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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (033/2010)

September 05 - September 11 2010

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

-Political analysts and politicians contesting the election stated that for most of the constituencies, the National Unity Party (NUP) and the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) are the main rivals. **(Eleven Media Group 050910)**

-Residents from Taungup reported being upset to learn that Dr. San Hline from Taungup, Arakan State will stand as a candidate in the forthcoming elections for Amyotha Hluttaw representing the USDP. **(NEJ 060910)**

-A USDP official from Bahan Township affirmed that U Win Naung, retired Col. running in the elections in constituency 5 for Amyotha Hluttaw and representing the USDP, has been denouncing the NUP during his canvassing. **(Irrawaddy 060910)**

-Zaykaba U Khin Shwe, a well-known businessman, explained that several well-known entrepreneurs, including Yuzana U Htay Myint, U Win Myint, the Chairperson of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Dr. Tin Tun Oo, Takatho Tin Kha and some executive committee members of the Literature and Journalist Association, decided to participate in the elections and to represent the USDP. They were instructed to do so by the military regime. **(VOA 060910)**

-A source close to the military community announced that former Lt. Generals, who resigned from their posts at the end of last month, have begun their campaigns to contest their designated constituencies representing the USDP. **(Irrawaddy 070910)**

-The Pyi Myanmar Journal, published in Burma, reported that the USDP loaned over 8,000 million kyats to farmers from 16 townships in Rangoon Division at 1.5% APR. **(Eleven Media Group 070910)**

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-U Han Shwe, the Spokesperson of the NUP, declared that even though it was created from the Burmese Socialist Programme Party led by late Gen. Ne Win, the NUP was neither under the control of the military regime nor is it an alliance party. **(Irrawaddy 080910)**

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a top Municipal official affirmed that U Aung Thein Lin, Rangoon Mayor and retired Maj. Gen., commanded department chiefs at departmental meetings to instruct employees to vote only for the USDP. **(Mizzima 080910)**

-Residents stated that the USDP has been conducting a census in several townships of the Rangoon Division, at the same time urging anyone over 18 years of age to join the USDP. **(Irrawaddy 090910)**

-A Henzada resident announced that U Htay Oo, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, will contest in the elections in Henzada, Irrawaddy Division and has begun campaigning. **(BBC 090910)**

-Pakokku residents stated that Ko Kyaw Zin, Ko Zaw Myo Thein and Ko Thein Tun, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) of Pakokku will contest in the elections as USDP representatives. They participated in the violent crackdown on the population during the 2007 Saffron Revolution by arresting and beating monks in Pakokku.. **(BBC 090910)**

-U Win Myint, the Chairperson of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), announced he will contest in the elections for the Sagaing Region Parliament representing the USDP, in order to support the region's development. **(Myanmar Time Vol.24, No.493 090910)**

-At the last day to submit lists of representatives to contest the elections, government newspapers published articles on how to vote in the elections. **(BBC 100910)**

-Dr. Aye Maung, the Chairperson of the Rakhine Nationals Progressive Party (RNPP), reported that USDP representatives in Arakan State have been campaigning in public areas such as libraries and religious buildings, even though they did not have any permission from the Union Election Commission. **(RFA 100910)**

-A junior officer from the Military Security Affairs said that the military regime started to re-organize members of Swanahshin (the People's Power Organization), to prevent any possible demonstrations of people before, or during the elections. **(Irrawaddy 100910)**

-In his interview with the Monitor Journal, published in Burma, Zaykaba U Khin Shwe announced he will start campaigning on 6 September to contest the elections in the constituency 9 of the Rangoon Division (Twante, Kawhmu, Kungyangon townships) and will use approximately 1,000 million kyats for the campaign. **(NEJ 100910)**

-A resident from Laikha, Southern Shan State, stated that while it was campaigning in Laikha, the USDP instructed ward authorities to urge people to attend the campaign; however no more than 10 residents attended.. **(S.H.A.N 100910)**

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-Residents of Namti stated that, as part of their campaign on 7 September in Namti, Kachin State, Northern Burma, the USDP collected household lists of residents and provided national IDs and USDP member cards to residents. **(KNG 100910)**

-Government newspapers reported that the military government denounced the campaigns urging people not to vote in the elections. **(VOA 100910)**

-A resident high school teacher from Belin, Mon State, affirmed that the military regime nominated education employees in Belin Township, Mon State to work as voting station officials. **(KIC 110910)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-Lawyer U Nyan Win, member of the Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy (NLD), stated that the NLD has been preparing to sue the military regime on two charges regarding the election laws that prevented the NLD from standing as a legal political party. **(RFA 050910)**

-The NLD delegation, led by Vice Chairperson U Tin Oo and member of the Central Executive Committee U Win Tin, visited and encouraged 8 families of political prisoners in Twante Township, Rangoon Division on 4 September. **(DVB 050910)**

-The 88 Generation Students Group, the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) and the All Burma Monks Alliances (ABMA) released a joint statement urging the international community to support a UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Burma, including the recent case of the two young civilians shot dead by soldiers in Pegu. **(BBC 060910)**

-Ko Zarny, the Spokesperson of the ABFSU, announced that the ABFSU, the All Burma Youth Union (ABYU) and the Basic Education Students Union (BESU) jointly launched the “No Campaign” in 6 townships in Rangoon Division, urging people not to vote in the 2010 elections. **(VOA 060910)**

- Following Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s call, U Ohn Kyine, member of the NLD Central Executive Committee, , declared that the NLD Central Executive Committee decided on 6 September to meet with ethnic leaders working on democracy for Burma. They will discuss key issues including the military regime’s 2010 elections and armed ethnic groups. **(RFA 060910)**

-Ko Soe Tun, the Spokesperson of the 88 Generation Students Group, stated that the 88 Generation Student Group denounced the killing of two civilians by Burmese army soldiers in Pegu, and urged the military regime to effectively prevent such incidents. **(RFA 060910)**

-Dr. May Win Myint, member of the NLD Central Executive Committee, said that the NLD Social Committee visited Nghetawsan Village, Kawhmu Township, Rangoon Division on 8 September, and provided financial support for the renovation of a water well in the township. **(RFA 080910)**

-Lawyer U Nyan Win, the Spokesperson of the NLD, stated that the NLD delegation including U Ohn Kyine, Dr. May Win Myint, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, members of Central Executive Committee, and Ko Myo

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Nyunt from the Youth Wing, left for Mandalay on 8 September to meet with ethnic leaders in Lashio. **(RFA 090910)**

-U San Shwe Tun, the Chairperson of NLD Sittwe, Arakan State, said that on 7 September NLD members from Sittwe held a ceremony and provided lunch for 120 monks and urged the regime to release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(RFA 100910)**

-On 10 September a NLD delegation led by U Ohn Kyine, member of the NLD Central Executive Committee, met with NLD representatives from Meiktila and other townships in the southern part of Mandalay Division to discuss how to inform the population on election monitoring, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's instructions, election boycotting, and the NDF who claims to be part of the NLD. **(RFA 100910)**

B. FORCES AT THE BORDER AREAS

- After the Kuki Women Human Rights Organisation's 5th Congress held at India-Burma border from 4 to 8 September, Nhu Nga Ngai, the General Secretary reported that the KWHRO released a statement, announcing that the KWHRO opposes the upcoming elections organized by the military regime' because these elections will legitimatise military rule in Burma. **(NMG 100910)**

C. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with her lawyers on 4 September, and said that negotiation was the only way to resolve the differences between armed ethnic groups and the military regime. The Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) and the Karen National Union (KNU) welcomed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's recommendation. **(Irrawaddy 060910)**

-Padoh Saw Aung Maw Aye, the Chairperson of the KNU Pa-an District, stated that troops from the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the military wing of the KNU, had a violent clash with elements of the military regime's Light Infantry Battalion 587 (under the command of Military Operation Command 19, in the KNLA- controlled 7th Brigade) on 8 September, during which two Burmese army soldiers were killed and 6 wounded. **(Irrawaddy 100910)**

D.FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-Dr. Tint Swe, representative of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) in India, said regarding Senior Gen. Than Shwe's visit to China, that "China and India's position regarding the 2010 elections and post-elections time is very important for the military regime." **(VOA 070910)**

CEASEFIRE GROUPS

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

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a junior officer from the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) headquarters, stated that the military regime's Northern Command forbade KIO Central Committee members, employees and district officials, from travelling from the 5 September. **(Mizzima 060910)**

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-U Sein Kyi, deputy editor of the Shan Herald News, said that the military regime has recently increased troops in areas around the headquarters of the 1st Brigade of the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), which refused to join the military regime's border guard force. **(NMG 060910)**

-Sources close to the New Mon State Party (NMSP) declared that after the NMSP rejected the military regime's demand for the NMSP to surrender, local authorities investigated the travels of NSDP members. **(IMNA 060910)**

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, an education employee affirmed that the Triangle Command secretly commanded government employees from Mongton and Monghsat townships to be ready to evacuate within 24 hours in case of fighting between military troops and the United Wa State Army (UWSA). **(S.H.A.N 070910)**

-A Wa officer, who accompanied the military regime's military attaché, stated when he left the Wa region, that the military attaché left the Wa headquarters in Panghseng on 4 September due to diplomatic reasons between the military regime and the United Wa State Party. **(DVB 070910)**

-A resident businessman from the southern Wa region expressed that three battalions of the UWSA, led by veteran Wa commander Wai Sai Tan, joined Wa troops in southern Wa region as reinforcements. **(S.H.A.N 080910)**

-A Laiza resident explained that after the KIO again rejected the border guard force plan, the military regime increased the security along the road to Laiza, headquarters of the KIO, and deployed more troops in KIO controlled areas. **(VOA 080910)**

-A KIO officer stated that after the Northern Command of the military regime allowed KIO members to travel only with the permission from the military, the regime's military security affairs (military intelligence) arrested Capt. Zaw Li from KIO on 8 September. **(Mizzima 090910)**

-A resident from Mongkao stated that Maj. Gen. Aung Kyaw Zaw, commander of the Northeastern Command, and Col. Khin Zaw, commander of the Tangyan Strategic Command, visited and inspected the security measures of the military base of Light Battalion 33 in Mongkao, which is neighboring the area controlled by 1st Brigade of SSA.. **(S.H.A.N 090910)**

B. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-A source close to the Brigade 999 of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) reported that the brigade's commander, Col. Saw Chit Thu, will hold a position as a company businessman/CEO after the DKBA transforms into a border guard force in August. **(KIC 070810)**

-Maj. Saw Eh Seh Seh, administrative officer of the 7th Brigade of the KNLA, stated that 13 soldiers of the DKBA, which has transformed into a border guard force, joined the 7th Brigade of the KNU on 9 September. **(KIC 100910)**

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PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of the National Democratic Force (NDF), reported that the NDF urged the military regime to grant equal rights to all political parties, and to insure that campaigns in the state media for the 2010 elections are free and fair. **(VOA 050910)**

-The Union Democracy Party (UDP) released a statement on 6 September expressing condolence to the relatives of the two youth who were murdered by Burmese soldiers in Pegu on 4 September, and calling for a legal action against the perpetrators. **(Mizzima 060910)**

-U Saw Tun Aung Myint, the Chairperson of the Karen People's Party (KPP), stated that the KPP already opened offices in 9 townships and that 42 KPP representatives will contest in the elections, where the USDP will be the main rival of the KPP. **(DVB 060910)**

-A source close to the Chin Progressive Party (CPP) asserted that Maj. Gen. Hone Ngai, the Chairperson of the Chin State Peace and Development Council and the commander of the Chin State Strategic Command, will temporarily resign from his post to contest in the elections for the State Parliament in Mindat constituency 2 representing the USDP. **(Khonumthung 060910)**

-An official from the Nargis Aid NGO based in Labutta, said that authorities instructed political parties canvassing in Irrawaddy Division on public assembly and the use of loudspeakers. **(NEJ 070910)**

-Salai Kyae O-Biek Thaug, the General Secretary of the Chin National Party (CNP), declared that due to time constraints and financial difficulties, the CNP representing all of Chin State, could only submit a list of 23 representatives to the Union Election Commission. **(Khonumthung 070910)**

-U Thu Wai, the Chairperson of the Democratic Party (Myanmar) (DPM), stated that the DPM opened an office in Mingalataungnyunt Township and held a public discussion on winning the elections. **(DVB 070910)**

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of the NDF, stated that the NDF held a Political Leading Committee meeting on 7 September and discussed issues on winning the elections and organizing campaign trips to states and divisions. **(DVB 070910)**

-U Tun Aung Kyaw, the Chairperson of the New Era People's Party (NEPP), stated that the party submitted a list of 30 representatives to contest in the elections, and is also ready to cooperate with other political parties and military representatives for the sake of national interest. **(DVB 070910)**

-An official from the Rakhine Nationals Development Party (RNDP) declared that authorities rejected the RNDP's request to hold the 71st anniversary ceremony commemorating the passing away of Abbot U Ottama. **(Narinjara 080910)**

-Khun San Lwin, the Chairperson of the Pa-O National Organization (PNO), announced that the PNO will contest in the elections in the autonomous regions in Hopone and Hsi Hseng townships with 10 representatives. **(DVB 080910)**

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-An official from the District Election Commission stated that U Hla Myint, chief of the Information Committee of the DPM, has seen his application to contest in the elections as a candidate rejected., under the reason of lying as set forth in the election laws. **(NEJ 090910)**

-Leaders from the NDF, the DPM, the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), and the Democracy and Peace Party (DPP), declared that during the reviewing of applications of the representatives of political parties by the Union Election Commission, very few representatives were rejected. **(VOA 090910)**

-Daw Than Than Nu, the General Secretary of the DPM, said that even though on 8 August the Mandalay Division Election Commission granted her permission, to contest in the elections, the Union Election Commission has kept reviewing her application. **(RFA 090910)**

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of the NDF, stated that the NDF accelerated its canvassing campaign in order to get more votes and support from people in the elections. **(DVB 090910)**

-Daw Ye Ye San, the Joint Secretary 2 of the New Era People's Party (NEPP), said that the NEPP has already paid the registration fees of 30 representatives who will contest in the elections in the constituencies in Rangoon and Irrawaddy divisions. **(Myanmar Time Vol.24, No.493 090910)**

-U Myint Zaw, the Secretary of the Rakhine State National Force (RSNF), stated that the RSNF will reduce its expenses for its campaigns and only use 3 million kyats per representative. **(Myanmar Time Vol.24, No.493 090910)**

-U Tin Lin, former reporter of The Voice Journal, explained that his intention, in contesting in the elections in Kungyangon township representing the NDF, is to enter an environment where he can freely urge and express his ideas. **(Myanmar Time Vol.24, No.493 090910)**

-Dr. Than Nyein, the Chairperson of the NDF, announced that even though an agreement was reached not to compete with representatives of democratic political parties in a constituency, the time constraint to submit the lists of representatives created an unavoidable overlap of representatives among democratic parties. **(Myanmar Time Vol.24, No.493 090910)**

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of the NDF, said that democratic parties have been preparing to create an alliance to amend the unwanted 2008 constitution in the parliament. **(VOA 100910)**

-U Khin Maung Myint, the Chairperson of the Phalon Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP), said that the PSDP has over 30,000 members in Karen State and will contest in the elections in Karen State with 18 representatives, and that the USDP is the party's main rival. **(DVB 100910)**

-U Thein Nyunt, a leader of the NDF, expressed that during the scanning process of the Union Election Commission on the proposed representatives, 3 NDF representatives of the Eastern district of Rangoon were rejected. **(BBC 110910)**

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-Leaders of ethnic political parties to contest in the elections declared that even though ethnic parties hope to win many seats in state parliaments, state parliaments could not fully guarantee the rights and developments for ethnic nationalities. **(VOA 110910)**

INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS PREPARING TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-U Yan Kyaw, who will contest in Pazundaung Township as an individual representative, reported that he and U Ba Tint Swe, who will contest in the elections from in Okkalapa as an individual representative, have been invited for a visit by the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Management Committee of Bangladesh to learn about election related issues. **(Myanmar Time Vol.24, No.493 090910)**

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Residents of North Okkapala township, Rangoon, revealed that the signboard of the Township Election Commission in the 2nd Ward of North Okkalapa was spray painted with a cross. **(DVB 050910)**

-U Nay Myo Wai, the Secretary of NDF Difference and Peace Party (DPP), stated that a survey made by NDF DPP on 1 September showed that the majority of the people want media freedom without censorship. **(Mizzima 070910)**

-An eye witness revealed that anti-election campaigns occurred in Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State, on 30th August, during which leaflets were distributed expressing "No 2010", urging people to boycott the 2010 elections and denouncing the 2008 constitution that is designed to elongate the military dictatorship.. **(Palaungland 070910)**

-Even though the USDP will contest in all the constituencies for the three parliaments in Rangoon Division, according to a survey, the majority of Rangoon residents declared they will not vote in the elections. **(Irrawaddy 090910)**

-U Thet Zin, a media editor from Rangoon, said that people seek information about political parties, analysis and comments regarding the elections, and stressed that without free media, the elections will not be democratic. **(BBC 090910)**

-A female political activist who participated in the activities, stated that women activists distributed anti-election pamphlets in Nawarat Market in Shwe Pyi Tha, near Shwe Pyi Tha Peace and Development Council, and in four other places in Mingaladon Township, in Rangoon. **(DVB 090910)**

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

-Vincent Brossels, Chief of the Asia Department of Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) based in France, declared that as the elections are coming closer in Burma, it is urgent to loosen up restrictions for both Burmese and international journalists in order for the elections to be free and fair. **(BBC 080910)**

-Journalists inside Burma expressed their concerns regarding the complication of politics and media publicity regarding the journalists preparing to contest in the elections. **(Irrawaddy 110910)**

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INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-The Asian Human Rights Council (AHRC) released a statement during Senior Gen. Than Shwe's visit to China, urging the government of the People's Republic of China to pressure the Burmese military regime to create free and fair elections and to end the human rights violations. **(BBC 060910)**

-Ms. Anna Roberts, an official of the European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma (EPCB), stated that the EPCB welcomed Hungary's support, as the 7th country, for a UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Burma. **(VOA 060910)**

-Dr. Charles Tannock, EU Member of Parliament, declared that the EPCB criticized China's position not to interfere and to support Burma's elections, and adding that the Western community's pressure on Burma will not be reduced. **(BBC 080910)**

-Ms. Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, urged the international community to closely monitor Burma's 2010 elections. **(VOA 080910)**

B. GOVERNMENTS

-Mrs. Jiang Yu, the Spokesperson of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained that the issue of Burma's elections is only an internal matter and that the international community should not interfere. **(VOA 070910)**

-Hu Jintao, the President of the People's Republic of China, pledged China's unwavering support to Burma's 2010 elections. **(VOA 080910)**

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Burmese activists in Germany condemned the workshop held on 17 September by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a German educational foundation, due to the participation of attendees from Burma who were close to the military regime and spread the military regime's propaganda. **(Mizzima 080910)**

-Yoko Ono, wife of the late musician John Lennon of The Beatles, along with Amnesty International, urged the international community to maintain its pressure for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the commemoration of John Lennon's 70th birthday. **(RFA 090910)**

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