service. Diplomats are recalled from abroad.

08 Nov. Three diplomats at the Burmese Embassy in Canberra apply for political asylum in Australia. Purges, arrests and summary executions continue.

09 - An attempt by monks to stage a demonstration in Rangoon is thwarted.

14 - Thai army commander Gen. Chaovalit Yongchaiyut visits Burma and returns with generous logging and fishing deals in return for assisting in the repatriation of Burmese dissident students now staying in the Thai-Burma border areas.

19 - The 10 ethnic resistance armies of the National Democratic Front plus 12 underground student groups and Burmese opposition parties form the Democratic Alliance of Burma(DAB).

24 - Malaysia becomes the first country to have its envoy present credentials to Saw Maung's government.

## 1989

05 January The US State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley accuses the Burmese military of arresting and killing students who have returned from the Thai border areas.

10 - Amnesty International alleges that the Thai military is forcing Burmese students to return to Rangoon from Tak.

07 Feb. A US State Department report on human rights in Asia accuses the Burmese government of resorting to indiscriminate killings, arbitrary arrest and torture of political prisoners.

17 - Japan recognises Gen. Saw Maung's government and says it will partially resume economic assistance.

20 - The CPB's politburo holds a crisis meeting at Panghsang. It is revealed that Chinese have approached the CPB and offered the leaders retirement in China. The CPB leadership reacts angrily to the suggestion, saying: "We have no desire to become revisionists."

21 March The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance(Kokang)- MNDAA - Northern Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government. The leader of this organization is

Mr. Phone Kyar Shin.

23 - Students in Rangoon commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Maung Phone Maw. Opposition politicians declare 13 March Human Rights Day in Burma.

27 - Armed Forces Day. Ne Win attends a dinner party in Rangoon making his first public appearance in July 1988. Sporadic gunfire is heard in Rangoon as groups of students demonstrate against the military. Several thousand people demonstrate in Mandalay and shout anti-government slogans.

09 May The United Wa State Army(Myanmar National Solidarity Party) – UWSA – Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government. The leaders of this organization are: Pao Yuchang & Kyauk Nyi Lai.

**18 June The SLORC changes the official name of the country to Myanmar.**

30 - The National Democratic Alliance Army(Shan/Akha Armed National Groups) – NDAA – Eastern Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government. The leaders are Sai Lin & Lin Ming Xian.

**20 July Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo, NLD Chairman, are put under house arrest.**

30 - About 5,000 Buddhist monks are demonstrating in Mandalay against the government.

**30 August Arms shipments from Israel and Belgium arrive at Rangoon seaport via Singapore.**

02 September Shan State Army(Shan State Progress Party) – SSA – signs cease-fire agreement with the government. The leader is Colonel Loi Mao.

**18–29 Oct. a 24-man senior Burmese military delegation, led by Lt. Gen. Than Shwe, visits China.**

15 December New Democratic Army(Kachin), North-East Kachin State, led by Mr. Sakhone Ting Ying, signed cease-fire agreement with the government.(NDA-K)

**1990**

**23 Feb. A Joint-Venture, the“ Myanmar Fritz Werner Industries Co. Ltd.“ is formed.(Declaration No. 8/90/Rangoon)**

27 May The country's first multi-party general elections are held in three decades. The National League for Democracy(NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, wins 392 out of 485 seats – or 80 percent. The government's party, the National Unity Party, wins only 10 seats. The Government therefore annuls the election results.

**10 August The first major shipment of arms and ammunition from China arrives in Rangoon.**

**1991**

**January State Councillor and Secretary-General of the State Council, Luo Gan, visits Burma.**

13 - The Kachin Defence Army(KIO 4th Brigade) – KDA – Northern Shan State, led by Mr. Mahtu Naw, signs cease-fire agreement with the government.

11 April Pa-O National Organisation(PNO), led by Mr. Aung Kham Hti, Southern Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government.

21 - The Palaung State Liberation Army(PSLA), Northern Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government. The movement is led by Mr. Aih Mone.

**Early May Chinese fighter jets arrive in Burma as part of a US\$ 1 billion arms deal which also includes patrol boats, tanks, armored personnel carriers, light weapons and anti-aircraft artillery.(Burma Issues/ May 2002. See above)**

**21–25 August Gen. Saw Maung visits China and meets PM Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun, who promise more political and military aid to Burma.**

**November Deputy Chief of Staff He qizong visits Burma.**

**May – Dec. Universities reopened which were closed in June 1988.**

**14 Oct. Aung San Suu Kyi is honoured with the Nobel Prize for Peace. University students strike to support Aung San Suu Kyi's award for the Nobel Peace Prize.**

1992

- **General Than Shwe takes over from General Saw Maung.**
- Jan./Feb. **SLORC begins military offensive to “annihilate all insurgent movements“ under an operation called “Operation Land of Peace“.**
- 27 Feb. Kayan National Guard(breakaway group from KNLP) – KNG – Kaya(Karenni) State, led by Gabriel Byan & Htay Ko, signs cease–fire agreement with the government.
- **About 200,000 Muslims, who have been living in the Rankhine State for generations, are forced to flee the country. They flee to Bangladesh.**
- 24 April **The junta announces that within six months it will organize a "National Convention" to draft a new constitution.**
- 24 - **General Than Swe takes over the prime minister porfolio which he holds until 23 August 2003.**
- SLORC announces clemency programme, begins release of prisoners. U Nu is released. Aung San Suu Kyi receives first visit from family members since her arrest.
- 28 May **A Steering Committee is formed to plan the Convention. The committee includes 14 junta officials and 28 people from seven different political parties. It is chaired by Rangoon Military Commander Lt–Gen Myo Nyunt.**
- June – Nov. **Universities are reopened which were closed in January 1992. The academic year was only 5 months.**
- 23 June The Steering Committee meets for the first time. Diplomats describe the meeting as "window dressing."
- 10 July **The National Convention's 702 delegates are named. Only 99 of the elected Members of Parliament are invited to attend. Seventy percent of the delegates are township level officials handpicked by the military.**
- Aung San Suu Kyi receives second visit from family members.
- ASEAN members express their preference for a policy of “constructive engagement“ with the SLORC.
- September SLORC lifts martial law, remains in power.
- 05 Nov. **The junta announces that the National Convention will begin on Jan 9, 1993.**

1993

- 09 January **The National Convention opens, but is suspended after two days. Delegates are alarmed to find the first six principles have already been laid down.**
- February State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen visit Burma.
- 01 - The Convention meets again.
- Eight Nobel Peace Prize winners, including a representative of Amnesty International, demand the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi.
- Mar. – July **Universities are opened which were closed in December 1992. The academic year was only 5 months.**
- April One of the elected delegates, Khun Marko Ban, flees to Thailand and accuses the military of imposing its will on Convention participants.
- 07 - **Meetings are suspended after ethnic minority delegates argue against measures to centralize the political structure. According to reports in the state–run press, delegates have agreed to the first 15 chapters of the draft constitution.**
- 07 June The National Convention opens again. Myo Nyunt says the new constitution must guarantee a leading role for the military in national politics.
- 01. Sept. Burma opens a consulate in Kunming, China
- Sept.– Jan ‘94 **Universities are reopened which were closed at end of July. The academic year was**

**only 5 months.**

- 16 Sept.** **The Convention is suspended again, as ethnic minority representatives continue to push for a federal system.** According to official reports, delegates have agreed to another 104 principles for the draft constitution.
- 01 October** **The Kachin Independence Organization(KIO), Kachin State, led by General Lamung Tu Jai, signs cease–fire agreement with the government.**
- 15 – Twelve political activists are arrested for speaking out about the National Convention. In 1994, the military charges another man, Dr Aung Khin Sint, an NLD MP, for distributing leaflets critical of the Convention. He later received a 20–year prison term.
- 1994**
- 18 Jan to 9 April** **Delegates draw up specific chapters on the structure of the state and the head of state. Despite opposition from many of the elected representatives, the convention approves a presidential rather than a parliamentary system. According to the approved draft, the president of Burma must have been a continuous resident for more than 20 years, have political, administrative, military and economic experience and not have a spouse or children who are citizens of another country. Such requirements eliminate opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi as a candidate.**
- 22 January Sentry posts removed around Aung San Suu Kyi's house. Roadblocks remain in place.
- May Another elected representative, Daniel Aung, flees. He says delegates are frustrated and that the military is silencing independent action.
- 09 May The Karenni State Nationalities Peoples' Front(KNPLF), led by Sandar & Htun Kyaw, Kaya(Karenni) State, signs a cease–fire agreement with the government.
- July** **UNOCAL Corporation signs contract with SLORC to build a natural pipeline across Burma.**
- 26 – The Kayan New Land Party(KNLP), led by Mr. Shwe Aye, Kaya(Karenni) State, signs cease–fire agreement with the government.
- August** **General Li Jiulong, commander of China's Chengdu military region, visits Burma.** Chengdu is the command headquarters and major supply base for Chinese troops in Tibet.
- Burma buys two modified Jianghu–class Chinese frigates.
- China opens a consulate in Mandalay.
- Aug .– Dec.** **Universities are reopened. The academic year was only 5 months.**
- September Khin Nyunt visits China.
- 02 – Sessions reconvene. Delegates discuss self–administered areas, the legislature, the executive branch and the judiciary. The Convention approves measures insisting that at least a third of the seats in any new parliament go to the military.
- Burmese air force chief, Lt. Gen Thein Win, goes to Kunming, China, to oversee the delivery of another squadron of military aircraft from China.
- 20 –** **Aung San Suu Kyi meets with members of the SLORC, who will only discuss the conditions of her leaving Burma; She refuses to discuss leaving Burma. The SLORC refuses to discuss elections. She remains under house arrest.**
- 29 –** **Burma signs an agreement with a leading Chinese shipping firm in Rangoon to purchase new ships for Myanmar Five Star Shipping Line.**
- 09 October The Shan State Nationalities Peoples' Liberation Organization(SSNPLO), led by Mr. Ta Kalei, Southern Shan State, signs cease–fire agreement with the government.
- December The Democratic Karen Buddhist Army(DKBA), led by Mr. Tha Htoo Kyaw, Karen State, signs cease–fire agreement with the government.

26-28 - Chinese Premier Li Peng visits Burma at the invitation of General Than Shwe.

## 1995

Amnesty International releases a detailed information on the extremely harsh conditions of several prisons and labour camps throughout the country.

(AI Index:ASA 16/22/95)

26 January Main Karen guerilla base at Manerplaw is taken by government troops.

February Major Karen guerilla base at Kawmoora is taken by government troops.

May - Sept. Universities reopened. The academic year lasted only 4 months.

29 June The New Mon State Party(NMSP), led by Mr. Nai Shwe Kyin, Mon State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government.

10 July Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest.

28 Nov. The National League for Democracy (NLD) requests a review of the Convention's working procedures. Specifically, NLD delegates want to repeal orders which censor debate and allow for criminal punishment of those who speak against the military during the Convention. Authorities deny the request and the 86 delegates from the NLD boycott the meetings for two days.

29 - The junta expels all of the NLD delegates. The number of MPs elected in 1990, now make up less than three percent of all delegates.

23 Dec. The Convention acknowledges and then rejects a Shan Nationalities League for Democracy proposal for the new constitution to be based on the principle of sovereignty resting with the people.

- The Shan State National Army, aka SSA-Central(SSNA), led by Col. Gun Yawd, Northern Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government.

Nov. - May '96

Universities reopened. The academic year was only 5 months.

## 1996

- More than 100,000 villagers in Shan State and at least 30,000 people in Kaya State are forcibly relocated.(*Relations Internationales Et Strategiques: Once the Rice-Bowl of Asia - Part Two*; by David Arnott; 1997.)

02 January The Mong Tai Army(MTA), led by Mr. Khun Sa, the world known drug dealer No. 1, Southern Shan State, signs cease-fire agreement with the government.

07 - Senior Gen Than Shwe makes his first visit to China since taking over as Chairman of the ruling SLOCRC in 1992.

25 March The NLD sends the military another request asking for a parliamentary assembly to be convened.

31 - The Burmese military adjourns the National Convention.

Sept - Dec. Universities reopened. The academic year is only 4 months. Student demonstrations in the Rangoon Universities and the Rangoon Institute of Technology(RIT).

## 1997

March Li Ruihuan, Chairman of China's Communist Party, visits Burma

23 July Burma is admitted to Association of South East Asian Nations(ASEAN). SLOCRC is renamed "State Peace and Development Council" (SPDC).

October Wu Bangguo, Vice-Premier of China, visits Burma.

## 1998

Burma and China sign a US\$ 250 million loan deal under which Beijing agrees to provide funds for

a 280 megawatts hydroelectric power plant near Pyinmana.

The Burmese government allows the publication of two local Chinese language newspapers – *Mian Dien Huo Bao* (The Burmese Morning Post) and *Shijie Ribao* (Universal Daily) – that target readers both in Burma and other countries in the region.

May Junta blasts George Fernandes, Indian Defense Minister, for accusing Rangoon of allowing China to set up military installations within its territory.

1999

June Burma-China bilateral trade, including border trade, reaches US\$ 78.21 million in the first two months of the year, a sharp increase of 123.7% over the \$ 34.95 million figure registered in the same period the previous year, according to Burma's Central Statistical Organization.

– Lt. Gen Khin Nyunt visits China.

24 September **The Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference and the Myanmar Council of Churches make a combined appeal to the ruling junta with this heading: *An Appeal to the State Peace and Development Council*.** In the appeal different forms of religious persecutions committed by the authorities throughout the country against the Christians are mentioned and the highest authorities in Rangoon are beseeched to change their policies and practices. The Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference, an organization comprised of 13 Bishops with 12 Catholic regions. The Myanmar Council of Churches is comprised of 13 of national Protestant Christian denominations. (A copy of the said appeal can be obtained from the compiler of this paper, or the World Council of Churches in Geneva and the Vatican Government also might have copies of it!) See below.

### **AN APPEAL TO THE STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

(From Myanmar Catholic Bishops And The Myanmar Council Of Churches)

September 24, 1999,

Yangon, Myanmar

May the Peace and Grace of Jesus Christ and God be with you!

A. The Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference and the Myanmar Council of Churches were formed with the objectives of all Christians in Myanmar to work for Christ's Mission.

B. The Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference, an organization comprised of 13 Bishops, has been working hard leading 12 Catholic regions.

C. The Myanmar Council of Churches, a leading national Christian ministry, is comprised of 13 members of national Christian denominations that are affiliated with 9 other prominent Christian organizations such as the Young Women Christian and the Young Men Christian Association. The leaders, as well as the members of these organizations, under the above two major organizations are all citizens of Myanmar.

D. Although both of the two major organizations are cooperating with other organizations around the world, they are freely operating in their own cause.

E. The Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference and the Myanmar Council of Churches are working for human developments for the benefit of the mission and the country. They establish hospitals, clinics, and schools that are basic necessities for a peaceful society; and selfless doctors and teachers are sacrificing in the good cause. Until today, they have established such things as a hospital for leprosy, school for the deaf, school for the blind, school for elderly care, school for orphans and are providing their best possible care for the abandoned and refugees.

F. They are also working with their best possible efforts for better environments, efficient transportation, welfare and developments of the lives of young people, women, and children.

G. To be able to undertake the above mentioned mission responsibilities, the Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference has formed the "Peace and Justice Commission" and the Myanmar Council of Churches has formed the "Reconciliation

and Peace Commission." The basic Biblical principle of the Commission is as follows:

H. Being faithful believers of the peaceful God, who governs with everlasting love, we believe that as we are responsible to build and prosper the virtues that will end conflicts and promote justice and peace, which has always been desired by the people, we will carry but this task so long as we are alive. (Biblical References:Hosea 2:4; Matthew 5:9; Ephesians 2:14-16).

I. We would like to present the hardships and obstacles we have faced while undertaking these tasks in recent years to the national heads. Prohibition of Christian evangelical works in some states and townships, expulsion of mission workers, prohibition of worship services, arrests and persecutions, forced renunciation of Christian faith, and destroying of Christian crosses have been encountered. In some states, repairing of Christian buildings was not allowed.

Permission for building was not allowed or permission was delayed. For Christians, crosses are very important because they are the symbols of sacrifice and service for human beings. Therefore, a place for worship and a place for erecting Christian crosses are of prime importance.

In publication of Christian literature, some words and vocabularies were not allowed or were restricted by the censorship board. This restriction can consequently lessen the warm relationship among religious organizations.

Due to the above obstacles, Christians have no peace of mind.

Therefore, with the aims of building a new developed and modern country by joining hands in unity with all ethnic nationalities and Burmese, we would like to request and present to the national leaders to solve the above mentioned obstacles. Also, in the future, we will present the needs and difficulties to you as necessary.

The Myanmar Catholic Bishops Conference and the Myanmar Council of Churches would also like to state that on the basis of love and justice, we would always try to build a long lasting reconciliation and peace. May the grace and peace of the ever-lasting God bestow upon our national leaders and our motherland! Amen!

(See also the attached photo)

RODODENDRON VIII No. VI Nov.-Dec. 2000

.....  
**September      Aung San Suu Kyi rejects government's conditions to visit her British husband, Michael Aris, who dies of cancer in UK.(Timeline:Burma/BBC News)**  
**December      Foreign Minister Win Aung visits China.**

**2000**

**02-05 May      Engineers from China's armed forces meet with Burmese military officers at a naval base in Tenasserim Division according to a Radio Free Asia report. The meetings focus on the construction of two bases in the area with assistance from the Chinese Navy and Air Forces.**

**05 June      -      Gen Maung Aye meets with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji on separate occasions in Hong Kong and China, and holds talks with Vice-President Hu Jintao. They sign a joint statement on the framework of future bilateral relations and cooperation.**

**September      A new special trade zone intended to open an outlet to Southeast Asia is established on the border between Burma and Yunnan, China. Meanwhile, the Bank of China approves a US\$ 120 million loan to the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise to build a massive hydroelectric generator.**

**21      -      Aung San Suu Kyi is once again put under house arrest.**

**24 November      Fang Zuqi, Political Commissar of Nanjing Military Command of the People's Liberation Army, meets with Gen Maung Aye.**

**December      Amnesty International reports that torture is increasing in Burma despite official military statements that it is illegal.(Timeline:Burma/BBC News)**

**2001**

**25 April      General Fu Quangyou, Chief of General Staff Headquarters for China's People's Liberation Army, meets with PM Than Shwe and Army Chief Maung Aye.**

**November      Official press hails capture of a white elephant, traditionally seen as a porten of peace**

and prosperity.

**12–16 Dec.** **Chinese President Jiang Zemin visits Burma and signs economic and border agreements.**

**2002**

**March** Three sons and husband of Sandar Win, Ne Win's favourite daughter, are arrested on charges of state treason. Ne Win and Sandar Win are put under house arrest. Several high-ranking military officers are either arrested or forced to resign on charges of coup attempt.

**06 May** **Aung San Suu Kyi is released after 20 months of house arrest.**

**05 December** **Ne Win dies under house arrest. He is cremated in the afternoon in a private ceremony, which is attended by only about 20 relatives and friends. Not a single government representative is present.**

**06 -** **Ne Win's remains are scattered in the Yangon River in accordance with Buddhist rites.**

**2003**

**30 May** **Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage are ambushed by mobs organised by the government at Dipeyin near Mandalay in Northern Burma. At least 100 people are killed and several are still missing. Aung San Suu Kyi herself is being detained for "for her own security" until she is put under house arrest on 27 September.** (On 30 May at Dipeyin the premeditated massacre of the 250 NLD members traveling in a motorcade was undertaken and attacked by a group of 5,000 soldiers, police, USDA members and convicts from Mandalay Prison, who reportedly made an ambush and assault, as the place of attack was lit with powerful search-lights to make the attackers to easily target their victims. In the ensuing melee, which lasted for an hour, the attackers harshly beat up the NLD members, using bamboo-sticks and spears. Other than that, soldiers opened fire at the innocent unarmed political activists, killing and wounding a large number of NLD members. The attack was not just making harassment, but committing a well-planned and designed brutal massacre, said escapees from the incident.

The USDA (Union Solidarity and Development Association) is a quasi-government terror organization – one half of it is said to be political, but the whole is a para-military outfit. In fact USDA is the another face of the military junta. It was formed on 15 September 1993. According to the available information, up to 31 July 1999, there are 16 state and divisional associations, 63 district-level associations, 320 township-level associations and 14,865 village-tract associations, with the total membership of 11,806,009. Under the supervision of the Central Panel of Patrons, the USDA has been organized with Secretary-General, the Secretariat and a Central Executive Committee. The Central Panel of Patrons is comprised of four generals, ten Lt. Generals, six Major Generals, eighteen Brigadier-Generals, three Colonels and four civilians. (Sources: *Asian Tribune*/ Date: 2003-12-10/ USDA is another face of the military junta – Exposed/ By Zin Linn/[http://www.asiantribune.com/show\\_news.php?id=8250/](http://www.asiantribune.com/show_news.php?id=8250/))

**25 August** **Lt. General Khin Nyunt, the third most powerful man in the Burmese government, and 1st Secretary of the ruling SPDC, is appointed as Prime Minister. He holds this portfolio until 18 October 2004.**

**30 -** Lt. General Khin Nyunt announces a 7-step road map to build a "modern prosperous democratic state". The convention is due to open on 17 May, 2004. The previous convention(1993–1996) collapsed when the NLD walked out in protest at the lack of freedom to discuss in the Convention.(Foreign & Commonwealth Office/14/05/04)

- 22 September 30 - The military organizes mass rallies to support the National Convention and road map. Burma's new Prime Minister Gen Khin Nyunt announces a seven-point road map to democracy. The first step is the resumption of the National Convention, but no time-frame or details on delegates is provided.
- 24 - Representatives from two ceasefire groups in Kachin State take part in a demonstration to support the road map. The Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) and New Democratic Army-Kachin (NDA-K) both agree to take part in the Convention.
- 22 October Three more ceasefire groups say they will send delegates to the resumed National Convention, but stipulate several conditions. The United Wa State Army, the Shan State Army (North) and the National Democratic Alliance Army, all from Shan State, demand freedom to meet with other ethnic leaders, free choice of delegates, free debate and an assurance that the convention will "lay down democratic principles."
- 10 November UN Secretary General Kofi Annan criticizes Burma's road map. Several groups, including the United Nationalities Alliance, the Karen National Union and the Committee for Representing the People's Parliament, also express their reservations about the military's plan to restart the National Convention.

## 2004

- 18 January A major natural gas field has been discovered in an area of offshore of Arakan Coastline, according to the New Light of Myanmar. The new find block A-1 of Burma's Arakan State contains "a world class commercial scale gas deposit" estimated to hold 42 trillion to 5 billion feet of gas, with a top side potential of 14 trillion cubic feet(tcf). The Daewoo International Corporation has a 60 percent stake in the business, while Korea Gas Corporation, another ROK enterprise is holding 10 percent of the share. ONGC Videsh Ltd. of the Republic of India, 20 percent; and Gail(India) Ltd., 10 percent. The gas field is estimated to have a capacity of producing 500 million cubic feet per day. The plan to export natural gas from Arakan to India has been kept a secret from the people of the state[Arakan/Rakhine]. "We[Free Burma Coalition] oppose the SPDC selling the natural gas from Arakan to foreign companies. The gas sale will not benefit the people of Arakan, or the people of Burma."(*FBC Posting*, January 19, 2004./*Kaladan News*, January 18, 2004(kaladanpress@yahoo.com))
- 11 March **Riots in Myitkyina, capital of Kachin State, blow up coinciding with Phone Maw's Day(13 March), which 16 years earlier had ignited the country-wide protest. The day has been celebrated as "Burma's Human Rights Day" worldwide. (*DVB: Democratic Voice of Burma*)**
- 30 - Junta announces the recovering of the National Convention, scheduled for May 17.
- 07 April Junta starts sending letters of invitation to delegates, including members of the opposition and ethnic parties, to the convention. All NLD central executive committee members have also been asked except Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo.
- 12 - The NLD calls for the repeal of the junta's No. 5/96 that criminalizes any speeches or documents that "belittle and make people misunderstand the functions being carried out by the National Convention." The law enables authorities to punish individual violators with prison terms from five to 20 years and allows for the closure and asset-seizure of any sponsoring organization.
- 13 - NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe and party secretary U Lwin are released from house arrest after nearly one year in detention.
- 16 - The NLD releases a statement, saying it will not be appropriate for the party to attend the national convention if it is to be run according to the same procedures and rules as when the convention first opened in 1993.

- 17 - Junta allows the re-opening of the NLD headquarters in Rangoon after all offices across the country were shut down for nearly one year.
- 19 - **Junta announces that it will hold the convention according to the six old objectives and proceedings. The objectives are: 1. Non-disintegration of the Union; 2. Non-disintegration of national unity; 3. Perpetuation of national sovereignty; 4. Promotion of a genuine multiparty democracy; 5. Promotion of universal principles of justice, liberty and equality; 6. Participation by the Defense Services in a national political leadership role in the future state.***(The Irrawaddy: The Lady Waits/April 22, 2004)*
- 12 September **Maj. General Myint Hlaing, Commandder of Lashio-based Northeast Regional Command, orders the raiding of a border checkpoint controlled by the Military Intelligence Service and the subsequent seizure of goods and cash reportedly worth 3 billion kyat(US \$ 3 million), which would lead to the dismissal of General Khin Nyunt a month later.**
- 14 - **Sheila Sisulu, a UN official, is blaming the Burmese military government's restrictive agriculture policies for driving villages in two border regions of the country into further poverty. The government restricts the free movement of agriculture products in these regions and prevents the trade of farm products between ethnic groups, Sheila Sisulu, deputy executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP), said at a press conference here Tuesday. "The policies of the government are impoverishing these people," Sisulu added. "The market is not open to the farmers." Sisulu made her comments following a four-day visit to Burma, also known as Myanmar, where she inspected the projects of the U.N. food relief agency. That included a visit to the Northern Shan State, where the WFP is providing relief to farmers who were former poppy growers. Since October 2003, the WFP has been supplying rice to 180,000 people in the Northern Shan State. The bulk of its effort, though, is directed towards the Northern Rakhine State, in the west of the South-east Asian nation, which is home to the minority Rohingya community. The WFP is currently assisting an estimated 420,000 people who were displaced due to an internal conflict in 1991. The WFP's criticism of Rangoon's agriculture and trade policies amplify the charge made by the nternational Crisis Group (ICG), a Brussels-based think-tank, in a report released last week. In 'Myanmar: Aid to the Border Areas,' ICG revealed that most border areas are "highly or moderatel vulnerable in food security terms, with Shan, Northern Kachin and Chin states being the worst off." The Rakhine and Chin states "have the highest levels of income poverty in the country," it added...**  
(BANGKOK, Sept. 14 (IPS)<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/interna.asp?idnews=25460>)
- 14 - **Peanut fileds in Magwe Division's Taungdwingyi township bulldozed just before harvest by Defense Industry # 18 in late February. 45 farmers lost both their lands and fruits of their labour.**
- **Sugarcane fields in the same township suffered the same fate in November. Since the founding of DI # 18, people have lost more than 10,000 acres to the Army.***(DVB)*
- 15 - **Nine-member Ethnic Nationalities Council, the policy making body of the Ethnic Nationalities Solidarity and Cooperation Committee, formed during the three-day meeting, 12-14 March. The ENC is chaired by Saw Ba Thin and the ENSCC, the 5-member working body, by Dr. Chao Tzang Yawnghwe.***(Statement)*
- **Copies of Matriculation examination question papers, together with answers, are being sold by officers' wives in Monywa based Northwest Regional Command.***(DVB)*
- 16 - **Thousands of homes and buildings in Tamu area[located on the Indo-Burma border]**

**are being ordered to move away for a 200-foot wide Asian Highway that will connect India through Burma and Thailand.**(NMG)

- 17 - Mr. Pinheiro, UN Human Rights rapporteur, who had planned to visit Rangoon early this week and update his report before his address to the UNHRC next week was denied visa on the grounds that "the timing is not convenient", according to a UN official in Bangkok.(Irrawaddy)
- The March 2004 edition of Readers' Digest, featuring Aung San Suu Kyi. The book is sold in Burma uncensored. The article describes her as "the soul of the nation" and "sole repository for the Burmese people's hope". (AFP)
- 18 - Burma will be hosting the Asean Tourism Forum in 2006. The compulsory change of \$ 200 into Foreign Exchange Certificates(FECs) is no longer required. Rangoon has 154 hotels with 6,119 rooms with half categorized as tourist or 4-star class.(Bangkok Post)
- **U Win Aung, the current minister of foreign affairs, is removed and replaced by Maj. General Nyan Win. Win Aung's deputy, Khin Maung Win, is also removed and replaced by Col. Hla Myint. It is the 15th time the Myanmar government has reshuffled its cabinet since November 15, 1997, when the country renamed the SLORC as SPDC.** (XINHUA online /AFP/AP)
- 19 October Lt. General Khin Nyunt is removed from his post as Prime Minister and put under house arrest. He is replaced by Lt. General Soe Win.
- 20 November Min Ko Naing, 42, whose real name is Paw U, is released after 16 years of detention. He was the second most prominent political prisoner after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
- 01 December Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest is extended by the Junta for another 12 months. 9,000 prisonere were leased over the last two weeks. (AFP, The Manila Times). Most of the released are said to be either criminals or detained by the Military Intelligence on false charges such as illegal economic activities.
- 21 - Calls have been made for the international community to investigate claims of genocide and crimes against humanity, and to increase pressure on Burma's ruling Junta. Reported by Assist News Service, a joint delegation from Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) and the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) has just returned from a visit to ethnic groups on the Thai-Burmese border. The group is very concerned about the evidence of a campaign of genocide perpetrated by the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in the region. "There are an estimated one million people internally displaced in Burma," added the CSW spokesperson. "The Thailand-based Burma Border Consortium estimates at least 526,000 people have been displaced in Karen, Karenni and Shan areas, with 157,000 of these displaced in the past two years. Since 2002, at least 240 villages have been completely destroyed, relocated or abandoned, and a total of 2,500 villages in eastern Burma have been destroyed since 1996." The Shan people face a particularly severe crisis, with 300,000 internally displaced and at least 200,000 living illegally in Thailand. Unlike the Karen and Karenni, the Shan have been denied refugee camps in Thailand. Instead, those who flee persecution find sanctuary either illegally in Thailand, or in IDP camps in Shan state, Burma... We urge the British Government, the European Union and the United Nations to recognise the severity of the situation and take appropriate action. " "We also appeal to the Association of South-East Asian Nations [ASEAN] to suspend Burma's membership of the organization until significant progress is made towards a transition to a federal democracy and an improvement in human rights. We call for free and open access to all areas of Burma for international humanitarian aid groups

and human rights monitors.“(“Christian Today: CSW Reports on Burmese Genocide“  
Visit Posted: Tuesday, December 21,2004,12:37(GMT). The delegation consisted  
of members from CSW UK, Australia and New Zealand...EuniceK.Y. Oreunice  
@christiantoday.com URL: <http://www.christiantoday.com/news/miss/214.htm/>  
posted by:[http://www.chinforum.org.](http://www.chinforum.org/))

- 22 - **Some of the 12,000 strong Military Intelligence Service (MIS) agents and the majority of agents who were not arrested during recent crackdowns on the organisation were pensioned off, and some of them were transferred to combat battalions in the frontline areas. On 15 December, Lieutenant-General Kyaw Win, Brigadier-General Kyaw Thein, Brigadier-General Hla Aung and some high ranking MIS officers were allowed to retired with pensions. According to an ex-MIS petty officer, those who were transferred to combat battalions were forced to sign a confessional pledge that states that they worked for the MIS headed by the ousted ‘prime minister’ General Khin Nyunt, that they were involved in briberies and corrupt activities, that they failed to obey the order of other army officers and that they won’t commit similar crimes as they want to serve the army. Some officers were arrested and detained after signing the pledge. Among the luckiest people are said to be Lieutenant General Kyaw Win and Lieutenant General Kyaw Thein who is indirectly related to the chairman of the junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Senior General Than Shwe as they ultimately escape the arrests and each receives US\$ 70,000 as bonus for their retirement.(/DVB: 22 December 2004)**

## 2005

- 27 March The head of Myanmar's ruling junta said the country was moving toward democracy but gave no indication of when the military would relinquish its 43-year grip on power. (AP, 3/27/05)
- 24 Aug. Rumors of a coup in Myanmar's ruling military junta weakened the Southeast Asian nation's currency and boosted the price of gold in local trading.(AP, 8/24/05)
- 04 April **Chevron announced plans to purchase Unocal Corp. for \$18.4 billion. Chevron’s eventual acquisition of Unocal included a stake in the Yadana Project in Myanmar, in which Unocal invested in the 1990s along with France’s Total, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand. Total with a 31% stake operated the project. The Yadana Project brought in an estimated \$969 million to the government undercutting international sanctions to isolate the regime. Unocal agreed to settle a lawsuit, for an undisclosed sum, concerning human rights abuses on the Yadana Project in Myanmar.**  
(SFC, 4/5/05, p.A1)(SFC, 10/4/07, p.A10)(SFC, 4/29/08, p.D3)
- 07 May In Myanmar 3 explosions rocked the capital, Yangon, killing at least 19 people and wounding 162 others. (AP, 5/8/05)(Reuters, 5/15/05)
- 25 June India said police forces have destroyed one of the largest Mynamarese rebel bases in India, deep in the mountainous jungles of the remote northeast. Some 200 guerrillas and supporters living in the Chin National Army camp fled before the attack. (AP, 6/25/05)
- 06 July Myanmar's military government released about 240 prisoners, including political detainees and opposition politicians.(AP, 7/6/05)
- 22 - Former Myanmar PM Khin Nyunt received a 44-year suspended sentence after being convicted on eight charges including bribery and corruption.(AP, 7/22/05)
- 26 - Myanmar agreed to forgo its chairmanship of Southeast Asia's bloc next year to avoid a damaging Western boycott of the group's meetings.(AP, 7/26/05)

- 18 Oct. An environmental watchdog alleged that Chinese logging companies in Myanmar have illegally exported huge amounts of timber in collusion with the military government and ethnic guerrillas, destroying ecologically unique forest areas.(AP, 10/18/05)
- 06 Nov. Myanmar's military junta began moving key ministries to Pynmana, a secret location in the mountains and dense forest. The ruling junta had shifted headquarters to a series of underground bunkers in Pynmana, in central Myanmar.  
(Econ, 7/23/05, p.24)(WSJ, 11/7/05, p.A18)
- 03 Dec. Myanmar's government confirmed for the first time that it has extended pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's detention for six months.(AP, 12/03/05)
- 05 - Myanmar's military junta reopened a key national constitutional convention.  
(AP, 12/05/05)
- 23 - In Myanmar at least four government battalions began shelling and attacking villages and internal refugee hide-outs in southern Karenni State and areas of neighboring Karen State, forcing some 3,000 people to flee their homes.(AP, 2/21/06)
- 2005 Myanmar's ruling junta arrested the leader of the Shan State National Army (SSNA) along with other members of the Shan minority.(Econ, 7/23/05, p.24)
- AIDS in Myanmar was estimated at 1.2% of the population. It was reported that 100,000 new cases of TB were being detected annually.(Econ, 7/23/05, p.25)
- 2006
- 08 Jan. The UN envoy to Myanmar, Razali Ismail of Malaysia, said he had quit his post after being refused entry for the past 2 years to the military-ruled country where he pushed for reforms.(AFP, 1/8/06)
- Jan 31. Myanmar's military government adjourned a constitution-drafting convention after almost two months of deliberations, delegates said, amid growing frustration with the slow pace of democratic reforms. Karen insurgents, marking nearly six decades of fighting, said there was little chance Myanmar's military rulers would come to the negotiating table and end their bloody campaign against the ethnic minorities.(AP, 1/31/06)
- Feb 10. In Myanmar government officials said Win Aung, a former foreign minister ousted in a Cabinet reshuffle by the country's ruling military junta, has been put on trial for corruption charges.(AP, 2/10/06)
- Feb 12. Myanmar's leader Senior General Than Shwe lashed out at the US and the EU over their sanctions against his regime, amid rising global pressure for it to reform.(AP, 2/12/06)
- Mar 26. **A rights group said Myanmar's military rulers have launched an offensive against separatist guerrillas, attacking villages and forcing thousands to flee in an attempt to quash a five-decade insurgency by Karen ethnic rebels.**(AP, 3/26/06)
- Apr 27. **Reports from Myanmar and Thailand said Myanmar troops were waging their biggest military offensive in almost a decade and have uprooted more than 11,000 ethnic minority civilians in a campaign punctuated by torture, killings and the burning of villages.**(AP, 4/27/06)
- May 13. Myanmar's ruling military acknowledged that its army is targeting the Karen ethnic minority, saying the offensive is necessary to suppress bombings and other anti-government attacks.(AP, 5/14/06)
- May 18. A Karen group said Myanmar troops, who have driven an estimated 15,000 Karen villagers from their homes, are throwing more battalions into a widening offensive against the ethnic minority.(AP, 5/18/06)
- May 27. **A Myanmar government official said Nobel Peace Prize-winning pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi will remain under house arrest for another year.**(AP, 5/27/06)
- Jun 11. **Amnesty International released a report saying China's sales of military vehicles and**

weapons to Sudan, Nepal and Myanmar have aggravated conflicts and abetted violence and repressive rule in those countries.(AP, 6/11/06)

- Jul 17. One of two young twin brothers who led a small band of ethnic rebels calling themselves "God's Army" surrendered to Myanmar's military government. Johnny Htoo (18) and 8 fellow members of the group surrendered with weapons in two separate groups on July 17 and 19 at the coastal region military command in southeastern Myanmar. (AP, 7/25/06)
- July In Myanmar the daughter of junta supremo Than Shwe (73) was married. In November a leaked video of the lavish wedding sparked outrage among ordinary people in the military-ruled and deeply impoverished nation.(Reuters, 11/2/06)
- Sep 15. Over strong opposition from China, the UN Security Council put Myanmar on its agenda in what US officials called a "major step forward" in American efforts to increase pressure on the country's military dictatorship.(AP, 9/15/06)
- Oct 16. In central Myanmar Thet Win Aung (34), who had been serving a 59-year sentence since 1998 after protesting for educational reform, died in jail.(AP, 10/18/06)
- Oct 23. **The military regime in Myanmar ordered the International Red Cross to close five key field offices in the country.**(AP, 11/27/06)
- Nov 6. **Transparency International, a watchdog group, reported that nearly three-quarters of 163 countries ranked in a new survey suffer from a perception of serious corruption, while in nearly half it is seen as rampant. Finland, Iceland and New Zealand ranked as the least corrupt, while Haiti, Guinea and Myanmar ranked as most corrupt.** (AP, 11/6/06)(Econ, 11/11/06, p.69)
- Nov 11. In Myanmar senior UN official Ibrahim Gambari met detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the ruling junta's top leader.(Reuters, 11/11/06)
- Nov 30. **Human Rights Watch said Myanmar army attacks against a rebellious minority have forced thousands of civilians to flee their homes, with many trekking as far as the Thai border for food and shelter.**(AP, 11/30/06)
- Dec 14. Myanmar's military junta has told Red Cross officials that the humanitarian group can reopen field offices that the government had ordered shut in October.(AP, 12/15/06)
- Dec 24. **Bo Mya (79), a longtime leader of the Karen National Union, died in Thailand. The KNU was Myanmar's largest guerrilla group.**(AP, 12/24/06)
- 2006 Thant Myint-U authored "The River of Lost Footsteps: Histories of Burma," a memoir and history of Myanmar.(WSJ, 12/7/06, p.D8)
- 2006 Myanmar's population numbered about 51 million.(Econ, 9/2/06, p.39)
- 2007
- Jan 3. Myanmar's military government freed nearly 3,000 convicts, but key political prisoners were not among those released.(AP, 1/3/07)
- Jan 10. **A new report alleged that Myanmar's military junta is allowing gold mines to pollute the world's largest wild tiger reserve and has promoted development that is destroying ethnic Kachin communities.**(AP, 1/10/07)
- Jan 12. **China and Russia blocked the Security Council from demanding an end to political repression and human rights violations in military-ruled Myanmar, rejecting a resolution proposed by the United States. South Africa sided with China and Russia.** (AP, 1/13/07)(Econ, 1/27/07, p.47)
- Jan 1. **Myanmar's state media accused pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi of evading taxes by spending her money from the 1991 Nobel Peace prize and other awards overseas.**(AP, 1/18/07)

- Feb 12.** **A report issued by a human rights group accused Myanmar's military of killing, raping and torturing ethnic Karen women as part of its battle against the minority group over the past 25 years.**(AP, 2/12/07)
- Feb 23. In Myanmar at least five protesters who took part in a rare demonstration that urged the ruling military junta to improve health care, education and economic conditions were taken into custody.(AP, 2/23/07)
- Apr 12.** **An international conservation group said tens of thousands of villagers could be displaced and a fragile ecosystem destroyed by a hydropower project being built on northeastern Myanmar's Salween River.**(AP, 4/12/07)
- Apr 26.** **Myanmar and North Korea signed an agreement to resume diplomatic ties during a visit to Myanmar by the North Korean vice foreign minister.**(AP, 4/26/07)
- May 14. Nearly 60 former heads of state, including three ex-American presidents, demanded that Myanmar's military regime release Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.(AP, 5/14/07)
- May 22. Cambodian PM Hun Sen met with junta head Senior General Than Shwe in military-ruled Myanmar, as the two nations moved to improve tourism links.(AP, 5/22/07)
- May 25. Myanmar's military government extended the house arrest of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi by another year.(AP, 5/25/07)
- Jul 30.** **In the Philippines southeast Asian foreign ministers agreed to set up a regional human rights commission, overcoming fierce resistance from military-ruled Myanmar. Myanmar agreed not to veto discussion over the human rights commission at a November summit.**(AP, 7/30/07)(Econ, 8/4/07, p.36)
- Aug 22.** **In Myanmar hundreds of pro-democracy activists marched to protest the government's fuel price hikes. The military junta arrested 13 top dissidents and deployed gangs of spade-wielding supporters on the streets of Yangon.**(Reuters, 8/22/07)
- Aug 23.** **In Myanmar defiant pro-democracy activists took to the streets for the third time this week, forming a human chain to try to prevent officers from dragging them into waiting trucks and buses.**(AP, 8/23/07)
- Aug 24. Myanmar's military junta moved swiftly to crush the latest in a series of protests against fuel price hikes, arresting more than 10 activists in front of Yangon City Hall before they could launch any action.(AP, 8/24/07)
- Aug 25. Myanmar's state media reported that military junta has detained at least 63 activists who protested massive fuel-price hikes over the last week, as the government pursued its clampdown on the increasingly daring demonstrations.(AP, 8/25/07)
- Aug 27. About 50 pro-democracy activists were arrested outside Yangon, as the Myanmar junta clamped down on dissent following a series of protests last week against a sharp hike in fuel prices.(AFP, 8/27/07)
- Aug 28. Pro-democracy supporters expanded their protests against Myanmar's military, marching through the streets of the port town of Sittwe while attempting to rally in the main city Yangon.(AP, 8/28/07)
- Aug 29. In Myanmar pro-government gangs on trucks staked out key streets in Yangon as the country's military rulers sought to crush a rare wave of dissent by pro-democracy activists protesting fuel price increases.(AP, 8/29/07)
- Sep 19. More than 2,000 monks protested across Myanmar for a 2nd straight day against the country's junta.(AP, 9/19/07)
- Sep 20. Almost 1,000 Buddhist monks, protected by onlookers, marched through Myanmar's biggest city for a third straight day and pledged to keep alive the most sustained protests against the military government in at least a decade.(AP, 9/20/07)

- Sep 21. In Myanmar about 1,500 Buddhist monks marched through downtown Yangon to protest against Myanmar's military government, beginning their fourth day of demonstrations at a pagoda that has long served as a national symbol for dissent.(AP, 9/21/07)
- Sep 22. In the central Myanmar city of Mandalay, a crowd of 10,000 people, including at least 4,000 Buddhist monks, marched in one of the largest demonstrations since the 1988 democracy uprising. About 1,000 monks, led by one holding his begging bowl upturned as a sign of protest, marched in Yangon for a 5th straight day. The anti-government demonstrations touched the doorstep of democracy heroine Aung San Suu Kyi.  
(AP, 9/22/07)
- Sep 22. To date 144 countries had ratified the UN Convention Against Torture. Holdouts included Sudan, North Korea, Myanmar, Zimbabwe and India.(Econ, 9/22/07, p.72)
- Sep 23. In Myanmar some 20,000 people, led by Buddhist monks, protested against the junta. Riot police and barbed wire barricades blocked hundreds of monks and anti-government demonstrators from approaching the home of the detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in a new show of force against a rising protest movement.(AP, 9/23/07)
- Sep 23. Indian Oil Minister Murli Deora witnessed the signing of three accords between state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and the state-run Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise at Nay Pyi Taw, the administrative capital of Myanmar.(AFP, 9/24/07)**
- Sep 24. In Myanmar as many as 100,000 protesters led by a phalanx of barefoot monks marched through Yangon. The movement has grown in a week from faltering demonstrations to one rivaling the failed 1988 pro-democracy uprising.(AP, 9/24/07)
- Sep 25. Soldiers, including an army division that took part in the brutal suppression of a 1988 uprising, converged on Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, after thousands of monks and sympathizers defied government orders to stay out of politics and protested once again. The Buddhist monks marched out for an eighth day of peaceful protest despite orders to the Buddhist clergy to halt all political activity and return to their monasteries. Military leaders imposed a nighttime curfew and banned gatherings of more than 5 people.  
(AP, 9/25/07)(WSJ, 9/26/07, p.A1)
- Sep 26. In Myanmar at least four people including three Buddhist monks were killed as security forces used weapons and tear gas to crush protests that have erupted nationwide against the military junta.(AFP, 9/26/07)
- Sep 26. Transparency International's 2007 index ranked Myanmar and Somalia as the most corrupt nations. Both received the lowest score of 1.4 out of 10. Denmark, Finland and New Zealand were ranked the least corrupt, each scoring 9.4.(AP, 9/26/07)
- Sep 27. In Myanmar troops cleared protesters from the streets of central Yangon, giving them 10 minutes to leave or be shot as the Myanmar junta intensified a two-day crackdown on the largest uprising in 20 years. At least nine people were killed, including a Japanese national. In December a UN investigator documented 31 people killed by the end of the crackdown in October.(Reuters, 9/27/07)(AP, 12/7/07)
- Sep 28. Myanmar soldiers clubbed and dragged away activists while firing tear gas and warning shots to break up demonstrations before they could grow, and the government cut Internet access, raising fears that a deadly crackdown was set to intensify. The US administration slapped visa bans on more than 30 members of the Myanmar junta and their families.(AP, 9/28/07)(AFP, 9/29/07)
- Sep 29. UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari flew into Myanmar carrying worldwide hopes he can persuade its ruling generals to use negotiations instead of guns to end mass protests. The streets of Myanmar's two biggest cities were eerily quiet after a brutal crackdown on demonstrators seeking to end 45 years of military rule. Soldiers quickly snuffed out one small demonstration in Yangon, dragging several men to waiting trucks.(AP, 9/29/07)

- Sep 30. Myanmar's government unexpectedly allowed the country's leading opposition figure, Aung San Suu Kyi, to leave house arrest briefly and meet with a UN envoy trying to persuade the junta to ease its crackdown against a pro-democracy uprising. Thousands of troops locked down Myanmar's largest cities, and scores of people were arrested overnight. In Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, security forces arrested dozens of university students who staged a street protest.(AP, 9/30/07)(AP, 10/1/07)
- Oct 1. Myanmar's junta leader stalled a UN envoy for yet another day, delaying his chance to present international demands for an end to the crackdown on the largest protests in two decades. A Norway-based dissident news organization, the Democratic Voice of Burma, said pro-democracy activists estimate 138 people were killed in the recent protests. Shari Villarosa, the top US diplomat in Myanmar, said her staff had visited up to 15 monasteries around Yangon and every single one was empty. She put the number of arrested demonstrators, monks and civilians, in the thousands.  
(AP, 10/1/07)(AP, 10/1/07)
- Oct 2. Myanmar's reclusive junta leader, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, finally granted an audience to a UN envoy hoping to broker an end to Myanmar's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.(AP, 10/2/07)
- Oct 3. Soldiers said they were hunting pro-democracy protesters in Myanmar's largest city and the top US diplomat in the country said military police had pulled people out of their homes during the night. The European Union agreed in principle to punish the junta with sanctions.(AP, 10/3/07)(AFP, 10/3/07)
- Oct 5. In Myanmar acting Ambassador Shari Villarosa met with Deputy Foreign Minister Maung Myint in the remote jungle capital of Naypitaw (Naypyidaw). During her visit, she was expected to repeat the US view that the regime must meet with democratic opposition groups and "stop the iron crackdown" on peaceful demonstrators. The US said it would propose a UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Myanmar if the government there does not "respond constructively" to international concern about repression of pro-democracy protests.(AP, 10/5/07)(Econ, 4/12/08, p.27)
- Oct 6. Myanmar's junta tried to cool growing UN pressure over its deadly crackdown on peaceful protests, offering talks with democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and relaxing its blockage of the Internet. A day of global protests against Myanmar's junta began in cities across Asia, after the military regime admitted detaining hundreds of Buddhist monks when troops turned their guns on pro-democracy demonstrators last week.  
(AFP, 10/6/07)(AP, 10/6/07)
- Oct 7. Myanmar's military leaders stepped up pressure on monks who spearheaded pro-democracy rallies, saying that weapons had been seized from Buddhist monasteries and threatening to punish all violators of the law.(AP, 10/7/07)
- Oct 10. A Myanmar exile group, made up of former political prisoners, said authorities had recently informed the family of Win Shwe (42), that he had died during interrogation in the central Myanmar region of Sagaing. He and five colleagues were arrested on Sept. 26. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said that at least seven people have been arrested in the past two days in Yangon, including Hla Myo Naung (39), a leader of the '88 Generation Students.(AP, 10/10/07)
- Oct 12. Myanmar PM Gen. Soe Win (59), reviled for his role in a bloody attack on opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her followers in 2003, died after a long illness. Myanmar's military junta rejected a UN statement calling for negotiations with the opposition, insisting that it would follow its own plan to bring democracy to the country.  
(AP, 10/12/07)
- Oct 13. Amnesty International said 4 prominent political activists were arrested in Myanmar as

- the ruling junta kept up its crackdown on pro–democracy protesters.(AP, 10/13/07)
- Oct 14. Myanmar's ruling junta restored Internet access but kept foreign news sites blocked, partially easing its crackdown as a UN envoy headed to Asia to convey the world's demands for democratic reforms in the country.(AP, 10/14/07)
- Oct 17. **Myanmar's military junta acknowledged that it detained nearly 3,000 people during a crackdown on recent pro–democracy protests, with hundreds still remaining in custody.**(AP, 10/17/07)
- Oct 19. **Pres. Bush imposed new financial sanctions against Myanmar, freezing YS assets of 11 additional members of the military government.**(SFC, 10/20/07, p.A3)
- Oct 20. Myanmar announced that it was lifting a curfew and ending a ban on assembly imposed after a crackdown on pro–democracy protesters, the latest sign that the government believes it has extinguished the largest demonstrations in decades.(AP, 10/20/07)
- Oct 24. **A day of global protests against Myanmar's junta began in Bangkok as democracy leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi marked a cumulative 12 years in detention.** (AP, 10/24/07)
- Oct 25. Suu Kyi, detained since May 2003, met with a newly appointed Myanmar government official as part of a UN–brokered attempt to nudge her and the military junta toward reconciliation. At least 70 people detained by the military government following protests in Myanmar, including 50 members of pro–democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party, were released.(AP, 10/26/07)
- Oct 26. **In Myanmar one–time drug warlord Khun Sa (b.1933), variously described as among the world's most wanted men and as a great Shan liberation fighter, died.** (AP, 10/30/07)(Econ, 11/10/07, p.106)
- Oct 30. **Myanmar's military government freed seven members of Aung San Suu Kyi's pro–democracy party, who had been held for more than a month. Human Rights Watch charged that Myanmar's military government is recruiting children as young as 10 into its armed forces.**(AP, 10/30/07)(WSJ, 10/31/07, p.A1)
- Oct 31. **More than 100 Buddhist monks marched in northern Myanmar for nearly an hour, the first public demonstration since the government's deadly crackdown last month on pro–democracy protesters.**(AP, 10/31/07)
- Nov 14. **Myanmar's military junta arrested three more activists, surging ahead with a crackdown even as it hosted a UN human rights investigator and insisted that all arrests had stopped.**(AP, 11/14/07)
- Dec 4. State media said Myanmar's military junta has completed the release of 8,585 prisoners, but it was unclear if any of those released were among those detained during the crackdown.(AP, 12/4/07)
- 2007** Myanmar's population was around 53 million. Myanmar is rich in natural resources, but 90 percent of its people lived on less than \$1 a day. 30% lived below the poverty line.(AP, 9/29/07)(Econ, 4/12/08, p.29)(Econ, 5/10/08, p.12)
- 2008**
- Jan 2. Myanmar's military junta dramatically raised the annual fee for TV satellite dishes, an apparent move to block the foreign news channels that beamed in global criticism of its recent crackdown on pro–democracy protests.(AP, 1/2/08)
- Jan 4. **Myanmar's Independence Day was marked by opposition calls for the freeing of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners as the military rulers urged national discipline.**(AP, 1/4/08)
- Feb 5. **The US Treasury Dept. said it is imposing financial sanctions against family members**

**of the military-run government of Myanmar and individuals it identified as key members of the financial empire of Tay Za.(SFC, 2/6/08, p.A7)**

- Feb 12. In Myanmar supporters of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi protested to demand democracy in Myanmar, days after the military regime said it would hold elections in 2010 under a new constitution likely to entrench the junta's powerful position. (AP, 2/12/08)
- Feb 19. Myanmar's ruling junta said the country's new draft constitution, which will replace one scrapped in 1988, has been completed.(AP, 2/19/08)
- Mar 5. In Myanmar pro-democracy party of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's said they had failed in a bid to sue the military government for not recognizing their 1990 election victory.(AP, 3/5/08)
- Mar 21. In Myanmar a man set himself on fire at Shwedagon pagoda, Yangon's most famous landmark in a political protest against the military junta. He died of his injuries in April. (www.mysin Chew.com/node/8895)(WSJ, 4/23/08, p.A1)
- Mar 27. Myanmar's junta chief insisted that he is not power-hungry and intends to hand control of the government to the winners of elections in 2010.(AP, 3/27/08)
- Apr 2. Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party urged voters to reject a military-backed draft constitution, saying it was undemocratic and drafted under the junta's direct control.(AP, 4/2/08)**
- Apr 10. In Thailand 54 illegal migrant workers from Myanmar suffocated in the back of an unventilated truck, while the rest of the passengers being smuggled to Thailand pounded on the container and screamed in vain for the driver's help. 37 of the dead were women and 17 were men. A Thai court the next day convicted some 64 survivors of illegal entry and rule to send them back to Myanmar.(AP, 4/10/08)(Reuters, 4/11/08)
- Apr 12. Myanmar reportedly had about 500,000 soldiers, twice the 1958 number.** (Econ, 4/12/08, p.29)
- May 1. Pres. Bush imposed new sanctions against property owned or controlled by the military junta in Myanmar.(WSJ, 5/2/08, p.A8)**
- May 3. A tropical cyclone slammed into Myanmar's main city of Yangon, ripping off roofs, felling trees and raising fears of major casualties. Within days the death toll soared above 22,000 and more than 41,000 others were missing as foreign countries mobilized to rush in aid after the country's deadliest storm on record.(AP, 5/4/08)(AP, 5/6/08)**
- May 6. Myanmar's junta decided to postpone voting on a new constitution in areas hardest-hit by a devastating cyclone as the death toll soared above 22,500.(AP, 5/6/08)**
- May 7. The international relief effort for hundreds of thousands of Myanmar cyclone victims picked up speed as India dispatched two planeloads of aid and Myanmar authorized the UN to send its own air shipment.(AP, 5/7/08)
- May 8. Relief supplies from the United Nations began arriving in Myanmar, but US military planes loaded with aid were still denied access by the country's isolationist regime five days after a devastating cyclone. Some feared that lack of safe food and drinking water could push the death toll above 100,000.(AP, 5/8/08)**
- May 9. Myanmar's junta seized UN aid shipments headed for hungry and homeless survivors of last week's devastating cyclone prompting the world body to suspend further help. According to state media, 23,335 people died and 37,019 are missing from Cyclone Nargis.(AP, 5/9/08)**
- May 10. Myanmar's military regime distributed international aid but plastered the boxes with the names of top generals in an apparent effort to turn the relief effort for last week's devastating cyclone into a propaganda exercise. Voting on a new constitution began in all but the hardest hit parts of the country. The UN said at least one million survivors**

remain without aid more than a week after the deadly cyclone.

(AP, 5/10/08)(AFP, 5/10/08)

- May 11. In Myanmar a Red Cross boat carrying rice and drinking water for cyclone victims sank, while the death toll jumped to more than 28,000 and aid groups warned of a humanitarian catastrophe.(AP, 5/11/08)
- May 12. **Myanmar state television put the death toll for Cyclone Nargis at 31,938 with 29,770 people missing. The US White House said it was extending an extra 13 million dollars in aid as the first US flight of emergency supplies landed in the country.**  
(AP, 5/12/08)(SFC, 5/13/08, p.A3)
- May 14. Experts said the 1.5 million people left destitute by Myanmar's cyclone are in increasing danger of disease and starvation, but the ruling junta said no to a Thai request to admit more aid workers. The Red Cross said the death toll could reach nearly 128,000. Another powerful storm headed toward Myanmar's cyclone-devastated delta and the UN warned that inadequate relief efforts could lead to a second wave of deaths among the estimated 2 million survivors.(AP, 5/14/08)(WSJ, 5/15/08, p.A1)
- May 15. Myanmar's junta warned that legal action would be taken against people who trade or hoard international aid as the cyclone's death toll soared above 43,000. **Myanmar announced that a constitution won massive support in a referendum, a claim slammed by a leading rights group as an insult to the country's people.**(AP, 5/15/08)
- May 16. **The EU aid chief said that Myanmar's junta still would not budge on accepting foreign relief workers, two weeks after the cyclone tragedy that has left more than 71,000 dead or missing.**(AP, 5/16/08)
- May 17. Frustrated world leaders tightened the pressure on Myanmar, raising the allegation of crimes against humanity over the regime's slow-moving response to the cyclone disaster. Diplomats witnessed "huge" devastation in the Irrawaddy delta and the toll of dead and missing from the cyclone rose above 133,000 people.(AFP, 5/17/08)(Reuters, 5/17/08)
- May 18. **A senior UN envoy went to Myanmar to urge its military junta to accept more international aid for cyclone survivors.** A British minister suggested the isolationist regime may be relenting.(AP, 5/18/08)
- May 19. **Myanmar declared three days of mourning for cyclone victims after agreeing to an international aid effort led by its Southeast Asian neighbors to help two million survivors in dire need.**(AFP, 5/19/08)
- May 20. **he UN's top humanitarian official made fresh pleas to Myanmar's military government to allow in more foreign aid for cyclone survivors, as the country began three days of mourning for the 134,000 dead and missing.**(AP, 5/20/08)
- May 21. UN chief Ban Ki-moon began a mission for Myanmar's cyclone victims, saying "our focus now is on saving lives," as the military government gave approval UN helicopters to distribute aid(Reuters, 5/21/08)(WSJ, 5/22/08, p.A1)
- May 23. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Myanmar's junta agreed to allow all aid workers into the country after weeks of refusing access to foreign relief experts seeking to help cyclone survivors.(AP, 5/23/08)
- May 25. **A 52-nation international conference pledged tens of millions of dollars for some 2.4 million Myanmar survivors in need of aid. Official estimates put the death toll at about 78,000, with another 56,000 missing. Myanmar has estimated the economic damage at about \$11 billion.**(AP, 5/25/08)
- May 27. **Myanmar's military junta extended opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's detention by one year, ignoring worldwide appeals to free the Nobel laureate who has been detained for more than 12 of the past 18 years.**(AP, 5/27/08)

- May 30. Myanmar's ruling junta lashed out at foreign aid donors, saying cyclone victims did not need supplies of "chocolate bars" and could instead survive by eating frogs and fish.(AFP, 5/30/08)
- Jun 5. Amnesty International said Myanmar's military regime has forced cyclone survivors to do menial labor in exchange for food and stepped up a campaign to evict displaced citizens from aid shelters.(AP, 6/5/08)
- Jun 9. UN helicopters fanned out across Myanmar's Irrawaddy delta, ferrying critical supplies to villages struggling to survive since a devastating cyclone struck more than five weeks ago.(AP, 6/9/08)
- Jun 12. **ASEAN said Southeast Asian and UN experts will have full access to cyclone-devastated parts of Myanmar, where more than a million people have still not received any foreign help.**(AFP, 6/12/08)
- Jun 24. **Myanmar's ruling junta announced that 84,500 people perished in Cyclone Nargis in May, up from an earlier confirmed toll of 77,700.**(AP, 6/24/08)
- Jul 6. **Myanmar's state-run newspaper said the overwhelming election victory by Aung San Suu Kyi's party in 1990 has been nullified by the approval of a military-backed constitution and her National League for Democracy party should prepare for a new vote in 2010.**(AP, 7/6/08)
- Jul 8. State-media said Myanmar's military regime has approved visas for more than 1,500 international aid workers to help victims of Cyclone Nargis, with half of them involved in relief operations in storm-hit regions.(AP, 7/8/08)
- Jul 21. **A UN-led report said Myanmar needs at least \$1 billion over the next three years to put the survivors of Cyclone Nargis back on their feet, in the first comprehensive assessment of damage caused by the disaster that killed more than 84,000 people.** (AP, 7/21/08)
- Jul 25. A UN official said as much as 25 percent of cyclone relief aid in Myanmar is being lost because of the military government's foreign exchange system.(AP, 7/25/08)
- Jul 29. **Pres. Bush signed a bill freezing the assets of political and military leaders in Myanmar and banning the importation of rubies and jade from Myanmar to the US. The legislation also gave incentives to Chevron to divest its natural gas program there. The US Treasury announced financial sanctions on 10 companies suspected of being owned by Myanmar's government.** (SFC, 7/30/08, p.A4)
- Sep 5. **The political party of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi urged Myanmar's military government to ensure her well-being as she continued to refuse food deliveries to protest her detention.** (AP, 9/5/08)
- Sep 16. A Buddhist monk slashed his throat in a suicide attempt at Myanmar's most sacred temple, the scene of several pro-democracy protests that erupted a year ago. A trustee of the Shwedagon temple said the monk became desperate after running out of money to pay for medical care.(AP, 9/18/08)
- Sept. 23. Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner, journalist Win Tin, was freed after 19 years behind bars and vowed to continue his struggle to achieve democracy in the military-ruled country. Altogether Myanmar freed 9,002 prisoners. Win Htein (64), a former aide to Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, was re-arrested less than 24 hours after being freed by the military government in the mass amnesty. (AP, 9/23/08)(SFC, 9/24/08, p.A4)(AP, 9/26/08)

## WHO WAS GENERAL NE WIN?

He was born in 1911 of a Sino-Burmese family, educated at the Judson College, Rangoon, and one of *The Thirty Comrades* who led the armed struggle for Burma's independence. He commanded the 4th Burma Rifles after the war. Minister of Defence and Home Affairs(1949-50); Commander-in-Chief(1949-72); Prime Minister(1958-60); Chairman of the Revolutionary Council(1962-74); President of Burma (1974-81); Chairman of the BSPP(1962- 88). He was believed to be the actual ruler of Burma until his house arrest. According to *Wikipedia*, his formal rule lasted about 27 years and 10 months. He married seven times, twice to the same woman. And most Burmese believe his personal fortunes rival that of the late Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. He owned property in London, West Germany and in Tokyo's most expensive district, Ginza. (*Outrage* by Bertil Lintner)). General Ne Win was well-known among the Burmese for three things - his obsession with astrology and numerology and his notorious ill temper. I shall quote here just two paragraphs about him from an article in the *GEO* magazine, March 1979, by Sterling Seagrave under the title, *Burma on the Brink*:

*"... He also turned into a tyrant of the same species as Papa Doc Duvelier of Haiti and Idi Amin of Uganda, with whom he has often been compared. Like them he became known for petty cruelties. In 1963, Ne Win was prevailed to attend the Rose Ball, sponsored each year by the leading Burmese women's association. At the ball, the Bogyoke's(General) limousine pulled up behind a U.S. Embassy vehicle. The American charge d' affairs, Andrew Kerr, was standing outside the car, leaning over to give instructions to his chauffeur. Ne Win told his own driver to honk so the American car would move, but Kerr apparently did not hear. Before a crowd of several hundred, Americans among them, Ne Win climbed out, strode up and kicked the representative of the United States in the rear. Kerr was immediately flown home..."*

*"... The monks went into open revolt. The senior Abbot of the Buddhist Church in Burma, U Kethaya (The Reverend Lion), whose title was Agga Maha Pandita (Doctor of Divinity), told an immense crowd at a Mandalay pagoda: "I don't want to wear this robe anymore because my vows as a priest are preventing me from saying certain things. I want to become a layman again so I can tell this creature Ne Win what I really think of him. Aung San was assassinated by U Saw. There will shortly appear somebody who will assassinate Ne Win". That minced no words. 'Creature' is a worse insult in Burmese than 'son of a bitch' is in English..."*. Another book: *A Journalist, A General and an Army in Burma* by U Thaug, could also be very informative for those who would like to know more about what really had happened in Burma under Ne Win's rule. U Thaug was one of the most prominent journalists in Burma for decades.

## THE TWO ALIEN ETHNIC GROUPS AND THE PRESENT PLIGHT OF THE BURMESE AT HOME AND ABROAD

Those who are officially defined as Indians are the descendants of Indians brought into Burma by the British when it still was a part of the British India as coolies, government servants and merchants. Among the Chinese approximately 120,000 are native-borns from a region formerly known as the "Kokang Sub-State" within Shan State itself. Kokang was the only Burmese Chinese feudal state in Burma. It was founded by the Yang dynasty - a Chinese military house that fled with the Ming Dynasty to the Yunan Province in the mid-1600s and later migrated into Shan States in eastern Burma. Most of the rest happen to be either former refugees, who fled China after the Communists came to power in 1949, or illegals or the descendants of such people who secretly bought their stay permit with money. A great number of those alien nationals are still holding the F.R.Cs [Foreigner's Registration Card]. Apart from these, according to the information collected by Burmese political dissident groups, another 25,000 - 50,000 Chinese from the People's Republic of China and some other Asian countries are currently allegedly "legally" living in Burma with the tacit approval of the present government - or through bribery. The respected news magazine, *The Irrawaddy*, even estimates in one of its articles that their numbers could be as high as 100,000(*The Irrawaddy*, (Chiangmai, Thailand/Nov. 06, 2001/waddy@cm.ksc.co.th)

They are enormously prospering by engaging in all kinds of business. In contrast to this, in Thailand alone 447,093 Burmese are working for meager pay and under extremely inhumane conditions. Nearly all of them were living and working there illegally until the 25th October 2001. (*The Bangkok Post*: 26.10.2001 & 28.10.2001; *The Nation/Thailand*/27.10.2001). According to a number of reliable Burmese sources it is estimated that between 3 and 4 million people from Burma are at present living and working in several neighbouring countries under very hardship.

Furthermore, there are at present about 200,000 refugees of "indigenous peoples" – among them are more than 50,000 Chins – in neighbouring countries. Most of them are confined in several refugee camps under extremely harsh conditions. And there are several hundreds of thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDP) through forced relocations. All of them are the so-called indigenous peoples. The following are some statistics on this subject:

*"... Work so far suggests that at least 2,500 Karen, Karenni, Shan and Mon villages have been forced to relocate, have been destroyed or abandoned since 1996. Around 400,000 people are today living, mostly in miserable conditions, in SPDC [Burma's present military junta] relocation sites and another 300,000 are on the move or in hiding in conditions just like the Karen you will see in this broadcast. (EMAIL No. 2/ From Burma Border Consortium. The broadcast in question here is a 40-minute documentary programme called "BBC Correspondent" which was scheduled to be aired on BBC 2 on the 28th. July 2002 (Sunday) and on BBC World Service the next day. Original Message: Harn Yawngnwe. July 28, 2002. (Compiler's remark: Mr. Harn Yawngnwe is the Director of the Euro-Burma Office in Brussels, Belgium). Internally Displaced People and Forced Relocation+ The Situation of Refugees + The Situation of Migrant Workers from Burma. Source: Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2000; Date of publication: October 2001. Chapters 14+15+16/. NCGUB Human Rights Documentation Unit: Human Rights Year Book Burma(Burma)2000": <http://www.ibiblio.org/obl/docs/yearbooks/Main.htm>.)*

*"... A recent report by two human rights groups based in Thailand, and covered by the Washington Post in an article below, documents in sickening detail the rape and sexual abuse of 625 women in Burma's Shan state, including girls as young as five years old. 25% of the rape victims were brutally slaughtered after the rapes; the bodies of victims were often strung up in villages to intimidate other villagers... The report was based on interviews with refugees on the Thai-Burmese border. It found that the rapes were committed between 1996 and 2001 by soldiers from 52 different battalions, most by officers in front of their troops. The rapes were often extremely brutal, with one-quarter resulting in death. In some instances, the bodies were then displayed to local communities. Many of the girls -- as young as 5 -- and women were gang-raped, or raped repeatedly for periods of up to four months, the report said. "We are appalled by reports that the Burmese military is using rape as a weapon of war against civilian populations in the Shan states," a State Department official said yesterday. (Sources: The Washington Post, July 4, 2002; Page A 19, by Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer; Jeremy Woodrum, Free Burma Coalition, July 09, 2002. [jeremy@freeburmacoalition.org])*

*"... Forum Asia has recently learned that the Thai Government has decided to relocate the Mae Hong Son Karenni refugees of Camp No.3 to Camp No.2 (adjacent to the Thai-Burma border). The relocation process is set to begin on August 15th, in the height of the rainy season, and to be completed by September. Camp No.2, located some 20 minutes walking distance from a Burmese soldiers' hang out, has historically been the target of attacks by the Burmese military junta, resulting in the death of and serious injuries to innocent Karenni refugees... During the relocation process, many youth and elderly refugees died due to difficult conditions created by the rainy season, and from diseases such as malaria... Camp No.2 is also heavily populated... It is noteworthy that an increasingly hostile attitude on the part of the Thai authorities, vis-a-vis Karenni refugees, has been noticeable since earlier this year, when the rape of two Camp No.2 Karenni women by Thai soldiers was publicly exposed... The Karenni State is located in Eastern Burma. Since the Burmese military regime occupied it in 1948, Karenni people have been fighting to regain their lost independence. As a result of the brutal policies of the Burmese junta, over 20,000 Karenni people have fled to neighbouring Thailand where they live as refugees in the North-Western Mae*

Hong Son province. They currently live in three refugee camps, Camp No.2 and No.3 mentioned in this appeal and Camp No.5... Relocations have been frequent. Karenni Camp No.2 has moved six times since 1989, on some occasions due to security threats but ... In fact, it is the Burmese army's repression in their villages that drives Karennis to Thailand. Recent reports show that this repression, including slave labour, looting, extortion, destruction of homes and crops, torture, rape, and killings, is worsening. Tension at the Thai-Burmese border is also alarmingly increasing...Camp No.3. Walking distance from Thai-Burmese Border: app. 2 hours...Total population: 4347 Children (1-11 y.o.): 365 (m:188, f:177)Adults (46-60 y.o.): 156 (m:48, f:108)Over 60 y.o.: 87 (m:48, f:39)/Burma Border Consortium, International Rescue Committee and Jesuit Refugee Service. FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES: Please contact (in Bangkok): Kang long Nian or Fran? Tanguay-Renaud, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia), Tel.: +662 276-9846-7, Fax: +662 693-4939, Email:info@forumasia.org/25.07.2002.

... Lydia Haines, the CSW's country officer for Burma, explains: "We're looking for healing and restoration of peace in Burma and praying for the political process and an end to the atrocities there." Two million people have been expelled from their homes and villages by the junta since the conflict began more than 50 years ago. Burmese troops are accused of killing 10,000 civilians a year. In the past ten years alone, the military junta has conscripted more than three million people, including women and children, into slave labour. Thousands have fled either their homes or the brutal conditions of relocation sites... The majority of the displaced population are from ethnic minority areas such as the states of Karen, Karenni and Shan; more than 100,000 people, mainly ethnic Karens, live in camps along the Thai-Burmese border. In the Karen refugee camps are Christians, Buddhists, Muslims and people of all traditional religions. About 40 per cent are Christians, of whom most are Baptists... Lord Alton of Liverpool, who has just returned from a fact-finding trip to the Burmese border, says he was shocked by the latest violations of human rights. The independent crossbench peer was collecting evidence on behalf of the Jubilee Campaign, a parliamentary pressure group. He was accompanied by the American congressman, Joseph Pitts...In a refugee camp near Mae Sot, Lord Alton took evidence from the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People. He has now produced a 100-page report which lists three mass killings by the SPDC. "It is a carefully chronicled account of looting, burning, torture, rape and murder," says Lord Alton..."The SPDC routinely plant landmines indiscriminately and in areas where landmines have been laid by their opponents the SPDC use people as human landmine sweepers. I saw some of the victims — people whose limbs have been severed from their bodies, whose skin has been peppered with shrapnel, and others who have been left blind. I also talked to families of people whose loved ones had been seized and used as porters and construction workers, and who have never returned. The SPDC kill many of the porters in frontline areas, especially when they are unable to work any longer because of exhaustion or sickness... "Although the British Government still refuses to categorise these crimes as genocide, there is no doubt in my mind that no other word adequately describes the realities in Burma's Karen state." (TIMES ONLINE – March 08, 2003/ Christian Aid and Prayers for Burma's Tortured and Displaced/ By Tara Holmes/ Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 020-8942 8810; Jubilee Campaign, 01483 894787; The Metta Trust for Children's Education, www.mtce.org)

### **Compiler's Remarks**

° The reader may probably wonder why the activities of several Christian Churches from the West are listed in this paper. The simple reason is that Burma's overall destiny has so closely been intertwined with the political, commercial, financial, military, religious, social and diplomatic activities of powerful and wealthy Christian nations of the West starting from the arrival of the first Christian missionaries and colonialists up to this day. Missionaries of several rival Christian Churches from the West have had succeeded in converting about 4 million people in Burma to Christianity until today by promising them an eternal life after death at a place called "Heaven" or a place which is supposed to be the Abode of the biblical God. 90 percent of them happen to be non-Burman native peoples who are the

main victims of Burmese military dictators.

° Leading Churches in these countries have been for centuries very closely working with state, academic and political institutions and business and financial communities, and also with news media as well, that it is not possible to say whether the Churches control the rest, or the other way round! The bishops of the Church of England, for instance, are at the same time members of the House of Lords or the Upper House in the British Parliament.

° In their own societies they are merciless in punishing even minors who committed rape or murder or other major offences. But, until today, not a single missionary or a bishop or a priest or a theologian or a Christian politician or a Christian capitalist from the West has ever apologized to those who have been tortured, maimed, killed, raped, imprisoned and plundered by Burmese soldiers with the financial assistance and weapons from their own countries! Nor have they ever seriously attempted to relieve the suffering of those victims! Instead, these Churches have even been threatening their hapless, starving followers in Burma with an eternal punishment of their "souls" at a place called "Hell" for such "crimes"(they call them "sins") as masturbation, divorce, pre-and extra-marital sex, the use of condom and other contraceptive devices, the re-marriage of divorced persons, the marriage of people of different Churches, etc., in the name of the biblical God!

° All powerful and wealthy Christian Churches in the West that have got followers in the Third World are staunchly opposed to the Liberation Theology that is being espoused by their poverty-stricken followers in these 3rd World countries. Not only that! They are also absolutely opposed to women's religious rights such as priesthood/ordination.**(Compiler's Note: Those who espouse the Liberation Theology claim that it is based on the Bible, and used it as an instrument in their struggle against social injustice and poverty. Its advocates are mainly Third World theologians and clerics. However, their powerful and wealthy superiors and theologians in the West argue that it is based not on the Bible, but on Communist ideology. They themselves, however, are still endlessly and vehemently arguing until today whether a biblical God really does exist or not!)**

° When the guns finally fell silent (from 13.03. up to 31.12.1988), between 3000 and 10,000 people from all walks of life are believed to have been killed by government troops. The G3 and G4 assault rifles and ammunition that the Burmese armed troops used in these massacres and the decades-long civil war have been manufactured in a factory in the country for decades - starting in the late 1950s. It was owned by the Fritz Werner Industrie-Ausrüstungen GmbH, and 88 % of its shares in turn are said to be indirectly owned by the West German Government.*(The Nation/Thailand/ 23.07.1989; Burma: The German Connection by S' Aung Lwin, October, 1992, Published by Burma Rights Movement for Action, P.O.Box 1076, Silom Post Office, Bangkok, Thailand.)* Since 1988 Burma has received arms shipments from China, Ex-Soviet Union, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia(Sources: compiler's files). And here's another report from the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (11.09.1989): *"Arms from Abroad: Four ships from Burma's state-owned Five Star Shipping Line - the Sagaing, Magwe, Pegu and Mandalay - recently called at ports in West Germany, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia and Italy. Several of the ships are reported to have carried arms and ammunition back to Burma. One ship unloaded silver bars in Belgium to pay for the equipment. Although arms shipments to Burma have been previously reported from Singapore and Pakistan, these are the first confirmed consignments from Europe since last year's military takeover in Rangoon."*

° Burma's two largest creditor countries up to 1988 were Japan and West Germany. Japan had had provided USD 3.5 billion and W. Germany DM 1.2 billion or € 600 million. The German

government waived this debt soon after the massacres had taken place./Sources: *The New York Times*/24.03.1987; *Far Eastern Economic Review*/25.06.1987; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*/07.09.1988).

° The successive British governments' relations with Burma's dictatorships have always been extremely cordial – despite the fact that about 45,000 people of these dictatorships' victims happen to be the followers of England's state church, Church of England, that is. This Church is said to possess a fortune of several billion of dollars. However, nobody has ever heard of its giving away a few dollars to its starving followers there in Burma. *The Daily Mirror* in February 1997, for instance, reported that this Church had even invested more than USD 30 million in Britain's largest defense industrial company, the GEC. Similarly, several other wealthy Churches in the West are also said to be investing millions of dollar in arms industries.

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° BURMA RELATED NEWS – MARCH 24, 2011

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Sender: NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK@yahoogroups.com  
Date: Thu, 24 Mar 2011 10:25:17 -0700 (PDT)  
Subject: [NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Burma Related News - Mar 24, 2011.  
Reply-To: NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK@yahoogroups.com  
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### **DVB News – Norway ups Burma oil investments**

By FRANCIS WADE

Published: 24 March 2011

*Figures released last week by the Norwegian government show that investments in oil and gas companies operating in Burma stand at close to \$US 5 billion, despite heavy opposition from rights groups. The new sum marks an increase of around \$US 300 million on last year's figures. The state-owned investment body, the Norwegian Pension Fund, holds shares in 15 energy companies in Burma, a position that the campaign group Norwegian Burma Committee this week criticised as "double morale". The Fund, which was founded on the country's North Sea oil wealth, was the focus of a damning report in December last year by EarthRights International (ERI), who accused it of "contributing to grave unethical actions in Burma" through its investments.*

*The revelation coincides with reports of several extra-judicial executions last month close to pipelines operated by two overseas companies, the US-based Chevron and French oil giant, Total. Both are targets of investment by the Fund, which has shares of more than \$US 2 billion in Total and \$US 0.9 billion in Chevron. It has also doubled its stake in the controversial Swiss-American drilling firm Transocean, which is being investigated by the US for its work with a consortium of Burmese companies that includes a firm owned by junta crony Steven Law, who is a target of US sanctions.*

*ERI, which has been monitoring the impact of the Yadana and Yetagun gas pipelines in Burma's southern Tenasserim division, released a statement yesterday in which it claimed an ethnic Karen man had been killed by Burmese troops close to the pipelines. Both Total and Chevron, who operate the Yadana pipeline in partnership with Thailand's state-owned PTTE and the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), are known to use Burmese army units as security for their operations. Eight of the 15 companies, including Transocean, have seen increased investment from the Fund, while six have seen a reduction and one remains the same. Its shares in Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries have soared from \$US 11.5 million to \$US 173 million, while its holdings in PetroChina now top \$US 100 million, information obtained by ERI shows. What these companies have in common is their involvement in the*

*controversial Shwe dual pipeline project, which will transport Burmese gas and Middle Eastern and African oil across the breadth of the country to southern China. The campaigning group Shwe Gas Movement (SGM) claims the project has dramatically increased military presence along the pipeline route and caused the forcible relocation of hundreds of civilians.*

*Matthew Smith, senior consultant at ERI, said the increase in investments by the Pension Fund "is indiscriminate of the ethical considerations – that [the Fund doesn't] determine whether or not to increase their holdings based on ethnical decisions".*

*Significant chunks of the Shwe pipeline and the Yadana–Yetagun pipelines, which transport gas to Thailand, run through military zones, where incidents such as the killing of the Karen man in February are common. Smith said however that such risks are an issue "these companies have consistently tried to deny in communications with their investors and other interested parties". The Pension Fund in March 2007 disinvested from the Chinese company Dongfeng following evidence that it had been supplying trucks to the Burmese military.*

*Norway was one of the first countries to accept Burmese refugees following the 1988 uprising, and in 1991 awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.*

**Note:** *Italics* are mine. Compiler

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° There were persistent misconceptions among the ethnic Burmans especially about Chin soldiers. These misunderstandings originated in the fact that overwhelmingly Chin soldiers are said to have been deployed in the shootings of university students on July 7, 1962. And, once again, there were rumours in 1988 that mainly Chin and Kachin troops were called in from the battle fronts by Ne Win himself and that they were involved in the massacres. It was the successive Burmese governments' deliberate disinformation tactic so as to instil misunderstandings between the Burmans and other native ethnic races. In fact, although tens of thousands of Chins have been serving in Burma's armed forces – and thousands have had given their lives for the defense of the country for decades – they have never been given any ranks higher than colonel, or battalion commanding officer. Only a single Chin had ever attained the rank of major general, and another one reached the rank of brigadier. Despite the great sacrifices of the Chins mentioned above, a great number of Chins in Chin State today cannot even afford candles or kerosene lamps or the cheapest rubber sandals, etc. Even their attempts for self-improvement have always been in one way or another sabotaged by the Burmese authorities. Just have a look at the following as an example:

PROFESSOR DR. SALAI TUN THAN

*"... It was only after a desperate search of two weeks that the family finally learned that Dr. Tun Than was being held in Rangoon's notorious Insein prison...Sources told a reporter of the Irrawaddy On-line News last week that the former rector of Yezin Agricultural University had been arrested near the city hall in Rangoon while distributing leaflets calling for free elections in the country... His family has been able to send him medicine through the International Committee of the Red Cross. Dr Salai Tun Than, a retired agronomist, has devoted himself to rural development in Ngaphe township of Magwe division since his retirement a dozen years ago. In 1993, he established the Myanmar Integrated Rural Development Association (MIRDA) with the assistance of the Myanmar Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. The group assisted since his retirement a dozen years ago. In 1993, he established the Myanmar Integrated Rural Development Association (MIRDA) with the assistance of the Myanmar Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. The group assisted villagers with the cultivation of oranges, coffee and tea in the area in which it operated its project in Ngaphe. But the military government did not permit MIRDA to function officially as an NGO. The group faced continual disturbances from the*

regime and donors were prohibited from visiting MIRDA sites. *The regime at one point destroyed over half of MIRDA's orchards. Dr Salai himself was also prohibited from conducting agriculture-training workshops, according to a source familiar with the MIRDA. A Christian and a member of the Chin ethnic group, Dr. Salai Tun Than earned a Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Wisconsin and had served as rector at the Yezin University of Agriculture in Pinyinman until 1990. The Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission made an urgent appeal this week for increased international response to the doctor's arrest.*" (Burma Courier No. 306; Chin Human Rights Organisation's report & Irrawaddy Online News/January 30, 2002).

(See my 537-page paper: *The Zo People of Bangladesh, Burma and India: An Introduction[XIII]* for more information on other related subjects under the following URL: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/18092021/>)

° According to reliable sources Burma's armed forces today have about 400,000 men under arms. Two articles in one of the most influential German weekly magazines, *Der Spiegel* (Issues No.s 38/2001 and No. 33/2003), for instance, reported that there were about 70,000 child soldiers in Burma (out of 300,000 child soldiers worldwide) at the time of their publications and that some of them were just 11 years old. According to the current news reports in all radio and television programme in Burmese, such as the VOA, BBC, RFA(Radio Free Asia), DVB(Democratic Voice of Burma), etc., the situation is getting even worse nowadays.

° One of the most interesting and important things – almost a miracle, one could even say – about Burma is that, despite the successive Burmese governments' chauvinistic policies toward native non-Burman races, all ethnic communities including the ethnic Burmans, are peacefully living together side by side until today. There is no flaming hatred among them that is very common in other parts of the world. It's also the same with all religions although the same successive Burmese governments always try to persecute confessors of other non-Buddhist faiths. Although there were some religious conflicts, these happened always only at local or regional levels.

– For this paper I'm using mainly four books: *Welt Mission heute, Länderheft # 22* by Evangelische Missionswerk in Deutschland/1996; Bertil Lintner's *Outrage*, 1989; *BURMA: Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity* by Martin Smith, 1991; a 35-page booklet by Mr. Mahn Aung Lwin: *Der Traum eines Volkes: Burma 50 Jahre nach der Unabhängigkeit(1948–1998)*. Herausgeber: Burma Büro e.V., Köln, Oktober 1998; an academic paper of Prof. David I Steinberg: *Burma Under the Military: Towards a Chronology,1981.*/Agency for International Development. And, as the reader may have already noticed, several news papers' and news agencies' reports as well are used. My source for the chronology on The National Convention between 24 April 1992 and 10 November 2003 is: *The National Convention* by The Irrawaddy Publishing Group(<http://www.irrawaddy.org/chron-nc.html>). For events that have had taken place between 2005 and 2008 I'm using TIMELINE MYANMAR(<http://timelines.ws/countries/BURMA.HTM>). For information on the openings and closures of universities between 1988 and 1996 I'm using: *Education Report*[All Burma Federation of Student-Union, Foreign Affairs' Committee], *The Irrawaddy* – Updated in January 2003.(Irrawaddy News Magazine Online Edition). For information on the Burmese-Chinese relations I'm using "Chronology of Chinese-Burmese Relations" of The Irrawaddy On-line Edition, Updated in January 2003.

#### ABOUT THE THREE AUTHORS

**Mr. Martin Smith** is a leading authority on Burmese politics. He has spent more than a decade researching the subject, including repeated visits to the country. He has reported on Burma for the *Guardian*, the *BBC*, the *Anti-Slavery Society and Article 19*, among other organisations, and has made

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*Compiler's Note.* Dr. Salai Tun Than was released from prison after the International Red Cross had intervened and was allowed to fly to the United States. He attempted to go back to Burma via Thailand in 2004. However, he was not allowed by the Burmese government to enter Burma. Since then he has been living in the United States in exile.

several TV documentaries on the subject.

*"The popular uprising of 1988 swept away 26 years of military rule under General Ne Win in name only.*

*As this book relates, the military remained in control and the future of Burma looks even more problematic. With unparalleled command of largely inaccessible Burmese sources and interviews with many of the leading participants, Martin Smith charts the rise of modern political parties and unravels the complexities of the endless guerrilla wars waged by the Communist Party of Burma, the Karen National Union and a host of other ethnic nationalist movements. It is essential reading for those interested in the conditions giving rise to guerrilla warfare, the particular character of communist and national liberation movements in Third World societies, and the impact of ethnicity on political conflict."* (Comment from the backcover of his book used as reference here.)

**Mr. Bertil Lintner** is a Swedish journalist based in Thailand and the author of several works on Asia. He is one of many blacklisted journalists who have not been allowed to enter Burma since 1985. Lintner has written numerous articles and books on Burma, and is considered to be one of the most knowledgeable foreign journalists on Burmese affairs. He is a regular contributor to several publications including the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, *YaleGlobal Online*, the Danish daily *Politiken*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Asia Times Online*.(Source: Wikipedia under [Bertil Lintner](#))

*"The outburst of public anger and frustration against the leaders of Burma caught them, and the rest of the world, by surprise. Since the 1962 army coup, a military regime has led the country along an isolationist, economically disastrous 'Burmese Road to Socialism'. The wall against outsiders was rarely penetrated, and the few journalists who entered were often ill-informed...This book – the result of many visits to Burma, interviews with those most closely involved, his own first-hand experiences, eye-witness accounts smuggled out of the country, interviews with survivors, talks with exiles in camps along the Thai–Burma border and a sustained study of the Burma media – is the fullest account yet of the revolt... Bertil Lintner's book will be indispensable for those wanting to understand the forces that will inevitably lead to the fall of Ne Win and his co-dictators and shape the future of Burma."* (Comment from the back cover of his book used as reference here.)

**Prof. David I. Steinberg** is a specialist on Burma, North Korea and South Korea, Southeast Asia and US policy in Asia. He is Distinguished Professor at Georgetown University, and the author of thirteen books and monographs – among them, "Turmoil in Burma: Contested Legitimacies in Myanmar" (2006); and "Burma: The State of Myanmar" (2001), etc.

. I am using the above-mentioned data without having secured the permission of the authors and publishers. I would like therefore to apologize and at the same time express my gratitude to them for this. Since this paper is not created for commercial purpose, I do hope that they may have understanding with my using their materials without their prior permission. Furthermore, I would like to mention here that I have taken liberty in either shortening or altering some texts for reasons of space; however, the facts remain unchanged. And I am thankful to Salai Kipp Kho Lian(Hamburg), too, for allowing me to use his materials, and for many invaluable advices as well.

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