



Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (016/2010) English Version

May 9 – May 15, 2010

SPDC AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

-According to employees from Burma Censorship Board, U Zaw Min Aye, son of Let. Gen. Tin Aye, was granted permission to publish Messenger Journal, and U Myat Khine, known as the guy close to U Kyaw San, the Minister of Information, was also granted permission to publish Monitor Journal, before 2010 elections. **(Irrawaddy 100510)**

-According to a journalist from Rangoon, on May 11, the military regime had only granted permission to publish newspapers and news journals to trusted retired military officers and family members of generals, despite the election drawing closer. **(NEJ 110510)**

-According to a female teacher from Falam on May 11, in Chin State, Falam Election Commission, which had recently been established, organized a 10 day training for teachers in the region. There were three sessions : elections, military and Union Solidarity and Development Party. **(Khonumthung 110510)**

-U Thein Soe, the chairperson of the Election Commission told Mr. Kurt Campbell the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia during his visit to Nay Pyi Taw on May 9 that international election observers will not be allowed. This frustrated many politicians, in Burma, who intend to contest in the elections. **(NEJ 120510)**

-According to U Nyan Win, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the reason for the delay in discussions between US delegates and Myanmar authorities was because the US criticized the activities of the military government. **(Mizzima 120510)**

-According to a youth member of NLD, Rangoon Municipality ordered about 50 vendors and shops, around the headquarters of NLD, to close for business by the 13th of May. **(DVB 120510)**

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-According to an article in Xin Hua, a Chinese News Agency, on May 12, U Nyan Win, Minister of Foreign Affairs said that he hoped relations between US and Burma would improve, through the policy of engagement on Burma. **(RFA 120510)**

-According to sources from Rangoon media community, comments of Mr. Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific, on the military regime was banned from media coverage. **(Irrawaddy 130510)**

-People from Sittwe have been suffering from a water shortage due to hot weather and drought. According to a local elder, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) have been digging water wells (Tonken Wells) in Wards in Sittwe Township, Arakan State, which is seen as campaigning/organizing for upcoming elections. **(Narinjara 140510)**

-According to a source close to Ministers at Nay Pyi Taw, the Prime Minister of the military regime, U Thein Sein and some other Ministers who are to contest in the elections representing Union Solidarity and Development Party, announced that they would not resign from their posts until the elections. **(RFA 130510)**

-According to an anonymous government employee, 125 officials from military, police, riot police, immigration department and veteran organization were recently invited to attend an election monitoring training at Am Township in western Arakan State, which is the headquarters of the Western Region Military Command. **(Kaladan 140510)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. NLD & FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-According to Daw Than Ngwe, the chairperson of Taunggyi Township National League for Democracy, Taunggyi NLD has been arranging for monthly meetings with NLD leaders from nearby townships. **(DVB 090510)**

-According to lawyer U Nyan Win, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on 9 May, responded to the announcement of Maj. Gen. Maung Oo, the Minister of Home Affairs, she would be released in November this year, as totally unfair and unjust since the Supreme Court has not made any decisions yet. The announcement from Home Minister, before the Supreme Court's decision, showed that the court procedure was disregarded. **(NEJ 100510)**

-Some National League for Democracy members in some Divisions and States have been organizing and educating people that they have their right not to vote if they choose to. **(Irrawaddy 120510)**

-According to lawyer U Nyan Win, member of NLD information team, the NLD submitted a complaint to Nay Pyi Taw Supreme Court, on the party's first law suit, regarding the law stating NLD would be disbanded automatically if it did not register for 2010 elections, was rejected by the Supreme Court. **(DVB 120510)**

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-U Win Tin, the Central Committee member of the NLD, condemned former party members who resigned from NLD and established a new political party as 'Crows disguising in peacocks' as they referred to themselves as former NLD members, and not as members of their new party, which creates complications. **(Mizzima 130510)**

-Even though NLD members were worried that NLD headquarters would be closed in Rangoon Municipality, NLD activities and office work were still going on, according to U Win Tin, member of the Central Committee of NLD. **(DVB 130510)**

-According to youth members of the National League for Democracy, what was said to local journalists by U Khin Maung Swe and U Thein Nyunt, who resigned from NLD and established a new political party National Democratic Force (NDF) created complications for both NLD members and general public. They said to local journalists that NDF was a clone to NLD and their decision to separate from NLD and establish NDF was because of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(DVB 130510)**

-According to lawyer U Nyan Win, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi commented that the establishment of a new political party by former NLD members was against the democratic process. This comment was made when she met with him and U Kyi Win on May 14 to discuss her special appeal. **(Irrawaddy 140510)**

-According to U Win Tin, member of the Central Committee of National League for Democracy, and U Aye Tha Aung, secretary of the Committee Representing People's Parliament, the reason for the US extension of sanctions on Burma for one more year, was because despite the US government policy of engagement towards the Burmese military regime, the regime failed to show any changes. **(RFA 150510)**

B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Karen National Union commented on Karen People's Party as watering the poisonous plant-meaning "helping the military rule to flourish," as the main intention of those political parties was to serve as pillars to prevent the military from falling down. . Saw Saywah, the General Secretary of Karen People's Party said KPP, was not only contesting in Karen State, but also in Irrawaddy, Rangoon, Mon, Tenasserim and Pegu regions. **(NEJ 130510)**

-Karenni National Progressive Party released a statement, *Statement 01/2010*, on May 11 and announced KNPP's stand. KNPP would not tolerate the Karen People's Party contesting in 2 constituencies in Kayah State. **(KIC 130510)**

CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-According to a high ranking official of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, 5th Brigade of DKBA, which had been refusing to transform DKBA as Border Guard Force, agreed on May 11, to transform 5th Brigade to Border Guard Force. **(NEJ 120510)**

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ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-Maj. Gen. Panpha, the commander of the ceasefire agreed 1st Brigade of Shan State Army, confirmed that the pressure and threat from the second-in-command of the Eastern Region Military Command on ceasefire agreed 1st Brigade of SSA to transform as local militia, by May 12, was unacceptable for commanders of the 1st Brigade, including the brigadier. **(S.H.A.N 110510)**

-Even though some leaders including the chairperson of Shan State Army, Shan State (North) Special Region (3), U Loi Mao, had agreed to transform SSA as local militia, the military regime rejected and demanded the transformation of the whole unit into militia. **(NEJ 120510)**

-The military regime put more pressure on armed ethnic groups, which had signed ceasefire agreements, to transform as border guard force and local militia before the upcoming elections and at the same time mobilizing its troops in the area of the 1st Brigade of Shan State Army (North), which had refused to transform itself into a local militia. **(VOA 130510)**

-According to sources close to military community, at the end of April 2010, the SPDC Central Military Command ordered the Divisional Military Commands to restrict the military and local activities of armed ethnic groups, which had signed ceasefire agreements but have been refusing to transform their forces into border guards. **(S.H.A.N 130510)**

-According to an anonymous source close to Shan State Army 1st Brigade, the commander of the Kunhein Strategic Command demanded the representative from 1st Brigade of the Shan State Army to withdraw the troops based along Kunhein-Mongshu and Mongnaung-Mongshu roads. **(S.H.A.N 140510)**

OTHER FORCES

-U Khin Maung Swe, former member of the Central Committee of the National League for Democracy, said that the National League for Democracy was not officially standing as a political party anymore so he and National Democratic Force were trying to accomplish the duties NLD could not. **(NEJ 130510)**

POLITICAL PARTIES

A. PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-Union Democracy Party released a statement criticizing Union Solidarity and Development Party that USDP was more like a party in power and that standing was not in accordance with the election laws. **(Irrawaddy 100510)**

-At the press conference held on 23 April 2010, the chairperson of the Central Committee of Union Democracy Party; U Phyo Min Thein, said that rather than being an opposition party to the military regime, UDP intended to cooperate for the well being of the people. **(The Myanmar Times; vol. 24, No. 465)**

-88 Generation Students and Youths (Union of Burma) Party's flag; the historical fighting peacock flag has been used by student unions, and logos were banned due to objections from intellectuals, artists

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and some student organizations inside Burma. The Party, led by U Aye Lwin and his brother U Ye Tun, were ordered to change the party flag. **(RFA 150510)**

B. PARTIES STILL UNDER REGISTRATION PROCESS

-The Election Commission replied to Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP), Northern Shan State Progressive Party-Kachin (NSPP) and Collective Democracy Party-Kachin, which had submitted their registration to contest in the elections, to wait for their permission to contest the elections. The main reason for the delay for these three Kachin political parties was that Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) had been refusing SPDC's demand to transform into a Border Guard Force. **(KNG 110510)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. GOVERNMENTS

-On May 10, 2010, Mr. Kurt Campbell, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific, met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and 10 NLD Central Committee members, and some political parties which will contest the 2010 elections. **(Irrawaddy 100510)**

-Mr. Kurt Campbell, during his two-day visit in Burma, warned the military regime that the standards of the upcoming elections were not acceptable for the international community and the regime was also required to follow the UN arms embargo on weaponry from North Korea. **(VOA 110510)**

-U Ohn Kyine, a member of National League for Democracy Information Team, said the Director of Asia-Pacific Affairs from the German Foreign Ministry, Dr. Sine Renand met with NLD Central Committee members on May 12, and inquired about NLD's current situation and future activities. **(DVB 120510)**

-The White House released a statement on 14 May, 2010 that Barak Obama, the President of the United States, signed legislation to renew economic sanctions on the Burmese military regime for one more year. **(VOA 140510)**

-According to U Ohn Kyine, member of the Central Committee of National League for Democracy, Mr. Kurt Campbell, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific, met 10 NLD Central Committee members at the residence of the US Ambassador. At the meeting Mr. Curt Campbell said that the purpose of his visit was to establish a regular relationship between US and the military regime. U Tin Oo and U Win Tin from NLD explained to Mr. Kurt Campbell about NLD's current situation and future activities. Mr. Campbell assured them that even though the NLD would not register, the US would continue its support for the NLD. **(NEJ 100510)**

-US Congressman Joe Crowley mentioned in a statement that he led the legislation to renew sanctions on the Burmese military regime for one more year. Two weeks before the US legislation, the European Union extended its sanctions on the Burmese military regime for one more year. **(Mizzima 120510)**

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- Alberto Romulo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, severely criticized the military regime's upcoming elections saying that the first elections in past 20 years would not be free, fair or genuine, especially as the regime refused to accept international observers. **(VOA 130510)**

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Amnesty International urged the new British Prime Minister at Chatham House, Royal Institute of International Affairs to establish a Commission of Inquiry into crimes against humanity and possible war crimes in Burma as well as 2010 elections. **(VOA 120510)**

THE UNITED NATIONS

-The General Secretary of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, urged the State Peace and Development Council, the ruling Burmese military regime, to invite regional and international observers because the military regime had told Mr. Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific, that international observers including from the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations would not be required for the elections in Burma. **(VOA 130510)**

EUROPEAN UNION

-According to Mr. Bartorelli, the spokesperson for Mr. Pierro Fassino, the EU Special Rapporteur for Burma, a delegation led by Mr. Pierro Fassino was preparing to visit Burma regarding the issue an election observation team for Burma's upcoming elections. **(VOA 120510)**

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Daw Yi Yi Myint, the chairperson of the Association of Capable Burmese Women, announced at the association's 15th annual meeting on 2nd May, 2010 that the association would not be involved in politics during the 2010 transition time and would continue as it had been. **(The Myanmar Times, vol. 25, No. 465)**

-According to Daw Than Than Maw, wife of U Htin Kyaw (aka) Kyaw Htin currently in Hkhamti prison in Sagging Division for leading demonstrations to reduce the commodity prices, U Htin Kyaw told her during her visit to him on 4 May, that he supported Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and National League for Democracy's decision not to contest in the upcoming elections. **(Mizzima 130510)**

-Some townships in Rangoon, Pegu, Irrawaddy, Magwe and Mandalay Divisions, were facing water shortage due to the extremely hot weather so organizations including Lotus Foundation, established by Burmese people, both inside Burma and abroad, Guiding Star Organization led by U Aye Myint, society based organizations and youth organizations in Burma were donating water to those affected areas. **(DVB 150510)**

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RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

-On 14 May, All Burma Monk Association and Sarsana Defending Front launched a campaign to distribute political CDs to educate people in 26 townships and released a statement condemning the formation of Union Solidarity and Development Association to Union Solidarity and Development Party in order to contest in the elections. **(DVB 150510)**

End of report/ Saturday, May 15, 2010

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