

88-08A

BURMA PRESS SUMMARY

(from the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY)

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This is the second issue for August 1988, beginning where the original one ended on August 5. Thanks to the assistance of the American Embassy in Rangoon, we have been able to obtain virtually complete sets of the Working People's Daily for August and September. (The August 13 issue is missing and August 19 replaced by the Guardian). Because of a newspaper strike, no papers were published in Rangoon on August 25-27. This August (2) issue begins with the issue of August 6.

The mails from Rangoon are now functioning normally, and we have in hand newspapers for September, October, and most of November. The relevant issues will be sent out as soon as we can get them ready.

We are continuing a brief chronology of recent newspaper and radio items concerning Burma that have come to our attention.

Thanks for your patience.

HCMacD.

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POLITICAL CRISIS

Rangoon Curfew Ordered

Aug. 9: Rangoon Command, Military Administration Order No. 6/88, dated August 9, proclaimed a general curfew in Rangoon Division from 8 pm to 4 am. Moreover, all gatherings of five or more persons are banned, and it is prohibited to: "walk, march in processions, make speeches, shout slogans, commit agitational work, [or] cause disturbances with intent to commit acts of violence or crime." (WPD 8/10)

Schools Closed

Aug. 9: The Ministry of Education announced the indefinite closing of "All Basic Education High, Middle and Primary Schools and all Teachers Training Colleges and Schools under the Basic Education Department," as of Aug. 9. The reason cited is that "disturbances makers entered the school compounds and forced or enveighed schoolboys and girls to join them in spite of requests made by the teachers not to do so.... The schools have been closed with a view to ensuring the security of the students, it is learnt."

Bo Ya Naing Interviewed

Aug. 9: Interviewed in connection with reports that he had been arrested for issuing statements in the name of the Patriotic Revolutionary Front, Bo Ya Naing, one of the Thirty Comrades, told a Burma Press representative that he knew nothing about the so-called Front and had made no statements. At his residence on University Avenue, he told the reporter that he was 70 years old and in poor health, and wanted only to live in peace and tranquility. [photo] (WPD 8/10)

Sangha Appeals for Calm

Aug. 10: The Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, in a public appeal, said they "feel sad to hear about what has happened and what is happening" in Burma. They said the Sangha and the laity "should live peacefully within the framework of law and should submit to the government their just aspirations by peaceful means." The Sangha Sayadaws "have requested the government to carry out responsibilities in accordance with the ten duties of rulers and for the people, the Sangha and the laity not to be over-anxious because they cannot have their demands fulfilled immediately but to submit their aspirations for fulfilment peacefully and gently within the framework of law." (WPD 8/11) // Aug. 11: The Sangha renewed its appeal, calling on local Sangha committees to request people and the Sangha to "terminate all disturbances beginning from 12 August." (WPD 8/12)

Bo Taya Interviewed

Aug. 10: Bo Taya, one of the 30 Comrades, denied rumors that he had been arrested for issuing a statement in the name of the Myo Chit Taw Hlan Yay Aphwe. He told reporters he was 72 and in very bad health, wished to live quietly and peacefully, and only heard of the statement only when his nephew showed it to him. He was outraged, and said he thought the statement was the handywork of the moneyed people of Rangoon who wished to exploit the students. He denounced the misinformation currently being broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation, saying that its credibility had sunk very low. [photo] (WPD 8/10)

Government Appeals for Calm

Aug. 12: In statements published in the press, the Prime Minister and the Defence Services Chief of Staff called on the public to heed the Sangha's call for peace and an end to disturbances, so that the urgent need to implement the economic changes decided by the BSPP Extraordinary Congress could go forward. As it is, "the vicious instigation of violent trouble-makers" has disrupted transport, and "the flow of commodities has been interrupted resulting in drastic increases in the price of goods." (WPD 8/12)

BSPP Central Committee Session

Aug. 19: The BSPP Central Committee held its 11th meeting at 8:30 am. It elected Dr. Maung Maung to the vacant seat of Chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Party. U Sein Lwin was allowed to resign as Party Chairman and member of the Central Committee.

In a lengthy speech to the Committee [full text published], Dr. Maung Maung called for reconciliation and for unity to pursue

economic reforms and development. He defended the political system, but called for a "serious effort to listen to the people and to get things done for their benefit." (WPD 8/20)

Pyithu Hluttaw Session

Aug. 13: An emergency session of the Pyithu Hluttaw is called for Friday, August 19. (WPD 8/14)

Aug. 19: The Pyithu Hluttaw met in emergency session at 10:15 am.

Council of State Vice Chairman U Aye Ko discussed the economy at length [full text published], saying that "The two extremes--that of committing adventurism owing to irrational subjectivism and that of trailing behind conditions and solving the problems at random--are to be avoided and the correct answers must be sought out on the basis of the dialectical method...." In particular, he noted the increased role to be given the private and co-operative sectors "in production, trade and commerce of practically all economic undertakings with the exception of teak, petroleum and natural gas, communications, air transportation and railways." In the political area, he referred to the denationalization of newspapers, and said that "local people will be allowed to freely elect their representatives who would truly serve the interests of the locality and the people even if that representative is not a Party member."

Dr. Maung Maung (Mandalay North East 1) and Dr. Mehm Thet San (Chaugzong 2, Mon State) were elected to the Council of State. Dr. Maung Maung's selection by the Council of State as its Chairman was noted, and he was therefore designated as President of Burma under Article 66(A) of the Constitution.

U Thauang Tin (Twante 2) was elected member of the Council of People's Attorneys, and subsequently his designation was approved as its Chairman, [replacing Dr. Maung Maung].

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the action of the Council of State, reported by Secretary U Kyaw Htin, to establish "a commission for ascertaining the desires and aspirations of the people." [reported separately].

The Pyithu Hluttaw heard the report from Council of State Vice Chairman U Aye Ko on Proclamation No. 5 establishing a Military Administration in Rangoon, and approved it; the Proclamation is to be revoked "as soon as normal situation is restored."

Eight members "discussed in support" U Aye Ko's economic report [full texts of discussions published]. U Khin Myint (Mudon 2) called for quick economic reform, but criticized the multi-party system which "was instrumental in bringing about bitter experiences for 14 years to our country from 1949 to 1962." (WPD 8/20)

U Myint Than (Maymyo 2) said public demands were mostly economic. But he that the dissatisfaction and opposition "have their roots in injustice, wrongful acts and corrupted practices suffered by the people...." Youth should participate in the management of youth organizations. But he said measures taken should "solve the problems of the people who have demonstrated peacefully," rather than "those of the leftist and rightist destructive elements and those who have committed crimes."

U Tin Sein (Ngaphe) noted progress, but said that Notification No. 6/87 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests should be abolished without delay, since it continues to exist "despite the fact that cultivation, production and trade of agricultural produce has been freed from all restrictions." He said dissatisfaction "is not due to any ideological defects but that it caused by the shortcomings of individuals including immorality and corruption. The policies which have been laid down are sound enough. The shortcomings and defects appear in the implementation." He recited the weakness of the multi-party system before 1962, in which "not even young school children, young girls or the clergy were left untouched by these multi-hued parties," and said "I do not think that we should return such conditions."

U Khin Maung Swe (Kyaiklat) discussed the causes of disturbances in

Irrawaddy townships, which was the "work of students, poor workers who live in the suburbs and remote villages without regular employment, and services personnel. These are the people who cannot cope with the soaring prices of rice and other personal goods." He noted that rice that used to sell for Ky 3-4 a pyi rose to Ky 7 a pyi after decontrol and to Ky 10 a pyi after the disturbances. "Due to bureaucratic practises and red tape system...there has come about decline in people's faith in the Party and the State. It had come to the stage where change came about only in form and not in essence." He approved the economic reforms and the new Commission to investigate the wishes of the people. (8/21)

U Tun Tin (Htantabin) criticized the demonetization of Ky 75, Ky 35, and Ky 25 notes, saying it "was ineffective and brought no benefit to the people." Democracy and flow of information upward "have been very weak." People's representatives "assigned at divisional and township levels under centralism are not from that particular area. This is one point of dissatisfaction." Many people's representatives are too old, and abide by the principle "Ma-lok-mashok-ma-pyok" or "No work, no involvement, no danger of being removed from work." They only want to get their political pension; this should not be granted after only four years. News media are not believed and "people began to believe the announcements of an external broadcasting corporation as well as on the rumours at home."

Dr. Aye Tun (Buthidaung 2) said the opposition movement was caused by economic and political dissatisfaction. "It is known by all that of the two root causes which constitute economic and political problems, changes are being made in economy. The Vice Chairman...has mentioned how changes will be made in political matters. I suggest to seriously review whether or not the measures being taken by the State...are in accord with and meet the demands of the situation." To lessen tension "suitable political answer must be sought promptly."

U Rakwi Pung (Putao) criticized at length the multi-party system and Burmese experience with it, saying "history witnessed that one-party system was better than multi-party system," and "multi-party system does give democratic rights; but no body gets them." (WPD 8/22)

U Sai Nung Tong (Monghpyak) welcomed economic reform, but condemned the experience of multi-party rule in Shan State. He discussed the "multi-coloured insurgent groups", listing them as: Burma Communist Party; SSA Shan insurgent group; SSA splinter Moe Hein group; Loi Maw insurgent group; Karenni insurgent group; breakaway Ka-la-la-ta group; Kayang insurgent group; Ya-la-la-pha Pa-O (White) group; Ya-la-la-pha Pa-O (Red) group; Palaung insurgent group; Wa insurgent group; BCP lackey Lahu insurgent group; KIA insurgent group; Kuomintang Division 3/5 group. (WPD 8/23)

Moslem Appeal for Calm

Aug. 14: Nine leaders of Islamic Religious Organizations, headed by Grand Mufthi Mahmood Dawood Yusuf, Chairman of the Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam HQ, and Thiripanchi Ghazi Mohammad Hashim, Chairman of the Islamic Religious Affairs Council Headquarters, issued an appeal endorsing the Sangha appeal for calm and for "all the citizens to live peacefully within the framework of law." The appeal followed a meeting with Home and Religious Affairs Minister U Kyi Nyunt. (WPD 8/15)

Commission Formed

Aug. 19: Council of State Proclamation No. 7/88 of Aug. 19 names the following to a Commission for ascertaining the desires and the aspirations of the people to make any investigations it desires through Sept. 30, and report its findings to the Pyithu Hluttaw in October:

Chairman: U Tin Aun Hein (Chairman, Council of People's Justices).

Members: U San Maung (Member, Council of State); U Sai Aung Tin (same); Dr. Mehm Thet San (same); U Ba Nyein (Vice Chairman, Worker's

Asiayone Central Body); U Chit Swe (Vice Chairman, Peasant's Asiayone Central Body); Dr. Tun Thin (Rector, Institute of Medicine, Mandalay); U Hla Tun (Pyithu Hluttaw: Kyauktan 2); U Saw Hlaing (Principal, Henzada College).

Secretary: U Aung Toe (Member, Public Services Selection and Training Board).

Joint Secretary: U Khin Maung Aye (Director-General, Central Court, Council of People's Justices). (WPD 8/20)

Aug. 23: On Aug. 22, the Commission issued a statement requesting public cooperation, and issuing the following preliminary questionnaire:

Politics

1. Should the present single-party system continue....
2. Should there be a multi-party system? If so, should there be a two-party system or a system of more than two parties?

Economics

1. Describe changes, if any, to be brought about [other than those already proposed]
2. State dissatisfactions...with the work being done for fulfilling the people's food, clothing and shelter needs?
3. Describe appropriate ways... for improving the people's livelihood.

Public administration

1. Should the present system continue to be practised?
If...not ...what system should be practiced?
2. Should the present system of administration of justice continue to be practiced? If...not...what kind of a system should be practiced?

General

1. Should a students union be formed? If so, how...? (WPD 8/23)

Health Minister Resigns

Aug. 22: The Council of State permitted U Tun Wai (Yamethin 2), Minister for Health, to resign from the Council of Ministers and the Pyithu Hluttaw as of Aug. 19. (WPD 8/23)

Dr. Maung Maung's Address

Aug. 24: In an address to the nation, Council of State Chairman Dr. Maung Maung advised that the Military Administration orders issued in Rangoon and Prome were revoked as of Aug. 24. While the government had to keep the peace, it was "very difficult to accurately weigh the extent of power to be exercised." It is hard to distinguish between genuine demonstrators and violent looters.

In July, the Party Congress feared that a referendum on the political system would interfere with needed economic reform, especially during the busy rainy season. Party delegates were "so attached to the one-party system that had been promulgated by the will of the people in the Constitution," that the Congress did not accept the referendum. The Pyithu Hluttaw was mostly made up of BSPP delegates, and would have decided the same way. So a commission was formed to ascertain the desires and aspirations of the people, to report to the regular Pyithu Hluttaw session in October. "But it did not turn out like that."

We have therefore made the following new arrangements. An Extraordinary Party Congress will be held as soon as possible, and "the matter of ascertaining the desires and aspirations of the people would be submitted again."

If the Congress refuses a referendum, the following will resign from duty and from the party: I, as Party Chairman; General Secretary U Aye Ko, Joint General Secretary U Kyaw Htin, and Central Executive Committee members U Tun Tin, U Tun Yi, U Chit Hlaing, U Hla Tun, U Ye Goung, U Than Tin, Gen. Saw Maung, Lt. Gen. Than Shwe, U Thit Swe, U Sein Tun, and U Khin Maung Gyi.

If the referendum is approved by the Congress, it will be presented to the Pyithu Hluttaw the next day and held "within a month or so." To implement a multi-party system, Article 11 of the Constitution

must be amended, and this cannot be done without "seeking the wishes of the indigenous people." So people should have patience.

National Referendum Convening Commissions will be formed at all levels, made up of "persons the people can respect and accept," and members of the Council of State, Council of Ministers, etc., will not serve on such Commissions. If the people approve a multi-party system, the Pyithu Hluttaw will be promptly convened to adopt it and to reduce its own tenure so that general elections in which multi-parties can participate can be held promptly. Persons proposed and respected by the people will coordinate the commission to supervise these elections.

In future general elections, I and members of the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the Council of People's Justices, the Council of People's Attorneys, and the Council of People's Inspectors will not stand for election; "only as of duty given under the Constitution will we remain to hand over duties to the emerging organizations." "We had taken part as young men in the nation's independence struggle and we feel happy to have performed all kinds of duties towards the country till now. We should retire when it is time to retire, and we will have [to] give a turn to active youths who come up." He called for all to work together "to fulfill the just and true wishes of the people with metta (loving kindness) and truthfulness." (WPD 8/28)

Extraordinary Meetings Called

Aug. 24: An Extraordinary Congress of the Burma Socialist Programme Party is called for Sept. 12, and an Emergency Session of the Pyithu Hluttaw for Sept. 13. (WPD 8/28)

Referendum Commission

Aug. 26: The Council of State will form a 25-members national referendum commission, to act if the Extraordinary Party Congress approves a referendum on the option between a one-party and a multi-party system. Organizations or associations are invited to submit lists of personalities worthy of being on the commission. (WPD 8/28)

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Oppositionists Address Rallies

Aug. 24-26: Tens of thousands of demonstrators, including Sangha, doctors, nurses, literati, artists, lawyers, students, service personnel, and locals, demonstrated in Rangoon. Workers from all newspapers also took part.

A mass rally in the Padomma Grounds in Sanchaung Township at 4 pm on Aug. 25 was addressed by Ret. Brig. Gen. Aung Gyi, who "called for the peaceful demonstration to achieve democratic rights and urged the people to join hands with the Tatmadaw. He also called for formation of an interim government."

A mass rally at 10 am on Aug. 26 at the western entrance to the Shwedagon Pagoda was addressed by Daw Aung San Su Kyi, daughter of Bogyoke Aung San. She "urged the people to demonstrate peacefully for democracy," and "called for fostering friendship between the people and the Tatmadaw, for achieving democratic rights and the formation of an interim government. [photo]

At a rally in front of the Rangoon General Hospital at 10 am on Aug. 27, ret. Gen. U Tin Oo made a speech calling for "observance of discipline for achieving democratic rights," and called for formation of an interim government. (WPD 8/28)

Students Organize

Aug. 28: The first conference of the All Burma Students Union Central Organizing Committee was held on the site of the former students union building [destroyed in 1962 by the Ne Win government] on the Rangoon University (Main) campus at 11 am, presided over by the temporary chairman of the Students Union. Tens of thousands of students and workers attended.

Former Students Union Executive Committee members U Tha Ban and U Hla Shwe recounted past Student Union activities. Temporary patron U

Aung Than Tin, U Ko Yu of the Rangoon Bar Association, writer Maung Thaw Ka, and film artiste Aung Lwin made speeches. The temporary vice chairman and general secretary spoke on matters "relating to the tasks ahead and revolutionary struggles by the students." Messages were read from Daw Aung San Su Kyi and Rahan-pyo-myar-Ahphwe. The conference closed at 1:30 pm, after which students marched downtown in fives shouting slogans demanding democracy, and dispersed at 5:00 pm in front of the Rangoon General Hospital after singing the National Anthem. [photos] (WPD 8/29)

Aug. 29: University students formed a temporary Executive Committee of the Rangoon University Students Union, with Ko Min Ko Naing as Chairman and Ko Moe Thi Zun as General Secretary, and 12 other members. (WPD 8/30)

Aug. 30: Students at the Workers College formed the temporary Workers College Students Union on Aug. 29. (8/31)

Mass Rally for Democracy

Aug. 29: A mass rally to demand democracy was held in front of the Cardiac Ward at Rangoon General Hospital at 8 am. Writers, artistes, artists and cartoonists gave speeches, and then marched in procession in downtown Rangoon. A similar procession started from the Hospital in the afternoon, including university and institute teachers, followed by students from Rangoon University, the Institute of Technology, the Yezin Agricultural Institute, the Rangoon University Campuses at Botataung, Hlaing, and Kemmendine, Workers College, and highschools. "Tens of thousands of demonstrators shouted slogans demanding democracy." [photos] (WPD 8/30)

U Nu Founds Group

Aug. 29: A group has been formed called "De-mo-cray-si hrint Nyein-chan-yay A-phwe (Ya-yi)" with the declared aim of 1) resolving current problems and 2) helping demonstrators attain their just demand for democracy. U Nu is Patron and Mahn Win Maung is Chairman, with 19 others involved. The group was founded at No. 10, Wingaba Road, Bahan Township, at 10 am Aug. 29. (WPD 8/30)

Sangha Organizes

Aug. 30: The All-Rangoon Rahan Pyo Myar Aphwe has been formed a meeting held at the Chanthagyi Dhammayon at the Rahu corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda. It elected a Central Committee as follows:

Chairman: U Sandawbatha (Myothit Kyaung, Insein);
Vice-Chairman: U Pyinnya Thiha (Thadu Kyaungtaik, Kemmendine);
General Secretary: U Gandhasara (Laykyunsetkya Kyaung, Insein);
Joint Secretary: U Vissudha (Pyathat Kyaung, Bahan);
Members: 25 members of the Sangha [names not given]

After the meeting, 1,500 members of the Sangha marched in procession through the Rangoon streets and gathered in front of the Rangoon General Hospital emergency ward, where they recited metta sutas in memory of rahans, workers, and students "who fell in the struggle for democracy." (WPD 8/31)

DISTURBANCES AND PUBLIC ORDER

Disturbances in Rangoon

Aug. 5: 149 persons were arrested in Rangoon Division on Aug. 4-5. Of these, 105 including two leaders were detained for security reasons (19 students, 85 locals, and 1 civil servant); and 44 for robberies (39 in Insein and 5 {4 locals, 1 student} in Hlaing Township). 7 leaflets, etc., were seized. There was no shooting. (WPD 8/6)

Aug. 6: 27 persons were arrested in Rangoon Aug. 6, including 16 for security reasons (10 students, 4 locals, 2 civil servants) and 11 for looting (7 locals and 4 civil servants). Leaflets, 7 jinglees, 4 knives and 3 catapults were seized. (WPD 8/7)

Aug. 8: There were disturbances in downtown Rangoon and other townships. Rowdy crowds of 3-4,000 gathered at City Hall, Myenigon

junction, and Kamayut Township. Crowds were ordered to disperse by loudspeakers, but no shots were fired. Yesterday 3 looters and 14 demonstrators were arrested; today one looter and 44 demonstrators were arrested. Opposition leaflets, knives, screw-drivers, catapults and jingles were seized. (WPD 8/9)

Aug 9: Security units fired on large crowds in front of City Hall and Shwegondaing. Demonstrators fled after being fired on with 12 bore single barrelled guns around 11:30 pm on Aug. 8; in fleeing they destroyed traffic lights, stoned buildings, burned vehicles, and destroyed over 173 windshields. Some went to the Shwedagon Pagoda platform, where the crowd swelled to about 1,000, causing disturbances. Disturbances continued on Aug. 9, with demonstrators marching through the city shouting slogans. Finally, security forces had to shoot to disperse the demonstrators on four occasions, killing five and wounding 55. 1,451 looters and demonstrators have been arrested, and investigations are continuing. (WPD 8/10)

Aug. 10: Violent mass demonstrations continued, with widespread destruction of public property and the "barbarous decapitation" of police members. The department store of the Thaketa Garment Factory, the Township People's Council office building, and the Thaketa Township police station were destroyed. Other police stations and family lines were destroyed, including those in South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, and Thaketa Townships. Three policemen from North and South Okkalapa [names given] were decapitated by demonstrators, and another was captured. A civilian and a soldier were killed. Two security unit vehicles, at the Institute of Dental Medicine outside the Rangoon General Hospital compound after escorting ambulances to the hospital, were attacked near the emergency ward; security forces fired in defense, killing a male nurse and wounding three female nurses. Security units have had to shoot fifteen times, and details of casualties are being compiled. Incomplete date reports 33 killed and 59 wounded, with 113 violent demonstrators apprehended today. (WPD 8/11)

Aug. 11: Disturbances continued in Rangoon, with the burning of the North Okkalapa Township People's Council Office, Police Station, and living quarters, the Mayangon Township No. 1 Ward People's Council Office, the Thamaing Myothit Railway Station, and 38 buildings of the Thuwunna housing estate in Thingangyun Township. Also destroyed were the Pazundaung Township People's Council Office, the filling station near the South Okkalapa Police Station, the Tamwe Township Party Unit, and traffic lights, rail lines, and rice godowns. Rice godowns destroyed, after rice was carried away, were those of the 100-ton rice mill in Mingala Taungnyunt Township (400 bags stolen), the 100-ton rice mill in Pazundaung Township (10,000 bags stolen), and the rice godowns in the Italian Ward in Dawbon Township. A civilian mistaken for a policeman was beaten to death, and the body of another policeman abducted on Aug. 10 was found between Ahlone and Kemmendine. There was widespread looting at Thitseikkon village, Mingaladon Township, where "violent elements" threatened an attack. 1,000 people demonstrated near the Melamu Pagoda in North Okkalapa Township, but other places were quiet. Security units had to shoot on 18 occasions, and 15 demonstrators were killed and 82 wounded. There was a clash on the Shwedagon Pagoda platform between "students who honestly wished to stage demonstrations" and "unsavoury elements and trouble makers." The honest students decided to leave the Pagoda, and the others then left also. (WPD 8/12)

Aug. 13: Soldiers and workers removed roadblocks in Rangoon, and motor vehicles were moving. People gave food to the security units. 42 people who looted the Neikban rice mill in Kemmendine Township were rounded up. Residents and Sayadaws in North Okkalapa asked the Army for help in maintaining peace and order.

Aug. 14: The Army has brought security to North Okkalapa, and donated 25 tons (500 bags) of rice from its own ration quotas to the populace. Thaketa and South Okkalapa have requested similar military help.

Aug. 16: Three cannibals who killed and ate the flesh of policemen in Nya ward, North Okkalapa, were arrested by the people and turned over to police. [names given]. Warehouses with beans and rice in Waso ward, Dawbon Township, and Trade Department warehouses Nos. 53, 54, and 55 were looted and emptied on Aug. 14, including even their roofs. The Syriam Myoma rice godown was twice raided on Aug. 15, and 60 bags taken.

A draftsman from the Urban Water Supply Project Manager's Office told reporters how he pretended to be a student while leading North Okkalapa disturbances on Aug. 9. The situation in Rangoon and its suburbs is restored to normal, "with the working people going about their business and the ward bazaars being crowded with sellers and buyers." (WPD 8/17)

Aug. 17: Saw Aung, alias Yaung Gyi Bway, recounted in detail how he had led riotous disturbances in North Okkalapa on Aug. 9-11, before being captured by the people on Aug. 12. A dealer in durians, he said he had pretended to be a student, and that he repented his actions. Maung Htay was arrested in Thaketa for killing a policeman at the Thaketa Police Station during riots on Aug. 10. His wife and another woman were arrested as accomplices. (WPD 8/18)

Aug. 18: Peace and tranquillity reigns in Rangoon. (Guardian 8/19)

Aug. 20: The Health Department says that during the disturbances beginning Aug. 8, 379 persons were hospitalized in Rangoon; of them 112 died, 131 were released, and 136 are still receiving treatment.

All is tranquil in Rangoon.

30 "unsavoury elements" on Aug. 19 looted the bran oil mill project building on Kanna Street, Aung San, stealing 40 corrugated iron sheets, 170 pounds of nails, a plain sheet roof, and 5 gallons of paint. (WPD 8/21)

Aug. 21: Police in Insein Township on Aug. 20 arrested 13 looters, tipped off by the people. The same day, 20 persons looted the Khaing Ho Li rice mill of the Agriculture and Trade Corporation near Kamayut Railways Station on Kanna Road, Hlaing Township, and stole 900 sheets of corrugated iron. 50 people threatened a rice godown in Ward 3, Wundwin, but were frightened away. 100 persons waited at a rest house at Myaukkyun village, one mile north of Wundwin, and extorted Ky 100 to Ky 1,000 from each passing car.

Aug. 23: 1,000 people gathered at the Rangoon General Hospital in the morning, and were joined by 100 uniformed doctors and nurses, going on to demonstrate peacefully along Bogyoke Aung San Street, Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Anawrahta Street, and in front of the American Embassy on Merchant Street. Similarly, a crowd of 200, joined by 50 lawyers of the Rangoon Bar Council, demonstrated at the American Embassy. 4,000 others, including onlookers, joined the Embassy demonstration, which grew to about 10,000. Writers and artistes were also involved. The demonstration dispersed peacefully without a shot fired. (WPD 8/24)

Aug. 26: Prisoners at Insein Prison set fire to all the buildings in an escape attempt. Guards fired on them as they sought to climb the prison wall, killing 36 and wounding 105. 2,000 inmates of No. 1 dormitory started the riot and fires. Prisoners under death sentence have reportedly prevented medical personnel from treating the wounded. On Aug. 27, the Minister for Home and Religious Affairs released 655 prisoners in consideration of their good conduct.

Looters stealing roofing from the State-owned Honly Rice Mill godown in Hlaing Township clashed with police, but fled after warning shots were fired. 27 roofing sheets were found on a boat. Other people stole 7,000 gallons of F.O. stoking oil from the Mahlwagon Railway Yard, which was to be transported to Yeni. Another group stole timber on board three cars in the yard. (WPD 8/28)

Aug. 28: 57 were killed and 106 wounded at the Insein Prison riot. Altogether, 4,806 prisoners and "under-trial prisoners" have been released as of Aug. 27. 100 baskets of ziyar paddy were looted from the Pale-myaing Ricemill in Insein on Aug. 27. (WPD 8/29)

Aug. 29: Another 290 inmates (20 convicts and 270 under-trial prisoners) were released from Insein Prison. In addition, 454 Thai nationals, detained under the Immigration and Manpower Act, were released, in co-ordination with the Thai Embassy.

Aug. 30: An additional 102 convicts and 562 under-trial prisoners were released from Insein Prison. Of 454 Thais released Aug. 29, 122 were flown to Bangkok that day, 204 this morning, and 116 this afternoon. Arrangements are being made for the remaining 16.

Peaceful demonstrations continued, demanding democracy, with a rally at Rangoon General Hospital attended by writers, artistes, artists, cartoonists, and vocalists, whose subsequent procession was joined by highschool students and employees of various Departments and corporations. Demonstrators also made speeches at the American Embassy, at the corner of Maha Bandoola and 37th Streets, on Sule Pagoda Road, on York Road, and elsewhere. Markets are busy, and some trains and buses have resumed service. [photos]

A photo shows an obelisk near the North Okkalapa railway overbridge, with a banner reading (in English and Burmese) "Memorial to the Fighters of Democracy" and flying the old (pre-1962) Union of Burma flag.

Looters took 1,000 bags of rice from the Rangoon Division Syndicate of Township Co-operatives Setsan godown, and similarly took 19 drums of cooking oil, 17 empty drums, 3,400 exercise books, 3,200 viss of garlic and 5,200 viss of onions from the Syndicate's godown in Kyaikwaing, Mayangon Township. (WPD 8/31)

Detainees Released

Aug. 7: 80 detainees (11 students, 66 locals, and 3 civil servants) were released from Insein Prison. "The authorities have through interrogation obtained names of those who played leading roles in instigating the disturbances...." (WPD 8/8)

Aug. 16: 51 persons detained in Rangoon on Aug. 8-9 were released from Insein Prison, on the basis of assurances from parents and guardians; 37 were male students, 10 female students, and 4 locals. (WPD 8/17)

Aug. 17: 52 more detainees were released, including 27 students (17 male and 10 female) and 25 locals (13 men and 12 women). (WPD 8/18)

Aug. 18: 62 more detainees were released, of whom 37 were men students, 16 women students, and 9 women locals. (Guardian 8/19)

Aug. 19: 80 more detainees were released, of whom 27 were male students, 21 female students, and 32 locals. (WPD 8/20)

Aug. 20: 73 more detainees were released, of whom 1 was a girl student and 72 were services personnel (68 men and 4 women). (WPD 8/21)

Aug. 21: 100 more detainees were released, of whom 13 were male students and rest locals (25 men and 62 women). (WPD 8/22)

Aug. 22: 100 more detainees were released, of whom 55 were male students, 22 female students, and 23 female locals. (WPD 8/23)

Aug. 23: 100 more detainees were released, of whom 82 were male locals and 18 female locals. (WPD 8/24)

Aug. 26: All detainees held in connection with Rangoon events between Aug. 3 and 25, except those who have committed criminal acts, have been released. In all, 2,750 persons have been released, including 27 members of the Sangha, 597 male students, 147 female students, 1,810 locals (1,588 men and 222 women) and 169 workers (165 men and 4 women). The Sangha members were released "in humble response" to the request by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Also released on Aug. 25 were: U Aung Gyi, U Kyi Han, U Sein Win, U Ba Shwe, U Khin Nyo, U Kyi Maung, U Tun Shwe, U Chit Ko Ko, and U U Aung Myint. Also, U Htwe Myint, held since Aug. 15, was released on Aug. 25. (WPD 8/28)

Disturbances outside Rangoon

Aug. 6: In Pegu, 100 students were dispersed at High School

No. 3 at 10 am, but by 12:45 pm had swelled to 1,000 and had to be dispersed by warning shots. 50 students from High School No. 4 joined 300 residents at the Party Unit office and the crowd, grown to 500, was dispersed by warning shots. 100 students from High School No. 6 went towards Pagoda Road. A loud-speaker car calling on rioters to disperse was attacked on Min Road by demonstrators; police in the vehicle opened fire, killing three and wounding 18.

Demonstrators from a crowd of 70, beyond Dhammayon Street in Thanatpin, attacked and were fired on by police, who killed one and wounded two. Order was later issued under Article 144 of the Criminal Code.

In Yenangyaung, ten students from Rangoon University went to High School No. 1, were joined by 50 students, and went to Myaynekhin Ward. The crowd swelled to 100 and then to 2,000. Order was issued under Article 144. The crowd divided, and went to the People's Council Office and to Shwebontha and Thittabwe Wards, shouting slogans. A Myanma Oil Corporation vehicle was set on fire. Police wounded one person. As of 7:05 pm, 500 were still rioting at the Yenangyaung Myoma police station. (WPD 8/7)

Aug. 7: In Yenangyaung the disturbances are being controlled. Elements who set fire to two police family lines at the police station were dispersed by warning shots. In the morning, a crowd of 300 gathered at Le-paw Kyaung compound, created disturbances in the streets and market, and were dispersed by police fire; they retreated to the compound. 19 have been arrested, two killed, and four wounded. (WPD 8/8)

Aug. 8: Demonstrations took place today in Syriam, Mandalay, Yenangyaung, Minbu, Pakokku, Pegu, Moulmein, Taunggyi, Tavoy, Myitkyina, Sagaing, Bogalay, Shwebo, Toungoo and Mergui. There was violence in Mandalay and Mergui and security forces "had to fire shots." In each of the two towns, two died and six were wounded. (WPD 8/9)

Aug. 9: Demonstrations today were reported in Mandalay, Nyaung-U, Yamethin, Sagaing, Taunggyi, Pegu, Prome, Toungoo, Paungde, Thanatpin, Tavoy, Mergui, Henzada, Monywa, Ye-U, Kawlin, Bassein, Yekyi, Wakema (Kyonmange), Moulmein, Kale, Ramree, Pyinmana, Salin, Yenangyaung, Sittwe, Mogok, and Pyu (Zeyawaddy). In Sagaing, a crowd of 5,000 attacked the police station; police fired back killing 31 and wounding 37. (WPD 8/10)

Aug. 10: Demonstrations subsided following the appeal of the Sangha. In Moulmein a policeman was killed after demonstrators seized weapons from police firing on them. The weapons were then surrendered to the Trustees of the Kyaikthok Pagoda. In Mandalay demonstrations were peaceful after the Sangha's appeal. (WPD 8/11)

Aug. 11: Violent demonstrators in Sittwe captured and beat to death an Army security officer and two men, and seriously wounded a third. (WPD 8/12)

Aug. 13: Strike camps at Pegu's Mahazedi and Shwemawdaw Pagodas, and at Toungoo's Shwesandaw Pagoda, were peacefully folded following the appeal of the Sangha. Disturbances stopped in Kalamyo and Shwebo/Kyaukmyaung. Karen State is quiet except in Pa-an Township. In Mandalay, a worker with a stolen uniform posing as a soldier, joined a monk and a local in addressing 300 demonstrators near the Mandalay Chanmya Thazi Airfield on Aug. 11. (WPD 8/14)

Aug. 14: Planned student demonstrations in Maubin were cancelled, at the request of the local Sangha. Demonstrators in Gyobingauk on Aug. 12 arrested six persons trying to burn government rice and saw mills. The Ya-han-pyo Aphwe handed them over to the Township Security Enforcement Committee, which turned them over to the police [names given]. Authorities in Moulmein invited town elders to meet and discuss ways of ensuring peace and tranquillity. Mandalay has returned to normal. In Chauk the situation is under control, and rice traders have been warned not to manipulate prices. (WPD 8/15)

Aug. 16: Demonstrators in Pegu Myoma State High School No. 2 dispersed peacefully after meeting with Sayadaws and town elders on

Aug. 14. Of the 289 people involved, 104 were from Pegu. 30 persons detained Aug. 4-10 were released.

In Toungoo, 250 demonstrators at the Shwesandaw Pagoda and demonstrators at the Nagayon Pagoda dispersed peacefully on Aug. 13, following meetings with the Sangha and security personnel; Order No. 144 was revoked. (WPD 8/17)

Aug. 17: The man who had pretended to be a soldier in Mandalay on Aug. 11, was arrested Aug. 16 while making a speech, disguised as a medical student, in Amarapura. He is Mya Lwin (20), son of U San Lin and Daw Tin Aye of Tamwe Township, Rangoon. Demonstrators in Moulmein, at the Kyaikthok Pagoda and the Wuttawgyi Dhammayon in Thayagon Ward, dispersed quietly on Aug. 16, following an appeal from religious leaders and town elders. A criminal caught looting in Shwe Myaing Thiri Ward, Moulmein, one Aung Tin, was beaten to death by a crowd on Aug. 12. In Tavoy, a "student" holding funds collected by demonstrators on Aug. 8-10 absconded with Ky 100,000. (WPD 8/18)

Aug. 18: 200 violent looters stole 50 bags of rice and 500 bags of broken rice from the 50-ton rice mill on Strand Road in Twante. (Guardian 8/19)

Aug. 20: Disturbance-makers were beaten up by villagers in Thitkaingta village, north of Pegu, on Aug. 19, when they tried to seize a bus. Three were wounded and the others fled threatening vengeance. (WPD 8/21)

Aug. 21: At a demonstration in Henzada on Aug. 20, a speaker claiming to be the son of a Minister in the U Nu period defended the idea of an opposition party, though the BSPP system was a good one. He called for peace. In Mandalay on Aug. 20, 16 groups and members of the Sangha demonstrated peacefully, though five suspected pickpockets were seized by the Sangha and turned over to police. Sangha members and elders toured Mandalay around the Eindawya Pagoda, urging calm. In Meiktila on Aug. 21, student and Sangha demonstrators at the Chan-tha-gyi Payagyi seized a suspicious character carrying plastic explosives; two others fled. Demonstrators at Monywa, Sagaing Division, have since Aug. 8 taken care to prevent disturbance-makers infiltrating them. In Ye-U, Sagaing Division, peaceful student and Sangha demonstrators on Aug. 20 prevented 200 disguised and armed persons from joining them. In Magwe, on Aug. 20, demonstrators named themselves "Pyi-thu Hsan-da Tin-pya-ye Ahphwe (A group for presenting the wishes and aspirations of the people)." (WPD 8/22)

Aug. 23: In Moulmein, demonstrators in cars rushing security forces were fired upon. Other demonstrators raided and wrecked the Customs Warehouse, stealing some arms, and pushed a Customs vehicle into the water. In Mandalay twelve peaceful groups demonstrated, and commerce functioned normally. The Taung Pyone [nat] festival [near Mandalay] is in progress, with visitors from Mandalay and elsewhere. In Sandoway, demonstrators destroyed the Ward 5 People's Council Office on Aug. 21. In Meiktila, members of the sangha stood sentry. In Taunggyi, demonstrators formed a discipline committee, and decided not to march, but rather to give information to the Commission for ascertaining the desires and aspirations of the people. (WPD 8/24)

Aug. 24: Inmates of Bassein jail rioted, joined by 100 demonstrators from outside, and set fire to jail employees' quarters. Guards fired, killing one prisoner, and about 100 prisoners escaped. (WPD 8/28)

Aug. 26: Inmates of Sittwe jail rioted, while a crowd outside created disturbances. Guards killed six prisoners and wounded 24, and 1,600 prisoners escaped. (WPD 8/28)

Aug. 27: Inmates at Mergui jail fought with jail employees, and 513 escaped. In Pyinmana, an armed crowd of 700 broke into the U Mu rice mill in Mingala Ward, and stole 364 bags of broken rice, 702 bags of bran, and equipment. Another crowd of 300 broke into freight cars at Pyinmana railway station, and stole 640 bags of cement. (WPD 8/28)

Aug. 28: A crowd of 100 broke open the Township Co-operative Society godown in Yan Aung Ward 2, Pyinmana on Aug. 27, and stole

textiles, roofing, 40 bags of rice, and 2 barrels of edible oil. 60 villagers from Pein-ne-pauk village tract, Pyinmana Township, burned down a sawmill owned by U Bo Kyaw, and another owned by U Tin Tun in Kanaphawt-hmyaung village, Mingon village-tract. In Mandalay, some Yebets of the Htonbo Yebet Camp of the Prisons Department set dormitories on fire on Aug. 26, and 79 Yebets escaped; seven of them were recaptured. On Aug. 28, inmates of Mandalay Central Prison rioted; three were killed and two wounded by guards. The total who escaped from the Bassein jail on Aug. 24-25 was 130 (58 men and 72 women); three were killed by guards, and one in an internal fight.

300 persons looted 11,715 baskets of paddy brought by Ye Bayin cargo boat of the Agricultural and Farm Produce Trade Corporation, near Kalaukchaik village, Twante Township, on Aug. 27. Others stole 6,000 baskets of paddy from Rice Mill No. 3 in Sittwe. (WPD 8/29)

Aug. 29: 49 convicts and 38 under-trial prisoners were released from Mandalay Prison on Aug. 28, and an additional 122 convicts and 184 under-trial prisoners on Aug. 29. The Kanthaya fish breeding pond was raided on Aug. 27 by 100 villagers from Yindaikkon village tract, Kyauktaga, joined by another 400, who despite pleas from Sangha members and town elders stole all the fish and 15 ducks, and later stole fowls, fish and a pig. In Pyinmana on Aug. 28, unsavoury elements raided stores and shops and stole goods, and destroyed the sugar mill office east of Shangon, the Agricultural and Farm Produce Trade Corporation office, and the Township Development office, before being dispersed by police. Later, warning shots had to be fired to keep a crowd of 400 from breaking into railway coaches at the Pyinmana Railway Station. A crowd of 500 looted the fertilizer godown of the Agriculture Corporation in Tatkon Ward, Pyinmana, while others looted the oil storage tank of the Township Co-operative Society. Others raided and looted the No. 1 timber shop in Mingala Ward, and the Agriculture Corporation office on the Rangoon-Mandalay highway.

A crowd of 400 was dispersed by police firing shots at the rice godown of the Agricultural and Farm Produce Trade Corporation in Paungde. Later, 200 people looted thread from the Co-operatives warehouse on 18th Street, causing Ky 870,000 of loss.

700 prisoners rioted on Aug. 28 at the Myaungmya Jail, and police fired on 40 trying to escape, killing one and wounding 5. On Aug. 27, two inmates were killed and 13 wounded by guards in a riot at Katha Jail. Three inmates were killed and 4 wounded on Aug. 29 during an attempted jail break from Bhamo Jail. (WPD 8/30)

Two-Way Security Traffic

Aug. 6. Although Rangoon's Aung San, Anawrahta, Maha Bandoola, and Merchant Streets were designated as one way, security vehicles may drive the other way on the left side. Motorists are requested to drive slowly. (WPD 8/7)

False Rumors

Aug. 10: False rumors are being spread by telephone calls to Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committees claiming that 20 monks of the Bahan Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda were shot by security units. (WPD 8/11) // Aug. 11: False news is being spread that security units deliberately shot to death the doctors on Bogyoke Aung San Street in front of the Rangoon General Hospital, as well as that demonstrators at Maydawi Road in North Okkalapa Township were attacked by machinegun fire from an airplane. In fact, the security forces at the hospital fired in self-defense, and inadvertently hit male and female nurses, and the airplane only dropped leaflets ordering the dispersal of a crowd of 10,000 that had surrounded a security unit on Maydawi Road in North Okkalapa. (WPD 8/12)

Aug. 17: The Burma Medical Association said a pamphlet entitled "Announcement of Doctors and Medical Staff" dated Aug. 16, alleging BMA support for speeches by medical staff in Moulmein, Monywa, Pakokku, Mandalay, Myingyan, Toungoo, and other places, was "fabricated and distributed by some politicians outside for their own

interests." At an emergency meeting of the BMA Executive Committee, it was stated that patients at the Rangoon General Hospital were being discharged in accordance with procedures, and new ones admitted; that the BMA has had nothing to do with calling a strike; and that no senior medical personnel plan to resign. The BMA meeting comprised Dr. Tin Oo (President), U Thet Hta Wai (Vice President), U Aung Khin Sint (Secretary), U Nyunt Win (Joint Secretary), U Thein Aung (Treasurer), U Hla Myint {Medical Research} (Joint Treasurer), U Tin Zaw Maung (Secretary) {Social/ Sports}, U Myo Myint {Orthopaedic} (Editor), U Kwaw Lwin and U Thein Nyunt (members), U Soe Tint, U Pe Than Myint, U Kyaw Myint Tun, U Aye Tun and U Khin Tun (Rangoon), and U Kyaw Myint Naing (Work Secretary). (WPD 8/18)

Aug. 20: Only three female nurses and one male nurse were wounded around the Rangoon General Hospital on Aug. 10. Ma Thaug Khin, Ma Sein Sein Yi, and Maung Myo Thant were hospitalized, and Ma San San Aye had only slight injuries. There were no casualties. (WPD 8/21)

Aug. 24: A feature article entitled "Know thy enemy," by Maung Yo Maung blames disorders on "the political and economic wild cats that certain foreign organizations seem to have switched on a well-synchronized plan." It refers to a "broadcasting organization," that "is well known for its feats of a similar nature during the Second World War." This organization has a goal which is "evidently that of regaining their dominant role over this nation and its people much as they had dominated it so many years ago. In other words, they wanted to have a political ideology which they liked and a political puppet figure whose strings they could manipulate." The article goes on in similar vein, without specifying the country accused, concluding: "know they real enemy!" (WPD 8/24)

DIPLOMATIC

Indonesian Show Postponed

Aug. 12: The Indonesian Cultural Show, scheduled to be performed at the Indonesian Embassy on Aug. 13, is indefinitely postponed. (WPD 11/12)

Japan Approves Referendum

Aug. 27: Tokyo: Japan welcomed the Burmese call on Aug. 24 for a national referendum to let the people choose their form of government, according to a Foreign Ministry official speaking anonymously in Tokyo. (WPD 8/28)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Pagan Symposium Ends

Aug. 5: The international symposium at Pagan, sponsored by the Archaeology Department, UNESCO, UNDP, and Sophia University, Tokyo, ended, with six papers presented the final day. (WPD 8/6)

Air Traffic Conference

Aug. 9: ICAO's Asia and Pacific Region sponsored a 3-day meeting at Rangoon airport on regional air traffic services and aeronautical communications, with representatives from UNDP, ICAO, Burma, Singapore, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the East-Asian International Federation of Airline Pilots Association. (WPD 8/10)

Hotels Planned

Aug. 16: Talks are going forward with personnel from Japan, Australia, and Singapore, for the building of new hotels, under "mutually beneficial undertakings" in Rangoon, Mandalay, and Pagan. (WPD 8/17)

FOREIGN VISITORS

China Border Trade Agreement

Aug. 5: Zhu Kui, Vice Governor of China's Yunnan Province, signed an agreement for border trade between the Myanma Export Import Corporation and the Yunnan Provincial Import Export Corporation. Trade will begin in October at Muse in Burma and Shweli in China. Later he called on Minister for Trade U Khin Maung Gyi. (WPD 8/6) // Aug. 7: The Vice-Governor returned to China. (WPD 8/8) //

Aug. 8: Private traders may take part in the border trade, "it is learnt." Contracts will be co-ordinated and signed quarterly. [Burmese] private entrepreneurs may import goods valued at Ky 50 whenever they export goods worth Ky 100. They may only import goods "really needed in the country, and if they are producers they can import machinery and spare parts related to their enterprises and other personal goods." "The remaining 50 per cent will be paid with Burmese currency." Private producers from Shan State and Mandalay Division, and elsewhere, may participate. For information, apply to the Myanma Export Import Corporation. (WPD 8/9)

BURMESE DELEGATIONS

FAO Delegation

Aug. 8. A Burmese delegation left for the 12th meeting of the Asia and Pacific Region Agriculture Sector Statistical Commission of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, being held in Sri Lanka on Aug. 10. The delegation consists of Planning and Statistics Department Director U Maung Maung Bo and General Manager of the Agriculture Corporation Dr. Kyi Win. (WPD 8/9).

BURMA GAZETTE

Appointments

Aug. 17: The Council of State made the following appointments, on probation:

U Tun Lwin, Director, Public Services Selection and Training Department, to be Director-General, Public Services Selection and Training Department.

U Ba Than, Director, Public Services Affairs Department, to be Director-General, Public Services Affairs Department. (WPD 8/18)

Aug. 28: The following appointments were made, on probation:

Col. Tin Oo (BC/8182), Colonel General Staff, Defence Services Chief of Staff's Office (Army), Ministry of Defence, to be Inspector General, Defence Services.

Col. Khin Maung Swe, Director, Metal Industries Corporation, Ministry of Industry 1, to be Managing Director, Metal Industries Corporation.

U Htin Kyaw (La/1012), PPF Adjutant-General, People's Police Force, Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs, to be Director-General, People's Police Force. (WPD 8/28)

Appointments Confirmed

Aug. 28: The Council of State confirmed the following appointments, after one year of probation:

U Than Swe, as Director General, Settlement and Land Records Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

U Than Tun, as Managing Director, Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, Ministry of Transport and Communications. (WPD 8/28)

Appointment and Transfer

Aug. 28: The Council of State, under Article 73(1) of the Constitution, transferred and appointed Brig. Gen. Aung Ye Kyaw (BC/6149), Inspector-General, Defence Services, Ministry of Defence, to be Adjutant-General, Ministry of Defence. (WPD 8/28)

GOVERNMENT

War Veterans Meet

Aug. 8: The Burma War Veterans Organization Central Body held its third annual meeting in the Kyaikkasan grounds in Rangoon. Former Vice-Chairman U Aung Khin was elected as the new Chairman, and Central Executive Committee member U Hla Oo was elected Vice-Chairman. Sitpyan Magazine was published regularly from January - March 1988. In welfare work, Ky 2,710,250 was recommended for 169 Township WVO's to run economic enterprises, and Ky 5,580,750 to 172 Township WVO's "to buy commodities for the welfare of members." Disciplinary action has been taken "in connection with 12 anonymous letters." As of March 31, 1988, funds totalled Ky 2,093,597.40. The Second WVO Conference will be convened at the end of December 1988, rather than in 1990, so Township elections must be held first. (WPD 8/9)

U Aye Ko in Charge

Aug. 15: Beginning Aug. 15, formal national day messages to foreign heads of state are signed by Vice President U Aye Ko. Messages to heads of government and foreign ministers continue to be signed by Prime Minister U Tun Tin and Foreign Minister U Ye Goung. (WPD 8/15) // Aug. 23: President Dr. Maung Maung begins to sign formal messages; Prime Minister U Tun Tin and Foreign Ministry U Ye Goung continue to sign. (WPD 8/23)

By-elections in Thaton

Aug. 14: By-elections were held in Sakhangyi village, Naungkala village, and Tada-U village, Thaton Township, under the supervision of Township Elections Sub-commission Chairman U Thet Naing Oo. (WPD 8/15)

Passport Rules Eased

Aug. 16: Burmese wishing to work abroad, to join workers abroad as dependents, to visit relatives, or to receive medical treatment abroad, may be issued passports promptly. "It is no longer necessary for those applying for passports to obtain a large number of forms and recommendations; they will be required only to fill up 'A' forms, biography data forms and personal assurance forms and submit their applications." Detailed information can be obtained from the Passport Committee office at the corner of Mahabandoola and 45th Streets in Rangoon. (WPD 8/17)

Aug. 17: Whereas Burmese working abroad, and their dependents, who returned to visit in Burma, could only keep their passports for 28 days before returning abroad, they may now keep them for up to 60 days during their visits to Burma.

The Higher Education Department and the Technical, Agricultural, and Vocational Education Departments of the Ministry of Education have made arrangements to issue education clearance to enable those who wish to work abroad to easily obtain passports. Applicants for education clearance need "fill up only one kind of prescribed form, giving personal assurances, and sign it." The forms will be scrutinized only by the department concerned, instead of passing through stages of scrutiny, and clearance will be given promptly "after the cost of study of the person has been paid." (WPD 8/18)

Multi-Party System Denounced

Aug. 18: In a feature article entitled "Experiences of the multi-party system," Saw Han Naing writes from Bangkok to his daughter in Rangoon, criticizing the multi-party system, which can cause disunity in the family, not to mention a nation of many national groups like Burma. Nobody in Burma under 44 really knows anything about multi-party systems, no matter what they say. Multi-party elections in Burma "were largely the battle ground for mutual incriminations," and "what was dangerous and disgusting was that at that time parties had their own pocket armies." (WPD 8/18)

Newspapers Denationalized

Aug. 18: "Public, co-operative and private sectors may publish

newspapers, journals and magazines in accordance with changes in State economic policies and guidelines. Newspaper and magazine publishing houses to be returned to original owners are those of Kyemon newspaper, Botataung newspaper, Myanma Alin newspaper, Guardian newspaper, Hanthawaddy newspaper (whose publication is suspended) and Myawaddy Press. Original owners thereof may contact the News and Periodicals Corporation of the Ministry of Information to accept the transfer back of the establishments. Owners are to carry on taking responsibility for persons employed at these establishments." (Guardian 8/19)

MILITARY

Bomb in Mandalay

Aug. 9: A bomb exploded at the Mandalay Railway Station at 7 am, wounding a casual porter who was taking luggage from a coach on the Mandalay-Myitkyina train. (WPD 8/10)

British Trained Saboteurs

Aug. 9: The Burma Army on Aug. 7 captured three KNU saboteurs near Tavoy, who were planning to attack Tavoy airfield and other installations. Various explosives and weapons were seized. The three said they had been trained by three Britons at the KNU 10 battalion headquarters on the upper Minthami creek in early January. [various details given]. (WPD 8/10) // In the same issue, a feature article entitled "No Servitude Again" by Mahn Aung Toe consists of a fictional conversation between Saw Tha Nyan and Saw Htoo about British imperialist involvement in the assassination of Aung San, imperialist support for the KNU, and the imperialist intent "to recolonize our country." (WPD 8/10)

Insurgents Surrender

Aug. 10: From July 1-15, 22 insurgents surrendered with their weapons. From July 18-31, 21 insurgents surrendered with their weapons. [names and details given] (WPD 8/11)

BCP Bandits Seized

Aug. 18: Passengers in a car from Mong-hsit to Namhsam on Aug. 9 were attacked by five dacoits, and seized two of them who were privates from BCP regiment (082) led by Sai Kyan. (Guardian 8/19)

KNU-Mon Insurgent Clashes

Aug. 21: A feature article by Nai Nay Dun entitled "KNU the bully" discusses at length conflicts between KNU and Mon insurgents since 1948.

On June 19 and 24, 1988, KNU and Mon insurgents clashed over control of the economic area of Payathonzu and Taungbawk 24 villages, and the clashes have "spread throughout the Mon State." The "Mon Pyithit Party" controlled by the Nai Shwe Kyin and Nai Seik No groups has about 100 men, and relies on KNU Karen insurgents. It came into existence at the instigation of the KNDO Karen insurgents in 1948, and acts under Karen control. In 1953 the Mon insurgents demanded that the Karupi, Pa-nga Duya, We-gyi, and Mudon areas be reserved for their activities. But they were expelled by the Burma Army in 1954 and had to move to the Lonsi and Ahnangwin areas of Win Ye Township controlled by Karen insurgents.

In 1957 Secretary Mahn Shan Phalae and Saya Tha Myaing of the KNU met with Mon leader Nai Aung Tun to demarcate a Mon area, and designated the west bank of the Zami River, the western section of the Kya-in-Kawkareik motor road and the southern part of Pa-an Township as a Mon "administrative area," and the area between the Zami River and Win Yaw River up to the Thai-Burma frontier, including the Payathonzu area, as the area of the Mon insurgents group.

However, the KNU always regarded the Taungbawk 24 villages of Mon nationals in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township and the Payathonzu area as

temporary Mon refuges; the Mon insurgents established a central camp and a flourishing smuggling business at Payathonzu. Since 1969, Payathonzu has been the hub of smuggling. It was accessible to the Thabyu and Makkatha mines, and the Mon insurgents prospered. The Karens did not like this.

In 1973, Karen and Mon delegates met to designate the area west of the Moulmein-Ye railway and motor road in Kyaikmaraw Township, up to Ye Township in the south, as the Mon "administrative area;" Mon villages east of the Thanbyuzayat-Ye motor road and the Taungbauk 24 villages as the Karen administrative area; and the Payathonzu area under joint control. KNU insurgents oppressed Mon villages in the western section of Yebyu Township in Tavoy district.

In a meeting with KNU insurgents on May 2, 1987, Mon insurgents demanded that Mon nationals in the Payathonzu area control above and below-ground resources and pay no cultivation taxes, and that Mon and Karen insurgents jointly administer the area. The KNU rejected this. On Oct. 25, 1987, Mon leader Nai No Lar met with KNU (Central) leader Padoh Than Aung and proposed that Mon villages in the western sector of the Zami River be administered by Mon insurgents, and Karen villages by Karen insurgents. This was also turned down.

In another meeting on Feb. 17, 1988, Karens proposed that the Mon insurgents take the area east of the motor road and railway in Thanbyuzayat Township starting from the mountain range up to the border of Tavoy district; that they return to the KNU the Taungbauk 24 villages in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township; that the Mons evacuate the Payathonzu area and the Mon and Karen settlers move elsewhere; for the Mon insurgents to refrain from recruiting; and that the KNU No. 6 make contacts freely with the Tavoy district. The Mons refused, insisting on joint administration of the Payathonzu area, and on the right to organize in Mon villages in Paung Township relinquished by the KNU.

The KNU erected a signboard "Payathonzu Village, Win Ye Township, Kawthoolei" at Payathonzu in February 1988, and formed a new KNU administration. Clashes with Mons developed.

Mon and KNU insurgents met again at Wawle on June 19, 1988, but reached no agreement.

Mon insurgents under Nai Paw-U and Nai Bannya-U attacked the KNU No. 3 company, No. 16 battalion, No. 6 brigade at Wathebyu village on June 24, killing two Karens and wounding two others. On June 25, Karen insurgent Moe Byar attacked the Chetaik toll-gate near Khamon village, killing three Mons.

On June 27, a Karen leader running the Payathonzu area met with Mon leader Nai Pan Nyunt, without result. On June 28, a KNU force from No. 4 company, No. 16 battalion, attacked a Mon outpost near Waythali village. On June 28, a combined force of 100 KNU insurgents from No. 5 company, No. 16 battalion and No. 6 KNDO battalion fought Mon insurgents at Pha-pya village led by Nai Wunna, the Thanbyuzayat Township Mon commander. Four Mon including Nai Wunna were killed and the village burned.

Mon and KNU insurgents clashed in the Payathonzu area July 1, 1988. Over 100 KNU raided the Mon Payathonzue headquarters on July 23-24, and seized a Mon outpost. Mons lost 4 killed and 20 wounded, but continue to defend Payathonzu.

The people should join hands with the Burma Army to "annihilate the two insurgent groups once and for all." (WPD 8/21)

ECONOMIC

Food Distribution

Aug. 5: Rice, edible oil, fish and salt will be distributed to the poor in Rangoon, beginning Aug. 6. (WPD 8/6) // Aug. 7: In Thingangyun Township, rice has been distributed to 64,055 people in 9,483 households in 38 wards of the township, at a price of Ky 2.40 per pyi. 9,912 bags of rice and 128 drums of edible oil have been allotted to Thingangyun Township. (WPD 8/8)

Public Pay Raised

Aug. 9: "Public servants in State employment, factory and mill workers, Tatmadawmen and pensioners" are to have their present level of additional allowance raised, as of Aug. 1, as follows: Starting pay scales: Ky 100-150, 45 kyat; Ky 160-260, 40 kyat; Ky 300-450, 35 kyat; Ky 500-800, Ky 30. Daily wage rates are increased from Ky 6.50 to Ky 8.50. (WPD 8/10)

Construction Expenditures

Aug. 12: According to provisional figures for 1987-88, Ky 3,123.6 million was spent on construction projects, of a projected Ky 3,194.9 million. Of this, Ky 2,722.1 million was in the public sector, and Ky 401.8 million in the cooperative and private sectors. The outlay included Ky 312.4 million for roads and bridges; Ky 335.7 million for mills and factories, schools, hospital, housing, etc.; Ky 184.7 million for dams and embankments; Ky 152.5 million for power lines; Ky 108.2 million for railways, ports, and airports; Ky 7.6 million for mining; Ky 219.1 million for other construction works; and Ky 401.8 for maintenance and renovation in the public sector. Total highways have been extended 56 miles in the year, to a provisional total of 14,533 miles. (WPD 8/14)

Foreign Exchange Accounts

Aug. 16: Burmese seamen working in foreign countries may open foreign exchange current accounts in Burma, from which they may purchase machinery and motor vehicles. Seamen and others have lost Ky 8 million in fraudulent exchanges in the past. The Vehicles and Machinery Stores Trade Corporation will open a showroom to display motor vehicles which may be purchased from these accounts. (WPD 8/17)

Aug. 27: All citizens returning from abroad, and those who have saved foreign exchange abroad and wish to transfer it to Burma, may open current foreign exchange accounts, without time limit, effective Aug. 24. Citizens working abroad may also open current foreign exchange accounts. Work has been done to allow the sending back of items purchased with their savings without difficulty, whether or not an import permit is required. (WPD 8/28)

Cooking Oil Arriving

Aug. 16: A consignment of 3,000 tons of cooking oil will arrive in Rangoon from abroad by the end of the month, to be distributed to the working people. (WPD 8/17)

New Pension Arrangements

Aug. 17: The Ministry of Defence has announced new military pension arrangements. Pensioners drawing monthly pensions of Ky 250 plus additional allowance of Ky 80, for a total of Ky 330, will receive their pensions in cash, and may draw them "monthly, once in every two months, and once in every three months." Pensions totalling above Ky 330 will be paid by cheque. The raised additional allowances announced in Ministry of Planning and Finance Notification No. 69 of Aug. 1 [see above] will also apply to these arrangements. (WPD 8/17)

Rice Prices Stabilized

Aug. 18, etc.: Numerous brief articles from around Burma report meetings with local rice dealers, at which the latter agree to stabilize or reduce their prices.

Private Movie Theatres

Aug. 18: "Private concerns can right away start ventures of public entertainment building cinemas or screening motion picture films, including also in cities." (Guardian 8/19)

Remittances from Seamen

Aug. 18: The number of Burmese seamen sent by the Ministry of Transport and Communications to work abroad has increased as follows:

3,369 in 1982-83; 4,732 in 1985-86; 5,840 in 1986-87; and 6,553 in 1987-88. Their family remittances totalled US\$ 6.26 million in 1986-87, and US\$ 8.22 million in 1987-88. Their import of goods, which brought revenue to the State, increased as follows: Ky 11.51 crores in 1982-83; Ky 31.11 crores in 1983-84; Ky 34.73 crores in 1984-85; Ky 28.73 crores in 1985-86; Ky 30.19 crores in 1986-87; Ky 31.28 crores in 1987-88.

Temporary registration in Burma of foreign ships on bareboat charter was started in Nov. 1986; so far 20 ships have been registered (11 from West Germany; 7 from Japan; 2 from Hong Kong). (Guardian 8/19)

Reconditioned Car Imports

Aug. 18: 1980-86 reconditioned Japanese cars will arrive in September, for sale to "citizens who have legitimate foreign currency credit." (Guardian 8/19)

Irrigation Statistics

Aug. 20: Under the Lower Burma Land Development Project (Phase II) (1979-80 through 1987-88), 92% of embankment work, 76% of drainage work, and 96% of construction work were completed. Eventually, 178,000 acres will be protected from floods.

Under the Kinda Multi-purpose Dam Project (1979-80 through 1987-88), 100% of reclaiming catchment, 70% of reclaiming new catchment area, and 74% of building construction were completed. When finished, the project will supply water to 201,500 acres of land and 322,400 acres of crop area annually, and generate 165 million KW of electricity.

Under the South Nawin Dam Project (launched 1985-86), construction work is under way. When finished, it will supply water to 62,500 acres of land and 94,900 acres of crops.

The Irrigation Project 1 was launched in 1981-82 to supply water pumps. It will irrigate 23,800 acres of land and 43,930 acres of crops.

The Small Tanks Irrigation Project 1 was launched in 1982-83 and the Kinmuntaung Dam in Magwe Division was completed in 1987-88.

The Azin Dam in Mon State was 6% completed as of 1987-88. The project will irrigate 7,850 acres of land and 12,350 acres of crop land.

The Groundwater Irrigation Project 1 was launched in 1983-84, and by 1987-88, 73% of tube well sinking, 70% of water supply system installation, 40% of power transmission line installation were completed; when finished, 20,000 acres of land will be irrigated.

The Irrigation Works Development Training Project was launched in 1986-87; construction is completed and training will begin in 1988-89.

The Pilot Irrigation Rehabilitation Project was launched in 1986-87; it will irrigate 121,000 acres of land. (WPD 8/21)

Agricultural Inputs

Aug. 21: According to 1987-88 provisional figures, 260,000 metric tons of fertilizer were produced in Burma, and 140,000 tons imported, for a total of 400,000 tons. 230,000 tons were used for cultivation of paddy, and 230,000 tons for cultivation of wheat, groundnut, sesamum and sunflower. Organizational work is being done for the collection of natural fertilizers such as green algae and rhizobium.

1.6 million pounds of pesticide (powder) and 15,000 gallons of liquid pesticide were used. Sprayers are being distributed to farmers and co-operative societies; the Agricultural Corporation has 14,047 sprayers in stock.

3.42 million draft animals were used, an increase of 97,000 yoke over the previous year. The Agricultural Mechanization Department used 1,983 tractors to plow 1.0 million acres, or 504 acres per tractor. The Heavy Industries Corporation and the Agricultural Mechanization Corporation sold 9 tractors, 592 hand tillers, and

4,711 water pumps to village co-operatives and collective farmers. Co-operative societies used 3,814 tractors, 412 hand tillers, and 7,182 water pumps. (WPD 8/22)

Wholesaler Rules Eased

Aug. 22: Council of Ministers Notification No. 9/88 and Ministry of Trade Notification No. 3/88, both of Aug. 22, 1988, provide that wholesalers of 16 kinds of beans and pulses and maize (seed corn), monsoon and winter groundnut, sesamum, sunflower and wheat no longer need to be registered or to pay revenues in kind. Instead they will pay revenues in cash; if they are levied in kind, they may complain to the Ministry of Trade. (WPD 8/23)

Co-Operative Statistics

Aug. 22: According to provisional 1987-88 figures, co-operative undertakings produced commodities valued at Ky 4,023.2 million, an increase of Ky 772.8 million over the previous year. 86 more co-operative societies were formed. Producers' co-operative societies made sales amounting to Ky 11,377.5 million. (WPD 8/23)

Sawmills Returned to Owners

Aug. 23: 29 sawmills nationalized by the Timber Corporation, and 56 sawmills run on loan will be returned to the original owners as soon as possible. Persons involved should contact the Timber Corporation Head Office. (WPD 8/24)

Private Contractors

Aug. 23: The construction and maintenance work of the Construction Corporation will be carried out under the contract system, and private contractors may register on the basis of three factors: financial situation, work efficiency, and experience. They will be divided into three categories: 1) those who can undertake work valued at more than Ky 1 million; 2) work valued between Ky 200,000 and Ky 1 million; and 3) work valued at less than Ky 200,000. For details contact the Construction Corporation. (WPD 8/24)

Private Timber Cutters

Aug. 23: The Forest Department will permit private entrepreneurs to extract and produce hardwood and other wood, except for teak. Entrepreneurs should contact the Forest Department Head Office and State/Division Forest Department Offices. (WPD 8/24)

Livestock Breeding Statistics

Aug. 23: In 1987-88, 32 State farms distributed 494 cattle, 85 sheep and goats, 7,753 pigs, 2.8 million fowls and 93,602 ducks to breeders. Breeding farms produced 6.7 million draught cattle, 9.9 million cows, 2.2 million buffaloes, 1.5 million sheep and goats, 3.1 million pigs, 33.5 million fowls, and 6.0 million ducks. The Livestock and Veterinary Department carried out artificial insemination for 74,835 cows and 15,920 pigs. 24.8 million draught cattle, 1.9 million pigs, and 25.8 million fowls were inoculated. Altogether, 2.7 million draught cattle, 0.7 million pigs, and 2 million poultry received medical treatment.

4,209 acres of [new?] pastureland were raised. The Livestock Breeding Corporation and the Farm Produce Trade Corporation distributed animal feed valued at Ky 135.1 million and medicines valued at Ky 8.1 million. (WPD 8/24)

Timber Exports

Aug. 28: A contract for the sale of Burma plywood (hardwood) has been signed with the Windale Eastern Hardware Co. of Singapore. At present, 600,000 plywood [sic] valued at Ky 1.4 million have been exported, and contracts were signed for exporting 600,000 in 1988-89. Negotiations are being conducted with other companies for the purchase of finished products.

Business is being carried out for the export of parquet flooring,

with technical assistance and machinery from Taratip Co. of Singapore, Quality Wood Co. of the United States, and Breantea Co. of Italy. When the factories are completed, production will be boosted to Ky 10 million.

Cane is being produced with machinery from the Fine Trading Co. of South Korea and the Unicane Co. of Singapore, and sold to these companies. About 3.3 million canes have been exported. (WPD 8/29)

Aug. 29: The Timber Corporation is doing border trade with Thai merchants for the sale of timber. It has signed a contract with Bunsawad and Friends Co., Ltd., for Shan State, with Chaopaya Irrawaddy Co. for Tenasserim Division, and with Santi Co. for Karen State. Arrangements are being made with Indian merchants for the Tamu border area. (WPD 8/30)

Exhorbitant Prices

Aug. 29: Commuters living in North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Insein, Thingangyun, Thuwunna, and Thaketa are experiencing great difficulties because of exhorbitant bus fares, with large buses demanding Ky 2 instead of 45 pya, smaller buses Ky 5 instead of Ky 1.50, and even public-owned buses are charging twice the normal fare. (WPD 8/30)

Aug. 30: Food prices are also exhorbitant. Rice ranges from Ky 10 to Ky 12 per pyi, and edible oil from Ky 60 to Ky 75 per viss. (WPD 8/31)

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
Aug. 1	50.75	55.63	63.86
Aug. 15	61.93	65.47	73.15
Aug. 30	69.02	72.17	81.14

CULTURAL

Konbaung Period Writers

Aug. 8: In the twenty-sixth in his series on Konbaung period writers, U Aung Moe discusses the "Raza Gurus of Bagyidaw and Tharrawaddy." Only a few of these "king's teachers" wrote poetry or other literature:

The Sint-par Sayadaw, a native of Magyisin village in Sagaing township, born Maung Shwin, lived in the Sint-par monastery in Sagaing. He composed the "Dhamma Niti Cho," a religious guide in Pali, parts of which he recomposed in the form of thapyans in 1824. He also wrote the "Thamondrika Pyo."

The Salin Sayadaw Shin Pinnya Thiha was a native of Gangalar village in Sagu township, born Maung Chet Lauk or Chit Lauk, son of U Nyo Thila and Daw Shin Mi. At age 29 he translated the Ubataw Wibin from Pali. He died in 1840, aged 78, after being named Thathanabaing and Maha Dhamma Razadi Raza Guru by King Bagyidaw.

The The-inn Sayadaw Shin Thuriya Wuntha came from The-inn village in Pakhangyi township, and was made Thathanabaing, etc., by King Tharrawaddy. He was born Maung Kyaung, son of U Aung San and Daw Shin Pon. He composed various religious treatises, and tutored other monks. He died in 1839, aged 76.

The Nga-khon Sayadaw Shin Ardissa Wuntha came from Hitle village, and authored 17 works including the "Maha Buddhawin Wuttu Dawgyi" or Great Life Story of Lord Buddha. He died in 1840, aged 70.

The Fourth Nyaung-gan Sayadaw Shin Ponnya Ranthi was the son of U Phyu and Daw Shin Hnyet, and was sponsored by King Bodawpaya's chief queen, who donated him a brick monastery in Amarapura. He wrote two religious works and died in 1829, aged 51.

The Fifth Nyaung-gan Sayadaw U Bode was a native of Dantaing village, Alon township, and the son of U Oh and Daw Shin Hmwe. He authored 54 works in Pali and Burmese, some religious and some on

poetry and language. He compiled a vary rare History of Sri Lanka in Pali and Burmese. An austere monk, he declined to participate in the compilation of the Glass Palace Chronicle, because he did not wish to enter the palace; when he learned that Monywa Zetawun Sayadaw had accepted in his place, he commented "In my life I have heard only of hurapyus and huranyos (white and brown soothsayers), but now, look, we are also having hurawars (yellow soothsayers)." He died in King Tharrawaddy's reign at the age of 54. (WPD 8/8)

Aug. 15: The twenty-seventh article begins a two-part series on the famous U Ponnya. He was born in Sale, with a birthdate variously reported as 1807, 1811, 1812, and 1816. His father was akyedaw senior staff in the Household of the Prince of Tharrawaddy, and his mother the daughter of the Myothugyi headman of Sale/Pakhangyi. A horoscope cast on the day of Maung Ponnya's birth predicted he would be a great writer, but should become a monk so as to avoid danger from malevolent stars. He was educated in Sale, and at 20 entered the Bhamo monastery in Amarapura, where he studied scriptures and astrology for four years before returning to Sale.

In Sale, where he had his own monastery, U Ponnya began composing witty metta-sars, lyrics, and poetic religious discourses, which attracted many clients, especially female ones, and led to his abandoning monkhood. After a while in Rangoon, he returned to the Bhamo monastery in Amarapura. When Mindon became king, U Ponnya again left monkhood and became a Court Bard, composing ratus and songs in honor of Amarapura. He wrote his "Yodaya Naing Mawgun" about the conquest of Chiangmai, and another about the Ratna Nadi river that the King dug to feed the new Mandalay moat. King Mindon called him a flatterer. (WPD 8/15)

Aug. 22: In his twenty-eighth article, U Aung Moe continues the story of U Ponnya. The author's "Paduma Pyazat" concerned an unfaithful queen and offended some of the queens, who paid him 300 kyats to write the "Wethandara Pyazat", a play about the jataka story of King Wethadara and his virtuous Queen Mai Maddi. Then he wrote the "Wizaya Pyazat" in just two days, about an unfaithful prince, as a caution to some of King Mindon's sons. He then wrote the "Yethe Pyazat", based on the jataka story of Ginga Marlar and the reconciliation of brothers.

About 1863, U Ponnya was given an annual salary of 600 kyats, and a residence in Mandalay, etc., but in 1866 he got into trouble when he was accused of inciting rebellion with his Wizaya Pyazat. He was then charged with having an affair with Khin Thon, a lesser wife of the Myowun U Tha Oh. In 1867 he was executed, without the knowledge of King Mindon. Some say he was secretly saved, and lived on until 1875.

U Ponnya is credited with four mawguns, eight pyazats, 30 religious discourses, 60 metta-sars, and innumerable other works. (WPD 8/22)

Aug. 29: In the twenty-ninth in his series, U Aung Moe discusses "King Mindon's poets."

Hteik Tin Pu was a cousin of King Mindon, who wrote songs under the names of Pyinsi Minthagye and Myingun Minthagye. He composed Yodaya songs, one for each of the eight Yodaya tunes: Ywe-ta-nyar (frantin); Hnin-yun-khar-heman (khet-mun); Taw-taung-swe (phein-char); Khaing-pan-son (htat-tunt); Hmaw-yon-hewun (chut-chat); and Hmaing-hmon-pyar-yi (ngu-ngit). He died in 1862.

U Chon was a clerk in King Mindon's court and Head of the Palanquin Bearers under King Thibaw. He wrote a poetic account of a dream meeting with Thagyamin, King of the devas, who told him that the clerks' pay was in arrears, that a learned man named U Lekhna had not been recognized by the King, and that Maung Sint, chief of the King's spies, was an idiot. King Mindon duly corrected the shortcomings, saying he had been forgetful because of the Chief Queen's death. A lwan-chin he composed for King Thibaw's pilgrimage to the Shwe-kyet-yet pagoda earned him 1,000 silver kyats, and became a model.

U Shwe Ni about 1863 composed an unusual rakan, entitled "Pinsi Papi Rakan" about the jataka story of Maha Kunarla, the ugly maiden who became a Chief Queen. He was a Narkhandaw recorder in the

Courts.

U Maung Gale was a song-writer who composed tay-htats, rakans, the-chin-khans, patpyos, yodayas and plays. He was an aristocrat who worked in King Mindon's Hluttaw as Saredawgyi clerk and Ahmardawye assistant.

U Than Hmo wrote a number of metta-sars, hmar-dans, thaphyans, dwe-chos, lay-chos, tay-htats, ratus, lootars and thanchos. He was born of U Shwe Ye and Daw Waing at Ywathaywa village, one mile from Kyauk Sauk, in 1835, educated as a monk, and entered the Khin Ma Gan monastery in Mandalay. In 1863 he left the monkhood to join the service of the Malun Prince, as Akyeedaw U Than Hmo. After the Myingun Prince rebellion of 1866, in which the Malun Prince was killed, he fled and ended in Rangoon, where he married Daw Mi Mi, a daughter of deposed King Pagan, and settled in Upper Lanmadaw. He wrote a number of chronicles of the Shwedagon, Naung Daw Gyi, Kyaikasan, and Ngadatkyi Pagodas. He died in 1904 at 19th St., Rangoon, aged 69.

U Ponnya (Nyaungbintha) was born as Maung So, of U Shwe Hlaw and Daw Hla U in Sagaing, and was educated as a monk, living in his own Nyaungbintha monastery in Sagaing. He left the monkhood in 1874, at the age of 45, to become a writer. In 1896 he moved to Rangoon, Moulmein, and Bassein, but the next year returned to Sagaing where he died in 1901, aged 73. He wrote the "Nawarat Khaing Kyan," the "Thamondrika Lekhna Kyan" (a translation from Sanskrit), the "Thathana Hita Metta-sars," the "Lawka Minzu" treatise on pharmacology, the "Raza Wuntha Kabyar Kyan" and a number of ratus and tay-htats.

Ah-hmar-daw-re U Shin Gale was a composer of official memoranda in King Mindon's court, known as Amarapura Myosar and Nemyo Min Htin Kyaw Gaung. He continued in office under King Thibaw and in 1880 wrote the Lokaniti Pyo, reconstituting the Burmese version by Nyaung-gan Sayadaw U Bode written in 1834, cutting back its 167 stanzas into 48 paragraphs. In 1884, U Shin Gale wrote another somma-sar, the "Thuta Mizzu Somma-sar," also based on earlier works. He was believed to have authored the Razawin-nyun Chronicle. (WPD 8/29)

Neolithic Axe Find Described

Aug. 9: In a feature article, U Tint Aung Han describes a neolithic archeological find he made in April 1986 in the Kywedatson plain near Kywedatson village, 30 miles east of Meiktila on the Meiktila-Taunggyi road. Here, in an old lake basin and its terraces, he found two neolithic stone implements: a broken half of a stone ring, with a diameter of 4 inches. Also found was a shouldered axe, with length from butt to cutting edge of 2.8 inches, with a breadth of 2.2 inches at the shoulders and 2.3 inches at the cutting edge. The shoulders appear at 1.2 inches from the butt, and each projects 0.4 inch from the haft. The thickness of the axe is 0.6 inches. The axe matches the Axe type (e), or Southeast Asian Shouldered Axe, described at page 30 of the Penguin Dictionary of Archaeology, and is similar to others in the Prome museum from Tilin, Budalin, and Pakokku Townships in Upper Burma. [photos of finds] (WPD 8/9)

SPORTS

Olympic Chairman Named

Aug. 18: The Health Ministry has assigned Brig.Gen. Aung Ye Kyaw of the Defence Ministry as Chairman of the Burma Olympic Committee. (Guardian 8/19)

MISCELLANEOUS

Crime News

Aug. 20: Twelve highway robbers were arrested Aug. 19 after blocking the Wanbawdet bridge on the Rangoon-Pegu highway and robbing passing cars. Ky 6,152 and stolen items were recovered.

In Rangoon, three robbers broke into the house of Daw Nyo Nyo Min, No. 615/2 in ward 2, Prome Road, Kamayut, tied up the householders,

and stole a diamond bracelet, two diamond rings, a diamond necklace, a gold chain, a video deck, and Ky 10,000. A night watchman is implicated. (WPD 8/21)

Aug. 23: The gardener implicated in the Prome Road robbery was seized on Aug. 21, and the jewelery recovered. The police found diamonds, a ruby ring, two gold necklaces, 38 rubies, a platinum locket, a pair of diamond ear-rings, a pair of gold ear-rings, a radio cassette, a hair dryer, and Ky 4,145 at the home of an accomplice.

Police at Maymyo on Aug. 7 searched a passenger on the Mandalay-Lashio down train, and seized two viss of raw opium. (WPD 8.24)

Obituaries

Aug. 8: Maung Oo, a student aged 12, drowned in the Irrawaddy River near Thayetpin Kwet village, Magwe Division, while taking a bath. (WPD 8/24)

Aug. 20: U Kyaw, Retired Rector, Institute of Education, husband of the late Daw Khin Hlaing, died in Rangoon, aged 71. (WPD 8/22)

Earthquakes

Aug. 6: New Delhi: An earthquake, with its epicenter in Burma about 15 miles from the Indian border 230 miles northwest of Mandalay, hit at 7:06 local Burmese time. The USGS said the intensity was 7.3 on the Richter scale. A pagoda and wall were reported damaged in Homelin, but there were no injuries in Burma. A second shock occurred eight hours later. (WPD 8/7-8)

Aug. 21: A strong earthquake was recorded at 5:44 hours Burma time with an epicenter 826 miles from the Kaba-Aye and 626 miles from the Mandalay Seismological observatories. (WPD 8/22)

Fire in Rangoon

Aug. 8: Fire in house No. 6 in 30th Street, Pabedan Township, spread to the adjoining Central Accounts Office training school and gutted it, and then gutted the upper floors of the adjoining Bank 4 building. Current records were saved but old ones destroyed. The fire started when Ko Myint Thein, who "earns his living by refilling gas," was filling a small gas tin from a bigger one. (WPD 8/9)

Motor Schooner Sinks

Aug. 20: A motor schooner, with about 100 passengers, sank on Aug. 17 in a heavy storm between Sittwe and Pauktaw. 63 passengers were rescued and the others are being searched for. (WPD 8/21)

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RECENT CHRONOLOGY

Odds and ends of items, primarily from the New York Times, and news broadcasts from the Australian and British Broadcasting Services, not previously reported.

Oct. 7: Burmese in U.S. have formed a United Front for Democracy and Human Rights in Burma, headed by former Burma U.N. Representative U Ba Thaung and physician Dr. Myo Thant. The Front, in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General, called for an immediate neutral, interim government in Burma to supervise free elections with the presence of U.N. observers. The Front's spokeswoman, Sao Ying Sita (journalist and daughter of former Burmese President Sao Shwe Thaik) expressed fear the the Gen. Saw Maung government "will organize an election charade and the military regime will go on forever." Burma's current U.N. Representative, U Maung Maung Gyi, said elections open to all political parties would take place at an unspecified date. Japan reported as giving US\$ 500,000 in humanitarian aid through UNICEF; it does not recognize the Saw Maung government and has cancelled all other aid.

Oct. 8: U Nu urges boycott of elections sponsored by Gen. Saw Maung government. U Nu and other opposition groups, including the

National League for Democracy headed by U Aung Gyi, have registered as parties under the new election procedures, but are not committed to participation. Burma reported in serious condition, with foreign aid suspended.

Oct. 13: AID personnel distributing 106 tons of medical supplies to one quarter of Burma's medical facilities report that half of the patients have gunshot wounds from the Sept. 19 military takeover. Other wounded have avoided the hospitals. Up to 10,000 students reported as having joined insurgents, half with the Karens. Most come from Rangoon and Moulmein areas.

Oct. 15: Government reported as registering various political parties, allegedly to confuse and divide opposition in any election.

Oct. 16: Students fleeing Burma have arrived in Manipur State, India, beginning in early September. The total is under 100. Some are reported returning voluntarily to Burma.

Oct. 18: In recent weeks 1,120 people in Rangoon have been rounded up to act as porters to the Burma Army in anti-insurgent operations, as insurgent attacks increase. The umbrella insurgent group, the National Democratic Front, is seeking alliances with the Burma Communist Party and with radical students. Karen insurgents have recaptured two camps in the Mae Tah Wah sector, and have surrounded some Burma Army units, though the latter have received reinforcements. The Burma government has given students who have taken refuge with insurgents a deadline of November 18 to return to Rangoon, failing which they will be considered as insurgents themselves.

Oct. 20: The Army has warned it will not tolerate attacks on unity. Military control of Rangoon remains tight, with civilians being rounded up, apparently at random, to serve as porters for the Army in anti-insurgent operations. Some 20 political parties have registered, but only the National League for Democracy of U Aung Gyi has a real program. NLD General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in a Radio Australia interview that it stood for free enterprise, except for certain sectors such as energy, and for negotiation with insurgent groups.

Oct. 27: Insurgents have clashed with Burma Army troops, this month, in the Mandalay, Sagaing, Magwe, and Pegu regions. Three Burmese soldiers were killed and four wounded, and weapons were captured 120 miles from Rangoon.

Oct. 30: Four laws restricting private enterprise in domestic production and export, dating back to 1963, have been repealed. Private foreign trade in most commodities will be permitted (minerals and teak excluded).

Nov. 8: Thailand has decided to expand relations with the Burmese military government. Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Prapass Limphabhandu will visit Rangoon at the head of a substantive trade and economic delegation at the end of November. A Thai official said: "Thailand is the only country that has kept a correct and neighborly foreign policy toward Burma. We never tried to interfere with internal Burmese policy. We remain an ally, the best friend Burma has had in a hostile environment."

Nov. 20: Twenty-two factions, including insurgents, rebellious students, and Burmese groups outside the country have united in a Democratic Alliance of Burma.

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