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BURMA PRESS SUMMARY

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DIPLOMATIC

Ambassador Named

Mar. 23: President U San Yu appointed U Aye Thein, who is Burmese Ambassador to Egypt, to be concurrently Burmese Ambassador to Iraq, Morocco, and Turkey. (WPD 3/23)

Iraqi Ambassador Arrives

Mar. 29: Iraqi Ambassador Monir Shihab Ahmed presented credentials to President U San Yu. (WPD photo caption 3/30)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Health Workshops

Mar. 7: A workshop on the development of health education material, jointly sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Health Department, opened with 21 members, attended by UNICEF's Dr. Arata Kochi. It will last until Mar. 11. (WPD 3/8) // Mar. 22: A five-day workshop on clinical trials methodology, jointly sponsored

by the WHO and the Medical Research Department, opened with 24 participants and 10 observers. (WPD 3/23)

Australia Gives Books

Mar. 17: Australian Ambassador Christopher Leslie Lamb donated over 173 books and journals to the University of Rangoon. (WPD 3/18)

FOREIGN VISITORS

Thai Crown Prince

Feb. 29: Thai Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn arrived in Rangoon on an official six-day visit at the invitation of BSPP Chairman U Ne Win. He was welcomed on arrival with full honors, including a 21-gun salute, by Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha and other high officials, and taken to the Seinlekantha Guest House. The Crown Prince is accompanied by a Royal Suite of 13, including Deputy Foreign Minister Prapas Limpabandhu.

BSPP Chairman U Ne Win greeted the Crown Prince at the Guest House. Later, the Crown Prince called on President U San Yu at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw. In the evening, a banquet was given by Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha, at the Pyithu Hluttaw Banquet Hall, at which speeches were given.

Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha welcomed the Prince, recalling the visits by the Thai King and Queen in 1960, and that by Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in 1986. He said the visit was "yet another significant milestone in the history of our bilateral relations. I am convinced that it will also provide fresh impetus to the strengthening of our mutual goodwill and understanding which has been developing steadily in recent years."

Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn responded that the two countries were neighbors with long links in similarities, religion, and way of life "which will contribute to closer relationships between us." He said Thailand had watched Burmese progress with great interest and that "it is obvious that the people of Burma have worked unitedly to develop their country in a unique way. I am confident that under the present able leadership Burma will certainly succeed in all fields of development." (WPD 3/1)

Mar. 1: The Crown Prince and his party visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, donating Ky 20,000, and then flew to Chanmyathazi Airfield in Mandalay. He then went to Maymyo where he toured the Defence Services Academy, and was given a dinner at the Tatmadaw Guest House by North-West Command Commander Brig. Gen. Tun Kyi. (WPD 3/2)

Mar. 2: The Crown Prince visited pagodas in Mandalay, contributing Ky 10,000 to the Maha Myatmuni Pagoda. The Royal Party then flew to Pagan, where it visited the Thatbyinnyu Temple and was given a dinner at the Thiripyitsaya Hotel by Mandalay Division People's Council Chairman U Nyo Win. // Mar. 3: The Royal Party visited the Shwezigon Pagoda, Ananda Temple, and Pagan Archaeological Museum before returning to Rangoon by air, where a dinner was given at the President's House by BSPP Chairman U Ne Win. (WPD 3/4)

Mar. 4: The Crown Prince visited the Central Agricultural Training Centre in Hlegu Township, the Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Pegu, with lunch at the Shwewahtun Hotel given by Pegu Division People's Council Chairman U Hla Pe, and the Pitakattaik and library at Kaba Aye Hill in Rangoon. (WPD 3/5)

Mar. 5: The Crown Prince and his suite departed. BSPP Chairman U Ne Win called at the Seinlekantha Guest House to bid him farewell, and Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha and other dignitaries saw him off at the airport at 10:00 am. (WPD 3/6)

Maldiv Trade Minister

Mar. 2: Maldiv Minister for Trade and Industries Ilyas Ibrahim and two aides arrived. (WPD 3/4)

Chinese Arts Delegation

Mar. 6: The Chinese Fine Arts Delegation that arrived in

Rangoon Feb. 24 [see February BPS, p. 3] was given a lunch by Minister for Culture and for Information U Aung Kyaw Myint. (WPD 3/6)

Laos Deputy Foreign Minister

Mar. 7: Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Soubanh Srithirath and party, who arrived Mar. 6, called on Foreign Minister U Ye Goung, and later with Deputy Foreign Minister U Saw Hlaing, who gave them a lunch. They departed in the afternoon. (WPD 3/8)

U.S. Country Music

Mar. 9: The Johnson Mountain Boys Band of the United States, headed by Dudley Dale Connell, arrived Mar. 8 under the bilateral cultural exchange program, was received by Minister for Culture and for Information U Aung Kyaw Myint. (WPD 3/10) // Mar. 11: It performed at Aung San Stadium. (WPD photo caption 3/12) // Mar. 12: The band was given a lunch at the Karaweik Hall by Minister U Aung Kyaw Myint. Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Maung and U.S. Ambassador Burton Levin attended. (WPD 3/13)

Canadian Health Aid

Mar. 11: Canadian Ambassador A. G. Vincent presented a donation of Can\$ 100,000 to Health Department Director General Dr. Tin Oo for the Children's Hospital and the Hospital for the Disabled. (WPD 3/12)

Chinese Red Cross Chief

Mar. 9: The President of the Chinese Red Cross, Cui Yueli, and a delegation comprised of Shandong Province Red Cross President Ma Chang Gui, Chinese Red Cross Society Deputy Secretary-General Qu Zhe, and Chinese Red Cross Society International Relations Officer Miss Gao Xiaoyan, arrived on a study tour of Burma. (WPD 3/10) // Mar. 10: The delegation visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, and met with the Burma Red Cross Society Executive Committee headed by President U Kyi. In the afternoon, Cui Yueli visited the National Museum. (WPD 3/11) // Mar. 18: He met with the Rangoon Division Red Cross Supervision Committee, headed by Chairman U Mya Win, at the Nurses Training School of the Health Department. The Committee gave him lunch at the Thamada Hotel. (WPD 3/19) // Mar. 23: The delegation departed. (WPD 3/24)

Korean Commercial Presentation

Mar. 15: The South Korean M/S Samsung Co., Ltd. made a commercial presentation on TDX digital exchange. (WPD 3/16)

Soviet Trade Union Delegation

Mar. 22: A Soviet Trade Union Delegation headed by Chairman of the Council of Trade Unions of the Latvian SSR August Zitmanis, accompanied by Mr. Konstantin from the Department of External Relations of the Union Central Council of Trade Unions arrived in Rangoon. In the afternoon it called on Workers Asiayone Central Body Vice-Chairmen U Ba Nyein and U Kyi Thein. (WPD 3/23) // Mar. 28: The delegation visited Inle Lake (Mar. 23), the Sao Sam Htun Hospital in Taunggyi (Mar. 24), the Paleik Textile Mill, Singaing Township, and the Mandalay Brewery and Distillery (Mar. 25), the Mandalay pagodas (Mar. 26), and Pagan and the Kyunchaung Fertilizer Plant in Pakokku Township (Mar. 27). (WPD 3/29) // Mar. 29: The delegation visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, the jute carpet factory in Dawbon Township, and the National Museum, before being given a dinner by Vice-Chairman of the Workers Asiayone Central Body U Kyi Thein at the Karaweik Hall. (WPD 3/30) // Mar. 30: The delegation left, after calling on Peasants and Workers Asiayone Central Body officials. (WPD 3/31)

Canadian Veterans Delegation

Mar. 23: A Canadian war veterans delegation headed by Col. Fred Tilson (V-C) arrived and was received by U Myint Maung, Chairman of the War Veterans Organization of Burma. (WPD 3/24)

Chinese Journalists

Mar. 23: A Chinese journalists delegation headed by Vice Chairman of the Hunan Provincial Journalists Association Liang Nianzhi, with six members, arrived under the bilateral exchange program, and in the evening visited the Working People's Daily. (WPD 3/24) // Mar. 24: It was received by Minister for Information and for Culture U Aung Kyaw Myint, and visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, the Burma Broadcasting Service and television station, the National Museum, and the Motion Picture Corporation. (WPD 3/25) // Mar. 25: The delegation visited the Post Harvest Technology Application Center in Hlegu Township, and the training center in Zayatkwint Village. (WPD 3/26)

BURMESE DELEGATIONS

Narcotics Delegation

Mar. 5: A delegation headed by Director-General of the Technical and Vocational Education Department Dr. Khin Maung Win left for Norway and Sweden to study narcotic drug abuse control measures under the UN/Burma Drug Abuse Control Programme. Other members are Director (Academic) of the Basic Education Department U Tin Pe and Mandalay Division Education Officer U Khin Swe. (WPD 3/6) // Mar. 23: The delegation returned. (WPD 3/24)

GOVERNMENT

National Group Academy

Mar. 1: BSPP General Secretary U Aye Ko hosted a dinner for the final-year students of Course No. 19 of the Academy for Development of National Groups, at which the students also met with BSPP Chairman U Ne Win and President U San Yu. The students are on a study tour to Rangoon.

Meeting with the students earlier in the day, U Aye Ko delivered a long speech [reported in detail], urging them to strengthen and consolidate national solidarity under BSPP leadership; to promote, as primary assistant teachers, the education, knowledge, and moral character of "the children of local indigenous people"; and to aid the latter's economic and social development endeavors.

Discussing progress in "the seven States", he said that between 1961-62 and 1986-87 student capacity in basic education schools had increased from 400,000 to 1,600,000; schools from 3,000 to 10,000; and teachers from 9,600 to 40,000. In health, the number of hospitals had risen from 65 to 228; rural health centers from 148 to 428; Maternity and Child Health Care Units, School Health Units, and Secondary Health Centres from 33 to 154 (divided 127-20-7); and indigenous medicine clinics from 3 to 32. The number of dental surgeons had grown from 1 to 92; and indigenous medical practitioners from 9 to over 100.

In concluding, he urged the students to "strive for stronger and greater national solidarity and for the development of the Union with zeal, unswerving devotion, and diligence." Two students, Ma Nan Khine from Mrauk-Oo, Rakhine State and Maung Khin Saing Sun Dawi from Nogmun, Kachin State, expressed thanks, appreciation, and support for his remarks. (WPD 3/2)

U Ne Win Visits Central Command

Mar. 7: BSPP Chairman U Ne Win, accompanied by Defense Minister Thura U Kyaw Htin, Chief of Staff Gen. Saw Maung, and others, toured Myogon village in Paukkhaung Township and the South Nawin Dam Project in Prome Township, both in Pegu Division. (WPD 3/8)

Mon State Day

Mar. 8: 14th Mon State Day postcard. (WPD photo caption)

3/8) // Mar. 19: Mon State Day was observed with a rally of 9,000 people at the Maidan in Moulmein, presided over by Mon State People's Council Secretary U Kyee Sein. It was also observed in Paung. (WPD 3/21) It was observed in Thanbyuzayat. (WPD 3/22)

Pyithu Hluttaw Resignations

Mar. 9: Notifications from the Council of State announced that the following members of the Pyithu Hluttaw have been permitted to resign under Section 4 of the Resignation and Replacement Law:

- 38/88: Col. Tin Hlaing, Myayde 2 (Magwe) as of Feb. 17;
- 39/88: Col. Aung Myint Baw, Tamwe 2 (Rangoon) as of Feb. 17;
- 40/88: U Hla, Thayet (Magwe) as of Feb. 16;
- 41/88: U Thein Tun, Hlegu 2 (Rangoon) as of Feb. 17;
- 42/88: U Sai Ai Kyaw, Muse 2 (Shan) as of Feb. 24. (WPD 3/10)

BSPP Central Committee

Mar. 10: The Eighth Meeting of the Burma Socialist Programme Party Central Committee opened, presided over by BSPP Chairman U Ne Win. Reports were presented by the Central Executive Committee (by General Secretary U Aye Ko), the Party Inspection Committee (by its Secretary, U Maung Nyo), and the Party Disciplinary Committee (by its Secretary, U Ba Thein). The 1988-89 budget was presented by Joint General Secretary U Sein Lwin, and was approved. The reports were discussed. (WPD 3/11)

Mar. 11: On the Second Day the Central Committee approved the resignation of a Central Executive Committee Member and of a Central Committee Member. It also approved the reconstitution of the appeals scrutiny body and made a decision concerning appeals to the Central Committee. It amended the manuals on Central Affairs Committee organization and on communications within and outside the Party. The reports were approved. A decision was taken by secret ballot on matters relating to the Pyithu Hluttaw, as presented by Joint Secretary General U Sein Lwin. (WPD 3/12)

Resignations

Mar. 14: Council of State Notification No. 43/88 permits Thura U Saw Pru to resign as member of the Council of Ministers. Notification No. 44/88 permits U Sein Ya to resign as member of the Council of People's Inspectors. (WPD 3/15)

Pyithu Hluttaw Meets

Mar. 14: The sixth session of the Fourth Pyithu Hluttaw opened in the Conference Hall, attended by 481 of the 482 eligible members. The agenda was approved. A 14-member Panel of Chairmen was chosen, comprising U Peter Lasam Gawng, Mohnyin Township 2 constituency (Kachin State); U Francis, Phruhsoo (Kayah); U Tin Hla, Kawkareik 2 (Karen); U Pau Do Nang, Tiddim 2 (Chin); U Aung San, Budalin 1 (Sagaing); U Than Myint, Mergui East 2 (Tenasserim); U Ohn Kyaing, Nyaunglebin 2 (Pegu); U Aung Maung, Saw (Magwe); U Tun Pe, Madaya 1 (Mandalay); U Thaung Nyunt, Chaungzon 1 (Mon); U Tun Sein, Manaung (Rakhine); U Aung Myint, Lanmadaw (Rangoon); U Khin Aung, Momeik (Shan); U Tin Kyi, Kyonpyaw 1 (Irrawaddy).

Condolences were voted for the death of U Hi Ha, Matupi 2 (Chin).

Reports were presented by the Council of State and Council of Ministers, Council of People's Justices, and Council of People's Attorneys [reported separately].

The Pyithu Hluttaw elected Dr. Kyaw Sein, Thingangyun 2 (Rangoon) and U Sein Ya, Myanaung 1 (Irrawaddy) as members of the Council of Ministers [see separate item below for assignments to Ministries]. It elected Thura U Saw Pru, Sittwe 1 (Rakhine) as member of the Council of People's Inspectors. It elected Brig. Gen. Myo Nyunt, Hlegu 1 (Rangoon) as member of the Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee. Those elected took their places.

The following items were introduced:

--1988 Bill on Target of Production of Goods and Services of the Economic Plan, and the [annual] Report to the Pyithu Hluttaw in

connection with the financial, economic, and social situation of the State for 1988-89;

--Bill Amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law;

--Bill Amending People's Representatives' Allowances Law;

--1988 State Budget Bill;

--Matter concerning Burma's participation in the International Maritime Commission;

--Matter concerning Burma's acceptance and approval of the: (a) International Convention on seamen's training, issuance of efficiency certificates, and performance of duties in turn; (b) International Convention (1973/78) on sea pollution caused by ships; and (c) International Convention (1969) on measurement of ship tonnage.

--Information on the goodwill visit of the French Parliamentary delegation headed by Claude Birraux. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 15: On the second day, with 480 members in attendance, the Pyithu Hluttaw put on record the assignment of U Sein Ya as Minister for Transport and Communications and Dr. Kyaw Sein as Minister for Education, and the assignment of Brig. Gen. Myon Nyunt to the Pyithu Hluttaw Credentials Affairs Committee. Reports were presented by the Council of People's Inspectors and the Elections Commission. Other reports were discussed. The Pyithu Hluttaw approved Burma's participation in the International Maritime Organization, and accepted and approved the three IMO Conventions before it. (WPD 3/16)

Mar. 16: On the third day a reply was given to a member's question [reported separately below], the 1988 Bills on Targets of Production and on Narcotics were discussed, as were the Reports of the Councils of Peoples Justices and Peoples Attorneys. (WPD 3/17)

Mar. 17: On the fourth day members discussed the 1988 State Budget Bill, and the Reports of the People's Inspectors Council and Elections Commission. Following replies to members questions, the Bill Amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law and the Draft By-Law Amending the 1974 Narcotics Drugs By-Laws were enacted, as was the Bill Amending the People's Representatives Allowances Law. (WPD 3/18)

Mar. 18: The Pyithu Hluttaw meeting concluded on its fifth day.

Replies were made to members' discussion of the reports, and the reports approved. The 1988 Bill on Targets of Production and Services of the Economic Plan for 1988, and the 1988 State Budget Bill were passed. The annual Report to the Pyithu Hluttaw on the financial, economic, and social situations for 1988-89 was approved. The session concluded at 2:25 p.m. (WPD 3/19)

Council of Ministers Report

Mar. 14: Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha presented the Report of the Council of Ministers for Jul. 1-Dec. 31, 1987 [full translation published]. He described progress in agriculture, but noted that cultivation loans had not yet been distributed to cotton and other scheduled crop growers, and that only long-staple cotton had been purchased since 1977-78. Arrangements have been made to provide cultivation loans to cotton growers, instead of purchase loans, since they can be given earlier. Nine crops were decontrolled in 1987-88, to permit citizens to buy and sell them. Land revenues are to be paid in kind, rather than in cash, "to enable the State to take the responsibility of distributing rice at reasonable price to the employees carrying out management, security and defence duties of the State." Of these revenues, "only the surplus amount will be exported."

"Furthermore...arrangements have been made so that the co-operative societies and private entrepreneurs may export rice."

In addition to the land revenues, the paddy sold to co-operative societies was also bought. As of Dec. 31, 4.323 million baskets of paddy had been received. As of Mar. 13, 1988, 41.95 million baskets of paddy and 6263.68 tons of rice had been received as revenues and from co-ops.

Burmese export prices have fallen since 1982-83, and exports fell

short of targets until 1986-87. Now there are offers for purchase of rice from Burma. This year's export target was Ky 3322.9 million. From Apr. 1-Dec. 31, 1987, export contracts for Ky 1717.4 million were signed and Ky 1048.9 million of goods exported. As of Mar. 13, the figures were Ky 2082.2 million signed and Ky 1452.7 million exported.

To expand fisheries, "plans have been made to buy engine oil and fishing trawlers on barter system."

In forestry, conservation is being promoted. One acre of teak and hardwood has been planted for every 40 extracted. New forest nurseries have been set up, forest reserves expanded, and measures taken to prevent depletion. "Arrangements are being made to auction the teak and hardwood in border areas to the foreign timber merchants."

In mining, exploration is under way for gold, diamonds, phosphates, bauxite, and nickel. The Nov. 1987 Gems Emporium earned over Ky 61 million.

In energy, "demands for production of commodities and transportation work have not been met." "Arrangements are under way to extend exploration of crude oil and natural gas, digging of new oil wells and installation of new pipelines in addition to replacing machine oils with others....to replace petroleum products with natural gases and to change them into methanol....to rehabilitate existing oil fields and to explore new oil fields with foreign financial and technological assistance....to import crude oil with the surplus from foreign loans and refine it to successfully implement the projects being undertaken with the loans on time."

Electricity is produced from hydropower, natural gas, and thermal power in the short run, and from irrigation dams in the long run. The report mentions implementation of the Sedawgyi Hydroelectric Power Project, the Kinda Multi-purpose Dam project, the Biluchaung No. 1 Hydroelectric Power Project, the mini hydro-electric projects, and construction of power stations using natural gas.

In industry, efforts are being made to substitute local for imported raw materials and to reduce waste. Distribution of State-produced goods is being expedited.

Health and education have been promoted. A new TV re-transmission station was opened in Taunggyi, and one is being constructed in Toungoo. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 15: Nine members discussed the Council of Ministers Report. U Aung Thein (Pasawng) called for more crop research in Kayah State "so as to expand the cultivation of high-yield crops on the suitable land of the State which has not yet sufficient supply of food." U Ling Ha (Kanpetlet) endorsed ongoing forestry projects. Lt. Col. Ohn Ngwe (Myaung 1) called for "the redigging of small canals ...with the aid of the State" in Sagaing State. U Toe Chit (Tavoy 2) urged repair of bridges on the Ye-Tavoy-Mergui road, as well as "measures...for ensuring security." U Kyaw Than (Myaung 1) called for more hydropower for Salin, Pwintbyu, Seikpyu, Myothit and Myede, and electricity from the hydropower line for areas such as Mindon, Ngaphe, Sedoktara, Saw, Htilin and Gangaw as well as, from neighboring townships, for Pauk, Myaing, Sibaungwe and Kanma townships. U Hla Kyaw Aung (Rathedaung 2) noted the construction of the Kyauktaw-Mrauk-U-Minbya and Sittwe-Ponnakyun roads in Rakhine State, and called for construction of a road between Sittwe and Rangoon. U Tin Tun (Htantabin) suggested greater supervision to ensure that loans to co-operative societies are repaid on time. U Sein Hla (Pangyang) complained that school texts did not reach distant Shan State townships in time, and also called for more teachers. U Tin Htay (Bassein East 2) said the production of old and renovated rice mills was falling, and more broken rice being produced, and called for more modern rice mills and better spare part distribution, as well as better paddy storage. (WPD 3/16)

Mar. 18: Prime Minister U Maung Maung Kha responded, saying measures were being taken to expand cultivated acreage and boost agricultural production. Agricultural training is being given to

farmers and soldiers. The Loikaw Pedigree Farm is being upgraded, and soil tests being conducted at Kayah State No. 16 Farm. Co-operatives are being extended and loans given them. 99% of loans have been recovered. In forestry, there is emphasis on afforestation and conservation and nurseries. Artificial insemination and induced breeding of livestock is being undertaken.

Special gem (diamond) mining and pearl culture are being expanded. At the Theindaw Mine in Tenasserim Division, security and welfare measures are being undertaken. Geological exploration is under way in the Rakhine Yoma. The Heavy Industries Corporation is selling its home electrical appliances through trade corporations as well as department stores and coops; it is producing more electric and fluorescent bulbs and switches, and making six kinds of transformers. Power tillers, diesel-powered and electric waterpumps are sold to official bodies, but to the people only through the Agricultural Mechanization Department, trade corporations, and coops. More local materials are being used. The Kyauktaw sugar mill and Sittwe bran-oil mill have been built in Rakhine State, and bran is sold locally and exported. Feasibility studies are under way for the Sandoway Township pulp and paper mill. The Textile Industries Corporation is buying local cotton.

The "Myadani" oil exploration vessel is working along the Rakhine coast. Production of offshore gas is very expensive and will take time. Some long-distance buses are being converted to LPG and natural compressed gas. State transport organizations are buying and assembling new vehicles, and also striking from the list old and broken down ones; ways are being sought to "use all available vehicles."

The extension of the Tavoy Airfield runway has started. Housing for services personnel is being promoted in densely populated townships, and "observation work" for housing in Pakokku is being arranged. Bridge and road construction "is being carried out depending on the improved, social, economic and security conditions." The Moulmein/Ye/Tavoy/Mergui Motor Road will be a high standard all weather road. The Minbu/An/Tattaung Motor Road will be an all weather road, and construction is in stages. The feasibility of the Sittwe/Ponnagyun/Kyauktaw and Minbya/Myabon/An Roads are being studied.

Action is being taken against tax evaders, including back taxes for three years plus fines equivalent to the unpaid taxes. Efforts are being made to collect taxes in full from private entrepreneurs; collections were Ky 419.08 million in 1986-87 compared with Ky 89.13 in 1976-77. As suggested by a member, arrangements are being made for farmers to repay cultivation loans either in cash or kind.

Discipline in education is being strictly observed. The State has distributed 13 volumes totalling 1.1 million books in townships where victory over illiteracy was achieved. More libraries will be opened. School books are sent to distant regions, including some in Shan State, six months in advance; if they don't arrive books from nearby towns and villages are sent. Arrangements are being made to fill vacancies in Shan State for Primary Assistant Teachers, Primary School Heads, and Junior Assistant Teachers. All Senior Assistant Teacher vacancies were filled in Feb. 1988. Malaria control work, the supply of medicines and medical equipment, and opening more hospitals and dispensaries are priority items. In indigenous medicine, hospitals are opened in Rangoon and Mandalay, plus 89 dispensaries. In sports, training in five areas, including football, has priority. 14 township sports grounds, at a cost of Ky 25,000 each, are being built annually. (WPD 3/19)

Council of State Report

Mar. 14: Secretary of the Council of State U Sein Lwin summarized its seven-chapter report. Chapter 1 reviews laws and ordinances adopted by the Pyithu Hluttaw, and cases of Ward/Village Tract and Township People's Council members prosecuted for crime (18 & 3 respectively), suspended for breaching Section 27 of the People's

Council Law (24 & 28) or Article 187 of the Constitution (1 & 3). Chapter 2 reviews bills and matters submitted to this Pyithu Hluttaw session. Chapter 3 reviews the granting of titles and medals [see Jan. BPS], reorganizations and appointments. Chapter 4 reviews 139 applications to the Council under Article 73(m) of the Constitution, in which 29 decisions were annulled, and 3 applications for pardon under Article 73(o), of which none were granted.

Chapter 5 deals with foreign affairs, reviewing President U San Yu's visits to Yugoslavia, Romania and West Germany, and the approval of three nominations of Ambassadors to Burma and the recall of one Burmese Ambassador. Chapter 6 notes the resignation of the Pyithu Hluttaw member for Mandalay North-West 1 (Mandalay) [Minister for Education U Kyaw Nyein] and the death on Dec. 23, 1987 of U Hi Ha, member for Matupi 2 (Chin).

Chapter 7, "on general matters", notes 10 regular and 1 special Council of State meeting during the report period; the renaming of Mergui West Township (Tenasserim) as Kyunzu Township, and naming the town built on Katan Island in this Township as Kyunzu; authorization for the Indigenous Medicine Practitioners Council to be reconstituted with 7 members; the voiding of some elections under Article 177(a) of the Constitution; the review of offenses by People's Council Members (of 30 such cases, 11 were found to be political, 16 to be of moral turpitude, and 3 to be neither); the review of cases of People's Council members tried during the third term but completed only in the fourth (of 6 such cases, 1 was found political and 5 involved moral turpitude); the Political Pension Scrutiny Committee, had received 14,169 applications as of Jan. 31, 1988, and granted 2,412 and rejected 43 between Aug. 1, 1987-Jan. 31, 1988, leaving a Feb. 1, 1988 balance of 11,714. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 15: The Council of State Report was discussed by seven members. U Di Ja Yaw (Waingmaw) supported staff increases for Soap Factory (1), the Rangoon Institute of Technology and other Institutes, the new College of Economics, and the 150-bed Workers Hospital. U Saw Po Ni (Hlaingbwe 1) approved the laws passed by the October session. U Khin Hla (Oktwin 1) approved previous suggestions about the Television and Video Law, and called for "effective action against violators as the showing of the illegal video tapes would be tantamount to deterioration of morality among youths." Dr. Tin Aung Swe (Mandalay South-East 1) approved Council of State measures "aimed at keeping the socialist democratic principles in the central organs of power more dynamic." U Khin Thein (Thanbyuzayat 2) supported strengthening of the 1974 Narcotics Drugs Law. U Maung Maung (Latha) supported increasing the Indigenous Medical Practitioners Association to seven members. Daw Mya Thwin (Labutta 2) called for prompter holding of by-elections. (WPD 3/16)

Mar. 18: Secretary U Sein Lwin responded at length, but generally, to the discussion of the Council of State Report. He pointed out that the various suggestions made were already being implemented. (WPD 3/19)

Council of Justices Report

Mar. 14: Chairman U Tun Aung Hein presented the Council of People's Justices report for the period. The Central Judicial Bodies considered hearing 2,017 cases, admitting 1,454 and rejecting 522.

Central Court. Backlog-1878 cases; newly admitted-1847 cases; judgements-1976 cases; carried forward as pending-1749 cases. Of the pending cases, 999 were criminal (704 in hearing stage) and 750 civil (577 in hearing stage).

State/Division Courts. Backlog-5798; newly admitted-6223; judgements-5774; carried forward-6247 (1993 criminal, 4254 civil).

Township Courts. Backlog-76,042; newly admitted-120,214; judgements-117,664; carried forward-78,593 (72,992 criminal, 5601 civil).

Ward/Village Tract Courts. Backlog-3021; newly admitted-45,274; judgements-45,428; carried forward-2867 (2,214 criminal, 653 civil).

Speed of justice has improved. In the Central Courts, only 29% of

criminal and 10% of civil cases have been pending over six months. This compares with 89% and 42% in the July 1-Dec. 31, 1985 period; the total number of pending cases having declined from 2783 then to 1749 now. In the Regional Courts, 35,521 criminal and 4,297 civil cases have been pending for under 3 months; 17,173 and 1612 for 3-6 months; 12,861 and 1872 for 6 months-1 year; 11,644 and 2727 for over 1 year.

The Central Court inspected 289 cases decided at the regional level, and State/Division courts inspected 1521 lower level cases.

Also, court-inspection committees from the Central Court inspected the Karen and Magwe State/Division Courts and one Township Court in Karen State. State/Division Judges Committees inspected 121 Township Courts. The Chairman of the Council of People's Justices visited townships in Mandalay, Sagaing, Irrawaddy, and Pegu Divisions and Shan State. (WPD 3/15-16)

Mar. 16: The Council of People's Justices Report was discussed by five members. U Mong Hon Myin (Nagmum) complained of overcrowded court facilities and called for new court buildings in some Kachin townships. "The police lock-ups in some townships which are meant for only 10 persons under trial have to keep 60 to 80 persons. The lock-ups were built forty years ago and are in a state of ruin." He called for funds for maintenance and repair of lock-ups. U Suah Piang (Falam 1) said "speedy disposal of cases will be of great benefit to the clients," and endorsed Council efforts to this end. U Khin Maung Win (Zigon) supported the regional Judges Committees' work. U Thein Aung (Salin 2) endorsed tours by the Council Chairman. Col. Tha Tun Aye (Buthidaung 1) endorsed the "effective action" being "taken against staff serving with the regional courts when corruption and malpractices occur." (WPD 3/17)

Mar. 18: Chairman U Tin Aung Hein responded to the discussion of the Council of People's Justices Report. (WPD 3/19) Drafting the Civil Procedures Code (Draft) and Procedures (Draft) necessarily takes a lot of time. Despite delays in cases, the Constitution requires that Judicial bodies must have three members. At township level, many judicial body members, being Party cadres, cannot be on duty full-time as they have other duties assigned them. (WPD 3/20)

In a few townships there are delays "due to voluminous work." It is not possible for courts to sit where the majority of witnesses are, because of problems in transporting the court, the parties, etc. People must understand "that it is their duty to go before court and stand for witness." Deterrent punishments are being meted out to "destructive elements" in accordance with Council directives No. 9 and 10, and higher courts should ensure that this is done. "Sterner punishment however will require amendments to existing laws."

In cases where the Kachin State township courts granted acquittals, the Kachin State Judges Committee sent 85 cases to the Council, between May 1985 and Dec. 1987, for action under Council directive No. 23. Of these, 63 were found to be unsuitable for appeal. The other 20 were sent to the Council of People's Attorneys to appeal under Section 417 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Council of Attorneys has recommended appeals of four of these 20 cases, which were handed down to the Kachin State Judges Committee. The Central Law Office appealed the remaining 16 to the Central court; 8 of these have been judged by the Central Judicial body and sent back with judgements to the courts concerned.

There were 14 cases pending because the accused's address is unknown; 10 of these have been disposed of. For example, when a defendant is ordered to pay money, the decree cannot be executed when he cannot afford to, and "there is no way but to wait till the defendant can afford to pay money."

Regarding time-barred appeals for acquittals, the Council forwarded the remarks of the Council of State to the Council of Attorneys under letter No. 106/a/9/Pa Ta Pha of Nov. 17, 1987, and the Central Court is taking action accordingly.

In only a comparatively few cases did the Central Court cancel acquittals by township courts. The Council takes action against Law

Officers who fail to "point out errors in passing judgement."

Priority is being given to extending township court buildings in Kachin State. Five buildings were repaired from 1984-85 to 1987-88, and 10 are being constructed. A new building for Chipwe Township is being considered, and for Sumprabum and Shwegu the Kachin State Judges Committee should submit evidence of need to the Council. "Compared to other States and Divisions, most of the new court buildings constructed have been in Kachin State." (WPD 3/21)

Council of Attorneys Report

Mar. 14: Chairman U Myint Maung presented the Council of People's Attorneys report for the period. It received and commented on draft laws on National Records and National Archives, Tenants and Land Lease, and Narcotic Drugs. It received and acted on 556 rights cases from the people. It gave 14 legal suggestions to Ministries and the Council of State, and made suggestions on 83 matters submitted to it in advance.

Regarding appeals under Article 112(e) of the Constitution, the Council:

--received 336 requests for appeals against orders of acquittal: 101 were sent to Central Court, 235 rejected, and 2 are pending.

--of 13 pending cases and 63 reference cases, 68 were decided not to create any legal problem, the remaining 8 are being studied by the Central Law Office.

--2 applications for recommendation of appeals against the Court Martials Appeal Court were both rejected.

--of 10 cases (6 new and 4 pending) of permission to send up for trial under Section 92 of the Civil Procedures Code, 4 were approved, 1 rejected, and 5 are pending.

The Council held 13 regular and 6 special meetings during the period. There is authorization to appoint 1374 persons to Central, State/ Division, and Township Law Offices; 1276 have been appointed and there are 98 vacancies. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 16: The Council of People's Attorneys Report was discussed by five members. U Saw San Maung (Thandaung 1) supported the advice given by the Council to Ministries. U Ye Htut (Wuntho) endorsed the Council's actions where "matters are found to have caused the loss of personal rights." U Chit Yi (Mogok 2) noted with pleasure that the Council "this year received 100 more reports on the loss of the personal rights than the previous year." U Aung Win (Moulmein 2) called for more education on legal affairs because "it is found that some committed crimes ...without understanding legal matters." U Kyaw Swe (Ahlone) supported the Council Chairman's tours. (WPD 3/17)

Mar. 18: Chairman U Myint Maung responded to the discussion of the Council of People's Attorneys Report. In response to a suggestion that there were too many appeals, leading to delays, he said the Council has instructed that only "cases where offences are serious and if the decision of the law court is found wrong" should be appealed to the Central Court. (WPD 3/19) In granting permission for cases to be sent up for trial under Section 92 of the Civil Procedure Code, of 10 applications received, 4 have been given permission and 1 has been rejected. In response to a suggestion that prosecution bodies heed the advice of law officers, "instructions have been given for law officers to give advice when needed." In response to a suggestion that regional courts participate directly in some civil cases, "only township law offices, State/Division law offices and the Central Law office are handling cases where the State is plaintiff." Training and legal education of officials was discussed. Only 104 law offices were inspected, of 123 scheduled; efforts are being made to inspect all. Vacancies are being filled according to the work strength of different law offices. In response to a suggestion that "law officers should strive to become ones to be respected and relied on by the people and to carry out their duties rigorously," that is the aim of the Council. (WPD 3/20)

Targets for Production Bill

Mar. 14: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and Finance Thura U Tun Tin presented the 1988 Bill on Targets for Production and Services of the Economic Plan.

After reviewing the history of Burmese economic plans, and the recent deterioration of the international economy, he noted that Burma's external debt "accumulated since independence amounts to a little more than \$3 billion" but, because of currency fluctuations, this has grown to about \$4 billion without any additional loans. Burma is still servicing this debt regularly, despite difficulties.

"That was the reason why we sought the benefit of debt relief associated with least developed countries by applying for such a status." The debt burden has arisen from loans for long-term development projects.

It was possible to meet 20-year plan targets during the 3rd four-year plan, but growth during the 4th plan did not meet the 6.2% annual target. It was 5.6% in 1982/83 and only 3.2% in the last year of 1985/86. The 4th four-plan was adjusted accordingly, but in 1986/87 only 1% growth was achieved against a target of 3.6%. For 1987/88 only 2.2% was achieved against a target of 5%.

In rice production, sown area fell short of targets and there was unfavorable weather and insufficient supply of inputs, so that production fell short of the target. Other important crops improved. Fertilizers and pesticides are subsidized; the loss on fertilizer alone in 1987/88 was Ky 225 million. Irrigation is being expanded, at a cost of Ky 432 million in 1987/88. Nine crops were decontrolled in September.

He discussed livestock and fisheries. In mining, "the existing situation calls for special efforts aimed at raising the production of crude oil...." After summarizing these efforts, he noted that "The short-term measure being taken is the importation of crude oil. The imported crude oil will be processed locally and distributed to satisfy the needs of various development projects under implementation."

The growth target for the 1988/89 Plan has been reduced from 4.7% to 2.3% (GDP). Major sector targets are in agriculture (2.8%), livestock and fisheries (4.2%), forestry (4.0%), mining (12.8%), and industry (2.7%). Total exports are targeted at Ky 2472.4 million, the per capita GDP is to grow 0.4%, per capita income is to remain unchanged from the original plan at Ky 537, while per capita consumption will increase 0.2%.

To achieve a 2.3% growth in GDP, all sectors will have to reach their production targets, and especially agriculture.

In conclusion, the Minister recommended that the targets be adopted, the 1988 plan bill passed, and the annual Report to the Pyithu Hluttaw be put on record. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 16: Seven members discussed the 1988 Bill on Targets of Production and Services of the Economic Plan, and the Report on the State's Financial, Economic, and Social Conditions for 1988-89. U Jonathan (Khawbude) suggested that "efforts be made in all directions so as to meet the Plan Targets." U Gae Tar No (Dimawhso 1) urged further exploitation of natural gas. U Win Maung (Kanbalu 1) urged greater concentration on exports and study of world markets. U Ohn Myint (Bokepyin) urged less loss and wastage so as to increase exports. He also said "Concerted efforts must be made for enabling the consumers to have the commodity of their choice at moderate prices and at their most convenient time." U Mya Maung (Taungdwingyi 1) urged arrangements "for enabling private entrepreneurs to widely engage in commodity production where the State-owned and co-operative-owned enterprises are not able to do so." U Kyaw Maung (Maungdaw 1) noted that as export targets are up concerted efforts are needed to meet them. U San Win (Mawlamyainggyun 2) urged prioritization of imports and the study of world markets to promote exports. (WPD 3/17)

Mar. 18: Deputy Prime Minister Thura U Tun Tin responded to the discussion. The shortfall in economic growth and in investments

is due to developments in domestic and international economic conditions. Declines in paddy and crude oil production led to declines in other areas linked to them. Low export earnings affected industries dependent on imported raw materials. But there is still scope for agricultural improvement.

Members have made suggestions about the fuel oil problem. Efforts are being made to substitute natural gas, methanol, and compressed natural gas for fuel oil where possible. To complete on time projects undertaken with foreign loans, required fuel oils are being imported with surpluses in the foreign project loans. Rehabilitation of existing oil wells is "well underway" and efforts are being made to develop new oil fields.

A member discussed the rise in the general price level due to production shortfalls and petroleum shortages. Though State Economic Enterprise prices have been stabilized, "the level of prices in the outside markets has been on the rise." "The State has been fixing prices and tariffs of [its?] goods and services below cost." Consideration will be given to fixing commodity prices based on production costs. Nine crops were decontrolled.

To increase exports it is necessary to increase production of Burma's traditional exports like rice, teak, minerals and pulses, and to achieve sustained growth in new exports like fish, prawns, coffee, tapioca, and industrial products. There are programs to obtain through counter-trade arrangements the petroleum and fishing vessels needed to expand fish and prawn exports, and to systematically export teak and hardwood from the border areas.

"Cooperative societies and private entrepreneurs are now allowed to trade freely in the domestic sector. Moreover, to enable them to export, the Ministry of Trade has issued notification 1/88 of February 1, 1988. People intending to enter into export trade are to register as exporters, whereupon support will be provided by the Ministry of Trade and other respective organizations. Bank credits will be made available in accordance with the banking regulations." Exports of manufactured goods are also being encouraged, including increasing production of items above domestic needs.

Exports of services are being encouraged, including increased employment of Burmese seamen on foreign ships and entering into barebone charter business to provide them employment. Contacts are being established to provide other countries with doctors, engineers, skilled workers and other needed occupations, and to provide necessary training.

It is necessary to overfulfill the plan targets to make up for the shortfalls during the past two years. Another goal is regional self-sufficiency for food, clothing, and shelter. This includes paddy, oil crops, and beans and pulses, cotton and other textiles, and timber, bamboo, and constructional goods. Education and health are also being promoted. (WPD 3/19)

1988 Budget Bill

Mar. 14: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Planning Thura U Tun Tin presented the 1988 State Budget Bill [full speech published].

He first noted that this year's bill incorporated the new requirements that land revenues be paid in kind rather than in cash.

The 1988-89 Budget Estimates are as follows:

Organs of State Power, Ministries and Departments

Current account: Receipts Ky 7331.4 million; expenditures Ky 6461.8 million, for a surplus of Ky 869.6 million. This includes revenue receipts of Ky 4641.3 million.

Financial account: Receipts Ky 1431.8 million; expenditures Ky 382.4 million, for a surplus of Ky 1049.4 million.

Capital account: Receipts Ky 232.1 million plus the above two surpluses for a total of Ky 2151.1 million; expenditures 2044.1 million, for a surplus of 107 million.

Reserve fund: Ky 100 million

Net Surplus: Ky 7 million

State Economic Enterprises

Current Account: According to the operating ratios set, Receipts Ky 23,448.2 million, expenditures Ky 23,323.7 million, for a surplus of Ky 124.5 million.

Financial Account: Receipts Ky 1640.2 million, expenditures Ky 1420.3 million, for a surplus of 219.9 million.

Capital Account: Receipts Ky 167.9 million plus the above two surpluses for a total of Ky 512.3 million, expenditures Ky 4397.4 million, for a deficit of Ky 3885.1 million to be met by bank borrowing.

Development Committees and Development Organizations

Current Account: Receipts Ky 304 million, expenditures Ky 257.3 million, for a surplus of Ky 46.7 million.

Financial Account: Receipts Ky 40.7 million, expenditures Ky 46.4 million, for a deficit of Ky 5.7 million.

Capital Account: No receipts, expenditures Ky 104.3 million, combined with the other account balances for a deficit of Ky 63.3 million to be met by bank borrowing.

Investments (State Sector)

By Recipient:

--Organs of State Power, Ministries and Departments: Ky 2044.1 million.

--State Economic Enterprises: Ky 4397.4 million.

--Development Committees and Development Organizations: Ky 104.3 million.

Total: Ky 6545.8 million.

By Sector:

--industrial: Ky 1281.4 million.

--transport and communications: Ky 1096.6 million.

--mining: Ky 883 million.

--electric power: Ky 701.9 million.

--agricultural: Ky 700.8 million.

Total: Ky 6545.8 million.

Foreign Exchange

State Foreign Exchange -Receipts and Expenditures: Receipts Ky 6585.4 million, expenditures Ky 6586.2 million, for a deficit of Ky 0.8 million.

Of this, External Trade Account: Export earnings Ky 2472.4 million, import expenditures Ky 4119 million [for a deficit of Ky 1646.6 million].

Overall Position:

The Minister pointed out that in the Government estimate there was a surplus of only Ky 7 million, because of the desire to balance receipts and expenditures. For the State Economic Enterprises, receipts are lower than last year, and the surplus smaller in Current Account. This is because of the availability of key resources including raw materials, fuel, and spare parts, that are dependent on export earnings.

The Minister then turned to the Revised Budget Estimates for 1987-88 [last year]:

Organs of State Power, Ministries and Departments:

The estimated net surplus of Ky 5 million has been revised upward to Ky 12.7 million, because of a Ky 40.4 increase in the current account surplus, partially offset by an increase of Ky 10.9 in the capital account deficit, and a decrease of Ky 21.8 million in the financial account surplus.

State Economic Enterprises:

The estimated deficit (bank borrowing) of Ky 3865.5 million has been revised upward to Ky 4531.3 million, because of increased deficits of Ky 616.1 million in the current account and Ky 76 million in the capital account, partially offset by an increase in the financial account surplus of Ky 26.3 million.

Development Committees and Development Organizations:

The estimated deficit (bank borrowing) of Ky 16.6 million has been revised upward to Ky 42.3 million, because of increases in the current account surplus of Ky 26.3 million and the financial account

of Ky 43.1 million, partially offset by an increased deficit of Ky 95.1 in the capital account.

Foreign Exchange:

The estimated foreign exchange deficit for 1987-88 of Ky 44.2 million was revised upward to Ky 79.7 million, because of an increased deficit of Ky 480.6 million in the trade account, partially offset by increased surpluses of Ky 141.8 million in the grant account and Ky 86.5 million in the loan account, and decreased deficits of Ky 48.8 million in the non-trade account, Ky 0.2 million in the contribution and investment account, and Ky 167.8 million in the Ways and Means account.

The increased surplus of Ky 7.7 million in the 1987-88 revised Government account is due to higher than expected profits tax and land revenues, and lower commodities and service tax revenues and contributions to the State. More was also spent for investment, including Ky 29.7 million for state defence and security, Ky 47.3 million for the Central Forestry Development Training Centre. and Ky 65.1 for roads and bridges.

Bank borrowings by State Economic Enterprises were higher than originally estimated, because export earnings fell short. This reduced imports which in turn reduced production capacity. Some enterprises also sought to stabilize prices, and there were some time and cost overruns.

"Because of a reduction in export earnings, difficulties arose in debt repayment. In the circumstances measures are taken to have Burma endorsed as a Least Developed Country. Consequent on Burma being recognized as such a country some of her external loans would be converted into grants and relief to some extent to the existing debt burden would also be obtained."

Under Section 3(d) of the 1987 State Budget Law, the Council of Ministers approved acceptance of foreign grants and loans over and above the original estimates as follows:

- United Nations: Ky 0.5 million (=US\$ 70,000) for Rehabilitation Programme for Drug Addicts;
- Japan Cultural Program: Ky 2 million (=Yen 45 million) for purchase of research laboratory equipment by the Higher Education Department;
- Federal Republic of Germany: General Commodity Loan of Ky 1.3 million (=DM 0.4 million) for medicines and medicinal equipment;
- Japan: General Commodity Loan of Ky 3.5 million (=Yen 75 million) for medicines and medicinal equipment;
- Germany: KFW loan of Ky 0.3 million (=DM 78,000) for a Vocational Training Centre, Labour Department;
- UNDP: Ky 0.3 million (=US\$ 50,000) for the Manpower Statistics Compilation Project, Labour Department;
- Japan: Ky 10.4 million (=Yen 226.9 million) for the Irrigation Technology Centre, Irrigation Department;
- Japan: Ky 48.6 million (=Yen 1105 million) for the Central Forestry Development Project;
- Japan: General Commodity Loan of Ky 6.3 million (=Yen 136.4 million) for purchase of tools and equipment by the Forest Department;
- Netherlands: Ky 6.4 million (=Fl. 1.9 million) for the Rural Water Development Project, Agricultural Mechanization Department;
- Australia: Ky 2.7 million (=A\$ 0.6 million) for the Special Metal II [gold] Exploration Project, Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department;
- Japan: Ky 65.1 million (=Yen 1488.4 million) for the Road and Bridge Building Project, Buildings, Roads and Bridges Repair and Maintenance Branch (BRBRMB), Ministry of Construction;
- UNDP: Ky 0.7 million (US\$ 95,000) for the Road Research and Development Project, BRBRMB;
- Asian Development Bank: Loan of Ky 6.4 million (=US\$ 0.9 million) for the Rangoon-Prome Road, BRBRMB;
- World Bank: Loan of Ky 10.5 million (=US 1.6 million) for the Construction Industry Project, BRBRMB;

--China: Loan of Ky 71.3 million (=Yuan 38.1 million) for the Rangoon-Syriam Bridge, BRBRMB;
--Switzerland: Ky 2.2 million (=SFr 0.6 million) for the Rangoon-Bassein Road, BRBRMB;
--Japan: Ky 0.6 million (=Yen 14 million) for the Maritime Education and Training Project, Institute of Marine Technology;
--Federal Republic of Germany: Ky 5.4 million (=DM 1.5 million) for the Promotion of Small Scale Industries in the Co-operative Sector, Cottage Industries Department;
--UN: Ky 0.4 million (=US\$ 57,000) for the Vital Registration and Statistics Project, Central Statistics Organization;
--UNDP: Ky 0.5 million (US\$ 68,000) for tools and equipment, National Archives Department.

Of the Ky 100 million Reserve Fund in the 1987-88 Budget Estimates, the Council of Minister approved the spending of Ky 84.8 million, as follows:

--Ky 0.6 million for the Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare;
--Ky 20 million for 9 projects by the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department;
--Ky 17.7 million for the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Village No. 1, Housing Department;
--Ky 20.1 million for machinery and bridge building materials, BRBRMB;
--Ky 26.4 million for the construction of the Rangoon-Syriam Bridge, BRBRMB.

The following have been distributed to the Pyithu Hluttaw members: 1) 1988 State Budget Bill; 2) Tables showing the 1988-89 Budget Estimates in Summary (Book 1). The Minister concluded by asking that the State Budget Bill of 1988 be passed. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 17: Five members discussed the 1988 State Budget Bill before it was passed. U Nai Ba Tun (Kya-in-Seikkyi 2) said that there were State economic enterprises that produced goods and others that rendered services; only if they make a profit can they contribute funds to the State. In 1987-88, 19 State economic organizations lost Ky 1827.4 million. "Efforts should be made not to make any loss." Daw Aye Myint (Natalin 2) noted the drop in imports and said exports should be promoted and "concerted efforts are to be made to be able to import essential items." U Maung Maung (Singain 1) supported the budgeting of a Government operations surplus and reduced targets for State economic organizations. U Ohn Shwe (Insein 2) supported budget estimates for the social sector, education, and health, "to be used in the interests of the people." U Shwe Lay (Taunggyi 2) criticized State economic organization losses and increased bank borrowing, noting that "seven more corporations incurred losses than ...originally estimated." (WPD 3/18)

Mar. 18: Deputy Prime Minister Thura U Tun Tin responded to the discussion, before the bill was passed. He clarified that of 55 State Economic Enterprises, only 27 borrow from the bank to make up deficits; the remaining 28 operate without borrowing. The loans are mostly for working capital and investment. Savings bank facilities have been expanded to reduce money in circulation and thus inflation; savings have grown from Ky 582.4 million in 1976-77 to Ky 7744.6 million in 1986-87. Tax revenues have risen from Ky 2414.8 million in 1976-77 to Ky 4375.2 million in 1986-87. 1987-88 revised estimates are Ky 4521.2 million and 1988-89 budget estimates are Ky 4641.3 million. Measures are being taken to collect all profits taxes.

The Deputy Prime Minister outlined other economic problems and government efforts to resolve them, along the same lines as his discussion of the Targets of Production Bill [above]. (WPD 3/19)

New Ministers Assigned

Mar. 15: The Council of State, by Notification No. 3/88, assigned U Sein Ya as Minister for Transport and Communications, and Dr. Kyaw Sein as Minister for Education. (WPD 3/16)

Council of Inspectors Report

Mar. 15: Member U Aung Kyin presented the report of the Council of People's Inspectors, from July 1-Dec. 31, 1987. In addition to routine business, it held discussions about the paddy, rice, and broken rice balances of the Agricultural and Farm Produce Trade Corporation and Township Co-operative Societies. It confirmed the bonus of Ky 368.44 lakhs to 45,893 workers in 11 State economic organizations under 5 Ministries. It audited 87 departmental and 69 corporation accounts.

Inspections of 9 services organizations under 8 Ministries were reported on, including the Rangoon City Development Committee (Home and Religious Affairs); Universities, degree colleges, and colleges (Education); Irrigation Department (Agriculture and Forests); Fisheries Department (Livestock Breeding and Fisheries); Ceramic plants (Ceramics Industries Corporation; Industry 1); Ywama Steel Mill (Metal Industries Corporation; Industry 1); Bassein-Monywa Highway Construction Project (Construction); Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (Transport and Communications); Agricultural and Farm Produce Trade Corporation (Trade). (WPD 3/16)

Mar. 17: Six members discussed the Council of People's Inspectors Report. Lt. Col. Tha Wai (Pale 2) urged that bonuses granted to workers be paid "within the shortest time possible", as this would help boost production. U Tin Dun (Mergui-East 1) urged organizations to which matters are referred by the Inspectors to attend to them. U Min Thein (Shwekyin) noted that the Ministry of Trade "failed to receive some payments" and urged Trade Corporations to "take measures to recover its loans." U Thaung Shwe (Pyawbwe 1) noted that the Irrigation Department had been unable to undertake some activities because of "delays in payments of the allotments" and materials shortages, and urged that "departments should apply for allotments as early as possible." U Tin Oo (Einme 2) endorsed the inspection of Universities and Colleges, and urged that "the progress made and weaknesses in teaching techniques and administrative work be pointed out." (WPD 3/18)

Mar. 18: U Aung Khin responded to the discussion of the Council of People's Inspectors Report. (WPD 3/19) Some matters "are to be attended to" by the appropriate "organs of power." They are matters relating to: (a) "not meeting value of the Agricultural Mechanization Department" because funds were not received or delayed or equipment not received; (b) dams strong enough so as not to have to be renovated yearly or every 3-4 years; (c) "correctness in bank figures and tables of the taxes collected on water and dam tax collected by Irrigation Department and the Township Land Records Department"; (d) increased fingerling production; (e) "action against those who breached fisheries law, rules and directives"; (f) supervision "to prevent fishery workers from breaching discipline;" (g) expanding prawn exports; (h) increasing production of the Steel Mill (Ywama) to make good 1986-87 losses; (i) timely completion of works financed by foreign loans; (j) "smooth functioning of telecommunications work and the taking of action against unscrupulous public servants; (k) "use of solar power in Kengtung, Phasawng, Hkamti, Sagaing and Pantanaw Townships;" (l) completion of the Second Posts and Telecommunications Project; (m) changes because some State economic enterprises "had to depend on the State loans;" (n) fulfilment of targets plans; (o) promotion of export-import and State economic enterprises; (p) collection of arrears by the Rangoon City Development Committee; (q) filling vacancies in Universities and Colleges "only when teachers are actually needed;" (r) improving skills of University and College teachers "in order to raise the level of education to the world standard;" (s) bad ratios of students to hostels, and students to classrooms, in Universities and Colleges; (t) more training for Co-operative Department clerical staff, supervisors, and officers; (u) recovery of arrears from private enterprises by the Agricultural and Farm Produce Corporation; (v) supervision to "enable workers to enjoy bonuses promptly;" (w)

"remedy the weaknesses of persons and reduce loss and wastage" in government; (x) reporting of "pending cases of matters carried out" between Pyithu Hluttaw sessions. (WPD 3/20)

The Council will send the suggestions to the organizations concerned, and their replies will be forwarded to the members making the suggestions.

On matters for measures to be taken by the Council of People's Inspectors:

-- steps are being taken to fill vacant auditor and other positions as fast as possible;

-- with regard to including "upbringing morals" in the training of auditors, the Council has issued guidelines for auditing and conducts in-service training;

-- The Committees of Inspectors inspect organizations annually, or more often when needed;

-- Note will be taken of suggestions on evaluation of teaching in Universities and Colleges. (WPD 3/21)

Elections Commission Report

Mar. 15: Chairman U Aye Ohn summarized the Report of the Pyithu Hluttaw and People's Councils at Different Levels Elections Commission. There were 136 visits to townships and 1433 visits to wards/ village tracts where by-elections were to be held. Arrangements were made for the fifth by-elections, held between Dec. 26, 1987-Jan. 10, 1988, to fill 610 vacant seats, including 11 State/Division, 108 Township, and 491 Ward/Village Tract seats. Of these 589, or 3 State/Division, 103 Township, and 483 Ward/Village Tract elections, were successfully held. Information on another four State/Division elections "has not been received earlier but now the by-elections could be held and the people's representatives can be elected successfully." So 593 had been "successfully elected in the fifth by-elections."

There were some complaints about the citizenship of people's representatives and some representatives asked for "verification if they were born true citizens or not." Of these, 17 (2 S/D, 2 T, 13 W/VT) were found to be duly elected, and 23 (6 T, 13 W/VT) were nullified, under Article 177(a) of the Constitution. Action was taken against 5 (3 T, 2 W/VT) under Section 59 of the Elections Commission Law for having wrongfully declared themselves eligible. Only eligible candidates should be nominated.

Preparation is under way for the Fifth Pyithu Hluttaw elections. Voters lists and constituency demarcations are to be prescribed in Jan. 1989, so ward/village tract boundaries should be redemarcated if needed in 1988. (WPD 3/16)

Mar. 17: Two members discussed the Elections Commission Report. U Khin Myint (Mudon 2) suggested that only eligible people, in good health and "willing to serve the country with cetana," be nominated as candidates. U Tun Kyaw Sein (Mrauk-U 1) noted visits by elections commissions members at all levels. (WPD 3/18)

Mar. 18: Chairman U Aye Ohn responded to the discussion of the Elections Commission Report. It was suggested that the daily allowances of Elections Sub-Commission members were insufficient. Township and Ward/Village Tract Sub-Commission members receive Ky 5 per day. Government employees get Ky 10 per day while travelling on duty. The Council of State has been asked to approve a Ky 10 rate for Sub-Commission members who are not Government employees. Efforts are made to keep by-elections from being delayed. (WPD 3/19)

Nominations should ensure that candidates are healthy as well as prepared to serve the country. Guidance has been given to eliminate candidates "whose health is not very good" or "are too old and feeble to perform their duty." (WPD 3/20) Candidates are scrutinized to ensure that "the nominee is born of citizen parents" but this takes more time for candidates "who have come from other regions on duty or for settlement." (WPD 3/21)

Hluttaw Question & Reply

Mar. 16: U Maung Maung (Singaing 1) said that when the Construction Corporation took over the construction and maintenance of basic education school buildings beginning with 1986-87, it refused responsibility for substandard ones. Could the townships form school construction committees to take them over, and receive the Department of Education funds allotted to them? Minister for Construction Maj. Gen. Myint Lwin replied that the Corporation was doing maintenance of buildings that met the norms. It could not yet construct some buildings which had received budgetary allotments because of priorities. "School construction committees have no right to use the school repair and maintenance funds. The work can be done only by the construction co-operative in townships." (WPD 3/17)

Narcotics Drug Bill

Mar. 22: Minister for Home and Religious Affairs U Min Gaung presented clarifications on the Bill and Draft By-Law amending the 1974 Narcotics Drug Law and By-Laws. The principle amendments deal with the definition of narcotics drugs, the definition of drug-addict, and questions of possession and trafficking.

Section 2(a) of the existing law includes as narcotics drugs extracts from the poppy plant, coca leaf, and marijuana plant, and articles obtained from processing them, and drugs defined as narcotics by the Government. Narcotics drugs, chemically processed and produced, should also be included.

Section 14 differentiates between confirmed addicts and occasional drug users, and this led to difficulties of interpretation. The amendment will end the distinction, and define a drug addict as one who has not been given permission [to use drugs].

The third amendment concerns selling. Under the present law, one in possession of drugs cannot be convicted for selling and distributing them, regardless of the amounts concerned, if there are no witnesses and he is not arrested red-handed. Therefore, Section 14-a is amended to specify the weights of narcotics drugs which imply keeping or transporting with intent to sell, and Sections 6-a and 7-a provide punishment.

By-laws 2, 59-67, which differentiate between confirmed addict and occasional user are amended. By-law 19 is amended to define the amount and kind of drug that can be kept in possession while performing duties. By-laws 45, 52-54 are amended so that organizations and services personnel assigned by the Ministries can seize narcotics and take action. By-law 57 is amended to allow laboratory tests to be conducted in other [than Rangoon?] big towns. By-law 70-a is amended to specify kinds and units of weight of drugs.

Two members discussed the narcotics bills. Daw Khin Kyi (Mandalay South-West 2) said that it would be very helpful to be able to convict a person found with a large quantity of drugs as having intent to sell, and thus make them liable to 10 years imprisonment or death. She suggested that the units of weight in Section 14-a, which were not familiar to Burmese, be shown with their Burmese equivalents. U Hla Si (Konkyan) said a penalty of 10 years to death should be provided for selling or attempting to sell drugs, and of 5-10 years for possession. The law will be more effective in providing 10 years to death for keeping a considerable amount of drugs in possession or transporting them. The amounts in Section 14-a are stated in unfamiliar metric weights, and Burmese units should be used. (WPD 3/26)

Minister for Home and Religious Affairs U Min Gaung responded to the discussion of the Narcotics Drugs bill and draft by-laws. The weights are stated in international units. Measures will be taken to educate people and officials so that they clearly know about this unit of weight. (WPD 3/27)

Laws Issued

Mar. 22: President U San Yu signed and issued the following laws passed by the 1988 Pyithu Hluttaw, with Numbers as indicated:
-- Law No. 1: "Law amending the 1974 Narcotics Drugs Law";

-- By-Laws No. 1: "By-Law amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs By-Laws";
-- Law No. 2: "Law amending the People's Representatives Allowance Law" [discussion in April BPS];
-- Law No. 3: "1988 Law on Targets in Production of Goods and Services of the Economic Plan";
-- Law No. 4: "1988 State Budget Law". (WPD 3/23) [Texts in Burmese published in subsequent issues. We will seek translations to include in a future issue of BPS. HCMacD.]

LABOR

Peasants Day

Mar. 1: Peasants Day was observed with a mass rally, to which BSPP Chairman U Ne Win sent a message calling on peasants to work "to achieve the political objectives--

--to strive to consolidate and extend the organizational set-up and keep the leadership of the Peasants Asiayone at different levels dynamic;

--for peasants to carry out agricultural production work with might and main for the successful implementation of the economic plan of the State and

--for peasants to constantly join hands with the Pyithu Tatmadaw for ensuring peace and tranquility in the country."

In a feature article by Maung Maung Aye, the background of the Peasants Asiayone was described from the Peasants Seminars established by the Revolutionary Council in 1962, through the 1965 Law Amending the Tenancy Act which abolished tenancy fees, through the Peasants organization of 1969 and the founding of the Asiayone in July 1977. Now it has over 7.8 million members, with 272 Township Asiayones, 8 Township organizing committees, and over 13,000 Ward/Village-tract Asiayones.

Around the country, workers contributed voluntary work in honor of the Day. (WPD 3/2) // Peasants Day mass rallies were held in many other towns. (WPD 3/4-7)

Voluntary Service

Mar. 4: In Sagaing Division, between Feb. 17-27, over 1.5 million people contributed voluntary service digging reservoirs, canals and lakes, raising embankments, etc. 34 out of 38 townships participated, the other 4 "are located in the hill regions." This "is most admirable and inspiring." (WPD editorial 3/4)

Workers Day Plans

Mar. 28: The first meeting of the 1988 Workers Day Celebrations Central Committee was held, and addressed by BSPP General Secretary U Aye Ko [text published]. Among many other general topics, he pointed out that "there is a need to ensure peace and tranquillity in the State while efforts are being made for the success of the economic plans." Workers must cooperate with the peasants and the Pyithu Tatmadaw. (WPD 3/29)

MILITARY

Atrocities Reported

Mar. 4: Mi Mi Lay, 16, lost an ankle to a KNU mine near Lagunpyo village, Papun Township, on Feb. 27. Nan Mya Shwe, 25, lost an ankle to a KNU mine near Myapadaing village, Kawkareik Township, on Feb. 21. (WPD 3/5)

Mar. 10: Shan insurgents entered Monkhai village, Hsipaw Township, Shan State, on Mar. 7 and exploded two hand grenades at the Tabaung Pagoda Festival. Two persons were killed and 13 injured. U Chit, of Maewaing village, Papun Township, Karen State, lost an ankle to a KNU mine while returning from panning gold on Feb. 23. Ko Tin Myint from Thuhtaygon village, Kyaukkyi Township, Pegu Division, was

wounded when his cart ran over a KNU mine on Mar. 1. The KNU DO No. 2 battalion blew up the Shwelaungin bridge in Bilin Township on Mar. 7. (WPD 3/11)

Mar. 21: Two insurgent groups led by Brang La and Kuwa from KIA Battalion No. 250 on Mar. 13 entered Makhwe and Hnin-ei villages in Momauk Township, and burned and robbed them. In Makhwe, 400 households were left homeless and 3497 baskets of paddy and 416 of rice were lost. In Hnin-ei 22 houses were burned, leaving 240 persons homeless. 555 baskets of paddy and 242 baskets of rice were lost. One villager was wounded and 23 abducted. (WPD 2/22)

Mar. 30: KNU insurgents on Mar. 19 entered Innngyi Village-tract, Kawkareik Township, and killed a man and wife. On Mar. 21 they entered Pinchaung Village, Hlaingbwe Township, and burned two houses, with a loss of Ky 44,600. On Mar. 4 KNU insurgents entered Naungbo and Winhpara villages, Hlaingbwe Township; in the first they burned 80 houses, a school, and 20,000 baskets of paddy, and in the second 20 houses, leaving 145 villagers homeless and damage of Ky 900,000. Relief is being supplied. (WPD 3/31)

Insurgents Surrender

Mar. 7: 21 insurgents surrendered with their arms, from Feb. 1-15, 1988. (WPD 3/8) // Mar. 8: 20 insurgents surrendered from Feb. 17-29, 1988. (WPD 3/9) [names and details given]

Kachin Defectors

Mar. 13: A feature article entitled "Escape from the danger of death" by Marang Tu Aung tells of Marla and Bawng Yein, two young Kachin insurgents who defected on Dec. 15, 1987, after shooting fellow insurgent Cho Lay, a Gurkha national who was a disciple of camp commander In Ban La at KIA Naphaw headquarters. (WPD 3/13)

KIA Saboteurs Defect

Mar. 19: Two KIA saboteurs from KIA battalion 254, under the command of former commanding officer Lazein Bawk, gave themselves up in Bhamo on Mar. 15, with mines, grenades, and detonators. The two, Maung Maung (30) and Tin Ngwe (38), had on Dec. 12, 1987 blown up the Bhamo Township Party Unit Office. [photo] (WPD 3/20)

History of Army

Mar. 20: A feature article by Aung Swe Oo entitled "Pyithu Tatmadaw which defends and safeguards the Sovereignty of the State" outlines the history of the Burma army, whose birth was closely linked to the struggles of the peasants', workers' and people's movements, and the Letyone Tatphwes, the Ye Tatphwes, and the Thammani Tatphwes.

Thakin Aung San left for Amoi on Aug. 8, 1940 to arrange for the 30 Comrades who trained in Hainan in 1941. The Burma Independence Army (BIA) was formed in Bangkok on Dec. 26, 1941, and its four columns entered Burma with the Japanese forces. It was replaced on July 27, 1942 by the Burma Defence Army (BDA), which after independence was granted by the Japanese on Aug. 1, 1943 became the Burma Army. On Mar. 27, 1945 the Pyithu Tatmadaw launched the anti-fascist movement, and on July 23, 1945 became the Patriotic Burma Forces (PBF). It fought over 1,000 battles against the fascists' superior forces.

Bogyoke Aung San met with the British at Kandy, Ceylon in Sept. 1945, and the Burma Army was reformed with 5,200 comrades, 300 reserve comrades, 200 officers, and 200 reserve officers from the PBF. After independence on Jan. 4, 1948, insurrections broke out. The Burma Army led by General Ne Win prevented the disintegration of the Union, and fought the internal insurgents. It launched Operations Bayinnaung, Yangyiaung, and Naga-naing against the Kuomintang Chinese troops in 1950-55 and crushed them.

Meanwhile, the government was disintegrating and the feudalists were waiting to take advantage of it. To prevent the Union from disintegrating and to build a socialist society, the Revolutionary Council took control on Mar. 2, 1962 announced the Burmese Way to

Socialism and carried out various stages of the Social Revolution. Nine years later, the First Party Congress was held and changed the Cadre Party into a People's Party. The State Constitution was adopted by referendum on Dec. 15, 1973, and the first elections were held on Jan. 27, 1974, making the State a "Socialist Democratic State in which all power belongs to the people."

In 1968 the Army eliminated insurgents in the delta area with Operations Shwe Lin Yone, Moehein, and Taing Lone Aung, and insurgents in the Pegu Yoma from 1968 to March 1975 with Operations Pyithaya and Aung Soe Moe.

Now the Army and people are crushing the insurgents in the far-flung frontier area. Among the outstanding victories are:

--Operations Ye Min Aung and Ye Man Aung in the north-eastern areas;

--The 40-day Kunlong Battle, Aikkamba Battle, Chushwe-Pangkauk Battle, Point 6041 Hill Battle, Methawaw Battle, Mela Battle, Maw Po Ke Battle, and Wakha, Phalu and Wawlay Battles in the South-East Command area during 1986;

--The Hsihsiwan/Tapang Battle, Mon Paw Camp Battle, Kyuhkok (Pansai) Battle, Mentang Camp Battle, Kunhai Camp Battle, Nawngma Camp Battle, Manhio Camp Battle, and Namhkek Camp Battle in the North-East Command area;

--The battles that resulted in the capture of Madiyang, Kazu, Namsangyang, Jabu, Tabetyang, Naphaw, Pajao, Jahpukawn, Alawbon, Kanbiti, Kambaiti, Lweyinhing and Lejwe Camps in the Northern Command area in 1987. (WPD 3/20)

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda Attacked

Mar. 21: More than 150 KNU insurgents attacked the Kyaikhtiyo Payagon, Kyeegan Pizat Hill, Moksoetaung Payagon and Aung Theikdi Payagon, killing 5 pilgrims and wounding 16, robbing pilgrims and shopkeepers and looting donation boxes, and burning 13 shops and the Fire Services Department building. Army security guards repelled them from the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda platform; one was killed and 8 wounded. (WPD 3/23)

Mar. 26: "SACRILEGE! They have put villages to torch, blown up bridges and trains, looted or destroyed supplies vital for the people's sustenance and wantonly massacred harmless people. Now these brigands and bandits who go under the undeserved political euphemism of 'insurgents' have excelled themselves in their latest affront to human decency. To their well-known repertoire of robbery, extortion, murder, arson and sabotage they have now added sacrilege and desecration." (WPD editorial 3/26)

Mar. 28: A feature article by Sai Sae Naw entitled "The KNU that commits inhuman crime with beastly mentality" gives the history of the Khaikhtiyo Pagoda, and its founding by the King of Deva with a hair given to a hermit by Lord Buddha. It is 15 feet high and built on top of a balancing rock 50 feet in circumference on the Paunglaung Range of the East Yoma in Kyaikto Township, Mon State. Pilgrims must walk seven miles from the motor road to reach it, through 27 camps.

The Mar. 21 attack on the pagoda by KNU insurgents is described in indignant detail. (WPD 3/28)

Armed Forces Day

Mar. 23: A booklet entitled "Pyithu Hnint Tatharde Shithaw Pyithu Tatmadaw" will be distributed free to mark the 43rd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day. [photo]. Defense Services Chief of Staff General Saw Maung visited the Exhibition at Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road. (WPD 3/24) // Mar. 24: BSPP Chairman U Ne Win, President U San Yu, and other officials visited the Exhibition. Exhibits described in detail. (WPD 3/25)

Mar. 27: Armed Forces Day. BSPP Chairman U Ne Win and his wife Daw Ni Ni Myint attended the 43rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day dinner hosted by President U San Yu and his wife Daw Than Shein at President House, Ahlone Road. The dinner was attended by Ambassadors, Military

Attach,s, and top Burmese officials. Following the parade at Resistance Park, U Wisara Road, Chief of Staff of the Defense Services General Saw Maung addressed the troops [full text printed].

Northern Command Statistics

Mar. 24: Between Mar. 21, 1987 and Mar. 20, 1988, under Operation Thurein Tun, 19 battles and 706 skirmishes took place in the Northern Command area. Beginning May 23, the Army captured were the KIA Naphaw (May 26) and Pajao (May 29) Camps (Waingmaw Township), with 42 skirmishes that captured the Kazu, Jabu, Ta Bak Yang, and Namsangyang camps. 40 insurgents were "captured dead", one alive and two surrendered. Also captured were the Simu (communications) and Ghartu Kung (HQ, No. 251 battalion) Camps (July 23); the Hkai Bang Camp (HQ, No. 1 battalion) (July 24); the Loi Yin Hai Camp (No. 3 brigade) (July 27); the Lweje Camp (blackmarketeering center) (July 30). They also captured the Sadung and Maw Shwi Camps (600 KIA from No. 3 brigade) (Sept. 17).

The Army captured the BCP Kambaiti, Sinjai, and Luhtawng Camps (HQ, 101 military region) (Aug. 15); the KIA A Law Pum Camp (HQ No. 251 battalion) (Aug. 16); the Kharuzup Camp (No. 2 brigade) (Oct. 28); the Singnan Camp (Nov. 3); the Her Sheik Taw Nyo Camp (Naga insurgents central HQ) and the brigade Kyu Yang Nauk Nyo Camp (Nov. 5); the KIA Wah Tau and San Ta Bum Camps (HQ No. 3 battalion) (Dec. 9); the Law Kawng Bum Camp (No. 1 brigade) and Ka Ya Yang Camp (HQ No. 255 battalion) (Feb. 21, 1988); the Naw Ku Yang Camp (HQ No. 4 battalion) (Mar. 1); the Rangh Pang and Hting Nan Camps (No. 7 battalion) (Mar. 4); the BCP Nat Saung Puk Camp (HQ No. 2 battalion, No. 101 unit) (Feb. 19).

During the period, 376 insurgents were "captured dead", 97 captured alive, and 157 surrendered. 555 weapons and other materiel were captured. [details specified--see National Military Statistics for totals] [map and photos] (WPD 3/15)

KIA Attacked

Mar. 24: The Army attacked the KIA No. 1 brigade and battalion HQ camps beginning Feb. 21. It captured the camps [noted in article above] from Feb. 21-Mar. 5. There were 17 clashes, and Army losses were one killed and two wounded. Five KIA bodies were seized and two captured alive. 29 weapons were captured and 8.5 acres of opium poppy destroyed. [map and photo] (WPD 3/25)

North-East Command Statistics

Mar. 25: In the North-East Command area the Army, under Operation Aung Hein Moe, was involved in two major battles and 711 skirmishes between Mar. 21, 1987 and Mar. 20, 1988.

On Sept. 16, the Army attacked 100 Palaung insurgents in their temporary headquarters near Htar-chet (a) Guwai village, Namhsan Township (Shan State). Seven insurgents were killed; no Army losses. Captured were 13 weapons, two walkie-talkies, ammunition, mines, and hand grenades.

The No. 99 Light Infantry Division (LID) from May 31-June 21 attacked the BCP No. 1 brigade and Nos. 801, 804, 3037, and 4048 battalions, and the KIA No. 4 brigade and No. 2 battalion in Mongpaw, Mongya and Monghwam. There were 15 skirmishes, and the Army captured the Khaphauk camp (KIA No. 2 battalion stronghold). Two soldiers were killed, and 12 insurgents were killed, seven captured, and six surrendered. Weapons and materiel [specified] were captured.

Overall during the year in the North-East Command area, 204 insurgents were "captured dead", 56 were captured alive, and 59 surrendered. 363 arms were captured, and other materiel. [details specified--see National Military Statistics for totals] [map and photos] (WPD 3/25)

Eastern Command Statistics

Mar. 25: The Army under Operation Kyaw Naing Soe in the Eastern Command Area between Mar. 21, 1987 and Mar. 20, 1988 was in

two major battles and 686 skirmishes.

On July 13 the Army captured the Karenni insurgents Pale and Namon camps in Bawlake Township (Kayah State), clashing twice with 40 insurgents. 13 insurgents were killed and five weapons seized; no Army losses. The camps were again attacked on Oct. 21, and captured after a skirmish with 35 Karenni insurgents. Two army soldiers were wounded; 12 insurgents were killed, and eight weapons, a walkie-talkie and ammunition captured.

On April 15-22 the 88 Light Infantry Division clashed five times with 200 SSA and "Wa" insurgents at Mahainkao in Mongton Township. One soldier was killed. Ten insurgents were killed and four weapons seized.

In the Eastern Command during the year, 513 insurgents were "captured dead", 89 captured alive, and 177 surrendered. 498 arms and other materiel were captured. [details specified--see National Military Statistics for totals] [map and photos] (WPD 3/25)

South-East Command Statistics

Mar. 25: Under Operation Zwe Aung Lin the Army in the South-East Command, between Mar. 21, 1987 and Mar. 20, 1988 was in two major battles and 1057 skirmishes.

On May 26-27 the Army captured the KNU Nahitaung Camp, Yebyu Township, killing 11 insurgents, and capturing 27 arms. One soldier died and two were wounded.

On July 1, the 44 Light Infantry Division captured the Thekeya camp, a KNU "toll gate and timber blackmarketing camp", clashing twice with 30 insurgents. Three insurgents were killed and two guns captured. During the year in the South-East Command, 413 insurgents were "captured dead", 84 captured alive, and 77 surrendered. Captured were 418 arms and other materiel. [details specified--see National Military Statistics for totals] [map and photos] (WPD 3/25)

National Military Statistics

Mar. 26: From March 21, 1987 - March 20, 1988, the Tatmadaw fought in 3046 clashes including 35 major battles. 592 soldiers were killed and 1666 wounded.

In these clashes, 1688 insurgents were "captured dead", and 378 were captured alive. The Army captured one 82mm mortar, three 75mm recoilless rifles, 12 60mm mortars, two .5 heavy machineguns, three M7 launchers, three medium machineguns, two 3.5 launchers, five brownny [sic] machineguns, two 57mm recoilless rifles, one heavy anti-aircraft machinegun, 1,871 small arms, 8,916 rounds for large calibre weapons, 186,543 rounds for small calibre arms, 941 mines, 2469 magazines, and 3709 hand grenades.

Also 1252 pieces of TNT (soft), 247 plates of TNT, 1450 feet of TNT wire, 16,105 detonators, 59 communications sets, nine walkie-talkies, seven radio sets, eight transmitter/receiver sets, eight receiving sets, four generators, five battery chargers, three exchange switchboards, 15 maps, 34 engines, 31 electricity generators, six saw mills, three amplifiers, one stone-cutting machine, one water pump, three rice mills, 25 motor vehicles, four motorcycles, 20 powered vessels, nine duplicating machines, 22 typewriters, three television sets, one video deck, four radio cassettes, and two cameras.

Also 23 elephants, 24 horses/ mules, 1451 cattle, 412 teak logs, 600 tons of timber, 6688 baskets of rice/paddy, Ky 845,000 worth of contraband, 11,975.40 viss of jade, 17.21 kilos of heroin, 886.13 kilos of opium, Ky 1,139,625 in cash, 1,019,900 Indian rupees, and 2280 Chinese yuan.

569 insurgents "returned to the legal fold" bringing with them 194 arms.

The Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels are on constant patrol. 132 fish-poaching vessels, 111 blackmarket vessels, and 1409 fish poachers were seized. The value of seized vessels, engines and goods was more than Ky 35.6 million. (WPD 3/27)

Anti-Fascist Military History

Mar. 27: A feature article entitled "The Pyithu Hluttaw in the various stages of revolution" by Khin Maung Myint (Pantanaw) describes military organization in 1945 when the Army rose against the Japanese. There were seven Resistance Regions: (1) Prome, Tharrawaddy and Insein ("Minhla Sithu Tatphwe"); (2) Hanthawaddy, Pyapon and Maubin ("Kyaw Gaung Bala Tatphwe"); (3) Bassein, Henzada and Myaungmya ("Ye Kyaw Thura Tatphwe"); (4) Pegu, Shwegyin and Thaton ("Letya Kyaw Htin Tatphwe"); (5) Moulmein, Tavoy and Mergui ("Zeya Kyaw Thu Tatphwe"); (6) Pyinmana, Toungoo and Meiktila ("Baya Kyaw Htin Tatphwe"); and (7) Thayet, Aunglan, Magwe and Minbu ("Thiri Kyaw Htin Tatphwe").

The Upper Burma Resistance Region under Col. Ba Htoo, the Rakhine Resistance Region, and the Rangoon Resistance Region attacked the fascists in these areas.

The Patriotic Burmese Forces had 15,000 men and the anti-fascist guerrillas had over 80,000. The PBF regiments were Nos. 1 - 7; Set-hmu Let-hmu tatyin (engineering battalion) Nos. 1 - 2; Set-amyauk Tatyin (anti-aircraft regiment) No. 2; and the cadets of the fifth officers training course. Later, Regiments Nos. 101, 102, 103, 104 and 106 fought in the Sittang Valley region.

The fascists had 12 divisions in Burma. The PBF fought over 1,000 battles and killed about 20,000 fascists. (WPD 3/17)

Heroin Chemicals Seized

Mar. 28: Members of the 88th Light Infantry Division on Mar. 18 seized eight 25-litre cans of Benzamide Hydrocarbon liquid and 32 4.5 litre bottles of Hydrochloric Acid, used for refining narcotic drugs, from Loimaw insurgents northeast of Mongkwan village, Monghsat Township. One soldier was killed and five wounded; one insurgent was killed and an M-16 rifle seized. (WPD 3/29)

Brang Seng and Narcotics

Mar. 30: A feature article by Tun Zaw Htwe discusses KIA leader Brang Seng and narcotics. On Mar. 4, KIA insurgents attacked the police station of Mansi Township in Kachin State and took some heroin and 13 viss of opium being held as court evidence. The story was rapidly inflated until on Mar. 14 a foreign radio station said the KIA had captured 5,000 pounds of opium from a Burma Army regiment.

KIA head Brang Seng has opened a temporary Ma Da Ta headquarters at the Karen headquarters at Marnepalaw, where he envies Nga Mya's riches. Brang Seng has much wealth from trafficking in jade, opium, and heroin, and is trying "to obtain permission to enter a country so that he and the whole of his family can settle down in a foreign country." To do so, he has concocted the scheme of offering the 5,000 pounds of opium to the United States.

Meanwhile, Brang Seng has wired KIA headquarters that he cannot come back to it, and will send someone to fetch his wife Kaw Maing. His daughter Marang Jar Nang is also to come anyway with her school papers. His eldest son Seng Gu is already studying in North America. "His plan is to get permitted to enter the United States using his 'opium', and to take his daughter along with him."

Marang Jar Nang graduated in English from Mandalay University in 1983 and became a teacher in Myitkyina. She married a Moslem teacher, U Tin Win; Brang Seng was so angry that he had Saya Tin Win killed.

"In short, Brang Seng...made up the story of capturing over 5,000 pounds of opium although the actual figure was 13 viss, with intent to spoil the high dignity and honour of the Pyithu Tatmadaw on the one hand and to use their own opium to get black money as aid so they can take refuge in a foreign country. This is nothing but just evil design." (WPD 3/30)

ECONOMIC

"Promising Pepper"

Mar. 1: Pepper is one of the commonest of spices, and grows wild in Kayah, Karen, Mon, and Rakhine States and Tenasserim Division. In 1964-5 it was grown experimentally as a medicinal plant. In 1983-4 it was cultivated on 516 acres, and the Agriculture Corporation target for this fiscal year is 2,310 acres. It is used both in food and in indigenous medicine, and annual consumption is over 700,000 viss, which requires imports.

Pepper plant cuttings do not produce until the 4th year, but then bear crops until the 25th year. There can be two harvests a year, and each plant produces from 30 ticals to 3 viss of dried pepper, or from 500-750 viss per acre. State farms in Karen, Mon, and Rakhine States and in Tenasserim, Pegu, Rangoon, and Irrawaddy Divisions are growing pepper, and "we are close to self-sufficiency." "...people ought to try to grow pepper where conditions are favourable." (WPD editorial 3/1)

Tin Smelting Production

Mar. 1: The Ministry of Mines No. 2 Mining Corporation Tin Smelting and Refining Mill in Syriam has been producing since 1982. In 1986-87 it produced 632 tons against a target of 600; this year the target is also 600 tons. The tin concentrate is both exported and used by Burmese state corporations. "In the course of exporting tin concentrate, and while the tin concentrate was sold, the tin content was reduced by two percent and since it was found that other metals were admixed, cuts had to be made in the prices as fines, and a charge of 250 US Dollars had to be paid as smelter charges for each ton of tin refined, but these difficulties were passed over, and losses amounting to K 6,150 per ton of tin concentrate were also avoided."

In the smelting residue metals were found, and a research pilot plant is exploring the recovery of copper, bismuth, tin, and lead. Laboratory experiments are also being conducted on recovering valuable metals such as tantalum and niobium from tin slag. (WPD 3/2)

Bee-Keeping

Mar. 4: The Bee-keeping Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries instructs farmers in bee-keeping for pollination. Pollination is done from stationary and shifting stations. The Department has bee-keeping stations breeding local bees in Nawng-hlaing, Thabyeye, and Kyettet villages (Maymyo Township, Mandalay Division); Myitkyina and Putao Townships (Kachin); Dimawhso Township (Kayah); and Thandaung Township (Karen). There are now 50 bee-keeping stations in states and divisions: Kachin (3), Kayah (2), Karen (1), Sagaing (11), Pegu (3), Magwe (4), Mandalay (16), Shan (8), and Rangoon (2). The Department produces honey, beeswax, glue made from honey, and other products. (WPD 3/5)

Hydro Power Station

Mar. 6: A 300 kilowatt mini hydro-electric station was commissioned on Mar. 2 at Man-sung village, Namhkam Township, Shan State. (WPD 3/6)

Co-op Competitiveness

Mar. 9: "Promotion of business and welfare of consumers are the two objectives that co-operative undertakings are trying to achieve. The objectives clearly indicate that co-operatives have to strike a balance between self-interest and consumers' welfare." Co-operative undertakings should be carried out "in a business-like manner." Unpopular, poor quality, goods should be disposed of rapidly at minimum loss. A "friendly and courteous atmosphere" to customers should be created. "Consumer satisfaction is key to improve the competitiveness." (WPD 3/9)

Military Agriculture

Mar. 13: The Pyithu Tatmadaw acts under guidance from BSPP Chairman U Ne Win "to be model in agricultural and livestock breeding activities in order to meet their own requirements as well as the needs of the working people." Units are deeply involved in cultivation of paddy, jute, sunflower and other crops and breeding of fish, cattle, pigs and poultry. Some have repaid loans of over Ky 200,000 in a few years. The South-West Command's Kyonbadok agriculture and livestock and fishery center in Wakema Township reclaimed 1,500 acres of formerly inundated land, beginning in 1977, and are growing paddy, jute and sunflower with two irrigation canals and 12 sluice gates. (WPD editorial 3/13)

Pegu Train Service

Mar. 14: The No. 13-up and No. 12-down trains between Rangoon and Pegu, which had been temporarily suspended, return to normal service Mar. 16. (WPD 3/15)

Pa-an/Thaton Railway

Mar. 27: The Pa-an/Thaton Railway line, linking Karen and Mon States, was inaugurated in a ceremony at Pa-an station. A rail car will provide daily passenger service on the 23-mile line. (WPD 3/19)

Bridge Inaugurated

Mar. 27: The Pantein Man Chaung bridge, Ngaphe Township, Magwe Division, was inaugurated. Construction began in 1983-84, with Ky 2,298,000 from the State and Ky 270,000 contributed by the people. (WPD 3/30)

40 Restaurants Open

Mar. 30: The Restaurant and Beverages Trades Corporation will open 40 new small restaurants on April 1. Similarly, 40 restaurants were opened on Aug. 1, 1987. Another 40 will be opened in 1989-90. (WPD 3/31)

Rainfall in Rangoon

Rainfall since January 1, 1988, in inches, at Rangoon's three weather stations of Rangoon Airport (RA), Kaba-Aye (KA), and Central Rangoon (CR) was:

As of	RA	KA	CR			
March 1	0.08	0.00	0.00	March 15	0.08	0.00
0.00						
March 30	0.08	0.00	0.00			

HEALTH

Drug Addiction

Mar. 5: Studies by the Drug Dependence Treatment and Research Unit at Rangoon Psychiatric Hospital show two completely different patterns of drug addiction.

Traditional opium users are males from rural or suburban areas, have a mean age of 41 and first used opium at 30. Most are below average social class and are manual workers, farmers, or fishermen. Most are married and living with their families. They are ashamed of their addiction, which began with self-treatment of medical problems with opium.

The other group are young male heroin addicts. They have a mean age of 22 years and first used narcotics at 19. They live in cities or towns, and are of above average or upper social class. They began narcotics without expecting to become addicted, out of curiosity or due to friends. Most began with smoking heroin in cigarettes and changed to intravenous use within one year. "Taking drugs as ready pain killers or mere curiosity can easily lead to disaster." (WPD editorial 3/5)

`AB' Blood Needed

Mar. 21: The National Blood Bank needs blood of type "AB" for patients undergoing surgery in various hospitals, and appeals to the public to donate. (WPD 3/22)

CULTURAL

Art Show

Mar. 2: "ONCE AGAIN! NINTH WATERCOLOUR SHOW BY RANGOON ARTISTS. At Judson Church Centre 601 Prome Rd, Rangoon 29th February to 5th March 1988, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Come early for the best paintings." (WPD ad 3/2)

Exam Security

Mar. 3: It is announced that identity cards from the Burma Examination Board will be issued by invigilators to all candidates taking the Apr. 4-9 Basic Education High School Examination. (WPD 3/4)

Konbaung Period Writers

Mar. 7: The fourth in this series by Aung Moe deals with "Seinta Kyaw Thu U Awe and Inyon Minister."

U Awe was born in Maung Daung village, Badon Township, in 1736, a nephew of U Tun Nyo. A prodigy, he attracted royal attention at an early age, and in 1751, at age 15, wrote his "Kawi Lekkhana Thatpon Thanbauk." Compiled in 1787 stanzas, it is not just a spelling guide, but a comprehensive study of words relating to scriptures, as well as on such subjects as San, Ahlinka, Thadda, Byarkrana, Legend, Chronicles and Mawguns. After King Alaungpaya took power U Awe was in 1757 given the title of Seinta Kyaw Thu. He wrote the "Bodawshin E-chin" extolling the new royal family, and separate e-chins on the Pindale Min prince and the consort of the Crown Princess. In 1759 he wrote the "Minset Lingagyi", a verse arrangement, in lingua rhymes, of U Karar's genealogy of Burmese Kings beginning with Abha Raza of Tagaung.

His most important work, written in 1760, was the "Ovadahtu Pyo", on do's and dont's of living, the duties of the people to their masters, the restraints of the wise, industry and diligence, and the proper behavior of kings and courtiers. It is considered more comprehensive than the similar "Gambi Thara Pyo" of Shin Maha-Rattathara and the "Lawkathara Pyo" of Kandaw Min Kyaung Sayadaw. It was his last recorded work, and he died in either 1771 or 1783.

Inyon Wungyi Thiri Uzana, rose from assistant Hluttaw clerk to Junior Minister. Imprisoned after the fall of the Second Ava dynasty, he was later rescued by King Alaungpaya in 1757, and composed the "Lawka Byuha" or "Inyon Sartan" on court protocol and customs. He died soon after. (WPD 3/7)

Mar. 14: The fifth article is entitled "Earlier Writers of Alaungpaya", and notes that the writers treated earlier were really holdovers from the previous era. A few writers, otherwise obscure, appear only during Alaungpaya's reign.

Kyon Wun Bomma Zeya, an early comrade of U Aung Zeya, compiled the "Manu Kye Dhammathat", a compilation of existing laws and earlier rulings. It achieved an enormous vogue, according to Harvey, because of its encyclopaedic nature and because it was written mostly in simple Burmese, rather than in Pali.

Yan Aung Bala (1718?-1768?) was an elder of Tetgaung village who, at the capture of Hanthawaddy, sang an extemporaneous ratu predicting its fall, and was therefore made "The-chin Wun" or Court Bard by Alaungpaya.

Shwedaung Thiha Thu (1708?-1768?), also a soldier-poet, wrote the "Ratna Kyemon Wuttu" court drama, a new form with authorial prose narration and only dialogue in verse. It was intended to be read rather than performed. Unlike earlier wuttus based on Jataka Tales, it was a fictional story of a prince who courted a princess, interspersed with short stories, and "was a fore-runner of present day novels." (WPD 3/14)

Mar. 21: The sixth article considers writers of the reigns of Naung Daw Gyi (1760-63) and Hsinbyu Shin (1763-76).

Shwedaung Nanda Thu was born in Letwe village, Salin, Minbu district, and was a lawyer who wrote under the name of U Hla or U Taroke. He composed the first rakan, branching out from the ratu, including the "New Ngwedaung Rakan" and the "Mwe Noon Rakan." The last tells the Mon legend of Shin Mwe Noon and Min Nanda of ancient Thanlyin (Syriam). When Singu became King in 1776, U Hla was made Sinche Taik Wun (Superintendent of Royal Elephant Keepers?) with the title of Shwedaung Nanda Thu, which stuck with him even when he was made "Anauk Wundauk" (Deputy Superintendent of the Palace Western Apartments?).

Shwedaung Nanda Meik was the son of a comrade of U Aungzeya, and was known as Maung Aung Thu. He served King Hsinbyu Shin as a Court poet with the title of Shwedaung Nanda Meik. He composed an e-chin on each of the King's sons and daughters, and under King Singu Min authored the "Ommar Dhanti Pyo", "Maidaw Maya Pyo", "Kutha Pyo" and "Sanda Kumar Zat-chins." Singu Min appointed him a thandawsin herald, then hlawgar thondaung hmu (commander of the three thousand marines), and then atwinwun.

Best known of the the period's writers was U Hpyaw (1738-88), famous for his "Singu Min Shwe Nar Daw Thwin," later known as the "Paleik-sarr E-chin." He was born in Pekhinn village, Pakhangyi township. Under King Bodawpaya he became Thiri Pandit the Royal Astrologer, and advised him on building Amarapura. He was given as remuneration Paleik village and later Kyauk Yin village in Thaugtha township. (WPD 3/21)

Mar. 29: The seventh in the series on Konbaung Period Writers describes "Singu Min's luckless poets."

Shin Minn was the granddaughter of Hsinbyu Shin's Minister for Cavalry, and she became King Singu Min's Chief Queen. She composed good ratus on the "rains." She was the first author of lay-sit and tay-htat songs in their present forms. She was executed along with the King by King Bodawpaya, when she was about 43.

Wundauk U Nyo composed a mawgun in 1780 in honor of King Singu Min's elephant Shwe Min Phone. He too was executed with Singu Min in 1782.

Atwin Wun Wunna Dhamma Kyaw Htin was a Royal Secretary, born in Pya Thee village, Pakhangyi township, who became tutor to Singu Min, who made him Commander of the Nine Troops of Northern Horse and an Atwin Wun. He compiled the legal "Manu Wunnana Dhammathat" in Pali and Burmese stanzas which became an authorized law code. In his old age he enraged the King and was exiled back to his village as a monk. (WPD 3/29)

Burmese Buddhist Universities

Mar. 10-11: A feature article by Ba Sein entitled "The State Pariyatti Sasana Universities of Burma" discusses education for pariyatti sasana (learning the sacred texts) of Buddhism. The Pariyatti Education Scheme went through three drafts before being approved on June 4, 1982. It has four main points:

"(1) To reform and hold the system of the Tipitakadhara Examination." The 34th Tipitakadhara Examination was held under the new regulations of the Tipitakadhara Examination Working Committee of the Samgha.

"(2) To open the Presiding Sayadaws Training Schools." It was opened in Rangoon.

"(3) To reform and hold the Pathamabyan Examination." It is now being held in accordance with the new regulations.

"(4) To found the two State Pariyatti Sasana Universities, one in Rangoon and another in Mandalay." Regulations have been drawn up to establish them.

The rest of the two part article is devoted to a general discussion of Buddhist education in history, including a number of abortive efforts to establish a Buddhist University in Burma since 1912. (WPD 3/10-11)

Magazines

Mar. 12: Cover of Magazine commemorating the 1988 Mon State Day. (WPD photo caption 3/12)

Graduations

Mar. 12: The Rangoon Institute of Economics held its 23rd Convocation, under Rector Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt. (WPD photo caption 3/13) // Mar. 28: The State School of Fine Arts held its graduation ceremony, with Principal U Thant Sin. (WPD 3/29) // Mar. 30: The 1987-88 graduation ceremony of the State School of Music and Drama (Rangoon) was held, with Principal U Kyi Thwin. 27 students completed the third-year courses. (WPD 3/31)

SPORTS

Table Tennis Championship

Mar. 5: Myint Sein won the 36th National Table-Tennis Championship by defeating Hla Min 3-0 (21-11, 23-21, 22-20) in men's singles. Tun Lin was third. In the men's singles (junior) division, Chit Win upset title-holder Nyein Chan Tun 3-1 (21-17, 17-21, 21-15, 21-12). In men's singles (over 45), defending champion Khin Soe defeated Thein Han 3-1 (19-21, 21-13, 21-13, 21-14). In men's doubles, Kyaw Zaw and Maung Maung Lay defeated Myint Sein and Tun Lin 2-0 (21-17, 22-20). In women's singles Thant Thant Aung beat San San May 3-2 (22-20, 21-19, 17-21, 19-21, 21-8). Prizes were presented by Burma Table-Tennis Federation President Commander Tun Oo (BN). (WPD 3/6)

Mountaineering

Mar. 7: The Hiking and Mountaineering Association (Rangoon Division) asks those interested in scaling the Ashemyin Anaukmyin and Moelonehein peaks in Shan State, in April, to register by Mar. 18. (WPD 3/8)

Nagoya Marathon

Mar. 6: Burmese woman marathon champion Mar Mar Min came in 10th in the 1988 Nagoya (Japan) International Women's Marathon, with a time of 2.41.52. The winner was China's Zhao Youfeng, with a meet record time of 2.27.56. (WPD 3/8) // Mar. 10: Mar Mar Min returned home, with her coach U Robert. Her time was better than the Burma and South-East Asian Games records. (WPD 3/11)

MISCELLANEOUS

Obituaries

Feb. 27: Hajani Mariam Bai, wife of Haji Oosman Loogyi, died and was buried in Tamwe Sunni Muslim Graveyard. (WPD 3/6)

Mar. 7: Daw Khin Pyone, Pilot Pen Co. Ltd. 1959, Ex-Managing Director J.V 4, wife of Thagya U Ba Sein, died at the National Cancer Center in Tokyo, aged 70. (WPD 3/9)

Mar. 12: U Kyee Tin, Retired Deputy Director (News) of BBS, husband of Daw Khin Khin (Retd-RODS) died in Rangoon, aged 73. (WPD 3/13)

Mar. 12: State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Suridabhivamsa Maha Thera, Presiding Nakaka of the Rakhine State Sandoway township Letpanzu village Sasana Pali Theikpan kyaungtaik, vassa 63, died at the age of 83. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 14: State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Visarada Maha Thera, of Sagutaik Mingala-aye kyaung, Mandalay South-West Township, vassa 68, died at the age of 88. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 20: Dr. U Khin Maung Lat, (a) Bhagat Singh Sahny, M.B.B.S., F.R.S. (Edin.), Professor of surgery (Rtd) I.M. (1), husband of Gladys Lat, died in Rangoon at 69. (WPD 3/22)

Mar. 21: Naw Takaw Htoo, daughter of U Saw Kwai Htoo and Naw

Dora, died at the age of 26. Burial in Christian Cemetery, Moulmein. (WPD 3/22)

Mar. 28: State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Leading Nayaka of the Aung Mye Thazi Kyaungtaik, Taunggyi, Agga Maha Panditta Bhaddanta Nandiya Maha Thera, vassa 74, died at the age of 94. (WPD 3/29)

Wedding

Mar. 1: Dr. Mi Khin Khin Soe, daughter of U Ba Nyunt and Daw Hnin Yi of 128 Lewis St., Rangoon, married Dr. Douglas Andrew Kaufman, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kaufman of Kensington, California, at Rangoon. (WPD 3/2)

Crime News

Mar. 4: Rangoon Police on Mar. 1 raided the house of bookie Ko Hla Kyi alias Ko Pauk in North Okkalapa, seizing chehti gambling documents and Ky 11,725 in stakes. Later, 11 of his agents were arrested, along with stakes of Ky 118,163. (WPD 3/7)

Mar. 7: Police from Indaw Township, Sagaing Division, on Jan. 18 raided the house of Tin Ngwe in Kuseik village and seized from one Kyi Thein of Ngaludon village, Katha Township, 20 1-viss packages of raw opium, totalling 32.66 kilos. (WPD 3/8)

Mar. 7: Matron Daw Hla Myint of East Rangoon Hospital is being prosecuted after injections, medicines, and other materials given her for use of hospital patients were found in her house on Mar. 2, where she was selling them. (WPD 3/8)

Mar. 9: A team of Police and restaurant inspectors on Mar. 7 raided Kwema Village, Hlegu Township, and seized Ky 29,880 of illicit liquor along the Kwema Chaung. On Mar. 8 a team seized Ky 10,482 of illicit liquor along the Thitseik Alantaing Creek, Thaketa Township. On Feb. 22 a team searched the Open Air Market near the No. 8 Bus Line Terminus in Insein Township and seized Ky 5,000 of illicit liquor. (WPD 3/10)

By Bicycle to Mandalay

Mar. 5: The final article by Tun Aung recounts U Saw Lin's bicycle trip from Toungoo to Pyinmana (Oct. 19, 1987), to Pyawbwe (Oct. 20), to Kume (Oct. 21), and finally to Mandalay (Oct. 22). There the 76 year-old cyclist was given a rousing welcome by his associates "and the old Thakins." He was tired but healthy after his five-day, 80 miles-per-day trip. The author ascribes Saw Lin's feat to a clean simple life, regular exercise and activity, and "the spirit, the gumption and the toughness to achieve what others would consider almost impossible." (WPD 3/5)

Fires

Mar. 10: Fire broke out in the house of food seller Daw Khartum Bi in U Dawrakha's compound in Ponnagon Ward, Tamwe Township, and destroyed 41 houses, leaving 299 people from 52 households homeless. Bus spareman U Tha Hsat, aged 40, who lived in the compound, died in the fire. (WPD 3/11)

Mar. 25: A fire in Kwanyite village, Chaungzon Township, destroyed 416 houses, 30,000 baskets of rice, five rice mills, and left 2160 people homeless. It spread to four houses in Tawkana village. (WPD 3/27)

Mar. 29: A fire broke out in the Mingala market in Magwe, and destroyed 300 general merchandise sale shops, with a loss estimated at Ky 1,000,000. (WPD 3/31)

Student Killed in Riot

Mar. 14: A brawl broke out on the night of Mar. 12 between two Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) students and five citizens at the Sanda Win tea shop in front of the Insein Township West Gyogon Ward People's Council Office, when two RIT students asked that a cassette tape be turned on. Five townsfolk struck the students with stools, causing injuries. Police were called, and arrested the five.

30 RIT students went to the People's Council, and faculty were

called to bring the situation under control.

A stone throwing fight started at the same place on the evening of March 13, and one RIT student was hurt. 200 students assembled at the People's Council office, and set fire to the West Gyogon Ward consumer's cooperative shop. They prevented firemen from reaching the scene, and four houses and two garages were burned down. Stone throwing between students and civilians continued, and moved to the main Insein Road where the students were dispersed about midnight. Altercations continued on the main road outside the RIT campus, and were only broken up at 3:30 am, Mar. 14.

14 persons were injured, and 10 students and one civilian required hospital treatment. One of them, student Maung Phone Maw, died. Investigations are under way. (WPD 3/15)

Mar. 15: After local people "got worried following the news that some students had formed suicide squads to set fire to... houses", and that others "were causing disturbances to uncontrollable proportions on RIT [Rangoon Institute of Technology] Campus, destroying office building, properties and stationery and even causing harm to the RIT Rector and wardens," police entered the RIT Campus at 3:15 p.m., met with students, and "brought the situation under control."

They "explained to the students that those who wished to go on with their peaceful pursuits of studies would be allowed to do so, that the RIT would remain open till the vacation as usual," that students wishing to go home because of their parents' worries could do so, and "that action would continue to be taken...against some students who had committed disturbances to cause disruption to law and order." Students returned to their hostels. (WPD 3/16)

Enquiry Commission on Riot

Mar. 17: Council of State Notification 45/88 formed Enquiry Commission into the clash between RIT students and townspeople on Mar. 12. It is chaired by Council of People's Justices member U Ba Maw, with Council of People's Attorneys member U Hla Tint and Council of People's Inspectors member Dr. Maung Shein as members. Is to investigate "who caused the death of a student with gun wounds and what kind of gun was used" and report by April 17. It will also make recommendations as to how to prevent similar occurrences.

In a statement, the Enquiry Commission announced the opening of an office at the Central Court Building as of Mar. 21, and invited "anybody from among the working people" to come and tell what he or she knows about the clash. (WPD 3/18)

Rangoon Riots and Looting

Mar. 18: Security forces took action against "those who have been creating disturbances with the intention of looting in the city centre this afternoon." Rioters split into two or three groups. They burned two vehicles of the Hotel and Tourist Corporation near Maha Bandoola Park, another under the Department Store at Pansodan Street, and a bus. They set fire to the ground floor of the People's Department Store (Theingyizay C shed), and intercepted and destroyed a fire engine that tried to put it out. On being detained, rioters admitted "that they had been organized and brought along to create disturbances for the purpose of looting People's Department stores and shops." (WPD 3/19)

Fatal Fire in Lashio

Mar. 20: A fire in Lashio killed 113 persons and destroyed 2096 houses, doing damage estimated at Ky 57.6 million. It broke out in the kitchen of U Chauk Wai Din, a Chinese national, on Lake Road in Ward 5, and gutted 75% of the houses in that ward, 30% in Ward 6, and six houses in Ward 4, as well as two primary schools, rendering 20,566 persons from 3081 households homeless. 64 persons were injured and sent to hospital. (WPD 3/23) // Mar. 23: Relief goods, including household goods for 5000 households, 25 bales of tarpaulin donated by UNICEF, and 15 water tanks donated by UNDP, were sent to

Lashio by road. Director of the Relief and Resettlements Department U Ni Win left for Lashio by train with Ky 200,000 for cash aid. (WPD 3/24) // Mar. 29: 2425 bags of rice, worth Ky 511,000, have been donated for fire victims. (WPD 3/30) // Mar. 30: UNICEF has provided medicines worth US\$ 5829 to the victims. (WPD 3/31)

Elephant to Zoo

Mar. 23: Sayadaw Ashin Pyinnya Lawka and villagers of Mong Kaing village, Homalin Township (Sagaing) have donated a 3-year old female elephant named Shwe Kaing Mae to the Rangoon zoo. (WPD 3/24)

Pyithu Hluttaw Report

Mar. 27: The annual Report to the Pyithu Hluttaw on Fincancial, Economic Conditions in Burma for 1988-89 (in Burmese) is on sale at the Sarpay Beikman bookshop. [Note: English edition usually appears in July] (WPD 3/28)

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