

BURMA PRESS SUMMARY

From the Rangoon "The New Light of Myanmar"

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Myanmar Statement to UN on Human Rights [MYANMAR DELEGATIONS]
- Secretary-1 on Cultural Policy [CULTURAL]
- Myanmar Joins Ozone Pact [DIPLOMATIC]

POLITICAL CRISIS

Slogans

Recurrent Slogans: See January 1993 issue; notably, the bottom of each front page continues to bear the slogan: Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

Variable Slogans: Since August 1991, each issue has included a changing religious slogan at the top of each front page:

Dec. 1-2: Brahmachariyanca, chastity; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Dec. 3-15: Ariyasaccana dassanam, to discern the noble truths; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Dec. 16-31: Nibbanasacchikiriya ca, to realize the Nibbana; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Cartoons

[There were a number of cartoons this month, but with Burmese legends. In addition, Burmese-language cartoons on safe driving continued.]

Political Articles

Following the pattern begun in October 1988, many issues contain lengthy feature articles, translated from Burmese, designed to bolster government views and policies. Editorials sometimes touch on similar themes. We note them briefly, with excerpts of typical or particularly significant portion:

Dec. 3: A golden opportunity, by Yebaw Thit Maung. ["The principal reason for Myanmar's lack of progress and development is...internal strife.... Beginning 1989, some armed groups...returned to the legal fold one after another. National armed groups from Kokang and Wa Areas, overthrew the Burma Communist Party and joined hands with the Tatmadaw.... As of today, nine armed groups of national peoples have returned to the legal fold and have been engaged in developing border regions. The KIA, bearing arms outside of the law for over thirty years is now getting ready to return to the legal fold. Darkness has vanished from Kachin State and rays of peace have appeared instead.... Armed groups in the jungles really are desirous of their people's and their land's welfare as they say so, they should not miss this golden opportunity. They need only to come without any worry when they are now being welcomed with bouquets of peace."]

Dec. 4: Most Providential Time, by Warazein. [Dialogue between Thet Lai and Shwe Thway. "We now have up to ten groups, including U Brang Seng's group, from among our brethren in the jungles, who had trust in the Tatmadaw's invitations and come to have discussions and are now serving the Union.... The first group is called Myanmar Nationalities Democratic Alliance Tatmadaw. And that is the Kokang Group. No 2 Group is the 'Myanmar National Solidarity Party". That is the break-away Wa Group. The No 3 Group is 'The Union of Myanmar Democratic Alliance, Eastern Shan State". The No 4 Group is the Group known as the KDA or the Kachin Nationals Progress and Development Party. No 6 Group [sic] is the Group known as PNO or the Pa-oh National Organization.... The No 7 Group is known as the NDA or the New Democracy Army. The No 8 Group is known as the PSLA or the Palaung State Liberation Army.... The No 9 Group is called the KNG or the Kayan National Guards. So the No 10 group is the KIO or the Kachin Independence Organization.... Did we not read in the newspapers and see on TV that the [SLORC] Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt...on 1 October 1993, cordially met with a KIO General Staff group led by U Zaw Mai in Myitkyina?..."]

Dec. 6: If development and progress of our land, our peoples and our Union is desired, by Myo Chit Thu. [Then armed groups still in the jungle should return to the legal fold.]

Dec. 7: The blazing trail, by Ko Kyi (Pyin Oo Lwin). [Student boycott of Dec. 7, 1920, recalled.]

Dec. 8: Strive to achieve National Day objectives, by Hla Tun (Twantay). ["Neocolonialism is ever on the alert to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs whenever opportunity occurs. The mass of the people should therefore be constantly vigilant."]

Dec. 8: Lest we forget, by Min Kyaw Min. ["Beginning with the East India Company, a cover with which colonial rule was established, there was the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Bullock Brothers, Ellerman's Arracan Rice and Trading Company, Burmah Oil Company, Mawchi Mines and others which exploited and fleeced us. The first

echelon executives in those establishments were from the nation which overran us, the second echelon from a neighbouring country which they had overrun, and, the third, or a paltry few among the chosen few were local nationals who had been trained to serve the colonial bureaucracy.... {Colonial} education...was not to the benefit of the vanquished, but of the victor. It was all very cleverly designed. Our ancestors, who were aware of what was being done, shunned it, calling it 'slave education'. The standard of literacy in those days, by Myanmar standards, was that accomplished by the monastic education, the education of the royalty, the education that was our own.... Let us reaffirm our resolve to combat any and all attempts to divide this nation and see that we win, as we did always when we stood united."]

Dec. 20: Editorial: For regional harmony. [Today, we, as well as our neighbours immediate and distant, strive to maintain regional harmony. There are external forces who would benefit from disunity trying to sow discord, but the more they try, the greater the cohesion within nations and in the region because all of us are aware of the dire consequences. Peaceful co-existence, either in accord with the Five Principles agreed to in Bandung, or under any other formula, is sacred to us. To achieve that, each and every nation must contribute toward it. We do our best. Non-interference in the internal affairs is considered as much a sin as blasphemy. Each nation around here has done the best to prevent such acts as might be construed as interference. This way, faith and trust in each other is also further strengthened.... We are achieving much, regardless of the various wedges that are being driven by forces which cannot bear to see unity and harmony within the region...."]

Dec. 31: Another outright fabrication, by Nay Wun Thi. [An article in the Nov. 28 London Sunday Telegraph, headlined "Burma road to the latest shameless animal trade," [photocopy of article published in NLM] shows two pictures of animal trophies (elephant tusks, tiger skin, pangolin skin) being sold in Tachilek. The article reads, in part: "These pictures show how an astonishing open market in some of the world's rare and endangered animals has sprung up in just a few months. Barely yards across a narrow bridge from Thailand, Western tourists can enter Burma and buy tiger skins, elephant ivory tusks an bears' gall-bladders, among an assortment of wildlife products in which international trade is illegal.... Tom Redford, who works for several Thai animal welfare and conservation charities, visited the area earlier this year. 'The thing that most astonished me was how quickly things had grown,' he said. 'Before there were two or three stalls selling. Now there are 18. I was amazed at the sheer quantity of wildlife products that were on sale, and at the lack of concern that the traders showed while I was photographing their stalls. They told me anything I wanted could be delivered to my hotel in Thailand.' Observers fear the Mai sai market will open up a new trade for those dealers and smugglers who trade with China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and other Asian countries where animals are still prized for their medicinal or ornamental value. Burma, they fear, could become an important conduit for animals killed--or, in the case of young tigers and monkeys, captured alive for the pet trade--across South East Asia....'" The worst thing about this article, says Nay Wun Tin, "is in the title of the news item. It reflects the malevolence of the author and of The Sunday Telegraph directed on Myanmar." In fact, "we adore and preserve nature as a heritage of our forefathers.... The author has also been to Tachilek.... Downtown and suburbs alike did I roam, but there never was a shop resembling the ones mentioned in the news item. It is rather difficult for me to believe that the photographs printed were really taken near Tachilek."]

Returnees from Bangladesh

[Articles reporting the return of refugees from Bangladesh list the cumulative total since Sept. 22, 1992. Not all returns are mentioned in NLM.]

Dec. 1: 464 persons from 103 households arrived back from

Bangladesh on Nov. 29, under the Myanmar-Bangladesh agreement, bringing the total since Sept. 22, 1992 to 50,455 (NLM 12/2)

Dec. 3: 594 persons from 136 households returned to Kanyinchaung camp on Dec. 1, bringing the total to 51,049. (NLM 12/4)

Dec. 6: 173 persons from 39 households returned to Kanyinchaung camp on Dec. 6, and 125 persons from 35 households on Dec. 4, bringing the total to 51,347. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 12: 146 persons from 36 households returned to Kanyinchaung camp on Dec. 11, bringing the total to 51,493. (NLM 12/13)

Dec. 14: 133 persons from 36 households returned to Kanyinchaung camp on Dec. 13, bringing the total to 51,628. (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 20: 165 persons from 36 households returned to Kanyinchaung camp on Dec. 18, bringing the total to 51,791. (NLM 12/21)

Dec. 24: 57 persons from 10 households returned to Kanyinchaung camp on Dec. 23, bringing the total to 51,848. (NLM 12/25)

Union Solidarity & Devel. Ass. (USDA)

[Throughout the month there were almost daily reports of the activities of Union Solidarity and Development Associations (USDA) at the local, township, district, and state/division levels, including establishment of new branches, erection of signboards, etc.]

Dec. 9: As of November 25, State/Division Union Solidarity and Development Associations have been formed in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, and Rakhine States, and in Sagaing, Tanintharyi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, and Ayeyarwady Divisions, and Shan State (North), (South), and (East) [i.e., all 14 States & Divisions]. 55 district and 303 township Associations have also been formed around the country. USDAs are also being formed at Ward and village level. (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 12: Speaking to the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Yangon Commander Lt-Gen. Myo Nyunt "clarified points on the USDA at the City Hall."

"He elaborated that the first basic principle is the one concerning national affairs in which the USDA is to accept Our Three Main National Causes as a national duty as handed down by history and to strive, with unity, for it.

"The second basic principle, he said, is the one concerning national races. He said lasting unity of national races will be ensured if there is mutual respect, flourishing of customs, cultural traditions, literature and arts as well as economic development among them. Efforts should be made towards that end, he said.

"The third is religious affairs in which the USDA will enable all the people to practise the religions of their choice, he noted.

"The fourth principle, he further clarified, is social affairs. The association will sponsor or take part in welfare, security, peace and tranquillity, unity, education and health activities among the public, he added.

"He explained that financial affairs is the fifth basic principle. He said funds of the association will be raised and expended through collective efforts of the members....

"Next, Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt clarified the fourth aim of the USDA-- promotion and vitalization of national pride. He said this aim is very important. He said the Myanmar people, during their time, should not allow loss of independence which was regained from the aliens with much sacrifice. He said EC members of the USDAs are to repulse alien cultures and inclinations to rely on foreigners by having the people imbued with patriotism.

"He said unity is the backbone for lasting existence of the USDA and two methods should be applied to achieve this. The first method, he said, is to carry out organization in conformity with the form and content of the objectives. The second method, he said, is to step up activities of the association through constant contacts at wards and villages in order to increase the number of volunteers. He

noted that four outlooks namely, political, military, administrative and economic, should be applied to realize the aims of the association. Never losing sight of the machinations of the colonialists, efforts should be made for the emergence of defenders and builders of the State, he said. Joining hands with the Tatmadaw all are to expose the minions of the colonialists, he added...." (NLM 12/13_

Meetings with National Race Leaders

Dec. 1: North-East Commander Maj-Gen. Aye Kyaw met Nov. 27 with Wa national leader U Pau Yu Chan from Special Region 2. (NLM 12/2)

Dec. 8: SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt met with Leader U Sai Nawnt and members of the national races of Shan State (North) Special Region 3. (NLM 12/9)

Special Refresher Courses

Dec. 7: Special Refresher Course No. 5 for Senior and Junior Assistant Teachers began at the Central Institute of Public Service, Hlegu, was addressed by SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt. "He said that subjects of the course will enable them to come to discern the invented stories and falsehood designed to cause disintegration of the Union of Myanmar, to realize the endeavours made with goodwill by the government and to share the knowledge with their pupils and the people." He said, inter alia, that "At basic education level, [the colonialists] suppressed monastic education system which had originated since the time of Myanmar kings. He elaborated on subjects, arts and crafts being taught at monastic schools in the past. In serfdom, the colonialists smothered the masculine spirit and pride and patriotism finally putting an end to the monastic education, he said. Instead, he added, they introduced an education system that would turn out clerks and retinue who would serve in colonial administration. When they had to open a university they planned to introduce a University Act to open one which would be accessible to a minority.... Neo-colonialist countries which wish to interfere in Myanmar's affairs, are providing assistance to so-called Myanmar citizens of within and without to use them as their minions in belittling Myanmar's efforts and in destroying national unity...." (NLM 12/8)

Dec. 24: The four-week Special Refresher Course No. 2 for People's Police Force Officers concluded, and was addressed by Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen. Mya Thin. The course was attended by 6 police colonels, 17 police lieutenant-colonels, 31 police majors, and 195 police captains, totalling 249. (NLM 12/25)

Literary & Photo Competition

Dec. 8: Speaking at the Fourth Literary and Photo Competition sponsored by the [SLORC] National Mottos Compiling Leading Committee, SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt reviewed the 1920 Student Boycott [commemorated by National Day] said, inter alia: "In order to prolong their rule...the colonialists applied the administrative system of divide and rule over national races Economically, they purchased paddy at extremely low prices to worsen the very poor condition of Myanmar farmers, brought in chettyars from India enabling them to take hold of the land unless the borrowers repaid. There have been clear evidence in history such evil schemes were applied to suppress the economy of Myanmar peoples" (NLM 12/8)

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Preparations

Dec. 15: The National Convention Management Committee and sub-committees met, under Chairman Brig-Gen. Tin Aye, who said the National Convention is to resume Jan. 18, and called for good management. "He pointed out that as all are aware destructionists are out to weaken and jeopardize the National Convention. Mindful of their presence, all appropriate measures are to be taken to ensure

that the National Convention can be convened undisturbed, he said."
(NLM 12/16)

DIPLOMATIC

Diplomatic Calls

The following calls were paid on Burmese officials by foreign Embassy or UN officials accredited to Burma.

Nov. 30: Australian Ambassador Stuart Hamilton Rawdon Hume called on Minister for Health Vice-Adm. Than Nyunt. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 3: Yugoslav Ambassador Dr. Svetozar Jovicevic called on Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein. (NLM 12/4)

Dec. 6: The Yugoslav Ambassador, "who has completed his tour of duty here," called on Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Adm. Maung Maung Khin. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 7: The Defence Adviser of the Malaysian Embassy in Yangon, Lt-Col. Samah Bin Md Said, "who has ended his tour of duty," called on Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Lt-Gen. Maung Aye to present his successor, Lt-Col. Shahrir Bin Hashim. French Ambassador Alain Briottet called on Deputy Minister for Culture U Soe Nyunt. Australian Ambassador Stuart Hamilton Rawdon Hume called on Election Commission Chairman U Ba Htay. British Ambassador Julian D.N. Hartland-Swann called on Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein. (NLM 12/8)

Dec. 9: Yugoslav Ambassador Dr. Svetozar Jovicevic called on Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein. Nepalese Ambassador Dr. Thakkan Mallik called on Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Yin. (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 13: The Yugoslav Ambassador called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel. Australian Ambassador Stuart Hamilton Rawdon Hume called on Minister for Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen. Lun Maung. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 16: The Yugoslav Ambassador was received by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe. Australian Ambassador Stuart Hamilton Rawdon Hume called on Attorney-General U Tha Tun. (NLM 12/17)

Dec. 23: Russian Ambassador Valeri Vartanovich Nazarov called on Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen. Mya Thin to discuss bilateral cooperation on drug matters. WHO Resident Representative Dr. Klaus Wagner called on Deputy Minister for Health Col. Than Zin to discuss implementation of health projects that will total over US\$7 million over two years. (NLM 12/24)

Dec. 24: Bangladeshi Ambassador Brig. Chowdhury Khalequzzaman (Retd) called on Minister for Industry 1 Lt-Gen. Sein Aung.

Dec. 28: The Bangladeshi Ambassador called on Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Adm. Maung Maung Khin, on Deputy Prime Minister Lt-Gen. Tin Tun, on Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen. Mya Thin, and on Minister for Education Col. Pe Thein. (NLM 12/29)

Dec. 29: The Bangladeshi Ambassador called on Minister for Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen. Lun Maung. and on Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Yin. (NLM 12/30)

Dec. 30: The Bangladeshi Ambassador called on Minister for Forestry Lt-Gen. Chit Swe. (NLM 12/31)

New Ambassadors to Myanmar

Dec. 17: Brig. Chowdhury Khalequzzaman (Retd) presented credentials to SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe as new Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar. (NLM 12/18)

Dec. 29: Mr. Mordechay Karni presented credentials to SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe as new Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar. (NLM 12/30)

Myanmar Joins Ozone Pact

Dec. 29: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following Press Release [full text]:

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has become a party to the following Convention and Protocol by accession and acceptance on

24 November 1993:

--Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, concluded in Vienna on 22 March 1985;

--Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, concluded at Montreal on 16 September 1987;

--Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted at the Second Meeting of the Parties at London on 29 June 1990.

The Vienna Convention provides a framework containing an agreement in principle to cooperate in protection of the ozone layer, and the Montreal Protocol specifies actions to phase out the ozone-depleting substances such as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by the end of the century. As a party to the Protocol, Myanmar would be spared from the trade restrictions imposed by the Protocol and would be allowed to import controlled substances within a ten-year grace-period for limited domestic use for refrigeration and air conditioning. Additionally, the Protocol would provide Myanmar access to ozone-friendly technologies and financial assistance to effect the necessary adjustments. Furthermore, Myanmar's accession to these important instruments underscores the commitment and responsibility in the protection of global environment.

Since the establishment of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs in February 1990, the Union of Myanmar has signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity in June 1992.
(NLM 12/30)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Workshops

Dec. 3: A Symposium on Malaria and Dengue Vector Control was held at the Kandawgyi Hotel under the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Health and Zeneca Public Health, United Kingdom. (NLM 12/4)

Dec. 13: A Seminar on Strengthening of Manpower Planning in Myanmar, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, UNDP, and ILO-ARTEP, opened. Speeches were given by Minister for Labour Lt-Gen. Aye Thoung [text printed in NLM] and by Mr. John Cameron of ILO-ARTEP. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 28: A 3-day Workshop on Environmental Natural Resources and Statistics, sponsored by the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, opened. Officials of the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia, and Adviser Prof. Dr. Martinus Suparmoko of the UN Environment Programme led the discussions. (NLM 12/29)

Foreign Donations

Dec. 2: Mr. Ishak Ismail of Idris Hydraulic (Malaysia) Bhd donated US\$50,000 to the Forest Research Institute. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 6: Myanma Winner Garment Co. and Winner Co. (Garment) Ltd. donated eye-test equipment worth US\$13,415 to the No. 2 Military Hospital. \\ A team led by Dr. Koichi Nagata of the World Peace Prayers Society, on behalf of the Association of Medical Doctors for Asia, donated medical supplies worth US\$2,000 to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 16: President Mr. Masayuki Matsumuro of the Asian Industrial & Technical Development Association presented US\$500 for the first Mandalay Marathon. (NLM 12/ 17)

Dec. 21: Chairman Mr. Li Hoke Shao of Golden Glory Co. of Singapore presented 50 Toshiba colour TV sets worth K1,810,000 for the Mandalay Marathon; total donations are over K7 million including US\$500. (NLM 12/ 22)

Dec. 29: Yin Hua Co. Ltd. and Minami Co. Ltd. of Japan donated two Tico mini-saloons for Marathon winners. Unnamed donor gave four Suzuki Crystal motorcycles, worth K180,000 each, as prizes. (NLM 12/30)

Strategic Studies Institute

Dec. 16: Roundtable discussions was organized by the Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) on Economic Co-operation and Security Issues in Asia-Pacific Region, and on the organization and activities of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies. Participants included the Chairman of MISIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw, members, academics, and President Prof. Chen Peiyao of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies and Deputy Director Mr. Zhao Gancheng. MISIS was established in 1992 under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "with the aim of studying international developments, concepts and thoughts." It includes representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, the Attorney-General's office and private individuals. (NLM 12/17)

Aviation Meeting

Dec. 21: An informal ATS/COM Coordination Meeting arranged by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was held at the Civil Aviation Training Institute at Yangon International Airport, with speeches by Director-General U Tin Ohn of the Department of Civil Aviation and Representative Mr. K.P. Rimal of ICAO. Delegates were present from Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, and ICAO. "Air traffic control and communications for smooth and secure international air transportation within the air spaces of Myanmar and her neighbouring countries were discussed." The meeting will last until Dec. 23. (NLM 12/22)

FOREIGN VISITORS

International Agency Visitors

Dec. 2: UNFPA Country Director for Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Hong Kong Mr. K Bal Gopal called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel to discuss UNFPA programmes. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 2: Director William F. Beacher of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), UNDCP Research Officer Mr. Gale Day, Mr. Liu Deren of the Chinese National Narcotic Control Committee, and Secretary-General Police Gen. Chavalit Yodmani of the Thai Narcotic Drug Control Committee, attending the third coordination meeting on regional cooperation in narcotic drug abuse control work, called on Chairman of the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen. Mya Thin. (NLM 12/3) // Dec. 3: The Thai, Chinese, and UNDCP delegations left. (NLM 12/4)

Dec. 7: Human Resources Development Expert Dr. Lionel Siriwardene and Trade and Investment Sector Consultant Dr. Peter Brimble of the Asian Development Bank, in Myanmar under the Sub-regional Economic Cooperation Project, called on Minister for Education Col. Pe Thein. (NLM 12/8)

Dec. 14: A United Nations multi-agency policy team on water supply and sanitation, headed by Manager Dr. Dennis Wanner of Community Water Supply, WHO, met with Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel. (NLM 12/15) // Dec. 16: the team called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen. Win Tin. (NLM 12/17)

Dec. 30: A delegation led by Mrs. Emiko Murai, from UNESCO and Japan, "currently here to coordinate drawing of Bagan region project," called on Minister for Culture Lt-Gen. Aung Ye Kyaw. (NLM 12/31)

Cultural and Medical Visitors

Dec. 1: A five-member Chinese writers delegation arrived, headed by famous novelist Mr. Jiang Zilong, member of the Panel of Patrons of the Writers Union and Chairman of the Tianjin Writers Union. He is accompanied by Mr. Wang Hongpu, Mr. Wang Yun, and Ms. Wang Fu, with Ms. Wang Xiaolan as interpreter. The delegation called

on Minister for Information Brig-Gen. Myo Thant, and a dinner was hosted by Managing Director U Aung Naing of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise. (NLM 12/2) // Dec. 2: The delegation visited sites in Yangon. (NLM 12/3) // Dec. 12: Between Dec. 3-10 the writers visited Bagan-Nyaung-U, Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Innlay Lake. On their return the writers were given a lunch by Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein. (NLM 12/13) // Dec. 13: The writers visited Bago, and returned to Yangon for a dinner given by Minister for Information Brig-Gen. Myo Thant. (NLM 12/14) // Dec. 14: They attended the presentation of the 1992 National Literary and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript awards at the National Theatre. (NLM 12/15) // Dec. 15: The writers departed. (NLM 12/16)

Dec. 3: A seven-member group of ophthalmologists from Singapore National University, led by Dr. Ang Beng Chang, called on Minister for Health Vice-Adm. Than Nyunt. They will treat patients from Dec. 4-9. (NLM 12/4) // Dec. 5: They treated patients at Yangon Eye Hospital, where they will work until Dec. 9. (NLM 12/6)

Dec. 9: Prof. Gerald V. Stimson of the UK, in Yangon under the UN Drug Control Programme, will lecture on International Experience on Prevention of HIV/AIDS among IVDUs on Dec. 11. (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 14: President Mr. Richard G. Quick of the Far East Studies Institute, and party, called on Minister for Transport Lt-Gen. Thein Win to discuss international aviation, Myanmar ports, port-calls by cargo vessels, and freight handling. (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 17: Honorary President Prof. Alain Delouche of Medicine du Monde, a cardiothoracic surgeon, called on Minister for Health Vice-Adm. Than Nyunt to discuss mutual projects. Mr. Delouche and a four-member delegation arrived Dec. 13, and will do surgical operations at the Cardiac Unit of Yangon General Hospital. (NLM 12/18)

Dec. 22: A 4-member Japanese delegation led by Dr. Masao Ito of the Science Council called on Minister for Education Col. Pe Thein. (NLM 12/23)

Dec. 27: US cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Segal called on Minister for Health Vice-Adm. Than Nyunt to discuss the visit of specialists from Columbia University School of Medicine in early 1994. (NLM 12/28)

Dec. 29: Curator Mr. J. Richard Blurton of the Oriental Heritage Department of the British Museum, accompanied by British Cultural Attache Ralph H. Isaacs, called on Director-General U Sann Lwin of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and Director-General U Arnt Maung of the Religious Affairs Department, and discussed the Buddha images in the new section of the British Museum and exchange of religious publications. (NLM 12/ 30)

Business Visitors

Nov. 30: Director Mr. David Lain of WS Atkins International Ltd. (England) called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel at the Foreign Investment Commission Office. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 2: Chairman Mr. Tomoo Takahara and delegation of the Century Research Centre (CRC), Japan, called on Minister for Forestry Lt-Gen. Chit Swe. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 6: An Indonesian delegation led by Chairman Mr. John Tika of Myanmar Raya Co. Ltd. called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel to discuss investments. (NLM 12/ 7)

Dec. 9: A Malaysian delegation headed by President Dato Soong Siew Hoong of the ASEAN Iron and Steel Industry Federation, a Member of the Malaysian Parliament, called on Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein to discuss bilateral cooperation for development of iron and steel enterprises. (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 13: A 10-member delegation led by Senior Managing Director Mr. Chul Won Park of Samsung Corporation of Korea called on Minister for Agriculture Lt-Gen. Myint Aung to discuss agricultural cooperation. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 15: Chairman Mr. Arsa Sarasas of Padang Co. of Thailand,

and representatives of Bangpu Exploration Co. of Thailand, called on Minister for Mines Lt-Gen. Kyaw Min to discuss "exploration of lead, zinc and minerals in the south-east and south, mining of copper and coal...." (NLM 12/16)

Dec. 21: General Manager Mr. Kiyosi Tajima of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Advisor Mr. Michihiro Takahashi of Kinsho Mataichi Corporation, and party, called on Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein to discuss turning natural gas into LNG, construction of a new fertilizer plant, and installation of offshore natural gas pipelines. (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 30: Manager Mr. Saranpal Singh of ATG Electronics Myanmar Ltd. signed a contract with the Yangon City Development Committee for the lease of Hall No. 2 on the second floor of the Theingyizay C Complex. (NLM 12/31)

Religious Delegations

Dec. 1: A three-member Chinese Buddhist delegation arrived, led by Mr. Dao Shuren Vice-Chairman of the All China Buddhist Association and Chairman of the Buddhist Association of Yunnan Province. The delegation spend 10 days visiting pagodas in Yangon, Bagan-Nyaung-U, Mandalay, and Bago. (NLM 12/2) // Dec. 3: The delegation visited pagodas in Yangon and Bagan-Nyaung-U. (NLM 12/4) // Dec. 5: The delegation visited Mandalay and Sagaing. (NLM 12/6) // Dec. 8: The delegation visited Phaungdaw-U Pagoda in Shan State. (NLM 12/9) // Dec. 9: The delegation paid respects to Sayadaws in Yangon. (NLM 12/10) // Dec. 10: The delegation, which also includes Sayadaw Wubingyawensa of the Chinese Buddhist Association and Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Du Longshuang of the Yunnan Province Buddhist Association, called on Minister for Religious Affairs Lt-Gen. Myo Nyunt. (NLM 12/11) // Dec. 11: The delegation left. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 13: Three [Myanmar] monks led by Vice-Chief Patron Maha Gantha Vacaka Pandita Vannita of the State Pariyatti Sasana Tekkatho (Yangon), accompanied by a Korean Samanera, visited Bagan-Nyaung-U, Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa, and Taunggyi from Dec. 2-11. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 17: Five monks from Sri Lanka arrived Dec. 14 to attend courses at State Pariyatti Sasana Tekkatho (Yangon). There are presently three monks from Sri Lanka, and one samanera each from Russia and Korea. (NLM 12/18)

Foreign Journalists

Nov. 30: Mr. Yoichi Masuzoe and crew of Fuji TV, Japan, called on SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 17: Managing Director Mr. David Hill of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, accompanied by Principal Liaison Executive Mr. Peter Marton, called on Minister for Information Brig-Gen. Myo Thant to discuss exchange of television programs and use by ABC of Myanmar Television footage of major Myanma traditional and cultural festivals and events. (NLM 12/18)

Thai National Security Council

Dec. 1: A delegation headed by Secretary-General Gen. Charan Kullavanijaya of the Thai National Security Council was received by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe. On Nov. 29-30, the delegation toured the Myitkyina and Mandalay areas, as well as visiting Bagan on Dec. 1. On the afternoon of Dec. 1 he visited the Myanma Gems Enterprise and Dagon University. (NLM 12/2) // Dec. 2: The delegation departed. (NLM 12/3)

U.S. Senators

Dec. 8: A 15-member delegation led by United States Senators Thad Cochran, Hank Brown, and Larry Prossler [sic] arrived. A dinner for them was hosted by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw. (NLM 12/9)

Dec. 9: The Senators were received by SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt. They were also received by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel at the Foreign

Investment Commission Office, made a quick air tour to Bagan-Nyaung-U, returned to Yangon, and departed. (NLM 12/10)

U.S. Congressmen

Dec. 13: A delegation of United States Congressmen led by Jack M. Fields, Ralph M. Hall, Paul E. Gillmor, Michael G. Oxley, and Norman F. Lent arrived at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. They visited the Shwedagon Pagoda, and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw hosted a dinner for them at the People's Park Restaurant. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 14: The Congressional delegation called on Minister for Communications, Posts & Telegraphs U Soe Tha, on Minister for Forestry Lt-Gen. Chit Swe, on Minister for Livestock Breeding & Fisheries Brig-Gen. Maung Maung, and Minister for Trade Lt-Gen. Tun Kyi. (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 16: The delegation called on SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt. On Dec. 14-15 they visited Bagan-Nyaung-U and Mandalay. On the afternoon of Dec. 16 they left Myanmar. (NLM 12/17)

Myanmar Doctors From US Visit Home

Dec. 19: 23 Myanmar doctors resident in the United States, with 32 family members, arrived in Yangon for a short visit. They will stay until Jan. 1, 1994, and study health development, visit hospitals and Institutes of Medicine, and hold medical seminars in Yangon and Mandalay. (NLM 12/ 20)

Dec. 20: They were hosted at dinner by Minister for Health Vice-Adm. Than Nyunt. Also present were Minister for Development of Border Areas and National Races Lt-Gen. Maung Thint, Minister for Education Col. Pe Thein, Deputy Minister for Health Col. Than Zin, and other officials from the Ministry of Health. (NLM 12/21)

Dec. 21: Dr. Soe Myint, on behalf of the doctors, presented a Radium Applicator worth US\$10,000 to the Radiotherapy Department of Yangon General Hospital. (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 22: The doctors will give talks and discussions on Dec. 28 at the Institute of Nursing, on topics such as medicine, surgery, paediatrics, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology, X-ray, anesthesia, psychiatry, and pathology. "All interested doctors are welcome."

Dec. 23: Dr. Soe Myint and his daughter donated US\$2,000 to the Children's Hospital. (NLM 12/24)

Dec. 26: The doctors visited Bagan-Nyaung-U on Dec. 21-22, Mandalay on Dec. 22, Pyin-Oo-Lwin [Maymyo] on Dec. 23, Mandalay and Sagaing on Dec. 24, Innlay Lake on Dec. 25, and returned to Yangon Dec. 26. (NLM 12/27)

Dec. 28: President Dr. Kyu Kyu Swe of the Myanmar Medical Association hosted a dinner for the doctors. (NLM 12/29)

Dec. 29: Dr. Patrick C.E. Paik of the doctors donated a centrifuge worth US\$1,000 to the Pathology Department of Yangon General Hospital. The doctors also donated US\$12,000 to the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Medical Association, Yangon General Hospital, Mandalay People's Hospital, and Institutes of Medicine-1 and 2. Dr. Aye Aye Cho, on behalf of the doctors, donated US\$5,000 each to Yangon General Hospital and Mandalay People's Hospital and US\$1,000 to the Myanmar Medical Association; Dr. San Aye donated US\$8,000 to the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, US\$1,000 each to the Myanmar Child Welfare Association and the Myanmar Medical Association; Dr. Min Soe donated K100,000 to Yangon General Hospital; Dr. Thein Yu donated K30,000 to Yangon General Hospital; Dr. Eng Eng donated K30,000 to the Myanmar Child Welfare Association; and Dr. Eugene Taw donated K20,000 each to the Myanmar Medical Association and the Myanmar Child Welfare Association. In the evening a dinner was given the doctors by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw. (NLM 12/30)

Dec. 30: A dinner for the doctors was hosted by SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt, with SLORC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen. Tin Oo and Yangon Mayor U Ko Lay present. The doctors visited the Shwedagon

Pagoda. (NLM 12/31)

MYANMAR DELEGATIONS

Study Delegations

Nov. 30: Assistant Manager U Zaw Win of Myanmar Insurance left for Kuala Lumpur to attend a 3-month Course on Insurance, at the Malaysian Insurance Institute, sponsored by UNDP. He will also get on-job training with insurance companies in Singapore. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 6: Assistant Research Officer U San Win and Library Assistant Daw Sann Sann of Universities Historical Research left for India to attend a 4-week course on Record Management under the Colombo Plan. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 11: Managing Director U Tin Oo of Myanma Port Authority left for Tokyo to attend a Dec. 12-20 Workshop on Environmental Control in Port Areas sponsored by the Overseas Coastal Area Development Institute of Japan. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 13: A delegation led by Deputy Director-General U Tin Maung Oo of the Trade Department left for Thailand to attend the Sub-regional Seminar on Market Access for Countries in Indo-China. Other members are Assistant Director U Sein Myint, Assistant General Manager U Kyaw Nyunt Oo of Medicine and Medical Equipment Trading, Director Dr. San San Lwin of Karaweik Enterprise Ltd., and Managing Director Daw San San Yi of Super One Co. Ltd. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 13: Project Officer U Sein Myint and Curriculum Assistant U Thein Zaw of the Basic Education Department, accompanied by Assistant Lecturer U Than Nyunt of Insein Technical Institute, left for Thailand to attend the UNDP-sponsored Curriculum Planning and Development/Technical Teacher Training. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 28: Deputy Director U Thein Han and Staff Officers U Tin Mar and U Maung Maung Aye of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department, left to attend a Dec. 29-Feb. 12 Course on Working Conditions and Welfare Facilities in Malaysia and the Philippines, jointly sponsored by UNDP and ILO. Staff Officer Dr. Mehm Than Nyunt of the same Department left for Singapore to attend a Dec. 29-Feb. 25 Training in Field Occupational Medicine. (NLM 12/29)

Delegations to Meetings & Events

Nov. 30: Director U Than Tun of the Fisheries Department left for India to attend the Dec. 1-4 Fifth Meeting of the Administrative Council of Fisheries in Asia and Pacific. (NLM 12/1)

Nov. 30: Director-General U Tin Nyein of the Communications Department left for Bali, Indonesia to attend the Dec. 1-3 Coordination Meeting on Telecommunications and the Meeting for the Formation of the Executive Body of Communication Policies and Strategies, sponsored by the ITU. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 2: Director-General Lt-Col. Thein Han of the Office of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races left for Nepal to attend the 20th Meeting of Administrators of ICIMOD in Kathmandu from Dec. 4-6. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 17: A six-member Myanmar ozi, doh-bat delegation led by Assistant Director U Tin Ohn of the Fine Arts Department left for Indonesia to attend the International Drum Festival in Jakarta. (NLM 12/18) // Dec. 20: The team delegation returned. (NLM 12/21)

Human Rights Statement

Dec. 9: At the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Dec. 6, Alternate Chairman of the Myanmar UNGA Delegation U Kyaw Min delivered a statement in response to Draft Resolution A/C.3/48/L.70 on Myanmar. The Draft Resolution was subsequently approved without a vote. "The statement of the Alternate Chairman...is presented here as some news agencies carried the speech of the US delegate confusing it with the draft resolution" [full text]:

Mr Chairman

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to place on record my delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.70. Our

position can be stated very simply; the draft is totally unacceptable to us. Let me explain why.

First, the draft resolution constitutes a flagrant attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of my country in violation of the principle set forth in Article 2(7) of the Charter of the United Nations. Indeed it is an assault on this fundamental and time-tested principle whose absolute inviolability and over-riding importance for a world order of peace, freedom and justice has been recognized and reaffirmed not only in innumerable United Nations resolutions and declarations of principle, but also in a great number of historic, legal and political instruments, adopted at the bilateral, regional and global levels. Member of the Committee are fully familiar with these instruments. I will therefore refrain from recapitulating them today. Let me simply say that the draft, reduced to its essentials, seeks to dictate to Myanmar how it should run its own affairs.

Second, the draft resolution, both in substance and in tenor, runs counter to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. In particular, it completely ignores the principles reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration, namely, the principles of impartiality, objectively and non-selectivity, in the promotion of all human rights worldwide.

Third, the draft resolution deliberately places the most negative construction possible on the historic and significant changes now underway in my country, principally the National Convention which my Government has convened with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of the Myanmar people for an enduring and prosperous democratic State.

I shall point out these serious flaws in commenting on the various paragraphs of the draft.

Operative paragraphs 2 and 7 read together with preambular paragraph 7. Allegations of torture, summary and arbitrary executions, forced labour, abuse of women etc. are unsubstantiated and emanate invariably from anti-Government sources. We categorically reject them. It is neither the policy of the Government to repress its own people nor to condone such violations of human rights. Violation of human rights is against our tradition and culture. The Government of Myanmar has provided detailed replies to these allegations and I should like in this connection to invited distinguished members of the Committee to refer to paragraph 26 of document A/48/578.

As for allegations concerning "oppressive measures" directed at ethnic and religious minorities, it bears to be repeated that the efforts of the Myanmar Government to secure national reconciliation through dialogue is bearing fruit. There is no oppression against any national race or religious group in my country. The Myanmar Government treats all national races as brethren and all religions on an equal footing. I should again like to draw the Committee's attention to the report submitted by Mrs Sadako Ogata who visited Myanmar in 1990 as the Independent Expert appointed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights in which she stated categorically that in the matter of religious tolerance Myanmar society may be regarded as a model society.

Operative paragraphs 3 and 6 read together with preambular paragraph 6, represent an ill-disguised attempt to dictate to Myanmar that it should abandon its chosen path to democracy through the mechanism of the National Convention, and instead to transfer power to the representatives elected in the 1990 elections. As we have explained time and again in various United Nations bodies including this Committee the mandate of those representatives is not to form a government but to draft a new constitution based on the broadest possible national consensus. Through a process of free and open deliberations and mutual accommodation at the National Convention significant progress has been made and such a consensus is now in sight. To turn a blind eye to this historic national undertaking and instead to keep insisting that State power be turned over to the

representatives-elect will not serve the cause of democracy in my country. It amounts not only to grossly interfering in the internal political matters of my country but even to encouraging dissent and division among the delegates participating in the National Convention.

Preambular paragraph 8 read with operative paragraph 14. Since many significant and positive developments have taken place in my country during the past 12 months, the paragraph does not reflect the current situation in the country. Thanks to the policy of national reconciliation which my government have actively pursued during this period peace and tranquility has been restored to 97 per cent of the country. As a result the number of border inhabitants crossing frontiers to seek temporary shelter from hostilities has greatly diminished.

Operative paragraph 4. I should like to point out that nowhere in his introductory statement did Professor Yokota, the Special Rapporteur, say that "in regard to the National Convention no evident progress has been made towards turning over power to a freely elected civilian government". What he said was, "the composition, procedure, and other measures taken in connection with the National Convention seem to indicate that the constitutional process is not heading towards multi-party democracy as announced by the Government". Needless to say, we consider this assessment to be wholly erroneous. Professor Yokota did emphasize that since he had no time to study carefully the information which he had gathered during his visit to Myanmar his observations were still preliminary in nature. I am confident that after careful reflection he will see the National Convention in its true perspective and that this will be reflected in his final report to the Commission on Human Rights.

Operative paragraph 5. As explained by my delegation in this Committee, the delegates to the National Convention include representatives of all the national races, representatives of the ten legally-standing political parties, representatives elected in the 1990 elections as well as delegates from all strata of Myanmar society. It may be pointed out that representatives of the political parties were nominated by their own parties and that other delegates were selected through a systematic procedure to ensure fair and equitable representation. My Government has provided the details on the procedure regarding the participation of delegates to the National Convention, which are reproduced in extenso in document A/48/578.

With regard to the leading role to be played by the Tatmadaw (The Myanmar Defence Services) in the future political life of the State, I should like to stress that the role envisaged for the Tatmadaw is a role in keeping with Myanmar's historical traditions. As stated by my Foreign Minister in his address to the General Assembly: "The history of modern Myanmar nation is synonymous with the history of the Tatmadaw. Since the time of our struggle for national independence it has been in the forefront of national politics." The Tatmadaw has always stayed above party politics. But it has always shouldered its primary responsibility of ensuring the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity and the consolidation of national sovereignty. It will and must continue to do so in the future.

Operative paragraph 8 appeals to Myanmar to consider becoming a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Although Myanmar is not yet a State party to the Covenants I should like to reaffirm that we are abiding by those provisions and principles embodied in the Covenants which are taken from the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, or have attained the status of rules of customary international law.

Operative paragraphs 9, 13 and 14. To repeat what I stated last year, Myanmar has an unbroken record of fulfilling all its

obligations arising from agreements and international treaties to which it is a party. We resent any insinuation to the contrary.

Operative paragraph 10 claims that recent sentences meted out to a number of persons were harsh. My government has provided detailed information regarding the nature of the offenses committed by the persons in question and the laws under which they were sentenced. This information is reproduced in paragraph 26 of document A/48/578. Given the nature of the offenses the sentences meted out to them can in no way be considered harsh.

Operative paragraphs 11 and 12. There can be no gainsaying that democracy can prosper only when law and order prevails. In this time of transition when we are laying down the foundations for a democratic society, care must be taken to ensure a peaceful and tranquil environment. It is the primary responsibility of every Government to uphold the rule of law and to maintain public peace and civil order in the country. As we have explained on numerous occasions, a certain individual has been placed under restraint for infringing the law and that this is the most lenient action permissible under the law. Hundreds of persons serving prison terms who no longer pose a threat to the security of the State have been released. The Government has been constrained to take legal action against some other persons, including a few delegates to the National Convention, not because of their political beliefs but because of their actions which, if left unchecked, would derail the constitutional process.

Operative paragraph 15. If I may put it bluntly, I completely fail to understand the intent and purpose of this paragraph. We already have the Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights to deal with those portions of the draft concerning human rights issues. Likewise, under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Myanmar and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, we have agreed to the presence of representatives of the UNHCR to deal with those paragraphs of the draft resolution concerning refugee questions. In these circumstances, it is the intention of the co-sponsors that the Secretary-General should play a role in the implementation of those paragraphs of the draft dealing with the internal political matters of my country-- paragraphs which as I have stated earlier are in gross violation of Charter principles --I must make it absolutely plain that my government will have nothing whatsoever to do with it. Mr Chairman,

I believe it is quite clear from what I have stated that draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.70 is totally unacceptable to my government. However, in deference to the sentiments expressed by a great many delegations representing governments which bear goodwill and understanding towards my country, and not least to the wishes expressed by you, Mr Chairman, my delegation has decided not to ask for a vote on the draft. I must however make it abundantly clear that my delegation will have no part in the adoption of this draft resolution and will not be a party to it.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

(NLM 12/10)

Secretary-1 Visits Indonesia

Dec. 17: At the invitation of Mr. I.R. Hartarto, Coordinating Minister for Industry and Trade, SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt will visit Indonesia in the near future. (NLM 12/17)

Dec. 20: SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt left for Indonesia. He was accompanied by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Lt-Gen. Kyaw Ba, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen. Thein Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw, Minister for Information Brig-Gen. Myo Thant, Minister for Communications, Posts & Telegraphs U Soe Tha, and officials from their various Ministries. The Secretary was seen off at the airport by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe. (NLM 12/21)

Dec. 21: The delegation was welcomed to Jakarta by Coordinating Minister for Industry and Trade Mr. I.R. Hartarto, Minister for Tourism, Post and Telecommunications Mr. Yoop Ave, and others. (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 25: SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt and his delegation returned from Indonesia, and were welcomed at the airport by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe. In Indonesia they were received by President Soeharto, and called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Mr. Ginadjar, Vice-President of Indonesia Mr. Try Sutrisno, Chairman Mr. Wahono of the House of Representatives, Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs and Security Mr. Soesilo Soedarman, Coordinating Minister for Industry and Trade Mr. I.R. Hartarto. Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel called on Governor Dr. J.S. Djwandono of the Bank of Indonesia. [photos] (NLM 12/ 26)

Dec. 26: Other calls during the visit: SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt called on Minister for Defence and Security Gen. Edi Sudradjat (Retd), and visited the National Museum of Indonesia. Minister for Hotels and Tourism Lt-Gen. Kyaw Ba and Minister for Communications, Posts & Telegraphs U Soe Tha called on Minister for Tourism, Post and Telecommunication Mr. Yoop Ave, and visited postal installations. Minister for Transport Lt-Gen. Thein Win called on Minister for Research and Technology Mr. B.J. Habibe, and on Chief of Staff of Air Force Air Marshal Pilo Pambudi, and visited Koja Bahari Shipyard. He also called on Minister for Transportation Mr. Haryanto Dhanurto. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ali Alata. National Convention Convening Work Committee Secretary U Aye Maung called on Deputy Secretary General Mr. Benny Wardhanto at the People's Consultive Assembly. Minister for Information Brig-Gen. Myo Thant called on Minister for Information Mr. H. Harmoko, and visited Indonesian TV.

The Myanmar delegation visited Bandung, in West Java, Jogjakarta, Mendut Temple in Central Java, Borobudur, and other sights. [photos] (NLM 12/27)

Returning Delegations

Return of delegations that departed in previous months, or not previously noted:

Dec. 1: The journalist delegation headed by Editor U Thaung Pe of Myawaddy Press returned from China. (NLM 12/2)

Dec. 6: A delegation led by Myanmar Olympic Council President Minister for Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen. Lun Maung returned from the 12th Conference of Asian Olympic Council in Kuwait. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 8: A delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen. Win Tin returned via Singapore after attending the Workshop on South-East Asia Economic Experience and Prospects in Washington, beginning Nov. 29. (NLM 12/9)

Dec. 24: A delegation led by Acting Secretary U Tun Aung Chein of the Commission on Compilation of Myanma History returned from a Dec. 15-17 Conference on the Library and Archives Preservation Needs of South-East Asia at Chiang Mai University, sponsored by Chiang Mai University, Cornell University in the US, and the Government of the Netherlands. Other members were Director Daw Ni Ni Myint of the Universities History Research Department, Librarian U Thaw Kaung of the Universities Central Library, and Archivist Daw Tin Phone Nwe of the Universities History Research Department. (NLM 12/25)

Dec. 24: A delegation led by Vice Chairman U Sai Aung Tun of the Commission on Compilation of Myanma History returned from four days at the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Other members were Commission members Dr. Than Tun, U Hla Shein, Rector Dr. Than Nyunt of the Institute of Economics, and Deputy Director U San Nyein of the Universities History Research Department. (NLM 12/25)

Appointments Confirmed

The SLORC confirmed the following appointments, after one year's probation:

Dec. 9: U Aung Naing to be Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise. (NLM 12/10)

GOVERNMENT

National Day Message

Dec. 8: SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe's National Day Message [full text]:

Today is the 73rd Anniversary of National Day. On this auspicious day which marks a day of historic significance and achievement reawakening national pride and national spirit among the entire Myanmar people, I greet you with this message.

Since National Day fuelled the flames of national spirit and national pride at a time when darkness of colonialism reigned in Myanmar Naing-Ngan, it will ever remain an unforgettable and significant day for each and every Myanmar citizen.

The Union of Myanmar has its own culture since time immemorial. It has stood tall in the world as an independent and sovereign nation with its successive national rulers; ancient palace sites, moats and walls as well as stone inscriptions and palm-leaf manuscripts stand witness to the existence of different eras characterized by glory and victory starting from Hanlin, Beikthano and Thraykhittara, to Bagan, Pinya, Innwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan, Konbaung and so on.

Observing Myanmar Naing-Ngan's geographical conditions endowed with treasures and resources, European colonialists got very greedy. Hence, the colonialists waged three aggressive wars, once in 1824, once in 1852 and once in 1885 thereby finally annexing the entire Myanmar Naing-Ngan and enslaving Myanmar people.

Myanmar national pride is in our blood and Myanmar nationals remained unbowed and engaged unceasing struggles against the colonialists. In suppressing Myanmar people economically, the colonialists applied all possible means to exploit the people through unfair practices of extraction and production, commerce and trade in rice, teak, oil and gems. Moreover, they allowed cultivation of opium poppy, import of drugs and consumption to get the Myanmar nationals degenerated. They also made the schools teach the colonialist victories so that those taught would think highly of them, invented stories harming fraternal relations among the national races and tried to tarnish the glorious history of Myanmar.

The colonialists enforced colonial education aimed at furtherance of their rule and prolonging Myanmar's serfdom. At that time, one was allowed to attend the Calcutta University in India only after passing in the Rangoon College or Judson College.

As the Rangoon College gradually developed Myanmar nationals desirous of a full-fledged university made demands to the colonial government. Then came the Rangoon University Act of 1920.

True, Myanmar citizens wished to establish a university in Myanmar but they rejected and opposed the Act because it was designed to prolong the servitude of Myanmar citizens. Regarding themselves as 'masters' the colonialists unilaterally promulgated the Rangoon University Act on 1 December 1920 against the wishes of Myanmar people who they regarded as slaves.

Myanmar nationals firmly established themselves as "We, the masters" and eleven senior students with strong patriotism led the Boycott Movement on the 10th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1282 Myanmar Era (5 December, 1920) against the alien colonialists in protest at the promulgation of Rangoon University Act.

Thanks to the 1920 boycott, the spirit of nationalism had awakened at a tremendous rate throughout the nation. There emerged national schools and national universities. Teachers at these national schools etched in the minds of their pupils spirit of

sacrifice in the interest of the nation and the people. The colonialists were in no position to resist the rapidly rising tide of nationalist movement which led to freedom struggle. The nationalists were convinced that it would not be possible to continue to withhold the independence of the Myanmar national races.

The National Day had repeatedly brought into being revolutionary forces that fought for independence and so the day is a day of historic significance concerned with all the nationalities of the Union or the entire people of the nation. Similarly, national spirit and national duty are national values of all the national races of the Union and nationalist spirit and Union spirit are essential values which all the national races can [sic] live without, for they live on the same land, drink the same water, travel in the same boat and head the same way sharing weal and woe.

All the national races will have to be mindful of the fact that colonialists are always waiting for a chance to interfere. All the national races should be in full alert that there are possibilities starting with the armed aggression of the past to the crooked means using their minions inside the country in order to harm unity among the people and cause disintegration of the nation.

On this National Day worthy of honour and reverence, the people of all national races are to always keep in mind the three National Day objectives.

1. to rekindle and strengthen nationalist fervour,
2. to consolidate national unity, and
3. to perpetuate the nation's independence and sovereignty.

To be in accordance with the motto "There will be prosperity if there is unity", I urge all the people of the national races to fully accept the leadership of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and exert efforts in unison for the flourishing of genuine democratic system and emergence of an enduring constitution.

(NLM 12/8)

National Day Slogans

- p Eternally preserve our national pride
- p Endeavour toward a modern Union of Myanmar
- p Promote national economy

(NLM 12/8)

Investment Office Renamed

Dec. 17: "In accordance with the market-oriented economic system, the Foreign Investment Commission Office has been reconstituted as Directorate of Investment and Company Administration," as of Nov. 1. A new signboard was erected at 653/691 Merchant Street, Pabedan Twp. [Yangon] by Director-General U Aung Myint. (NLM 12/18)

MILITARY

Insurgent Attacks

Dec. 2: A Mon armed group on Dec. 1 burned six bridges on the Yay-Dawei Road [Tanintharyi]. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 13: A Pa-O (Red) armed group on Dec. 7 laid a mine that derailed a locomotive and coach on the Loikaw-Thazi line near milepost 444/56. They were slightly damaged, but nobody was injured. (NLM 12/ 14)

Members of Armed Groups Surrender

[Note: When these statistics were first published, persons surrendering (or "returning to legal fold,") were described as insurgents. Then they were described as "terrorists." Now they are referred to as "members of armed groups."]

Nov. 30: From Oct. 17-31, 20 members of armed groups surrendered, with their weapons [names and details]. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 1: Three ABSDF members surrendered, with their weapons, at Theindaw camp on Nov. 8 [names and details]. (NLM 12/2)

Dec. 11: A Rakhine State Liberation Army platoon commander returned to legal fold, with weapons, on Dec. 9. "The armed group is near Ranong in the other country. The armed group discussed with Nai Site Chan, political in-charge of Mon armed group, BCP (Tanintharyi) and company commander Maung Lwin of Myeik district group to collect extortion money from powered boats and trawlers in the sea. On 5 December, four persons including Pyi Soe left Ranong for Zardetgyi Kyun in a boat carrying ammunition. While waiting near Zardetgyi Kyun as they planned, he left alone and surrendered to the Tatmadaw camp," where he was welcomed warmly. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 17: 6 members of armed groups surrendered between Dec. 4-11, with their weapons [names and details]. (NLM 12/18)

Dec. 22: From Nov. 1-6, 18 members of armed groups returned to legal fold, with their weapons [names and details]. (NLM 12/23)

Dec. 23: From Nov. 7-16, 16 members of armed groups returned to legal fold, with their weapons [names and details]. (NLM 12/24)

Dec. 24: From Nov. 17-30, 18 members of armed groups returned to legal fold, with their weapons [names and details], bringing the monthly total to 52. (NLM 12/25)

ECONOMIC

Economic Articles

Dec. 5: United Nations Volunteers, by Khin Maung Lay. [UN Volunteers spend two years, with a monthly living allowance. Myanmar has the second highest number of UN Volunteers; used to have the highest. The Myanmar program started in 1975, under UNDP. In 1987, UNV Executive Coordinator Mr. Hikmat Nabulsi visited Myanmar, and on May 5, 1988 the program was transferred to the Department of Labour. Since May 8, 1988, there have been:

No. of Applicants for P.H.S. Forms	3,615
No. of forms issued	3,064
No. of forms forwarded to Geneva	1,332
No. of UNVs assigned	242
UNV's in the field	151

"Although two decades have passed...the quality of Myanmar Volunteers has not diminished, and the proud traditions which held the Myanmar flag aloft in the international field is still very much in evidence.... With this article I salute all Myanmar and international volunteers from the over one hundred and thirty countries on this 'International Volunteer Day' 5 December 1993. 'May God Bless them all'.]

Dec. 12: Tatmadawmen, local populace help bring modernization to arid zone, by Theimm Htut. [Description of Chaung-U-Pakokku railroad project.]

Dec. 15: The Forest Law and its effectiveness, by KMO. ["As Myanmar timber fetches a good price in foreign markets, unscrupulous timber merchants and smugglers in collaboration with some Forest Department personnel who reportedly received bribes, illegal extracted logs." Review of seizures of illegal timber, of the terms of the Forest Law, and criminals punished under it.]

Project Inaugurations

Dec. 2: The Labour Department inaugurated the K4.51 million Panglong Hall in Dagon Myothit (North) Twp. [Yangon]. \ Cooperative Store Society 1 Showroom and Shop were opened in the north wing of Bogyoke Aung San Market [Yangon]. "Various kinds of fruit, toilet requisites, jewellery, textiles, electronic goods, leatherware, tinne provisions, sweets and cookies, sculptures, clocks and watches, refrigerators, television sets and vacuum cleaners are available there in kyats or in foreign currency." (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 3: The Myogonyaung Cinema, rebuilt at a cost of K21.3 million, was opened Dec. 1 on the corner of 31st and 83rd Streets, Chan-aye-thazan Twp., Mandalay. Modern projectors worth K500,000 were installed. (NLM 12/5)

Dec. 5: The K10.3 million Thiri Mingla Bridge across the

Biluchaung near Loikaw was inaugurated Dec. 3. (NLM 12/6)

Dec. 6: The new 21-mile Pathein-Ngaputaw Road [Ayeyarwady] was put into service on Dec. 5; travel time has been cut by four hours. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 8: The new cellular telephone system was inaugurated in Yangon, in the presence of Myanmar officials and Vice-President Mr. Jim Rogers of Ericsson (Australia Pte., Ltd.)

Dec. 9: The reconditioned Mongyulay-Kyukok (Pangsai) Motor Road, which runs 105 miles from Wanting in China to Kyukok, was inaugurated on Dec. 4, in the presence of North-East Commander Maj-Gen. Aye Kyaw, the Mayor of Wanting and other Chinese officials, and 30,000 people from Muse and Kyukok Twps. [Shan]. (NLM 12/ 10)

Dec. 11: The K60 million Lashio Motel on Station Road, Pyidawtha Ward, Lashio [Shan] was inaugurated by SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 13: The Pakokku-Minywa section of the Chaung-U-Pakokku railroad was commissioned into service on Dec. 12 by Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein. He said that in 1942 there were 2,058 miles of railroad; in 1945 1,516, in 1948 1,771, and in 1988 1,976. Since the SLORC assumed State responsibilities in 1988, 294 miles have been built at a cost of K1,071 million. Utilized were 37,785 tons of rails, 683,382 sleepers, and 183,362 sundrums of clippings. 645 bridges and 124 stations were built. Volunteers from the Tatmadaw, the public, and Myanma Railways, participating in the work, totalled 921,753. Rolling stock worth K270 million has been replenished. Plans call for more than 1,000 more miles of railroad and the import of K190 million of rolling stock. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 22: A Myanma Department Store operated by the Ministry of Trade was opened in Dagon Myothit (North) [Yangon] by SLORC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen. Tin Oo. Costing K28.2 million, the store sells 4,200 varieties of goods worth over K30 million. On the ground floor, 10 counters will sell aluminium wares, medicines, building materials, ceramic and glass wares, plastic goods, flower and packing materials, soft drinks and canned provisions, basic foodstuff, beverages, and household goods. On the first floor, 14 counters will be sold electrical goods, fabrics and leather goods, ready-made clothes, traditional art objects, shoes, fancy goods, sports equipment, stationery, and furnishings for rooms. (NLM 12/23)

Dec. 24: The Shwe Hinthar Inn was inaugurated at 51 Pyay Road, 6« miles, by Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Yin. It "has four air-conditioned suites with satellite TV, cellular IDD telephone, hot and cold water and other facilities and Galaxy Restaurant, which accommodates over 100 and serves a choice of Myanmar, Chinese and European foods." Two more buildings, with 18 rooms, and a swimming pool are being added. It is a joint venture between the Human Settlement and Housing Development Department and Mya Khwar Nyo Co. Ltd. (NLM 12/25)

Dec. 27: The Yenangyoung-Natmauk Road was inaugurated Dec. 24. (NLM 12/28)

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Joint Ventures & Foreign Investments

Dec. 2: Myanma Timber Enterprise and Scansia Myanmar Ltd., represented by Mr. Bjorn Burchard, signed an agreement for establishment of a furniture factory on a site in Shwepyithar Industrial Zone. Scansia will supply 100 percent investment. Also present were several Cabinet Ministers, Managing Director U Myat Win of Myanmar Timber Enterprise, and Mr. Arve Varleite of Scansia Sdn Bhd [sic]. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 9: Yangon Mayor U Ko Lay visited the MOKYAN Co. Ltd. plastic pipe factory in Kamayut, a joint venture between the Yangon City Development Committee and MOKWON Co. Ltd. of Korea. The factory produces 250 tons of plastic pipes and unions per month, from 12-mm to 300-mm diameter. (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 14: A contract for the renovation of the Mandalay Hotel was signed by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and Applied Investments (Asia) Pte. Ltd. of Singapore, represented by Chairman Mr. P. Srinivasan and Managing Director Mr. Koh Kim Song, in conjunction with formation of the joint venture Myanmar-Swan Investments Co. Ltd., which will spend US\$3.2 million refurbishing and upgrading the Hotel "to make it the first international standard hotel in Mandalay." The project will take 18 months. The Hotel will be leased to Myanmar-Swan Investments for 30 years, after which it will revert to the Government. (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 14: An agreement was signed between the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd., represented by Managing Director Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel, and Rothmans Myanmar Holdings Private Ltd. of Singapore, represented by Chairman Mr. Graham M. Bell and Mr. George Yin Suan, to establish as a joint venture company Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Private Ltd. for setting up a cigarette factory. (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 17: A contract was signed between the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, and Atlantic Outline Myanmar Co. Ltd. of Malaysia, represented by Chairman Mr. Kong Soohar, Managing Director Mr. H.J. Shamshudeen, and Directors Mr. Gilbert Lee and Dr. Aung Khin, for "building of hotels, resort centre, a golf course and commercial centre buildings on Salon Kyun (Pulo Basin Island) in Kawthoung Twp. [Tanintharyi]. Addressing the ceremony, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Lt-Gen. Kyaw Ba said that Myanmar now has 106 privately-run hotels, 1,517 rooms, and 112 tour operators. Soon Myitkyina, Putao and Indawgyi "will become famous tourist resorts." With respect to visas, "He disclosed that on arrival visa is also made available for passengers of Bangkok Airways as they arrive and this arrangement will make Mandalay the second gateway to Myanmar. He said with a view to promoting tourism industry in Myanmar, the Myanmar embassies are instructed to issue visa within 24 hours and arrangements are being made to extend tourist visas from 14 days to 28 days." (NLM 12/18)

Dec. 24: A contract was signed between the Prisons Department and Panthu Geological Services Cooperative Society for the extraction of ornamental stones in Taungzun Camp in Bilin Twp. [Mon]. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed for similar purposes at Phayar Ngahsu Camp in Thazi Twp. [Mandalay]. The joint venture was set up with a capital of K80 million, with the Prisons Department and the Panthu Geological Services Cooperative Society each having half. (NLM 12/25)

Agriculture

Dec. 3: Over 13 million viss of jute have been purchased by Myanma Jute Industries so far this year: 10.3 million from Ayeyarwady, 2.6 million from Bago, and 29,000 from Yangon Division. (NLM 12/4)

Purchase Agreements

Dec. 3: Mr. Don Barnard of Ericsson Australia Pte. Ltd. signed a contract with Myanma Posts and Telecommunications for installation of 1,000 cellular phones in Yangon; the Shwegondaing Radio Station will be upgraded from 29 to 60 channels, and a 30-channel station will be built at the Regional Centre in downtown Yangon. (NLM 12/ 4)

Dec. 3: Chairman Mr. Lin Zai You of Yunnan Machinery & Equipment Export/Import Corporation signed a contract with Managing Director U Aung Thein of Myanmar Railways for the purchase of six 2000-HP and 4 1200-HP locomotives, ordinary class coaches, and heavy machinery. (NLM 12/4)

Dec. 7: Chairman Mr. Yang Guoxiang of Yunnan Machinery Import and Export Corporation signed an agreement with Managing Director U Aung Thein of Myanmar Railways for a fourth US\$5 million interest free loan for the purchase of coaches, freight wagons, and other railway equipment. (NLM 12/ 8)

Locomotives & Coaches Delivered

Dec. 3: Managing Director Mr. Qi Wen of Sifang Locomotive and Coach Factory attended delivery to Myanma Railways of six 2000-HP locomotives, 2 upper class coaches, and 2 ordinary class coaches. They were then commissioned by Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Yang Chong Yong of the Yunnan Provincial Government and Managing Director U Aung Thein of Myanma Railways. (NLM 12/4)

Tourist Festival in Tanintharyi

Dec. 9: The Ranong-Kawthoung Tourism region was opened to

foreign tourists in April 1993, and on Nov. 26-27 the Forest Sunflower on Andaman Coast Festival was held under the aegis of the Thai Tourism Authority and Jansom Thara Hotel Co. Ltd. "At the festival, tourist attractions such as boat races, car racing and cultural dances were held." (NLM 12/10)

Kachin State Forests

Dec. 14: Speaking to Forestry officials in Myitkyina, Northern Commander Maj-Gen. Saw Lwin said 58.28% of Kachin State is forested, with many valued trees. "He said that as extraction and transportation of timber were carried out through unscrupulous means by violating law and rules actions are being taken. He said permission for extraction of timber is being granted only up to 31 December. He said it is necessary for the Tatmadaw and the departments to work together in forest conservation work." (NLM 12/15)

Treasury Bonds

Dec. 14: Since Dec. 1, the Central Bank of Myanmar has sold K13.4 million of treasury bonds; holders can take out interest of three-year or five-year bonds every six months. Beginning Jan. 1, the Myanma Economic Bank Branch in Mandalay will also sell bonds. (NLM 12/15)

Jade Sale

Dec. 20: "43 foreign and 8 gem merchants" inspected 218 jade lots with a reserve price of US\$2 million, to be sold by sealed competitive bids. Sealed tenders will be accepted on Dec. 22 and opened the next day. 30 foreign gem companies were invited to attend the interim jade sale. (NLM 12/21)

Dec. 23: The jade sale realized US\$407,438 for 54 lots of jade, 14 pieces of jewellery, and 163 jade figurines. 50 foreign gem merchants and 20 local dealers with foreign exchange accounts made purchases. (NLM 12/ 24)

Trade Fair in Tachilek

Dec. 21: The long-heralded Myanmar Trade Fair in Tachilek [Shan] opened, to "turn border trade into regular trade." Present were Fair Patron SLORC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen. Tin Oo, Minister for Forestry Lt-Gen. Chit Swe, Minister for Agriculture Lt-Gen. Myint Aung, Minister for Trade Lt-Gen. Tun Kyi, Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen. Win Tin, Minister for Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen. Lun Maung, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Yin, Minister for Cooperatives U Than Aung, and other high officials. 30,000 guests attended the opening ceremonies, after which the officials returned to Yangon.

Minister for Trade Lt-Gen. Tun Kyi spoke at the opening: "Although there are favourable conditions for trade development in Tachilek region, there had been slow progress due to difficulties in transport and communications and the danger of internal strife in the area, he said.... Because of restraints in transport sector at the border, he said, there may be weakness and flaws in organizing the Trade Fair. Arrangements will be made for organizing similar fairs in border towns such as Kawthoung, Muse and Tamu as well as in Yangon."

"500 kinds of commodities valued at K 200 million" are for sale, including "agricultural produce, marine products, forest products, furniture, paintings, sculptures, leatherware, gems, jade and jewellery, silverware, bronze articles, textiles, household and personal goods and Myanmar handicrafts." The fair will remain open until Dec. 31: on the first day, goods worth US\$ 4,762 and 860,500 [Thai] baht were sold in cash and US\$160,500 on sale contract. "Most of the customers and visitors are from Thailand." (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 22: On the second day, goods worth K24,000, 695,068 baht, and US\$11,200 were sold in cash and US\$561,000 on sale contract. (NLM 12/23)

Dec. 23: On the third day, goods worth K3,000, 644,535 baht,

and US\$4,406 were sold in cash and US\$499,000 on sales contract. There were 40,000 visitors including 90 foreigners. (NLM 12/24)

Dec. 24: On the fourth day, goods worth 521,174 baht and US\$1,946 were sold for cash and US\$225,000 on sales contract. Two planeloads of merchandise were flown to Tachilek to replenish supplies, including TV sets, fish and prawns, handicrafts, batiks, and foodstuffs. A second consignment will be sent of carpets, leatherware, enamelware, furniture and woodcraft. (NLM 12/25)

Dec. 25: On the fifth day, goods worth K20,000, 827,373 baht, and US\$7,120 were sold for cash and US\$2,250,000 on sales contract, plus produce valued at US\$11,110,000 under a Memorandum of Understanding. 45,000 visitors, including 30 Thai nationals and tourists, attended; a record. (NLM 12/26)

Dec. 26: On the sixth day, goods worth 641,940 baht and US\$1,150 were sold for cash and US\$885,000 on sales contract. (NLM 12/27)

Dec. 27: On the seventh day, goods worth 403,479 baht and US\$5,244 were sold for cash and US\$312,500 on sales contract. There were 30,000 visitors, including 53 tourists. (NLM 12/28)

Dec. 28: On the eighth day, goods worth 521,646 baht and US\$4,975 were sold for cash and US\$307,500 on sales contract. (NLM 12/29)

Dec. 29: On the ninth day, goods worth 629,782 baht and US\$4,403 were sold for cash and US\$255,920 on sales contract. There were 45,000 visitors, including 50 tourists. (NLM 12/30)

Dec. 30: On the tenth day, goods worth K7,000, 601,462 baht, and US\$1,993 were sold for cash, and US\$26,036 on sales contracts. (NLM 12/31)

Edible Oil

Dec. 23: Speaking at the Edible Oil Refinery in Thingangyun Twp. [Yangon], Minister for Agriculture Lt-Gen. Myint Aung said that since palm oil plantations were sold to the private sector, production has increased from 500,000 to 1 million viss. The country needs nearly 150,000 tons of edible oil per year, and has to import over US\$50 million worth annually. (NLM 12/24)

Natural Gas Reserves

Dec. 24: The Special Projects Implementation Committee No. 5/93, attended by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe, was addressed by Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein: "In connection with production potentials at the [Yadana] gas well, he stated that though it was formerly estimated that there was only two trillion cubic feet of natural gas deposit, there is really six trillion cubic feet of it enough for 30-year production." (NLM 12/25)

Mulberries and Silk

Dec. 28: Minister for Agriculture Lt-Gen. Myint Aung visited mulberry plantations in Pyin-Oo-Lwin [ex-Maymyo] [Mandalay]. The Myanma Agricultural Service took over an inoperative silk factory from the Tatmadaw on Jan. 21, 1993; it is currently being test run, with production of 282 pounds of silk. Over 3,000 acres of mulberries have been planted, against a target of 1,800 in 1993-94. In Pyin-Oo-Lwin and Nawngkhio zones, over 2,000 acres have been cultivated, against a target of 800. New methods are being devised in sericulture, which can earn K12,000-18,000 per acre. (NLM 12/29)

Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings

Dec. 29: The third general meeting of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (UMEH) for 1992-93 was held at Yangon Command Headquarters. Present were Chairman of the Board of Directors of UMEH Commander of the Yangon Command Lt-Gen. Myo Nyunt, Military Appointments-General Lt-Gen. Maung Hla, Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen. Mya Thin, Minister for Labour Lt-Gen. Aye Thoung, Minister for Mines Lt-Gen. Kyaw Min, Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen. Min Thein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen. Win Tin, the Chief of

Staff (Navy), the Chief of Staff (Air), Managing Director of UMEH Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen. Abel, members of the Board of Directors, and others.

Commander Lt-Gen. Myo Nyunt "said it is now three years since the Economic Holdings Limited was formed.... This year...three garments factories are being operated. He said discussions are being held on setting up one cigarette factory...and two more major garment factories. He said a three-star six-storey hotel is under construction and will be opened in 1994. He said there are two joint venture undertakings which import goods and sell them in foreign currency and in kyats. He said the Myawady Bank was also opened on 4th January this year and it is seen that it is doing quite well. He said there are arrangements to open branch banks in townships which are economically developed.

"He said the economic Holdings Limited is giving top priority in the investment sector and is making efforts to establish an industrial zone in Pyinmabin area where industries are being established....

He said like the previous year, 10 per cent of the profits could be given to share-holders; K2.56 million could be given to the State as shares and K2.56 million as trade tax and income tax totalling K5.12 million could be given to the State." (NLM 12/30)

Rice Mill Wages Set

Dec. 29: The Department of Labour issued a Notification dated Nov. 24, 1993, "regarding minimum wages in rice milling.... The notification, which has three chapters, will take effect from 1 January 1994, the report added. The first chapter includes rates of wages, rates of minimum wages for daily-wage-earners, rates of minimum wages for piece-meal-workers and other matters. Chapter two deals with earned leave, medical leave, casual leave and public holidays, and chapter three concerns miscellaneous items." (NLM 12/30)

Rainfall in Yangon

Rainfall, in inches, at Yangon's three weather stations of Yangon Airport (YA), Kaba-Aye (KA), and Central Yangon (CY) was:

	YA	KA	CY
1987	97.01	100.98	95.43
1988	99.17	100.00	107.76
1989	96.22	100.59	102.76
1990	118.35	109.92	122.84
1991	91.81	83.78	96.65
1992	81.34	96.02	95.98
1993, as of			
December 1	82.64	111.18	95.12
December 15	82.64	111.18	95.12
December 30	82.64	111.18	95.12

SPORTS

Sports Articles

Dec. 4: Not to rest on past laurels, by N Tin Maung. [Looking towards the Second National Sports Festival in Yangon, in January-February 1994.]

Dec. 11: How to be a good middle-distance runner, by N Tin Maung. [Technique in "the center of attraction in most...athletic meets in various parts of the world."]

Dec. 18: Objective of Student Sports Festival for producing outstanding athletes realized, by N Tin Maung. [Outstanding winners discussed.]

Dec. 25: To revitalize Myanmar traditional rowing, by N Tin Maung. [Significance of the coming Regatta.]

Myanmar Teams and Delegations

Nov. 30: The Myanmar rowing team that won gold in the Sixth

Thai Invitational Swan Boat Races, Myanmar marathoners from the Bangkok Marathon, and the victorious Myanmar yachting team in the under-15 1993 ASEAN Optimist Championship at Pattaya, arrived back in Yangon. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 18: The Myanmar Sepak Takraw team led by Police Col. Hla Myint returned from the 10th Thai King's Cup World Sepak Takraw Contest held in Thailand Dec. 11-15. Myanmar placed fourth in the team event and won Gold in the regu event. 12 nations participated. (NLM 12/19)

Foreign Teams and Delegations

Dec. 1: A 26 member Zinyang Acrobatic Troupe, led by Mr. Gao Ton Yu, arrived from China to give performances in Yangon and Mandalay for two weeks under the China-Myanmar cultural exchange program. (NLM 12/2) // Dec. 3: A special show was given at the National Theatre, attended by high officials. (NLM 12/5) // Dec. 14: The troupe was given a dinner by Minister for Culture Lt-Gen. Aung Ye Kyaw. (NLM 12/ 15). // Dec. 15: The troupe performed in Mandalay on Dec. 12, and after returning to Yangon, departed for home on Dec. 15. (NLM 12/16)

Dec. 2: Kukkiwon Taekwondo of the Republic of Korea staged a demonstration at the National Indoor Stadium-1; afterwards, Korean Military Attache Col. Sang Jin Yang donated taekwondo suites to the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 7: A 26-member Indonesian National Police Force football team, led by Maj-Gen. (Police) Bambang Daroendrijo arrived to play a PPF team on Dec. 8 and a Defence Ministry team on Dec. 10. (NLM 12/8) // Dec. 8: Members of the team called on Director-General Maj-Gen. San Thein of the PPF. Myanmar beat the Indonesians 2-0. (NLM 12/8) // Dec. 10: PPF Director-General Police Maj-Gen. San Thein hosted a dinner for the team. The team lost to a Defence Ministry team 1-0. (NLM 12/11) // Dec. 11: The team visited pagodas in Yangon and Bago. (NLM 12/12) // Dec. 12: The team departed. (NLM 12/13)

Student Sports Festival

Dec. 5: The Fourth Student Sports Festival in Sittway, Rakhine State, opened with a torch-lighting. Attending ceremonies were Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt, various Cabinet Ministers, and other high officials. (NLM 12/6)

Dec. 6: The Festival formally opened at Vesali Square, Sittway. The aims of the Festival are: "(1) To help implement the aim of the State 'Myanmar Sports--the World to Conquer'; (2) To turn out more of fit and healthy students; (3) To turn out more students with sporting spirit; (4) To contribute to sporting movements of the State; (5) To raise the standard of Myanmar sports and to turn out brilliant, select Myanmar athletes; and, (6) To further strengthen Union spirit and patriotism." The opening address was given by SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt [full text published in NLM]. Sports events began. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 7: Events continued. (NLM 12/8)

Dec. 8: Events continued. A student belle will be selected as Princess Vesali on Dec. 11. (NLM 12/9)

Dec. 9: Events continued. (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 10: Events continued. Selection of "Princess Vesali" began. (NLM 12/11)

Dec. 11: Events continued. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 12: Minister for Education Col. Pe Thein arrived in Sittway to attend the closing ceremonies of the Student Sports Festival. Events, including a golf tournament, continued. (NLM 12/13)

Dec. 14: Ma Wai Mar Thein, of Hopang High School, Kachin State, was selected as "Princess Vesali" at the 1993 Fourth Student Sports Festival in Sittway. "The selection of Princess Vesali, unlike other beauty contests, was carried out emphasizing health, general knowledge, appearance and social dealings." (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 15: The Festival came to a "grand finale." Minister for

Education Col. Pe Thein noted that the Festival included 10 kinds of sports, and praised all participants. (NLM 12/16)

Dec. 17: "Princess Vesali," and other participants, left Thandwe for home, after visiting Ngapali beach. (NLM 12/18)

Traditional Regatta Festival

The Fifth Myanmar Traditional Regatta Festival will be held this month. Objectives are:

þ To revitalize and preserve the Myanmar traditional sport of rowing;

þ To regard as a national duty the task nurturing the Union Spirit and preserving national cultural traditions;

þ To depict solidarity of the Myanmar people;

þ To keep ever alive physical and mental fitness of the people coupled with perseverance, diligence and zeal;

þ To demonstrate collective efforts, sacrifice and team spirit which represent national spirit; and

þ To turn out rowers of world standard in accordance with the objective "Myanmar Sports -- the World to Conquer".

(NLM 12/12)

Dec. 24: Qualifying races began. (NLM 12/ 25) // Dec. 25: They continued. (NLM 12/26)

Dec. 27: The Regatta opened, in the presence of SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe. On his behalf, SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt gave an opening address reviewing the history of boats through Myanmar history [text published in NLM], ending, "In conclusion, I would like to say that the State Law and Order Restoration Council has been holding these regatta festivals to revive a cultural tradition colonialists had systematically suppressed, and to counter and repel perfidious instigations being made by certain neo-colonialists to disrupt our national unity, to break up our country, and to deprive us of our liberty. We are holding this Festival to demonstrate Myanmar unity and Myanmar intrepidity...." [photos] (NLM 12/28)

Dec. 28: Heats and semi-finals continued. (NLM 12/29)

Dec. 29: Semifinals continued. (NLM 12/ 30)

Dec. 30: Prizes worth K4 million were awarded by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe. The Regatta concluded "amid general rejoicing." [photos] (NLM 12/31)

Chairman's Trophy Golf Tourney

Dec. 18: SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe took part in the 1993 Golf Tournament for the State Law and Order Restoration Council Chairman's Trophy. The Ministry of Defence Team took the lead. (NLM 12/19)

Dec. 19: The Ministry of Defence team won the Trophy for the fifth successive year, with the State Law and Order Restoration Council team second. Prizes by SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt. (NLM 12/ 20)

National Sports Festival

The Second National Sports Festival will be held from Jan. 25-Feb. 5, 1994. Its objectives are:

þ To work as a National Campaign for the realization of the motto "Myanmar Sports, the World to Conquer".

þ To bear in mind promotion of sports amounts to the defence of the country.

þ To enliven patriotism and National pride in conjunction with sports activities.

þ To nurture a new generation of world class athletes.

þ To organize the public to join in and encourage the promotion of Myanmar Sports.

þ To call for the active participation of responsible personnel at all levels to train outstanding athletes employing modern techniques.

þ To vitalize National spirit by creating a chance for up-and-

coming athletes all over the country to get together and breed friendship among them.
(NLM 12/28)

Dec. 27: Persons wishing to use video or still cameras at the National Sports Festival must obtain licences. Fees: Video Cameras: K2,000 (Departmental personnel); K4,000 (private individuals); US\$100 (foreigners). Still Cameras: K1,000 (Departmental personnel), K2,000 (private individuals); US\$50 (foreigners). (NLM 12/28)

HEALTH

World AIDS Day

Dec. 1: Full page article entitled AIDS--A Global problem "Time to act": What you should know about AIDS, reprinted from WHO/UNESCO materials. [Detailed questions and answers about AIDS, its transmission, etc.]

Dec. 1: Editorial: World AIDS Day 1993. ["Time to fight denial, discrimination and complacency, among governments, communities and individuals. With no cure or vaccine in sight, prevention and education must remain absolute priorities.... Myanmar recognizes AIDS as a national concern and has set up her own AIDS Project and has been working in concert with UN agencies and NGOs and others who must share the burden of fighting the problem for only by forging alliance against it can it be combated. Let us all redouble our efforts in this direction."]

Dec. 1: World AIDS Day was observed at the Institute of Nursing in Yangon, with an address by Minister for Health Vice-Adm. Than Nyunt. After citing international AIDS statistics, "He said 5,862 persons have been found HIV positive in Myanmar up to September this year and 135 are suffering from AIDS.... He stated that work for prevention and control of the epidemic has been included as the third priority health problem in the tasks of the National Health Plan to be implemented from 1993 to 1996, and related programmes have been formulated for extensive execution of the work countrywide, with the formation of AIDS Prevention and Control Committees at central, States/ Divisions and township levels.... With funds spent increasingly on AIDS prevention work --K3.84 million in 1991; K6.06 million in 1992; and K7.17 million in 1993, the State has raised the momentum of efforts for the control of the epidemic, he said.... In our country, he said, seven tasks for AIDS prevention have been laid down--carrying out health education; preventing the spread by screening blood for transfusion; sterilizing needles and syringes; conducting constant observations and surveys; providing proper medicare to AIDS patients with talks for encouragement and education; conducting educative courses for those interested in social services including health personnel; and carrying out research.... He said 17 courses on prevention and control of the disease have been conducted--two for doctors of Drug Dependency Treatment Unit; eight for heads of Township Health Departments to enable them to conduct multiplier courses; one for doctors of General Hospitals for medical care and treatment to AIDS patients; four for encouragement and educative talks to be given to the patients; and two at schools....
(NLM 12/2)

Iodized Salt

Dec. 15: Potassium iodate was distributed to private salt makers; it "is used in production of iodized salt for prevention of iodine deficiency diseases," such as goitre. A law will be enacted "for production of only iodized salt, beginning 1995." (NLM 12/ 16)

CULTURAL

Cultural and Scientific Articles

Dec. 26: Myanmar Traditional Boat Races, by Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt. [Traditional Myanmar Festivals. Description of traditional boat races from John Nisbet, Burma under British Rule--and Before

(1901), Vol. II, pp. 268-271.]

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards

Dec. 1: 21 1992 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winners were announced [as in the past some prizes were not awarded]:

Novels: Second Prize--Thu Thein for Yay-hnint-kya; Third Prize--Maung Hmine Lwin for Dae-tha-pyan Abba-Kanyi.

Short Stories: First Prize--Maung Myay Ni (Tamardaw) for Mine Thamar; Second Prize--Kanbalu Khin Maung Swe for Nay-tasu La-tabar short stories); Third Prize --Maung Chit Sein for Amay Hnint Achar Wut-htu-domyar short stories.

Translation: First Prize--Maung Win Yi for five short stories by O'Henry.

Children's Literature: First Prize--Tekkatho Maung Aung Swe for Myanmar Kalay Theikpan Wuthtu; Second Prize--Maung Pyupyin (Kyonpyaw) for Pan-khin-de-hma Pan-pwint-myar; Third Prize--Aung Thu Yein (Pale) for Myat-no-bwe Myanmar Pon-wut-htu-myar.

Myanmar Culture and Art: First Prize-- Hne U Mya Gyi (Kawhmu) for Myanma Hne; Second Prize--Ba Tint-Dartu Anupyinnya Nan-yan-say-yay Bagyi-htein-thein-hmu-pyinnya Thigaung-saya; Third Prize--Htan Hlaing for Myanma Yoyar Hti-dalay Hnit Htilok-ngan.

General Knowledge (Arts): First Prize-- Aung Soe (Veterinary Surgeon) for Myanma Hsin; Second Prize--Maung Kyaw Shin for Shwe-alai-gyaung; Third Prize--Saw Kyu Maung (Yaw-Myay) for Pinni-chaw-hnit-yaw-longyi.

General Knowledge (Science and Applied Science): First Prize-- Dr. Maung Thinn for Myanma Shayyay Mahnay Thitpin Wunkeyin Thabaw-htein-thein-gya; Second Prize--U Kaung Yin for Khit-hmi Paribawga Lok-ngan-pyinnya; Third Prize--Capt. Than Nyunt (Retd) for Bilat-may-akaung Thi-kaung-saya.

Poems: First Prize--Myaylat Maung Myint Thu for Nan-net-khin Lay-hniy-yeh Yin-khon-than; Second Prize--Min Chan Mon for Aryon-kyo Alin-hnget-myar; Third Prize-- Nway Ko Tu (Pakokku) for Payit-phon-hnit Hnit-Oo-nway Gabyamyar.

No awards were made in the categories of plays, youth literature, belles-lettres, and political literature. Prizes will be awarded on Sarsodaw Day, Dec. 14, together with the National Literary Awards. [photos] (NLM 12/2)

National Literary Awards

Dec. 2: National Literary Awards for 1992 were announced, as follows:

Short Stories: Nay Win Myint for Hset-na-kyo.

Poems: Nyunt Wai (Katha) for Seik Bya-tin kabayar-myar.

General Knowledge (Arts): Tekkatho Htin Gyi for Myanmar Naing-Ngan Thadinzar-mya Ahnyun.

General Knowledge (Applied Science): U Pe Thein for Hlyat-sit Pyin-nyar Thabaw-taya hnint Let-twe.

Translations: Mya Than Tint for Thukha Myodaw.

Children's Literature: Theikpan Soe Myint Naing for Nyi-htwe-lay atwet Khalay Kabayar-myar.

Myanmar Culture and Arts: U Kyaw Nyein for Bagan Myohaung Myingaba Gu-byauk-gyi Paya.

Belles-Lettres: Maung Hkun Nwe (Innlay) for Pa-O.

No awards were made for Novels, Drama, Youth Literature, Translation (general knowledge), General Knowledge (science), or Political Literature. Awards will be presented on Sarsodaw Day, Dec. 14. (NLM 12/3)

Universities

Dec. 2: Speaking at Dagon University, SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt said that "a long-term master plan has been drawn up and projects are being implemented stage by stage to upgrade the university to eventually attain the 60,000 student capacity standard. Implementation of the project, he said, has gained momentum and after next six years Dagon University will emerge as a modern university.

He said Dagon University is targeted to be the largest institute of higher learning in Myanmar...." (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 4: Yangon University held its 63rd Convocation, at which Rector Dr. Tun Maung conferred B.A. and B.Sc. degrees on 847 and 569 graduates respectively. (NLM 12/5)

Dec. 7: 1,167 freshers entering the Institute of Economics, Yangon, were welcomed by Rector Dr. Than Nyunt. (NLM 12/8)

Dec. 11: Rector U Han Tin of the Institute of Education, at its 25th and 26th Convocations, conferred M.Ed degrees on 28, B.Ed degrees on 1,426, and Dip Ed on 11. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 26: Rector U Kyin Soe of the Institute of Technology conferred the following degrees: ME (1), M.Phil (3), Post-graduate Diploma in Public Health Engineering (2), Post-graduate Diploma in Urban Planning and Design (4), Post-graduate Diploma in Food Technology (8), B.Arch (12), and B.E. (650). (NLM 12/27)

Publications

Dec. 4: Today, "the premier magazine on tourism and business in Myanmar," was launched at the Karaweik Hall. Managing Director of Today Media and Information Ltd. Dr. Tha Tun Oo said that 5,000 copies will be published monthly and distributed free through Myanmar embassies and consulates to tourists who apply for Myanmar visas. (NLM 12/5)

Dec. 10: The Department of Chemistry of Yangon University has published Vol. 11, No. 1 of the Chemistry Journal, including lectures for highschool students. (NLM 12/ 11)

Dec. 15: The City News, published by the Yangon City Development Committee, is two years old. Chief Editor U Tin Maung Latt, Yangon Mayor U Ko Lay, and others celebrated the event. (NLM 12/16)

Dec. 24: Members of the Sarpay Beikman Book Association will receive, for the month of October, Myanma Hsin Yokchoe Anupyinnar by Maung Yi Soe (Kyaukse), which won second prize for Myanma culture and fine arts in the 1990 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards. (NLM 12/25)

Archaeological Find

Dec. 6: Five workers who dug up "29 ancient British sovereigns" from the Konbaung period, at a rice mill in Yangon, were awarded K383,451 by the Archaeology Department. (NLM 12/7)

Sarsodaw Day Ceremonies

Dec. 14: On Sarsodaw Day, devoted to writers, Minister for Information Brig-Gen. Myo Thant presented the 1992 National Literary Awards and the 1992 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards [see above].

"He noted that at present the State maintains friendly relations with the world and forges economic and bilateral ties. He cautioned that it is necessary to guard against behaviours and characters that will harm own race and own culture in maintaining international relations. Literary workers are to bear this responsibility and disseminate the knowledge with the use of their writing skills.... The Ministry of Information at present has opened information libraries in every township and it has informed, entertained and educated the public through them, he said. Reading public has now access to public libraries to share knowledge from the literature they want to read and they should read...." (NLM 12/15)

Radio Myanmar Shortwave

Dec. 22: Programmes of the national races broadcast by Radio Myanmar will be heard on the following schedule for three months beginning Jan. 1, 1994, on 63.49 metres short wave: Rakhine (1600-1630), Shan (1630-1700), Kachin (1700-1730), Kayah (1730-1800), Sgaw Kayin (1800-1830), Pwo Kayin (1830-1900), Chin (1900-1930), Mon (1930-2000) hours Myanma Standard Time (MST). (NLM 12/23)

Literary Organization Conference

Dec. 29: The First Conference of Literary and Journalists

Organization (LJO) opened at the Institute of Nursing, in the presence of SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt and other dignitaries. The Secretary-1 made a long speech on Myanmar Cultural Policy [see below]. During the session, the organization was renamed the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association.

The conference was attended by Chairman of the LJO Central Executive Committee U Soe Nyunt (Htilar Sitthu), Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, Vice-Chairmen U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and U Nyi Nyi (Linyon Ni), Secretary U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), Joint-Secretaries, Conference delegates from Township LJOs, etc.

LJO Vice-Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) noted that the LJO was founded in October 1989, and now has 2,366 members and a total of 127 Township LJOs and Organizing Committees. He said 22 delegates from the states and divisions will join the 18 delegates in the Panel of Chairmen. A new Central Executive Committee is to be elected, and a seven-member election supervision committee under Dr. Tin Aung Aye (Professor of Law at Yangon University).

Chairman Deputy Minister for Culture U Soe Nyunt (Htilar Sitthu) noted that Myanmar literature went back over 2,000 years to the Pyu era.

The Central Executive Committee report, financial report, presentation on the situation of literary funds, basic organizational rules were all approved. (NLM 12/30)

Dec. 30: The Conference closed. The new Central Committee of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was elected as follows:

-- Chairman: U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin)
-- Vice-Chairmen: U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and U Nyi Nyi (Lin Yonni)
-- Secretary: U Win Pe (Monywa Win Pe)
-- Joint-Secretaries: U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt), Daw Mya Mya Than (Ma Hnin Phway), and Dr. Tin Tun Oo
-- Treasurer: U Saw Myint (Maung Saw Myint)
-- Leader of Auditors: U Maung Win
-- CEC members: U Than Maung, U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), Daw Yin Yin (Saw Monnyin), U Khin Maung Tun (Khin Maung Tun-Lanmadaw), U Ye Tint (Ye Tint), U Kyaw Min (Min Kya Min), U Kyi Nyunt (Chitkyiyay Kyi Nyunt), Dr. Maung Maung Nyo, Dr. Tin Shwe (Sayawun Tin Shwe), U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), U Ngwe Kyi (Cartoon Ngwe Kyi), U Wunna (Cartoon U Wunna), Daw Khin Khin Sein (Yuwadi Khin Sein Hlaing), Lt-Col. Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), and U Ohn Pe (Pakokku U Ohn Pe).

SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe visited the Institute of Nursing and met for 15 minutes with the 28 "doyens of literati" who had been especially invited to the Conference, namely: U Yan Aung (Yan Aung); U Than Pe (Kayabala Than Pe), U Thukha (Thukha), U Tin Myint (Thinkha), Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Law), Daw Khin Khin (Mai Khagwe), U Tun Tin (Mann Tin), Col. Hla Aung (Retd) (Hla Aung), U Han Tin (Sagaing Han Tin), U Maung Maung Tin (MA), Daw Nu Yin (Nu Yin), U Thein Maung (Htin Lin), U Maung Maung Lay (Khin Lay Maung), U Kyin Swe (Thawda Swe), U Saw Myint (Hmu Thamein), Dr. Than Tun, U Nay Win (Tekkatho Nay Win), Daw Yin Yin (Saw Monnyin), Daw Than Swe (Mya Myintzu), Daw Ni Ni Yin (Ni Ni Yin), Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan), U Hla Kyaing (Paragu), Brig-Gen. Khin Ohn (Retd) (Ramanya Ko Ko Naing), Daw Myint Than (Lecturer Daw Myint Than), U Nyi Nyi (Linyonni), U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai), U Win Pe (Mya Zin), and U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyugyun Aung Thein).

The Conference was then closed. [photos]
(NLM 12/31)

Myanmar Cultural Policy

Dec. 29: At the opening of the LJO Conference [see above] SLORC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen. Khin Nyunt delivered the following speech outlining Myanmar cultural and literary policy [full text]:

I wish all the Ministers, departmental heads, guests and delegates present here blessed with auspiciousness and wish the literary workers to be able to serve the interests of race, the

language and religion through literature.

The opening day of the First Conference of Literary and Journalists Organization, which was formed anew during the time of the State Law and Order Restoration Council with the objective of serving the interests of State, is a day to serve as a milestone in the history of Myanmar.

I am delighted to see literary workers of States and Divisions united and happy. Myanmar is an independent nation for millennia with own literature, own cultural traditions and own national character. The nation has had its own literature and own language since the city states of Pyu and Mon eras. There are stone inscriptions stating that in the period of Bagan what is known as the First Myanmar Naing-Ngan, languages such as Myanmar, Pali, Pyu and Mon were of high standard.

Myanmar literature, like other fine arts, is based on Buddhist culture and it is rich in significant thoughts and concepts since early history.

In addition to Buddhist literature such as Abhidhamma, jataka and nipatta there were other treatises on codes of conduct or civics, those on rulings and those on duties and obligations to be observed from the monarchs, the monks, the teachers and their pupils to the parents and their children. A study of these will highlight the high standard of Myanmar literature. There were also chronicles documenting the customs and dynasties. Documentary evidence also shows that literature has been the source of rich knowledge in the fields of secular and mundane affairs, administration and judicial affairs and social affairs derived from chronicles and fables of the ancestors.

Historical evidence also shows that Myanmar literature constitutes a treasure trove of numerous styles of writing either in prose or in verse.

Myanmar people brought up under the influence of such literature are sound in body and mind, cultured and law-abiding.

Though literature and culture had been high in standard at the time of own monarchs, they had been suppressed during the colonial period. For that reason and because of the lackeys of the colonialists, Myanmar literature, culture and Myanmar identities diminished.

That was why everything Myanmar, patriotism and national pride and nationalist fervour had to be revived at the beginning of the freedom struggle.

At one time, there emerged a slogan "Myanmar literature is our literature, Myanmar language our language" followed by revitalization of the Myanmar literary heritage. This is a good lesson to be drawn that one's native literature and language can disappear under servitude.

Lesson

On the other hand, a lesson can also be drawn that success had been achieved in efforts to revive national pride and prestige by promoting religion, culture and literature.

There has been clear evidence that Myanmar literati put up resistance, through literature, when Myanmar lost its independence and was under alien rule. Patriotic writers like His Ban Ni Sayadaw and Achoktan Saya Pe pointed out the people's abject conditions in servitude and strongly criticized the colonialists.

Moreover, journalists and cartoonists also exposed the colonialist rulers' injustices against the people, the race and the religion.

Even writers like Theikpan Maung Wa, an official in the colonial bureaucracy, revealed the plight of the people under the colonialists.

Writers like Sayagyi Thakin Kodaw Hmaing, Ledi Pandita U Maung Gyi and Deedok U Ba Choe produced literary works and novels based on the historical background depicting the glorious past of the Myanmar people. Writers like Sayagyi P Mo Nin and Sayagyi Maha Swe produced works for the emergence of youths with a sound mind in a sound body, were inspired with national pride and nationalist fervour and

overwhelmed with anti-colonialist spirit and self-reliance. Their literature was effective.

It is a fact that thanks to the patriots in the literary and journalist world, Myanmar people were politically awakened and there emerged selfless heroes who fought for independence. An instance is that when literature of poor quality reigned and patriotism was at an ebb, alien cultures and destructionists penetrated and influenced. Then anarchistic activities followed and the nation was pushed to the verge of collapse. That was what we have already experienced.

Black mark

It is unforgettable that during the 1988 disturbances, certain journalists in disregard of code of conduct and dignity and influenced by leftist and rightist interferences instigated the rabble rousers. This is not to be forgotten. Bogus news and periodicals that emerged to take advantage of the time published false and concocted reports to please the neo-colonialists. This will ever remain in the history as a black mark which cannot be erased in any way.

Resulting from this, foreign publications and some news agencies under the influence of the colonialists continue to discredit Myanmar to this day by concocting various reports about the Union of Myanmar.

This being so, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, since its assumption of duties of State, has been publishing accurate news and making arrangements to vitalize patriotism. Literary workers truly desirous of serving national interests, therefore, are to guide the people through literature to enable them to resist all instigations directed at harming national interests.
One mind

It is believed that with the determination to serve national interests with one mind and in close cooperation, literary workers will be able to implement the government's objectives of providing a clear outlook for the people and vitalizing patriotism through their skills.

The initiation in the formation of literary workers organization and observance of Sarsodaw Day reflects that there is clear evidence of the will of literary workers of Myanmar Naing-Ngan to vitalize patriotism and national pride.
Sarsodaw Nay

About the early stages of the Second World War during the colonial era, some literary workers formed a writers association. They observed a day for U Ponnya, Myanmar poet, in 1944, the way Shakespeare Day is observed in the West. The 1st Waxing of the Myanmar month of Nadaw was designated to be observed as Sarsodaw Nay, Writers Day, as outstanding men of letters were honoured and titles conferred in this month during ancient Myanmar kings. The first Sarsodaw Day was observed in 1944 during the Japanese regime to honour Myanmar writers. Sarsodaw Day had since been observed every year under the auspices of the Writers Association.

During the post-independence period, there was difference of opinion and views among the people putting party politics in the fore resulting in rivalry and struggle for power. Writers were also split into different groups. Writers and journalists were then united and organized under one organization, Literary Workers Organization, during the time of the Revolutionary Council.

After assuming duties of State, the State Law and Order Restoration Council permitted formation of social organizations which will serve the interests of the nation and the people. Myanmar literary workers and journalists then formed the Literary and Journalist Organization. There is now a total of 127 Township LIOs with a membership of over 2,000 throughout the country. Today, it is delightful to see the First Conference of the Literary and Journalist Organization.

The State, on its part, is organizing literary competitions and presenting higher prizes. In presenting National Literary Awards, the cash prize was increased to K 50,000 in 1990 compared to K 20,000

previously. There were 13 genres then. One more award for general knowledge (applied science) was added, thereby bringing it to 14 genres.

In the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards, the previous cash award of K 7,000 was raised to K 25,000 since 1990, and another award for the Poems genre was added, making a total of 12 genres.

Literary competitions to stir up a keen sense of patriotism, to commemorate Armed Forces Day and Independence Day and to portray National slogans and mottos are being held on a nationwide scale as befits the occasion, and deserving prizes are being awarded.

Such competitions not only offer writers chances to show their literary talent, but also enable them to analyze and assess the historic past and the present era of the Union of Myanmar, and at the same time provide a training ground for the upbringing of a future generation of writers who will serve the literary sphere. The increasing number of entries in these competitions is also very promising for the country.

Dutybound

I would therefore like to urge all those present here, that since the government is giving due support to the Literary and Journalist Organization, members are dutybound to do their best to perform the functions of the organization in harmony, bearing in mind the wise saying "Unity brings Prosperity".

It is obvious that other forms of art such as stage, screen and music are not totally independent of literature, which performs the paramount function of preserving and propagating national culture. Literature is also responsible for correcting the misconceptions of the people. I will again emphasize the importance of the LJO to perform the above duties in addition to working for the realization of the objectives of the organization, which are providing mutual assistance among members of the organization, striving for the prosperity of the literary sphere and playing a multi-faceted role in working for the benefit of the Union.

Perceptive senses

As writers, journalists and cartoonists are the perceptive senses of a country, they play a leading role in society. It is therefore essential that such individuals are duty-conscious, that they observe their ethics, and that they are sincere to the Union. Cartoonists can do much in guiding the general public to be disciplined, industrious and correctly oriented. Newspapers, journals and magazines are instruments which record everyday events, inform the public and reflect their opinions. In fact they are contemporary chronicles of a country. News reports prepared by journalists, reporters and editors are the most effective means to bring into public notice the nation-building activities that are being carried out.

I would, moreover, like to remind the literary stalwarts here today to be imbued with correct attitudes and cherish noble objectives and to create literary works which are factual as well as artistic in content and style.

As there exist rules in grammar and syntax, there also should be literary ethics indispensable for strengthening the foundation of Myanmar literature which has flourished since time immemorial. Only then will we be able to hand down the nucleus of invaluable literary heritage to our successors of generations to come.

Literature is the chief driving force that serves the spiritual enhancement of the people. It is the duty of literary workers to instil patriotism and nationalist spirit among the public, to impart civic duties and good citizenship, to elicit the conviction of self-reliance and to convey correct attitudes into the minds of the people. It is their duty to add pages to the national archives and to carry out wide-ranging information services to bring to public notice the relentless endeavours and the genuine goodwill of the government in all round development of the country.

Furthermore, literature is connected with the field of education. Academic subjects, prescribed texts, lexicon and

dictionaries are the works of the literati. Therefore, they are requested to do their best in the upbringing of the youth by teaching them moral virtues, with the aim of producing a patriotic generation of technocrats and intelligentsia who will be the true sons of the nation.

Torch-bearers

I would also make a point that literary workers, being the torch-bearers of the public, are to organize and lead the entire people to realize the ultimate need of an enduring constitution which, in turn, lies in the success of the National Convention.

It is known to all that the 104 State principles that serve as a base for the Constitution have emerged from the National Convention.

The National Convention, comprising delegates of the diverse social strata and the national races, have laid down the aforesaid State principles. Literary workers, therefore, are to the public understand [sic], making sure they appreciate the noble objectives encompassed in these principles.

In leading the people by virtue of your talent, literary workers are to perform the national tasks of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty, promotion of national pride and nurturing of a keen sense of patriotism to the best of your ability. In other words, literary workers are responsible for the material as well as spiritual wellbeing of the entire people, and you are to preserve our cherished cultural traditions while taking part in the making of a modern and prosperous Union.

Guiding role

All members of the LJO, while serving the public in the interest of the Union, the race and the religion, are to play a guiding role and to take active part in the formation of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

The overwhelming success of the national festivals such as the Equestrian Festival, the National Sports Festival and the Regatta Festival are inevitably due to the ardent participation of artistes, the intelligentsia and intellectuals, non-government organizations and students. I also call on the LJO to put in their earnest efforts in such festivals held under State sponsorship to make them even more successful.

In today's conference, I advise you all to direct your discussions to the production of constructive literature that would instil patriotism and stir love of one's country. In electing EC members for the coming term, priority should be given to the dignified, duty-conscious and patriotic personages who would serve the Organization and the Union.

I will now conclude by reminding you to serve your country and your people with the might of your pen, and I wish you all to

-- enlighten the people with your talent and serve the interests of the Union while upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

-- guide the entire people to acquire advanced and updated attitudes and concepts while preserving Myanma cultural heritage.

-- indulge in consolidated endeavours for the prosperity of the LJO, and

-- effectively contribute towards the flourishing of Myanma literature.

(NLM 12/30)

MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday Supplements

Dec. 5,12,19,26: Let us rally around the Tatmadaw, build and defend the country, by Minye Kaungbon. [(20) British administration of Arakan and Tenasserim, 1826-1852. (21) British administration of Arakan, Tenasserim, and Lower Burma, 1826-1886. (22) British administration of Burma, 1886-1897. (23) British administration, 1919-1937.]

Dec. 5,12,19,26: A museum to preserve the glorious history of the Tatmadaw, by Ahtet Minhla Nyunt Aung. [(2) The museum will cost K355,433,930, divided into two phases. Details of construction and expense. The museum's main display halls will be: Ground floor--Hall for Artillery of ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw; Hall for Armour and Artillery; Hall for the Navy; Two Halls for the Air Force. First floor--Myanmar Tatmadaw of the ancient days; The Burma Independence Army; The Colonial Army; The Burma Defence Army. Second floor--Library and Archives; Today's Tatmadaw Show Room; The Patriotic Burma Army. Details. (3) Further details. (4) More details. (5) More details. The Tatmadaw in World War II.]

Dec. 5: Rubber plantation as a life insurance, by Kyaw Sein. [A needed crop.]

Dec. 5: Innovate to develop Myanmar Naing-Ngan, by Khin Maung Thwin Oo. [We should make things for ourselves.]

Dec. 5: A museum to preserve the glorious history of the tat[We should make things for ourselves.]

Dec. 5: The Taung Pinle Dam that will irrigate the arid upper country, by Khin Maung Than (Sethmu). [3150 foot dam near Myingyan will irrigate 2500-3000 acres.]

Dec. 5: Water for summer paddy, by Tekkatho Chit Swe. [Irrigation in Ayeyarwady Division.]

Dec. 12: The Tatmadaw Agricultural training classes, by Khin Maung Than (Sethmu). [At the Tatmadaw Agricultural Training School in Yezin, Pyinmana {Mandalay}, established Oct. 11, 1993, 200 military non-commissioned officer trainees attend a 14 week course in agriculture; grades are based 30% on exams, 40% on practical work, and 30% on discipline.]

Dec. 12: Self reliance is the key to economic success, by Soe Nyunt (Kayah). [Visit to the Mawlamyine Diesel Engine Repair Shop.]

Dec. 12: Changes taking place in Myanma education system, by Reporter Win Kyi. [Introduction of "Continuous Assessment and Progression System" in primary schools, with UNICEF cooperation. It was applied in 18 schools in 1990, 44 in 1991, and 220 in 1992. Starting with 1993-94, it will be in 2,200 schools in 251 townships. It replaces a system based primarily on rote learning and written examinations, with "one which is centred on the pupils and experiments were carried out."]

Dec. 12: A low lift water pump that is easy to make and operate, by Shwe Nagar Tin Win. [Irrigation pump developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Manila.]

Dec. 19: Kyauktalon Dam to irrigate agriculture in the dry zone, by Khin Maung Than (Sethmu). [3180 foot earth dam that will irrigate 1,500 acres.]

Dec. 19: Easy to make and easy to use Dual purpose vertical pumps, by Shwe Nagar Tin Win. [Improved design for a simple pump.]

Dec. 19: Sow well and you will reap well, by Thandaing Bo. [Suit crops to conditions.]

Dec. 19: Myanma Shipyard which contributes to State-building tasks, by Tekkatho Chit Swe. [Earnings of the Myanmar Shipyard at Simmalaik in Kamaryut Twp., Yangon, were: 1988-89 - K40.4 million; 1989-90 - K59.5 million; 1990-91 - K67.8 million; 1991-92 - K78.5 million ; 1992-93 - K98.6 million.]

Dec. 19: Development of Mongyawng-Mongyu region and cultivation of summer paddy, by Taungdwin Bo Thein. [An area of Shan State.]

Dec. 26: Nga-khu fish farm in Shwepyitha, by Myint Thura. [Hybrid fish farming in Yangon Division.]

Dec. 26: All-round development of Ngaphe Township, by Myint Win. [A dry area in Magway Division.]

Dec. 26: Qualities of Myanmar draught cattle, by Htay Lwin (LBVD). [Different colors of oxen, what they are called, and how farmers rate them.]

Dec. 26: Let them feel at home, by Pe Than. [Favorable conditions for tourism.]

Crime

Dec. 1: Numerous cases were exposed in October and November of transporting illegally extracted logs [extensive details]. All told, 2085.1 tons of logs were seized. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 2: Illegal loggers were arrested Nov. 13-15 in Pyinmana, Lewe and Tatkon Twp. [Mandalay]. Seized were 249.0 tons of various logs, several elephants, etc. (NLM 12/3)

Dec. 10: Four persons were sentenced to from 7-9 years for trafficking in 2.02 tons of illegal teak. (NLM 12/11)

Dec. 21: 11 persons were sentenced on Nov. 18 to 20 years in prison with hard labour, and 9 to 10 years with hard labour, for stealing buoys of the Myanma Port Authority in Yangon River in July 1992.

Anti-Narcotics Activities

Nov. 30: 62 viss of marijuana were seized in Insein [Yangon] on Nov. 11. (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 1: Legal aspect of the term "transporting narcotic drugs for sale" under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, by KMO. [Interpretation and court cases.]

Dec. 1: Tatmadaw and police on Nov. 21-22 destroyed 10.4 acres of opium plantation in Pinlaung Twp. [Shan]. (NLM 12/2)

Dec. 2: Speaking at the Second Coordinating Meeting of the CCDAC, Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen. Mya Thin "said in the supply reduction sector, the seizures of narcotic drugs by Law Enforcement Agencies are very encouraging. He pointed out that acetic anhydride, which is the main chemical used in refining heroin is not legally produced in the country but smuggled in from neighbouring countries. He pointed out that during the previous month 1,000 gallons of the chemical were seized in Taunggyi and these entered the country from Lashio side, and route for trafficking heroin is the same as the route for smuggling the chemical in...." (NLM 12/ 3)

Dec. 6: 24.5 kilos of raw opium were seized from a Laotian resident Nov. 25 at a jetty near Wunbon Village, Kengtung [Shan]. (NLM 12/7)

Dec. 7: 0.2 kilo of heroin were seized in Kalay on Nov. 26. Also seized were 288,050 rupees and 30 ticals of gold bars. (NLM 12/ 8)

Dec. 8: 70 bottles of Phensedyl were seized in Hakha [Chin] on Nov. 25. 18 bottles of Comethazine and 5 bottles of Phensedyl were seized Nov. 21 near Kalay. (NLM 12/9)

Dec. 10: 3.9 kilos of opium were seized Dec. 1 in Mogaung Twp. [Kachin]. 3.4 kilos of opium were seized Nov. 19 on a Loikaw-Pinlaung bus. 0.05 kilo of "ownerless" marijuana was seized Nov. 14 in Mawlamyine, and a syringe of heroin on Nov. 15. (NLM 12/11)

Dec. 11: 371.4 acres of opium poppies were destroyed Dec. 2-6 in Pinlaung Twp. [Shan] [details]. (NLM 12/12)

Dec. 13: 1.2 kilos of heroin were seized Dec. 10 in Taunggyi. (NLM 12/14)

Dec. 14: 387.2 acres of opium poppies were destroyed Dec. 6-9 in Pinlaung Twp. [Shan]. (NLM 12/15)

Dec. 17: 284.4 acres of opium poppies were destroyed Dec. 10-13 in Pinlaung Twp. [Shan], bringing the total since Nov. 22 to 1027.8. (NLM 12/18)

Dec. 20: 5.1 kilos of raw opium were seized at the Mandalay railway station on Oct. 5, from a passenger leaving for Myitkyina. 402 bottles of Phensedyl were seized from a boat near Homalin on Nov. 24. (NLM 12/21)

Dec. 21: During November, 1993, the Tatmadaw seized 23.4 kilos of opium, 0.2 kilo of heroin, 115.9 kilos of marijuana, and 0.03 kilo of heavy opium. The police seized 79.6 kilos of opium (52 cases), 4.8 kilos of heroin (175 cases), 228.4 litres of Phensedyl (20 cases), 56.2 kilos of marijuana (59 cases), 1.3 kilos of heavy opium (5 cases), 0.8 kilo of liquid opium, 10 bottles of Pethidine (1 case), 3.7 litres of Comethazine (2 cases), and 1,000 gallons of acetic anhydride (1 case). There were 123 cases of failure to register and 6 other drug-related cases. The police took action against 594 persons

in 444 cases. (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 21: 1.4 kilos of heroin was seized in Kawthoung on Dec. 14. (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 23: Pre-empting a mass killer, by Swe Thant Ko. [Need to control acetic anhydride and other chemicals used in drug production.]

Dec. 23: 40 flasks used for drug refining were seized Dec. 10 in Lashio. 172 bottles of Phensedyl were seized on a schooner in Homalin on Nov. 20. 4.9 kilos of raw opium were seized in Katha on Nov. 26. (NLM 12/ 24)

Dec. 24: 0.1 kilo of heroin was seized Nov. 4 in Monywa. (NLM 12/25)

Dec. 29: 600 bottles of Phensedyl were seized Dec. 24 in Kalay Twp. [Sagaing]. (NLM 12/30)

Obituaries

[English language obituaries only; there are obituaries in Burmese as well.]

Dec. 1: Christopher Hla Tin, son of U John Hla Tin (Director, Uniteam Marine Ltd.) and Camille Hla Tin (nee McCready), brother of Maria Hla Tin [Tin Mg Mg (Canada)]...died, aged 26. [Catholic] (NLM 12/2)

Dec. 3: Daw Sal Kai Hnuni (a) Daw Hnuni, from Chin State, died in Yangon, aged 67. [Christian] (NLM 12/4)

Dec. 5: Naw Kellah Zan, wife of Saw Plei Saw, died in Insein, aged 54. [Christian] (NLM 12/6)

Dec. 19: Daw Mya Tin (Phwa May), widow of U Saw Lwin, died in Yangon, aged 92. (NLM 12/21)

Dec. 21: Daw Si Win (Daw Paukse), wife of U Tin Maung Tun, died in Yangon, aged 61. [Christian] (NLM 12/22)

Dec. 24: U Maung Maung Kyi, Judge, Court-Martial Appeals Court, husband of Daw Khin Khin Win, died in Yangon, aged 83. He was author of A New Approach to Law and Life in Burma (1968), The People and Law (1987), and The Voice of Law (1990). (NLM 12/25)

Graffiti & Noise Penalized

Nov. 30 [full text]: "Warning against scribbling on walls, fences. Obscene words have been scribbled on the walls and fences in Yangon these days by unscrupulous persons. Action will be taken according to Yangon City Development Committee Act and existing laws against such acts. Public is requested to report the violators to the authorities immediately." (NLM 12/1)

Dec. 24 [full text]: "Deterrent measure against harassing blare of music. From the 26th onwards, action will be taken against undisciplined users of amplifiers with a fine of K 5,000 and confiscation of the sets, authorities concerned announced. The users are to obtain permission from the authority concerned and to keep the sound within hearing range of immediate audience at theatres and musical entertainments, of customers at shops and of guests at ceremonies. Apart from overnight performance at theatres, amplifiers are to be used from 6 am to 11 pm. The measure is taken as loud blaring of music at shops and entertainment centres in townships in Yangon City is found to harass members of the Sangha, students studying for examinations, the sick and those at hospitals and the elderly whose health is adversely affected." (NLM 12/25)

Fires

Dec. 5: A wellwisher donated 40 bags of rice for victims of the "Nov. 9 fire which ravaged Mrauk-U, Rakhine State." (NLM 12/ 6)

Dec. 9: Donations continue to come in for Myingyan fire victims; the total is now K1,680,519. "More donations are invited." (NLM 12/10)

Dec. 28: During November there were 116 cases of fire with loss of property of K19.97 million. 786 houses and 2 workplaces were burned down, leaving 5,979 people homeless. Two people and 5 animals were killed. Of the fires 101, or 78%, were due to negligence. (NLM

12/29)

Dec. 29: A fire on Dec. 27 in Chan Taung Gain Village, Chan Mya Thazi Twp. [Mandalay], destroyed 435 houses and a primary school, a coop, a mosque, five "family lines of Myohaung Railway Station," and 24 buildings, for a loss of K14.3 million. It left 2,758 people from 564 households homeless. (NLM 12/30)

Earthquake

Dec. 9: An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.5 Richter) was reported at 11:11:00 local time with epicentre about 465 miles SW of Yangon. (NLM 12/19)

Castaways Returned

Dec. 11: 75 Myanmars, mostly fishermen, "who drifted to Port Blair in the Andaman Islands of India" were returned by air. (NLM 12/12)

Marriage & Engagements

Dec. 9: Ma Swe Swe Oo, daughter of U Shwe Khwe (a) U Hla Thein Oo and Daw Aye Myint, became engaged to Mr. Kyi Nyunt, Land Titles Office, Sydney, son of (U Wunna) and Daw Tin Hla of Sydney, Australia. (NLM 12/31)

Dec. 12: Thaug Chit (a) David Thaug Chit, Assistant System Officer, CSR Co., Ltd., Sydney, Australia, son of U Ba Lin Chit and Daw Khin Hta Latt, married Swe Swe Linn, Director CNG General Training, daughter of U Mg Chu and Daw May May Kyi, in the presence of Deputy Attorney-General U Khin Mg Aye. (NLM 12/18)

Dec. 19: Maung Zaw Min, B.Sc.(Maths.), Third officer Wan-Han Shipping Co., son of (U Hla Min) and Daw Khin Khin Pyone, became engaged to Ma Khin Aye Aye Mun B.A.(Eng)(Q), daughter of (U Khin Maung) and Daw Ngwe. (NLM 12/23)

Dec. 26: Ma Thiri Mo, daughter of U Bar Lay and Daw Me Me Hla, became engaged to Mg Kyaw Tun Soe, son of Dr. Myat Soe and Dr. Thein Thein of Liverpool, England. (NLM 12/17)

Christmas

Dec. 25: Editorial: Joy to the world. ["Christmas comes but once a year, and when it does it brings good cheer. Myanmar is a land of many birthday celebrations --that of the Lord Buddha, that of Jesus Christ, of Prophet Mohamed. It all reflects the spirit of camaraderie and religious tolerance, people of different beliefs co-existing, setting forth a theme of harmony and peace...."]

Dec. 25: Christmas was celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral on Bo Aung Gyaw Street. Over 4,000 Catholics attended midnight mass on Dec. 24, celebrated by the Cathedral Rector, Ref. Father Edward David, who spoke "on the meaning of the Birth of Christ, and for all to share love, peace and joy with others and to put Christ into our Christmas." (NLM 12/27)

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