



Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (032/2010)

August 29 - September 04 2010

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

-A top official from the Ministry of Defense at Naypyitaw stated that the rumors about the resignation of the Chairperson of State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Senior Gen. Than Shwe and the Vice Senior Gen. Maung Aye were not true. **(RFA 290810)**

-A resident of Zegon stated that U Nyan Win, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been officially canvassing for Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) in Zegon Township, Tharawaddy District, western Pegu Division, and pamphlets with his photos and the slogan "support totally" were distributed. **(Irrawaddy 300810)**

-U Chit Hline, a member of the Central Executive Committee of National Unity Party (NUP), stated that NUP, which had submitted a list of over 800 candidates to contest in the 2010 elections, became the primary rival of USDP. **(Irrawaddy 300810)**

-A source close to Dr. Sai Kham Hline, member of Shan State Election Commission, stated that Dr. Sai Kham Hline submitted an application on 24 August to contest in the elections from Kunheng, Southern Shan State representing USDP. **(S.H.A.N 300810)**

-It was made known that Dr. Tin Tun Oo, owner of Sweson Media Group, would contest in the elections in Pazundaung Township, Takkathol Tin Kha, the Chairperson of Myanmar Literature and Journalism Association, would contest in North Okkapala Township, U Aung Nyein, member of Central Executive Committee of Myanmar Literature and Journalism Association, would contest in Yenanchaung Township, Magwe Division, and U Hla Tun would contest in Panbedan Township, Rangoon, all representing USDP. **(NEJ 300810)**

- At a meeting on 27 August regarding the elections, an officer from Naypyitaw Ministry of Defense stated that the ministry, granted the police department permission to reform with a new structure under the new government after the elections. **(Irrawaddy 310810)**

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-Leaders from political parties contesting in the elections determined that USDP would be the party to submit the list with largest number of representatives to the Union Election Commission and it's the only party that can win in the elections as well. **(Mizzima 310810)**

-Residents and township election commissions from Karen State stated that even though the elections would be held in two months, political parties contesting in Karen State and election commissions in Karen State have not provided any training to voters. People in Karen State still did not know how to vote. **(KIC 310810)**

-A Lashio resident stated that Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, owner of Yulikha Clinic and campaigning in Lashio for USDP, threatened residents of Lashio that if they did not want to vote for USDP, they would end up in prison or have to go underground to jungles. **(S.H.A.N 010910)**

-Sources from government offices in Rangoon stated that restrictions have been placed on government and company employees, to not discuss, copy, distribute via the internet, or have phone conversations on anything related to forthcoming elections. **(KIC 010910)**

-U Win Myint, the Chairperson of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), stated that some entrepreneurs including himself, would contest in the elections representing USDP. **(BBC 020910)**

-Ko Than Min Soe, the Spokesperson of Union Democracy Party, stated the USDP had representatives for most constituencies thus the USDP would be the only party in many constituencies, which would mean that even if people did not vote for USDP, it would automatically win those seats. **(RFA 020910)**

-An engineer from a construction project in Naypyitaw stated that three townships in Naypyitaw, included in Mandalay Division, Ottarathiri, Dekkhinathiri and Pobbathiri townships were still under construction and no residents were living there. **(RFA 020910)**

-Zaykaba U Khin Shwe, a famous entrepreneur, stated that he would contest the elections from Kungyangon Township, Rangoon representing USDP and would focus more on social activities rather than political. **(DVB 020910)**

-A government employee from Naypyitaw stated that U Thein Sein, leader of USDP, has sent messages to ministries of the military regime, colleges and universities and military units stating USDP would be the only organization to bring peace and stability to the country, thus they should vote for USDP. **(Irrawaddy 020910)**

-A junior officer from the Military Security Affairs stated that Senior Gen. Than Shwe has been worried about assassinations by foreign snipers coming through Myawaddy-Mae Sot route. **(Irrawaddy 020910)**

-USDP members stated that only USDP and NUP would contest in the elections in Naypyitaw District, which the military regime established as Union District. **(Irrawaddy 020910)**

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-An official from the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that top leaders of the military regime were worried about the elections because a pre-election survey was secretly done in Shan State and Rangoon Division and, according to the survey results, the USDP lost. Therefore, the military regime might go to any means to ensure the USDP win the elections. **(Irrawaddy 020910)**

-A resident businessman from Tamonye, stated that USDP from Tamonye sub-township, Kutkai Township, northern Shan State provided national IDs to Chinese people in Lashio Township in exchange for promises to vote for USDP. **(S.H.A.N 020910)**

-Resident farmers from Kawhmu Township, Rangoon Division, stated that USDP loaned farmers from Kawhmu Township 10,000 kyat per person with 2% APR and urged them to vote for USDP in return. **(NEJ 020910)**

-A Village Peace and Development Council chairperson from Yanbye Township, Arakan State, stated that U Shwe Hla Aung, Secretary of Yanbye USDP, visited 7 village groups in the township and instructed Chairpersons of Village Peace and Development Councils to work hard to get at least 60% of the votes for USDP, and if not, they should resign from their posts. **(Narinjara 020910)**

-Regional administrative officials from Bamaw Township stated that Maj. Gen. Lun Maung, made Chairpersons of Village Peace and Development Councils in Bamaw, promise on 26 August to get a 100% of the votes from residents for the USDP in the elections. **(S.H.A.N 020910)**

-A member of Falam Election Commission stated that USDP has been collecting early votes (polling) as they want to know the possible voting statistics in Falam Township, Chin State. **(Khonumthung 020910)**

-Ko Moe Kyi, a human rights activist for Naga people, stated that Lt. Zaw Zaw from Light Infantry Battalion 222, based in Homelin Upper Sagaing Division arrested 5 leaders of NUP on 18 August who were imprisoned in Khamti prison, without trial, sentenced for 3 years imprisonment. **(RFA 030910)**

-An official from Peace and Democracy Front (PDF) stated that military and civil employees working in ceasefire Wa and Mong La groups controlled areas, were ordered to evacuate from these areas starting from 1 September. **(S.H.A.N 030910)**

-Even though political parties were restricted by authorities not to use monasteries and schools for political campaigning, residents from Kyimyindine Township stated that USDP has been using public buildings in Kyimyindine Township, Rangoon, day and night for its political canvassing. **(Irrawaddy 030910)**

-Resident farmers from Kalay and Kalaywa townships in Sagaing Division stated that USDP, in cooperation with a fertilizer company, has been providing loans to farmers in those townships and in return, forcing them to buy fertilizer from the company at a high price. **(RFA 040910)**

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OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-U Win Tin, member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) Central Executive Committee, stated that the military regime's power shuffle among the top leaders would not have any positive consequences but it seemed to be the last straw. **(BBC 300810)**

-U Aung Soe Myint, member of NLD Taungoo Township and elected Member of Parliament from 1990 elections, stated that NLD officials met with other NLD officials from 4 townships in Pegu Division, and U Nyan Win, the lawyer and member of Central Executive Committee of NLD, and referred to the election laws and explained that they could choose not to vote.. **(Irrawaddy 300810)**

-Ko Nay Myo Kyaw, NLD Youth Wing member, stated that NLD Youth Wing members in Magwe Division as a campaign have been explaining Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's position on the elections to residents.. **(RFA 310810)**

-While at Pantanaw Township, Irrawaddy Division during his organizing trip, U Tin Oo, Vice Chairperson of NLD, said "the purpose of the organizing trip is to re-organize the township members and to continue the objectives in a more organized way. I think the result of the organizing trip is better than we expected." **(DVB 310810)**

-U Myo Naing, member of Mandalay Division Organizing Committee of NLD, stated that NLD Mandalay Division met with NLD Southeast Township members on 1 September and requested them to spread Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's instructions and the NLD's position amongst the people. **(DVB 010910)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD, stated that NLD has visited families of over 640 political prisoners who are detained in prisons nationwide, and provided support and encouragement to them. **(Irrawaddy 010910)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD, stated that the NLD has been launching anti-election campaigns. NLD members, including him, visited Gen. Aung San's Statue near "Tikekyi Monastery" in Bassein and pledged to continue the unfinished quest for independence. **(Mizzima 010910)**

-Wife of U Tun Yin, Secretary of NLD Dala Township, stated that her husband was temporarily detained on 1 September for distributing leaflets with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's quote that people have the right to choose not to vote. **(Mizzima 020910)**

-Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) released a statement declaring that CRPP decided to boycott the elections on 3 September as they would activate the 2008 constitution, which goes against the people of Burma including ethnic nationalities. **(VOA 030910)**

-Lawyer U Nyan Win stated that on 4 September Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed concern over the tension between the military regime and ceasefire armed ethnic groups regarding the border guard force and the elections. **(RFA 040910)**

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B. FORCES AT THE BORDER AREAS

-Comrade Pho Than Chaung, the Spokesperson of the Communist Party of Burma (CPB), criticized the military regime's top level power shuffle because the military regime had no intention to give up its control. Even after the elections they would still be holding power, and they risked transforming in a do or die manner. **(BBC 290810)**

-U Aung Moe Zaw, the Secretary 1 of the National Coalition of the Union of Burma (NCUB), stated that at the 9th Conference of NCUB, the 13 point strategy towards the establishment of a federal union and people's interim government based on the result of 1990 elections, was unanimously decided along with the objective to oust the military dictatorship. **(KIC 020910)**

CEASEFIRE GROUPS

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

- A skipper of a ferry boat alleged , personnel from Military Security Affairs and 7 policemen from No.1 Police Station, Myitkyina, seized a ferry boat at Kuthu pier in Myitkyina, with medical items worth of 1.6 million kyat destined for Kachin Independence Organization's clinic. **(Mizzima 300810)**

-A Mongton resident stated that the commander of Monghsat Regional Military Command threatened to launch an offensive against Wa troops, under the command of 171 Military Region of United Wa State Army (UWSA) southern Shan State, (based along Thai-Burma border in Mongton and Monghsat townships) if those troops did not withdraw to northern Wa region. **(S.H.A.N 300810)**

-Col. James Lun Daung, the deputy chief of Foreign Affairs Committee of KIO, stated that KIO rejected the border guard force plan, on 1 September and the issue would be discussed with the new government after the elections. **(Irrawaddy 010910)**

-A commander from KNU-KNLA Peace Council stated that Maj. Gen. Saw Htein Maung, leader of KNU-KNLA Peace Council, rejected the military regime's last ultimatum to accept the border guard force plan. The decision to reject was relayed by Maj. Gen. Htein Maung to the commander of Southeastern Command after Karen Peace Council's emergency meeting. **(NEJ 010910)**

-A resident from southern Wa region stated that Wa troops in southern Wa region have started mobilizing to northern Wa region due to the military regime's ultimatum to withdraw Wa troops from southern Wa region to northern Wa region. **(S.H.A.N 010910)**

-Dr. Timothy, the spokesperson of KNU-KNLA, stated that the military regime has been deploying more troops in KNU-KNLA Peace Council controlled areas, led by Maj. Gen. Htein Maung. The troops restricted the activities of the Peace Council, which had rejected to accept the border guard force plan and four-cuts strategy, an attempt to cut them off from finances, food, information and new recruits. **(DVB 020910)**

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- Lt. Gen. Ye Myint's threatened to declare NMSP unlawful and regarded as an armed ethnic insurgent group if the NMSP did not to accept the border guard force plan. Nai Hantha Bon Khai, the Spokesperson of New Mon State Party (NMSP), stated that NMSP replied on 1 September, stating NMSP could not accept such message. **(Irrawaddy 020910)**

-A Panghsang resident stated that after the United Wa State Army (UWSA) rejected the military regime's border guard force plan, UWSA strengthened the security of Wa capital Panghsang. **(VOA 030910)**

-A top official from the 5th Brigade of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), stated that even though the Abbot U Thuzana, patron of DKBA, and Lt. Gen. Ye Myint, the Commander of Military Security Affairs, met with Maj. Gen. Saw Lah Pwe, (the Commander of the 5th Brigade of DKBA, which had rejected the border guard force plan,) and urged Maj. Gen. Saw Lah Pwe to accept the border guard force plan, the Maj. Gen. once again rejected the border guard force plan. **(NMG 030910)**

-A resident of Laiza, the capital of KIO, near the Sino-Burma border, stated that Lt. Gen. Inban La Aung held a press conference on 1 September about the KIO's future policy set at the KIO 1st Congress. **(KNG 030910)**

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

-A source close to Shan State Army North (SSA-N) stated on 27 August, the first day of his new post that Maj. Gen. Aung Kyaw Zaw, the new Commander of Lashio Command (or Northeastern or Eastern or Triangle Region Command??) instructed militia units, who had transformed from the 3rd and 7th brigades of SSA-N, were to completely surrender by 1 September. **(S.H.A.N 300810)**

-A resident from the Laos-Burma border region stated that Border Guard Battalion 1009, which was transformed from Lahu militia unit, was deployed at the border region replacing the military regime's Light Infantry Battalion 571 and 572, on 28 August. **(NMG 310910)**

POLITICAL PARTIES

A. PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Nay Myo Wai, the Secretary of Difference and Peace Party, stated that some political parties had different opinions regarding the separation of constituencies. **(DVB 290810)**

-Dr. Than Nyein, the Chairperson of National Democratic Force (NDF), stated that due to the time constraints by the Union Election Commission, representatives, who would shape the future of the country, have been facing many difficulties. **(RFA 290810)**

-Party leaders of Union Democratic Party (UDP), NDF and Democratic Party (Myanmar) (DPM), stated that due to the restrictions from the Election Commission, the parties had to reduce the number of representatives to less than expected. Only 3 representatives from UDP, 60 representatives from DPM and 150 representatives from NDF would contest in the elections. **(VOA 290810)**

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-U Tun Aung Myint, the Chairperson of Karen (or Kayin) People's Party (KPP), stated that the policies of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) were not unacceptable for KPP, and at the same time USDP was not a rival for KPP. **(Mizzima 300810)**

-From the list of representatives submitted by Rakhine Nationals Progressive Party (RNPP), U Maung Nyo would contest for Pyithu Hluttaw, Dr. Aye Maung for Amyotha Hluttaw, U Tha Lu Chay for the State Hluttaw and U Aung Mya Kyaw would contest for State Hluttaw. **(Mizzima 310810)**

-A member of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) stated that SNDP could submit a list of 163 representatives to contest in the elections, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Union Election Commission. **(S.H.A.N 310810)**

-A resident of Loilen stated that Pa-O National Organization (PNO), led by U Aung Khan Hti, instructed Pa-O organizations to support the USDP to win the election and then announced that PNO would support USDP. **(S.H.A.N 310810)**

-U Nai Ngwe Thein, the Chairperson of All Mon Region Democratic Party (AMRDP), stated that due to difficulties regarding time constraints and financial limitations, AMRDP could only submit a list of 35 representatives to contest in the elections. **(IMNA 310810)**

-A resident youth from Kyaukphyu, Arakan State, stated that due to the restrictions by local authorities, RNPP could only use Htay Win Thein video center which seated only 50 people, for their campaign in Kyaukphyu. **(Narinjara 310810)**

-U Nah Thang, the Vice Chairperson of Chin Progressive Party (CPP), stated that U San Kyone, a retired reverend who was chosen by CPP to contest in the elections from Falam, Chin State, was rejected by the Union Election Commission to contest in the elections. **(Khonumthung 310810)**

-Leaders of NDF, RNPP and DPM, stated that even though the parties could only have a few representatives in the elections, they would stand as opposition parties in the parliaments. **(VOA 010910)**

-U Thein Tun, the Secretary General of Myanmar New Society Democratic Party (MNSDP), stated that due to financial difficulties, MNSDP would not contest in the elections. **(NEJ 020910)**

-Nan Sae Aua, the Chairwoman of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP), stated that the representatives of PSDP who would contest were herself from Pa-an, Naw Lah Khu from Thandaung, Naw Yuzana Wah from Kaukareik and Nan Tin Tin Nwe from Kyikemayaw. **(KIC 020910)**

-U Kyaw San Oo, who had already left NDF, stated U Soe Lwin, NDF representative to contest from Yenanchaung, resigned from contesting in the elections due to the unacceptable 2008 constitution, after he had submitted an application to the Election Commission. **(RFA 030910)**

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-Pu Noh Thang Kap, the Chairperson of CPP, confirmed that due to financial difficulties, CPP could only submit a list of 41 representatives to the Union Election Commission in time to contest in the elections. **(Khonumthung 030910)**

-Leaders of Union Karen League (UKL) and Myanmar Democracy Congress (MDC) stated that due to the financial difficulties and time constraints in submitting the list of representatives, the parties would not contest in the elections. **(NEJ 030910)**

-U Zaw Win, the Chairperson of Kaman National Progressive Party (KNPP), stated that they would contest 6 representatives in the elections, with representatives in Sittwe, Yanbye and Thandwe (formerly called Sandoway) townships in Arakan State. **(Narinjara 040910)**

B. ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS PREPARING TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-U Ba Tint Swe, who would contest the elections as an individual candidate from North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon, stated that when he was canvassing, people were not that worried and he received some support. **(DVB 310810)**

-U Tu Ror, the Secretary of Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP), stated that since KSPP has still not received any permission to contest in the elections, 14 leaders of the party including the Chairperson Dr. Tu Ja would contest in the elections from Myitkyina, Sumprabum, Injanyan, Waingmaw, Chiphwe, Moemauk and Mansi townships as individual candidates. **(Mizzima 010910)**

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Political analysts from Rangoon stated that the move of the military regime for generals who resign and contest the elections as civilians representing USDP, clearly showed the military regime's future political objectives. **(RFA 010910)**

-Election observers from Rangoon stated that time was up for political parties and individuals to submit lists of representatives to contest in the elections. Thus the result of the elections could be predicted. **(NEJ 010910)**

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

-Thawtuzana Bhikkhu (Monastic Organization) of Upper Burma released a statement on the 3rd anniversary of the Pakokku Incident urging people to boycott the elections in a non-violent way and to prevent USDP from winning the elections. **(VOA 030910)**

OVERSEA BURMESE

-U Aung Kyaw Zaw, a military analyst from the Sino-Burma border, stated that the regime's military threat against the 7 ceasefire groups, which did not agree with the border guard force plan would be worse than the Kokang problem and may cause border instability. **(DVB 010910)**

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INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Jack Layton, the leader of New Democratic Party (NDP); the opposition party in Canada, stated that NDP urged the Canadian government to support the UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Burma. **(VOA 310810)**

B. GOVERNMENTS

-P. J. Crowley, the Spokesperson of the US Department of State, stated that the US would not recognize Senior Gen. Than Shwe, even after he resigned from the military post and controlled power in a civilian administration after the elections. **(Irrawaddy 310810)**

-Ms. Katherine Loubier, the Spokesperson of Lawrence Canon, the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that Canadian government decided to support UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations committed by the military regime. **(VOA 020910)**

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Karl Sawyer, a military analyst from the University of New South Wales, stated that the military regime's power shuffle seemed similar to Suhato, the former President of Indonesia in his example of continuing his rule in a new style. **(VOA 290810)**

-T.I Kumar, the Director of the Amesty International Washington DC Office, stated that Amnesty International urged the US government to initiate the establishment of UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations committed by the military regime of Burma.

End of report/ Saturday, September 04, 2010

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