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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election

(037/2010)

October 03 - October 09, 2010

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

A. ACTIVITIES ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS

-A Warrant Officer of Naypyidaw Military Command said that experienced military personnel will be appointed to serve office duties of the parliaments after the elections. (Irrawaddy 041010)

-Authorities made unofficial instructions at a meeting to make preparations to counter invalid ballots and to get compulsory voting in village tracts of Bogalay Township, western Pegu Division, Magwe and Rangoon Divisions, a meeting attendant from Paungti of Bogalay Township said. (RFA 041010)

-A Myitkyina resident said that authorities ordered the staff of General Administration Department who currently living in civil servant housing estate of Myitkyina's Thida Quarter to vacate by the end of October for new civil servants who are supposed to have close relationship with the new government after the elections. (DVB 051010)

-A Bassein resident said that authorities furiously removed campaign posters illustrated with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi photo and contents say peoples have right not to vote in Bassein's Boganauk market, Seingone ferry, and Shwetheiloo market. (DVB 051010)

-A campaign officer of All Mon Region Democracy Party said that their party members were summoned and stopped to carry out elections campaign in the villages by a head of Village Peace and Development Council who was apparently asked by Union Solidarity Development Party given the reason that it is not the time to do so. (IMNA 071010)

-A local woman from Palin Village of Kyaukme Township said the village head U Kyaw Hla and clerk Maung Yan Naung Win asked village quarter heads to collect 1000 Kyat each from people who are 18 years-old and above for the construction of polling stations in the village. (Palaung Women 071010)

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-Head of Election Commission of Latha Township Quarter No. 2 said that there was an explanation on voting procedures at Latha Township Quarter No. 1 polling station regarding people who may have difficulties to vote such as the voters who are illiterate can use left finger print instead of ticking 'correct' sign and handicap voters can be accompanied by helpers, There was also an explanation on what will happen with invalid votes. (Yangon Media Group 071010)

-Local sources reported that military junta in Shan State North has reportedly been giving military training to over 200 local militia men to assist in safeguarding of polling stations during the upcoming elections but the real purpose of the trainings is to wipe out cease-fire Shan State Army Brigade 1 which continues to refuse to transform into Border Guard Forces after the elections. (S.H.A.N 081010)

B. THE UNION ELECTION COMMISSION (UEC)

-A local Election Commission member in Mudon Township said that there will not be enough voting time during the elections due to the announcement of the Township Election Commission that the voters list is five times higher than the voters list allowed by the Union Election Commission. (IMNA 071010)

-A Union Election Commission official said that the date for advanced voting will be announced a few days before the elections. People who would like to avail of this has to present valid reasons such as being admitted in hospitals to get medical treatment, or students who need to go to schools, or people who have to make urgent trips to other places. (Yangon Media Group 071010)

-A Loikaw resident said that local people showed no interest in the voting demonstration presented by Election Commission officials which took place on 3rd October, 2010 at Loikaw, Naungyar (A) quarter poll station. (Kantarawaddy Times 081010)

-Eleven Media Group sent a letter of inquiry on 8th October 2010 regarding private media agencies facing difficulties to seek information about nationwide election candidates and other information because Union Election Commission has not released those information despite efforts of the Group Rangoon Headquarters Office to contact the UEC by telephone and in person several times. (Eleven Media Group 0810101)

C. THE UNION SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY (USDP)

-Rangoon mayor U Aung Thein Lin who is also in-charge of Rangoon Division Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) recently briefed local media that the USDP is paving roads and digging wells as well as opening free clinics and building so many schools. The party also provides low-interest loans to poor people by using state funds and property. (Irrawaddy 0411010)

-Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) election candidate Zaykabar U Khin Shwe said that his election campaign has gained support and interest of people due to the participation of well-known celebrities in his campaign trips. (Irrawaddy 041010)

-Locals from Kunchangon, Kawhmu, and Tunte Townships of Rangoon Division said that Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) election candidate Zaykabar U Khin Shwe has brought well-known

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actors, actresses and celebrities including Lwin Moe, comedian Moe Dee, and actress Nanda Hlaing, who is also his daughter-in-law, along his election campaign trips to lure voters. (VOA 041010)

-A layman of Majeemyaing monastery Abbot at Akyab in Arakan State said that the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) election candidates Dr. Chan Thar and Dr. Sann Shwe plan to hold an election campaign event at the monastery was called off after the Abbot refused the event and forced them out of the monastery. (Narinjara 041010)

-The SPDC Censorship Board suspended the publication of the Rangoon-based Favourite weekly journal for two weeks for publishing a cartoon on the Union Solidarity and Development Party, a Rangoon-based news editor said. (Irrawaddy 0510110)

-A construction worker from Myitkyina of Kachin State said, they are working on the future housing estate for ministers, including a house for Kachin State minister. The 20 acre-wide land is located in the west of Myitkyina satellite and it will cost 8,000 million kyat to build the housing estate. The buildings are connected to the Union Solidarity and Development Party office building. (RFA 041010)

-A local from Taungote of Arakan State said that Union Solidarity and Development Party is secretly printing advance ballots according to the voters list they have obtained without informing the public. (BBC 051010)

-A local political party leader in Chin State said that the Election Commission has allowed two USDP candidates Pu Hram Ceu and Pu Ngun Hram who were banned earlier, to contest from Hakha and Thantlang Township constituencies in Chin State in the upcoming elections after their appeal to the Commission. (Kaowao 071010)

-A military source said that military personnel who are eligible voters were given instructions by the authorities to vote for USDP. The superior officers are getting worried about being punished if the rank and file would vote for other parties when collecting advance votes from those who are serving their duties outside their constituency. (BBC 071010)

-A local from Zalun, Irrawaddy Division, said that Cooperative Minister U Tin Htut has been carrying out election campaign activities to gain support for the USDP in 2010 elections. (Yoma3 081010)

-The USDP has dispatched local representatives of the Mara tribe to mobilize them for votes and to split the votes of local people in the upcoming elections in Matupi Township Constituency (1) of Chin State in western Burma. (Khonumthung 091010)

D. NATIONAL UNITY PARTY (NUP)

-The National Unity Party (NUP) General Secretary U Khin Maung Gyi at 22nd founding anniversary of the party on 24th September 2010 said that to maintain ethnic unity and in order to stabilize the country would be a challenge to the new government after the elections. (Myanmar Times Vol.25, No.486 041010)

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OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-The National League for Democracy (NLD) party spokesperson U Nyan Win said that they will go ahead to file a lawsuit against the SPDC accusing it of illegally dissolving the party. (Irrawaddy 041010)

-The NLD Information officer U Ohn Kyaing said that party central leading committee member U Kyi Win-lead delegation visited the party branch in Laymyetnar Township of Irrawaddy Division and explained party political activities to about 50 branch members at the branch secretary U Hla Win's house. (DVB 041010)

-The NLD lawyer U Nyan Win said that the Supreme Court announced on October 7th that it would hold a hearing on October 18 on detained opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's latest appeal against her house arrest. (RFA 081010)

-The NLD party executive U Hanthar Myint said that a delegation comprised of the party executives U Nyunt Wai, U Hanthar Myint, U Soe Win from NLD Pegu Division, NLD youth members Ko Aung Soe and Ma Phyu Phyu Thin, NLD Pegu Division youth wing leader Ko Kyaw Win had a discussion about the party's future programme and election boycott activities in Prome, western Pegu Division. The meeting was attended by the Prome Township executive members and about 80 people. (RFA 081010)

-On 7th October 2010 in Loikaw of Kayah State, the NLD central leading committee member U Ohn Kyaing and members met with Kayah State NLD party hard core members who have been out of touch with the party and discussed about party members to be organised. (DVB 081010)

-NLD party executive U Nyan Win led a party delegation with members and discussed about elections boycott activities with Mon and Karen States party members and the local people. (RFA 091010)

B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

- A Karenni Army officer stated that the Burma Army suffered casualties - 2 dead and 3 wounded when Karenni Army clashed with Burma Army's Light Infantry Battalion 517 near Daw Mu Mar village, Shardaw Township, Karenni State on 1st October 2010. (Kantarawaddy Times 081010)

C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) United Nations (UN) Representative Dr. Thaug Htun said that Burma democracy movement held two public meetings on 6th October 2010 during United Nations General Assembly current session taking place in New York City in order to raise awareness about the human rights situation in Burma leading up to the military regime's elections and to establish a UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate the regime's crimes against humanity and war crimes. (RFA 071010)

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CEASEFIRE GROUPS

A. GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BORDER GUARD FORCES

-A local politician from Myitkyina said that there were cracks within the Kachin State Special Region 1 Peace and National Reconciliation Council after signing up the list of election candidates with the Election Commission to contest in the elections. (NEJ 041010)

-A Tachileik resident said that the Tachileik Township authorities confiscated SW-NW license plate vehicles registered to the United Wa State Army's (UWSA) due fake licenses. This occurred as the tension between military regime and the UWSA intensifies . (DVB 041010)

-The Karen National Union (KNU) Brigade 6 news and information officer said that from the end of August until end of September, 39 members of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army-Border Guard Force (DKBA-BGF) and 20 members of Brig. Gen. Saw Htein Maung-led Karen State Peace Council joined the KNU. (KIC 071010)

-A Democratic Karen Buddhist Army-Border Guard Force (DKBA-BGF) officer said that the commander of Burma's Southeastern Military Command Brig. Gen. Tun Nay Lin has instructed his subordinates to curb the desertion of over 100 DKBA-BGF members after transforming into BGF within a month time and went to join with Capt. Hnakanhmwe -led DKBA faction. (NEJ 071010)

-Capt. Kyaw Thet of DKBA said that he will maintain his position not to give in to the demands made by military junta despite facing arrest as well as persuasion in various forms by the junta. (DVB 081010)

POLITICAL PARTIES

POLITICAL PARTIES ALLOWED TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-Locals of Shan State North said that there was a fierce election campaign competition taking place between the Shan Nationals Democratic Party (SNDP) and Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). (Irrawaddy 051010)

- Daw Than Than Nu of Democratic Party (Myanmar) said that political parties including her party have to explain to many people who are not interested in the upcoming elections and have no clear understanding on voting in the elections, although this should be the duty of the Election Commission. (VOA 041010)

-1990 election winning party Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) spokesman U Sai Leik said that his party is launching awareness campaign to monitor election fraud and vote rigging in the upcoming military regime organised elections in Shan and Kachin States. (RFA 041010)

-On 27th Septmeber 2010, at the National Democratic Force (NDF) Rangoon Division election winning commission office NDF Vice Chairperson Dr. Than Win said that those who were campaigning among the people to boycott elections and those who are being misguided and have made a decision to take part in

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election boycott campaign will in fact weaken democratic forces in the country. (Myanmar Times Vol. 25, No. 486 041010)

-Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics (UMFNP) Chairperson U Aye Lwin said that his party is planning to file against ward authorities who have connections with Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and is putting pressure on them to let go of the joint office running by the UMFNP and 88 Generation Student Youth (Union of Myanmar). (VOA 051010)

-Democratic Party (Myanmar) information officer U Hla Myint said that they had a clash with the Royal Plaza department store security officials while distributing the party policy declaration, Dawnohway journals and handouts near the plaza in Minglataungnyunt Township of Rangoon Division which is a notorious area about having many hard core members of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). (DVB 051010)

-All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP) Chairperson Nai Janumon said that the party election campaign song is being recorded in Rangoon in both Mon and Burmese languages to woo voters when the party kicks-off election campaign in the Mon State. (IMNA 071010)

-The Chin National Party (CNP) Chairperson Pu Zozam has urged Chin people through Myanmar TV programme on October 3 during poll campaign to vote only for candidates who prioritize national interests in the upcoming elections on 7 November in Chin state. (Khonumthung 071010)

-Pa O National Organization (PNO) Chairperson Khun San Lwin said that his party has no difficulties in campaigning for contesting in upcoming elections because they have been working on the development of the Pa O people in the region since 1996. The PNO will field 10 candidates to contest in Hopong, Hsi Hseng and Pin Laung Districts in the Pa O autonomous region in Shan State. (Myanmar Times Vol. 25, No. 486 041010)

-Peace and Democracy Party (PDP) sent a letter to a pro-democracy alliance which was formed by six political parties which are not aligned to the military regime and to increase the chances of their pro-democracy candidates being elected on Nov. 7 elections. The letter mentioned that PDP, for the time being, has suspended the membership of some political parties in the pact including National Democratic Force (NDF) which according to a news report have been receiving funds from the military regime close associate and a businessman U Hla Maung Shwe. The PDP will not work with these parties until the accused have been able to made clarifications on this matter. (BBC 091010)

-Rakhine Nationals Progressive Party (RNPP) Myebon Township election candidate U Pe Than said that Village Peace and Development Council authorities were disturbing and threatening the RNPP election campaign activities in Myebon Township, Arakan State. (BBC 091010)

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INDIVIDUALS PREPARING TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-U Tin Aye who is contesting in the upcoming elections as an independent candidate and also a member of the 15 members network of individual election candidates said that he will contest in the Naypyidaw Laeway constituency with the belief that he could stand a chance to win and if not he will go back to work as a farmer like before. (Myanmar Time Vol. 25, No. 486 041010)

-Independent election candidate Dr. Soe Naing asked the Election Commission that they also have the right to broadcast their campaign policy on state media like other political parties given the fact that there are about 100 independent candidates who are contesting in all three levels of the parliament which accounted to be the fourth largest in upcoming polls. (Yangon Media Group 051010)

-Pazundaung Township independent election candidate U Yan Kyaw who had a meeting with Italian diplomats on October 7 said that there will be an increase of western diplomats' interest and request to meet with independent election candidates when it's getting close to the elections. (VOA 071010)

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-U U Hla Saw of Rakhine Nationals Progressive Party (RNPP) said that many grass root and ethnic people in Burma's states and divisions are still afraid of engaging with political parties election campaign activities despite the fact that there are only 32 days left before the election. (Irrawaddy 041010)

-An ethnic Kaman national said that although many ethnic Kaman people want to vote for Kaman National Progressive Party (KNPP), two thirds of the Kaman people have no National Identity Card so they have not been listed on the eligible voters list. (Irrawaddy 051010)

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

-A Burmese monk Rev. Thavara urged the Japanese government at Japan National League for Buddhism Congress in Tokyo to oppose the military regime 2010 elections and not to recognize the elections result because it would tarnish the Buddhist religion. (DVB 081010)

BURMESE NATIONALS ABROAD

-Former military Col. Aung Lin Htut said that the military regime has made preparations for Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) to win in the upcoming elections in the whole 75% of the parliament because the army has been granted 25% by the constitution. He also said that the regime has to hold this election because they are facing hardship in international relations. (BBC 071010)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

-On Tuesday, October 5th, the last day of Asia-Europe Meetings (ASEM) held in Brussels, Belgium, international leaders have called on Burma's military junta to release political prisoners ahead of national elections scheduled to take place next month. (VOA 051010)

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-Foreign Ministry Affairs Spokesman Ouvry of European Union rotating presidency Belgium said that there was a discussion among the leaders attending the 8th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) regarding upcoming elections and exchanged views on Burma. (VOA 051010)

B. GOVERNMENTS

British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, who was attending the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Brussels, Belgium, urged ASEM leaders to speak with one voice about the gross human rights violations of the Burmese people committed by the Burmese military regime and its planned sham elections and Burma issue should be discussed as a priority in the meeting. (VOA 041010)

-Mr. Jaanus Varu, the Advisor to the Bureau of Asia, Australia and Oceania of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially stated that Estonia supports for a UN Commission of Inquiry into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma. (VOA 081010)

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Brussels-based Burma support group, Actions Birmanie Chairperson Pierre-Yves Gillet urged the world leaders who are attending Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) to include and discuss Burma issue in the meeting. (VOA 041010)

-At the 8th Asia Europe Meeting or ASEM which was held in Brussels, Belgium, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) General Secretary Sharon Burrow urged the international community to significantly step up pressure on the military regime in Burma. (BBC 051010)

-Nant Zoya Phan of Britain based Burma Campaign UK said that she urged the Swedish parliamentarians that the tripartite dialogue in Burma instead of military junta sham election will bring about change in the country and a political solution. (RFA 071010)

-Mexican senator Rosario Green, the head of the human rights committee of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) urged Burma's military junta to immediately release 12 Burma's lawmakers from jail ahead of elections next month. (RFA 071010)

-A veteran NGO worker and Vice Chairperson of an environmental NGO FREEDA, U Ohn, warned some NGO workers planning to contest in the upcoming elections as Union Solidarity and Development Party candidates or independent candidates that they should first resign because it contradicts with NGO rules and regulations. (DVB 081010)

End of report/ Saturday, October 09, 2010

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