



Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (015/2010) English Version

May 2 – May 8, 2010

SPDC AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

-Let. Gen. Ohn Myint from the Ministry of Defense urged the people in Falam, Chin State on May 2, 2010 to support and cooperate, in order for the elections to be convened successfully. **(Mizzima 040510)**

-According to an officer at Nay Pyi Taw, the ruling military regime instructed the media under Ministry of Defense and newspapers, radio and TV stations under the Ministry of Information to not use the term 'Tatmataw Government' (military government) on April 26, 2010. **(Irrawaddy 050510)**

-At the Press Conference on May 5, the police chief Maj. Gen. Khin Ye announced that the bombings in Rangoon, during Thingyan (Water Festival), were conducted by Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors (VBSW) and they already arrested a member of that group. **(NEJ 060510)**

-Union Election Committee released announcements dated May 6, 2010 with regard to the formation of Township Election Committees and the responsibilities of these committees, in order for the eligible political parties to be able to perform their activities. **(KIC 070510)**

-It is reported that local authorities from Muse District in northern Shan State began collecting information about people who would be assigned to establish the district election commission in the middle of April and had to submit their detailed biographies to Nay Pyi Taw. **(S.H.A.N 070510)**

Union Solidarity and Development Association/Union Solidarity Development Party

-According to a resident of Mongton, on May 5 2010, the Union Solidarity and Development Party instructed the district and township peace and development councils and township branches around Burma to make lists of party members and township executive committee members and choose representatives to compete in the elections. **(S.H.A.N 050510)**

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-SPDC donated 100,000,000 kyat to the Union Solidarity and Development Party to build a party office in Falam, Chin State. Building for this project has now begun. **(Khonumthung 070510)**

-According to an executive committee member of Union Solidarity and Development Party (Rangoon Division), USDP would instruct township branches to make member lists and assign representatives to compete in the elections. Furthermore, the party would also collect membership fees in the future. **(NEJ 070510)**

-According to Rangoon residents, SPDC were carrying out a census in Rangoon and people were required to submit their household member lists to quarter/ward USDP offices. **(NEJ 070510)**

-The party activities and the election campaign activities of USDP (Kachin State) had already begun and were led by township USDP secretary and executive committee members. **(NEJ 070510)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-Daw Mi Mi Sein; National League for Democracy, member of Bogale Township Organizing Committee and Ko Tet Tun, who were released on April 9, 2010, along with members from Thingangyun NLD Social Support Committee visited the families of imprisoned political activists and supported them. **(RFA 020510)**

-National League for Democracy, Mandalay Division Organizing Committee discussed with township level NLD members about the future activities of NLD on May 2, 2010. **(RFA 020510)**

-Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) convened a meeting. CRPP and NLD decided to continue to stand as political entities on May 4, 2010. **(RFA 040510)**

-Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP) urged smaller parties not to participate in SPDC elections because the election is designed for a military controlled parliament after the election. **(Mizzima 050510)**

-The first US high level representative to come to Burma after the regime released its election laws intends to mediate between the military regime and the democratic forces. **(Mizzima 050510)**

-On May 4, 2010, Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) urged people to reject the 2010 elections. **(DVB 050510)**

-Though the NLD headquarters ordered party offices not to take down the party signboards, some township NLD offices in Tenasserim Division will take them down and close the offices due to the pressure from the local authorities, according to the finance officer in-charge of the NLD (Tenasserim Division). **(DVB 050510)**

-NLD convened a ceremony providing 23,000 kyat each to 127 children of imprisoned NLD members from 14 townships in Rangoon Division. The money which is from left over party funds is for educational

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support for the children. The ceremony was held at NLD headquarters at Shwegondine Road on May 6, 2010. **(Mizzima 060510)**

- According to U Nyan Win, a lawyer and a spokesperson for the NLD, on May 5, 2010 the Supreme Court rejected the two submissions from NLD, which had been submitted on April 29, 2010. The first complaint was that NLD was officially registered in 1988 so under the SPDC's new party registration law the NLD should not be disbanded. The submission asked the Supreme Court to make an announcement to verify this. The second complaint was that NLD Members of Parliament were elected from the 1990 elections so their rights to stand as elected representatives should be upheld and the Supreme Court should make an announcement recognizing the rights of these representatives. The Supreme Court rejected these two complaints reasoning that, firstly, NLD failed to send a notice and secondly, the Supreme Court could not accept any complaints from any organizations which are not registered. **(NEJ 060510)**

-Some NLD leaders who did not agree with the NLD decision to not compete in the elections announced that they would compete in the elections with a newly established party under the name 'National Democratic Force,' according to a leader of that new party; Dr. Than Nyein on May 6, 2010. **(Irrawaddy 060510)**

-National League for Democracy donated over 40,000,000 kyat for two water wells at two villages in Mawlamyine Gyunn Township in Irrawaddy Division on May 5, 2010. **(Mizzima 060510)**

-Two office signboards of National League for Democracy were taken down. The NLD office (Madaya Tsp., Mandalay Division) signboard at U Khin Maung Than's residence was taken down in the morning of May 6, 2010 and the NLD office (Pegu Tsp., Pegu Division) signboard at Pegu NLD Organizing Committee Chairman's residence located at No. 92, 23rd Street, Panhlaine Ward, Pegu was taken down on May 5, 2010. **(Mizzima 060510)**

-U Tin Oo, the vice-chairperson of the National League for Democracy requested that party members on May 6, 2010, stay united and cooperate with the NLD for even though May 6th is the last day of the party, the signboard and the flag of the party will not be taken down and the office will remain open. **(DVB 060510)**

-Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) released a statement on May 5, 2010 saying that the party will not register and participate in the upcoming SPDC elections but will continue its social work. **(DVB 060510)**

- On May 6, 2010, Basic Education Students Union and All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) denounced the 88 Generation Students and Youths (Union of Burma) Party, which will contest in the 2010 elections, for using the official fighting peacock flag of student unions as their party flag. **(NEJ 060510)**

- Ko Thein Aung, an organizer of the National League for Democracy recalled his experience on the last day of the NLD, at NLD headquarters, May 6, 2010. He described getting goose bumps when he heard

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youth members sing the revolutionary song 'We will never forget, the records written with our blood' (the official song of student unions since 1988 pro-democracy uprising). **(Irrawaddy 070510)**

- Even though the official term of the party was over, U Tin Oo, the vice-chairperson of the National League for Democracy, and many party members continued attending the NLD headquarters in Bahan Township, Rangoon. **(Mizzima 070510)**

-Current NLD leaders announced that they regarded the establishment of a new party, named National Democratic Force, by some 30 former NLD leaders, who had resigned from NLD over its decision not to register to contest in the elections, as a political right. **(VOA 070510)**

- On May 7, 2010, U Win Tin, a leader of the National League for Democracy said that the NLD will not carry out any 'Party Politics' but will carry on 'Body Politics' for the NLD was no longer eligible to stand as a political party under SPDC's new election laws. **(RFA 070510)**

- According to U Nyan Win, former spokesperson of the National League for Democracy, Kurt Campbell, the Assistant Secretary of State Department for East Asia, during his visit in Burma, is planning to meet NLD leaders on May 10, 2010. **(DVB 080510)**

B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-According to a KNLA commander, SPDC troops were preparing to launch an offensive against the Battalion 201 of the Karen National Liberation Army based area, in Worlay region, near Kawkareik Township, Karen State. **(NEJ 030510)**

-Mon National Defense Army, a separatist group from New Mon State Party, attacked the village militia base and the residence of the chairperson of the village Peace and Development Committee at Ahle Sakhon Village on Ye-Tavoy Road on April 30th, 2010. According to Min Sai Non Daw, the editor of Kaowao Mon News Agency based at Thai-Burma border, a family member of the village committee chairperson and some SPDC troopers were injured. **(RFA 030510)**

-Karen National Union (KNU) troops mobilized and prepared for the upcoming offensive since the news came out that SPDC troops had prepared to launch an offensive against the 5th Brigade of the KNU based in Papun District. **(NMG 040510)**

-Sao Yawdserk, the leader of the Revolutionary Council of Shan State and Shan State Army, denied the rumors spread at United Wa State Army headquarters saying SPDC secretly offered to have a meeting with SSA in the headquarters at Loi Taileng. **(S.H.A.N 060510)**

C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-Burma Campaign UK, based in London, released a statement on May 6, 2010. In that statement, they criticized the UN General Secretary, Ban Ki-Moon, for not taking any serious action in response to the issue of the NLD, Burma's largest political party, being disbanded under SPDC's new election laws. **(RFA 070510)**

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CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-According to news from the cease-fire community, Gen. Loi Mao's Shan State Army, which had signed a cease-fire agreement with SPDC was undecided regarding the situation of forming border-guard force.

-Hundreds of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army troopers headed towards Thai-Burma border, followed by SPDC troops, as the DKBA ended its alliance with SPDC, according to Karen National Liberation Army sources on May 4, 2010. **(Mizzima 040510)**

-A group of 20 officials including Gen. Kyaw Phyto, the commander of Triangle District Military Command, visited Mongla on April 28, 2010 to urge and convince some leaders of Mongla troops to accept the SPDC offer to transform into a border guard force. **(S.H.A.N 040510)**

-Nai Han Tha, the General Secretary of New Mon State Party, urged the whole Mon people it was the time to be united at the Memorial Day of Ancient Mon Capital Hanthawaddy on May 5, 2010. **(DVB 050510)**

-According to a commander of the 5th Brigade of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) on May 5, 2010, battalions under the command of the 5th Brigade of DKBA recruited and prepared while battalions under the command of SPDC's Military Command Center (8) mobilized. **(KIC 050510)**

-According to some commanders of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) on May 6, 2010, there was a disagreement among the top leaders of DKBA on the issue of transforming DKBA into a border guard force. **(Mizzima 060510)**

-Though the commander of the Triangle District Military Command demanded the leaders of Mongla Troop to come to Kyengtung headquarters to discuss further the issue of transforming to a border guard force, Mongla Troop decided not to go, since they thought there would be no improvement, according to an anonymous driver from Kengtung on May 6, 2010. **(S.H.A.N 060510)**

-According to an observer in Lashio on May 7, 2010, the commander of the SPDC's Northern District Military Command based in Lashio tried to pressure and convince the chairperson of the ceasefire agreed Shan State Army (North) 1st Brigade, which had rejected SPDC's offer to transform the Brigade into a border-guard force. **(S.H.A.N 070510)**

-On May 7, 2010, it is reported that villagers from DKBA controlled areas were afraid of possible conflict for there was a disagreement among DKBA troops regarding the issue of transforming DKBA into a border guard force. **(NMG 070510)**

OTHER FORCES

A. PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

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-Chin National Party (CNP) which registered to compete in the elections was approved to stand as a political party by the Election Commission on May 3, 2010. **(Khonumthung 050510)**

-The Election Commission permitted 24 out of 30 political parties, which had registered to compete in the elections, to stand as political parties. **(NEJ 050510)**

-According to New Light of Myanmar, the Election Commission granted permission to the All Regions Democracy Party on May 4, 2010 to stand as a political party and to compete in the elections. **(Kaowao 060510)**

-Some former NLD leaders were preparing to register the newly established party, the 'National Democratic Force' this month. **(RFA 070510)**

B. PARTIES STILL UNDER REGISTRATION PROCESS

-Phlone-Sguaw Democratic Party-PSDP from Karen State registered with the Election Commission to compete in the elections, on April 23, 2010. **(KIC 040510)**

-Three political parties representing Arakan State registered with the Election Commission to compete in the elections. **(Kaladan News 060510)**

-Union Democracy Party (UDP), which was granted permission to compete in the elections, released its first statement on May 7, 2010 criticizing the Union Solidarity and Development Party led by current Prime Minister U Thein Sein. **(BBC 070510)**

-There are 4 political parties from Kachin state competing in the elections. Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) has not been granted any permission yet, according to an official from KSPP. **(KNG 070510)**

PUBLIC, CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS:

-In Kyaukpyu, Arakan State, over 200 workers from Pearl and Fish Corporation demonstrated on May 1, 2010 (world's labor day) asking for a raise. **(Kaladan News 040510)**

-The Nationalist U Win Naing who had said he would not establish any political party and compete in the elections, and instead would watch the elections to see whether they are free and fair and educate people, said that he wanted to work with the UN on issues of educating people. **(DVB 040510)**

-According to an anonymous local person, people from Mongton and Ponpakyin townships who had fled to the jungle and the Thai-Burma border due to fear of armed conflict in their area had to go back to these areas and were now facing food and accommodation problems. **(S.H.A.N 040510)**

-According to an editor from Rangoon, on May 5, 2010, the transformation of the Union Solidarity and Development Association into Union Solidarity and Development Party is not in accordance with the existing laws but any criticism of this was not allowed in Burmese media. **(Irrawaddy 050510)**

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- About 80 artists and journalists, including famous writers such as Dagon Taya, Ludu Sein Win, Maung Wuntha, were preparing to send a denunciation to the Election Commission at Nay Pyi Taw, related to the use of the fighting peacock flag by 88 Generation Students and Youths (Union of Burma), which had registered to contest in the elections. **(Mizzima 060510)**

-The registration fee for representatives to contest in the elections was so high that the Nationalist U Win Naing asked the Election Commission to reduce the registration fee. **(DVB 070510)**

-At the International Media Freedom Day on May 3, 2010, Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) listed 40 leaders, including the leader of Burmese military regime, Senior General Than Shwe and Chinese President, Hu Jintao as 'Predators of Press Freedom.' **(VOA 040510)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. UN

-UN Special Rapporteur on Burma, **Mr. Tomás OJEA QUINTANA** urged the Burmese military regime on May 4, 2010, to take steps to fulfill its promise of a smooth transition from military rule by releasing all political prisoners, on the eve of the deadline for political party registration. **(Mizzima 060510)**

B. GOVERNMENTS

-US State Department Spokesperson PJ Crawley described the retirement of General Thein Sein, SPDC Prime Minister and 22 other Ministers from their military positions to compete in the election, as "wolves in sheep's clothing" on May 4, 2010. **(RFA 050510)**

-Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia, who visited Burma in November last year, is planning to visit Burma again. US embassy officials told NLD leaders that he also intended to meet NLD leaders. **(RFA 050510)**

-US senator Mitch McConnell urged the US government on May 7, 2010 to continue the sanctions for the Burmese military regime since the military regime failed to make "real progress" on democratic reforms. **(Irrawaddy 060510)**

-According to US State Department, on May 4, 2010, a senior US diplomat is going to Burma for meetings concerning the military regime's plan for the upcoming elections. **(VOA 080510)**

-On May 7, 2010, the US Senate unanimously agreed to a decision to condemn the Burmese military regime over its unfair electoral process. **(VOA 080510)**

End of report/ Saturday, May 08, 2010

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